Chairman’s Words

Welcome family to our Christmas and final edition of The Tiwi for 2014. Again, I would like to share our condolences with family who have lost loved ones over these past months.

In a very disturbing trend, we have sadly farewelled over 40 family members since July this year, which is about what we usually experience for twelve months. Unfortunately this has meant that our budget has been severely reduced and we have been forced to put a break on ceremony and other funding just to cater for this increase in people passing on.

Far too many of our people are passing away or getting sick in their 20’s, 30’s and 40’s so we ask that we all look after one another, eat and live well and look after our bodies so that we can all enjoy quality time with our children and grandchildren long into the future.

It has been a roller coaster 2014, we are confident that we can see the light at the end of the tunnel with our Port Melville developments really taking off and our forestry project lining up the ducks for an April/May 2015 harvest.

Consultations about economic development and potential leases on the Islands are continuing. As yet no leases have been agreed as outlined in these pages, but many Traditional Owners are interested in participating in these discussions, as many want to move back to their homelands to raise their families. Governments of all persuasions are no longer funding new outstations. Our leaders see the best way for landowners to move back to their countries, is through having economic development on their lands so that our people can work and live on their own land.
You will notice we have gone back to calling our TLC Leadership group, the TLC Executive Management Committee. Government have decided that the TLC AMA is the Chairman and the CEO, but the way we do business, Tiwi Way, means that myself or our CEO will only be making decisions that are supported and directed by the Executive and the Full TLC. The new name of ‘AMA’ was also confusing some people, including people who know of the AMA as the ‘Australian Medical Association’!

Our Ten Strong Executive Management Committee was again unanimously endorsed at our last Full TLC Meeting in October and it is inspiring for myself to see our young and future leaders of the Tiwi Land Council step up to the plate and follow the Tradition and strength of their fathers and grandfathers on their path of looking out for the benefit of all Tiwi people for the generations to come.

Gibson Farmer Illortaminni, Chairman Tiwi Land Council

I hope you enjoy our Christmas edition of The Tiwi and we all look forward to some amazing things happening in 2015...bring it on!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our Tiwi family, a safe, joyous Christmas and a happy New Year with family and friends.

Gibson Farmer Illortaminni

Getting all dressed up for the Award and Holiday season
R to L: Wesley Kerinaua, Holly Tapp, Gibson Farmer Illortaminni and Richard Puruntatameri at the Chief Minister’s Awards 14th November 2014
Executive Management Committee
EMC’s Notes

As our Chairman has mentioned, since our last update to you all in the October/November edition we’ve been advised by government that, due to the new piece of legislation we have been operating under since the 1st of July, 2014 (the Public Governance Performance and Accountability [PGPA] Act 2013), we are required to refer to the Chairman and CEO of the land council only as the ‘AMA’. As a result we have reverted back to naming our ‘10 strong men’ as featured in recent issues of The Tiwi as the Executive Management Committee, as it was known pre-1st of July 2014 under the old Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act (1997).

Internally, the Full TLC has resolved that the Chairman and CEO won’t be making any decisions without the direction of the Executive Management Committee and Full TLC and, as the previous Executive of the land council did, we continue to meet regularly to make the day to day decisions required to operate your land council smoothly and effectively, on behalf of the full land council. Any major and important decisions are referred to meetings of the full land council who meet on average every 3 months. The Executive and the Tiwi Land Council always strive to make good decisions for the benefit of ALL Tiwi people. You can see this by all the good news stories in this and previous editions of The Tiwi.

It’s been a very busy couple of months as we adjust to operating under the PGPA Act. As a Commonwealth Statutory Authority, part of this process has required us to fine tune our existing code of conduct and policies for staff, trustees and delegates, while also introducing completely new polices and procedures from scratch to ensure we adhere to all aspects the new Act.

To do this effectively we engaged a representative of the Australian Federal Police (AFP) to ensure we were covering all bases. Starting from scratch, we held weekly meetings to gradually review hundreds of pages of draft policies and procedures covering all areas of the land council and the new Act.

We were able to then settle on something we thought would work for us. Our AFP representative then checked the changes we’d made and approved them as adhering to the new Act.

Next we decided we should assign each of the Executive members with a Portfolio so that everyone has a responsibility in certain areas. Basically this means that each member will have an area or areas that they will be responsible for. Areas such as TLC finance, fisheries, land and resource management, funerals, ceremony, education, sport etc. We will be announcing who is looking after these portfolios soon. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and our next edition of The Tiwi where we will inform everyone about which members are looking after each area of responsibility.
Since our first community consultation at Milikapiti a couple of months ago, we’ve held one at Pirlangimpi and at Wurrumiyanga. Your comments and suggestions have been taken on board. We are looking at holding more community consultation during December and in the New Year. Topics discussed and acted upon already cover things such as the permit system, funeral and ceremony funds, proposed fishing agreement with the Northern Territory Government and the Tiwi land owners register.

The proposed changes to the permit system have been endorsed at community consultations and by a very recent full land council meeting. Changes to the permit system from the 1st January, 2015 will be published on the land council’s website and online Facebook edition of The Tiwi, along with the next print edition of The Tiwi.

Some good news stories over the past couple of months:
- The New barge landing and freight terminal construction is underway at Wurrumiyanga.
- Construction of a workers’ village (similar to forestry accommodation village at Yapilika) at Port Melville is in progress.
- Also at Port Melville – construction of a fuel farm that will hold 30 million litres of fuel is underway.
- We are inching toward harvest of our trees – just need to get past one more Wet Season, as harvest can only occur during the Dry.
- We have had productive meetings with Northern Territory Government Ministers including the Chief Minister and Education Minister along with other elected members.
- We also had a productive meeting with visitors from the Opposition - the NT Labor Party, including Opposition leader Delia Lawrie. From all reports they had a very positive experience while on the islands over a couple of days.

In more great news, your Chairman plus Executive members Wesley Kerinaua and Richard Puruntatameri travelled to Darwin to attend the Chief Minister’s Awards for Excellence in the Public Sector and joined those on stage in accepting the award for ‘Building Regional and/or Remote Economies – Tiwi Island Economic Development Project’. Congratulations to all involved!

Finally, we’d like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and we look forward to a prosperous 2015! Stay safe over the holiday period everyone!

Quiz

1. Who is the new Administrator of the Northern Territory?
   a) Adam Giles  b) John Hardy  c) Justice Kelly

2. Where did the name Vernon Islands come from?
   a) The ship called Vernon wrecked there
   b) Vernon McArthur, businessman from Sydney
   c) The first Baron Vernon

3. How many eggs does an adult Barramundi lay each year?
   a) 40 million  b) 4 million  c) 400,000

4. How long is the longest ship ever built?
   a) 359 metres  b) 458 metres  c) 508 metres

5. What is the national flower of Australia?
   a) Wattle  b) Waratah  c) Desert Rose

6. How long is the MCG?
   a) 137 metres  b) 157 metres  c) 173 metres

7. Where does the word ARAFURA come from?
   a) Aboriginal word from Arnhemland
   b) Macassan word
   c) Portuguese word

8. What year was the Vernon Island Lighthouse first established?
   a) 1986  b) 1939  c) 1913

Quiz answers on page 15
Forestry Harvest nearly there

A draft Sales and Purchase Agreement of Woodchip has been received from Mitsui. There are still some things to be worked out including how long the agreement is in place and the fees to Mitsui.

The agreement will be supported by annual sales contracts by February/March every year which will state price.

There are at least one, if not two Japanese paper companies very interested in Tiwi woodchip. Samples have been sent to a number of Japanese and Chinese companies, and one Indian company. TPC/PMP is very optimistic that we will get an agreement in place before Christmas.

We have also been negotiating with banks through a finance broker, Finlease, for the purchase of a second chipper, second skidder, second fellerbuncher and seven trucks and for construction works for the woodchip receiveal and storage facility at the port, all to be delivered or completed by February 2015.

Westpac and ANZ are prepared to fund, but not before woodchip prices are set for the annual harvest. Too late to order the second equipment for harvest to start in March 2015.

Commonwealth Bank is, in their words, 85% confident that they will support the funding with funds released in time for equipment to be ordered and woodchip construction works at the port to be finished in time for a March 2015 start. We need the draft agreement with Mitsui before Com Bank will sign off. So again, wait for news of a Com Bank agreement before Christmas!

Roger Smith, TPC

Science Reference Committee

Plans for 2015

In November Tiwi Land Council and Scientists from Melbourne University reconnected to plan their work in 2015. It will be followed by a visit of Land Council members in February at the Victorian School of Forestry in Creswick, where they’ll plan to commence research work for the benefit of Tiwi Forestry, Tiwi land and environment and communities. They will also have a close look at Australia’s oldest sustainable forest on and near Creswick Campus.
Seven years ago (4th December 2007) the Land Council and Managers attended on Judges of the High Court as they began their historic consideration to grant ownership of the waters surrounding our islands for the benefit and use of our landowners. The Judges said that owning was not enough - Tiwi people had to benefit from these resources of the sea as well. Just how we do that has kept us in meetings with Government these past seven years. Now the Land Council has finalised an agreement with Government to protect and enrich our own Tiwi economy without harming recreational fishers wanting to visit communities and fish up along Apsley Strait.

The Agreement is a checking up agreement as well that gets reviewed in 12 months. Will greedy fishing boats take advantage of access to Tiwi waters? Will drinking on boats and litter on the coastline be a problem? Will the good will of Government and Tiwi be abused? Who by and How? What areas of the coastline will be most vulnerable to abuse - maybe up North around Malawu and Munupi or along the south coast of the Islands? Landowners and Government will be monitoring how the Agreement works. Changes can be made to make it work better.

Our tourist fishing is now a very valuable industry earning landowners income each year. That income is now protected and Tiwi Tourism secured through truly exclusive experiences by our tourists. Community revenue also gets a boost from fuel and art sales and general access by visitors.
It has certainly been a busy few months at Port Melville with the onshore development of the site progressing at a rate of knots.

Captain Larry and his Ezion Offshore Logistics Hub (Tiwi) team have worked extremely hard to pull these works together and keep the progress of Port Melville heading in the right direction. The planning and engineering for the projects has been ongoing since the completion of the wharf, with the Contractors mobilising to commence the onsite construction in the last week in August 2014.

There are a number of potential uses for the Port on the drawing board, but currently the 3 main areas of work are:

30 million litre tank farm for fuel storage
150 person accommodation village
Woodchip handling and stockpile project

I have said it before “there is no Bunnings on Tiwi” and these works would not be possible without the support of the Ezion Top End Marine Supply Base at East Arm in Darwin and its fleet of vessels (Teras Bandicoot, Lauren Hansen, and the Centaur). For the last 3 months the workforce at the base have been loading construction materials onto these barges which have then been making up to 8 voyages a week out to Port Melville to deliver the required plant, equipment and materials - A real team effort by all. Please note these vessels are also doing some general cargo runs into Tiwi, but are available to do more. Should you wish to discuss this opportunity please contact TEMSB (ph 8984 3081) and ask for Ben Jonsen.

Shaun London
Project Manager - Infrastructure
2014 has been another big year for Tiwi Enterprises. The business continues to grow and to provide employment opportunities for Tiwi people. Currently Tiwi Enterprises employs 46 people, 35 of whom are Tiwi. These jobs are across the wide range of activities that include vehicle hire, accommodation management, yard maintenance, the Milikapiti Farm and Nursery, the Nguiu Garage and the land and marine ranger programs.

Two of our founding directors, Cyril Kalippa and Eric Tipiloura, have resigned from their positions. We would like to thank them for their direction and leadership since Tiwi Enterprises commenced in 2007. Connell Tipiloura has replaced Eric as director, and Justina Puruntatameri has replaced Cyril. Justina is the first female director in Tiwi Enterprises short history.

We would like to thank the community and local businesses for their continued patronage, and wish everyone a safe and merry festive season. We look forward to working with you again in 2015.

**Mantiyupwi**

2014 has seen Mantiyupwi consolidate its current development and business activities. These include:

- The Piliyamanyirra Shopping Centre, which includes the Piliyamanyirra Supermarket, Tai’s Take-Away & Laundromat, and the Traditional Credit Union
- The Mantiyupwi Motel – consisting 16 rooms, plus a conference room. The Australian Red Cross and RJCP also have their offices within the motel complex
- The 6 man camp has been converted to offices for Territory Housing

There will be a Mantiyupwi Christmas BBQ lunch at the Piliyamanyirra Shopping Centre on Tuesday 16th December. Santa will be there with toys for the kids!!

New projects include:
- the development of the new barge landing/depot. Once completed this will be managed by Tiwi Enterprises.
- The development of a tourism walking trail which aims to show visitors the key features of our community, and link them to local businesses.
Wulirankuwu continues to work hard for the ongoing development of Milikapiti. We are currently working towards obtaining funding for the construction of the police homes to be built in Milikapiti. 2014 has seen Wulirankuwu’s investments continue to work for them, and allowing support for family members through the education and funeral/ceremony funds. The investments include:

- 3 bedroom house in Wulirankuwu which is rented to the Piliyamaniyirra Supermarket
- 2 vehicles that are managed by Tiwi Enterprises as part of their fleet of hire cars
- Investments in local businesses that include Mantiyupwi, Tiwi Plantations Corporation, Tiwi Education Board

The Wulirankuwu Directors are committed to the growing Tiwi economy and see investment in this economy as the way forward, as it will not only provide a sound return to Wulirankuwu, it will also create opportunities for employment and training for Wulirankuwu people.

2014 Christmas Celebrations – all Wulirankuwu family members are invited to family Christmas lunch to be held in Milikapiti on Thursday 11th December.

Munupi

In March 2014 the Munupi family decided to restart negotiations with the Commonwealth Government about entering into a 99 year lease for the Pirlangimpi Community. There have been many meetings to negotiate a deal and to consult with the family throughout this year, and these meetings are continuing. No decision has been made at this point.

The current directors of Munupi Pty Ltd are Dennis Tipakalippa, Justina Puruntatameri, Karina Coombes, Kim Puruntatameri, Lesley Tungatalum, Mark Alimankinni, Patrick Puruntatameri, and Willie Rioli.

The next family meeting will be held in Pirlangimpi on Tuesday 9th December to continue discussions on the 99 Year Lease. The meeting will finish with a Christmas BBQ lunch.

SUPPORT THE LOCAL MOB

100% TIWI GROWN

Products from Milikapiti Farm and Nursery at Pirlangimpi Store
Weeds are a problem for environmental management because they can take over large areas of country. Once weeds are established, many of the native plants and animals can no longer survive or find food. Grassy weeds also carry very hot fires that can kill native plants and animals, and are a danger to people and community assets.

Most of the weeds on the Tiwi Islands are found in communities and old community areas. Over the years, some of the weeds have escaped the communities and are growing along road sides. So far there aren’t too many weeds in the bush, and the Tiwi Land Council is determined to keep it that way.

Now that the wet season has started and the weeds have started growing again, Tiwi Land Rangers are getting ready to carry out weed control. This includes refresher training with RJCP workers on weed identification, chemical handling, using GPS and 4WD operation.

Grassy weeds such as mission grass and guinea grass are sprayed with herbicide. The herbicide that we use is called glyphosate, which is a chemical that is taken up by the plant through its leaves. While glyphosate is poisonous to plants, it is safe to use in the environment. Any chemical that lands on the ground is quickly taken up by the soil where it breaks down. If you have any concerns about weeds or the herbicides that are used, contact the Land Rangers in your community and they will answer your questions.

Everyone can help by keeping an eye out in the bush and on the main roads. If you see a plant you haven’t seen before, then let the Land Rangers know so they can check it out. If it is a weed, they will get onto it this wet season.

Remember to keep a watch out for cane toads as the wet season approaches. If you see one contact your nearest Ranger.
This year, Xavier Catholic College Wurrumiyanga (XCCW) and the whole school community is celebrating a monumental occasion. At the end of 2014, two students – Jericka Mungatopi and Amber Tipiloura – will be receiving the Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET). Both students completed their studies while schooling on the Tiwi Islands and have attended both Murrupurtiyanuwu Catholic Primary School (MCPS) and XCCW to complete their 13 years of education.

These girls are leaders and role models for future generations of Tiwi students. They have shown that Tiwi students don’t need to leave home to complete their senior secondary studies, but can stay in community and graduate successfully.

On Friday 21st of November, the girls, their families and friends, members of the Catholic Education Office as well as their teachers from XCCW and MCPS went in to Darwin for the NTOEC Graduation Dinner and Presentation Evening. Dressed in their finest, our students were presented with a Stage 2 certificate of completion. Jericka and Amber also received an award for the 2014 NTOEC Top Achiever for their Stage 2 Health, Recreation and the Community subject and they celebrated into the night with other NTOEC Graduates from across the Territory.

CSIRO Work Experience

In November, Tiwi College student Jessica Stassi completed three days work experience with CSIRO in Darwin. Jessica got a chance to learn about the Tiwi Carbon Study first hand. She spent a day processing soil samples for soil organic carbon analysis.

This information will be used to better understand how fire affects the amount of carbon stored in Tiwi soils. Jessica also measured Karrmirrkani (Cypress Pine) trees for a project on water availability and tree growth, and worked in the invertebrate biodiversity laboratory.
Tiwi winners at the Chief Minister’s Award 2014

On Friday 14 November, the Chief Minister’s Excellence in the Public Service Awards Night were held at the Darwin Convention Centre. It was a great night for Tiwis with a number of winners across different projects.

The Tiwi Islands Economic Development Project, led by Department of the Chief Minister, received an award for building remote economies. So far the project has involved numerous meetings with landowners and testing water and soil and helping landowners to find out about the suitability of their land for economic purposes and the development of an economic development strategy which is almost complete. Hayley Richards said in her acceptance speech that the project is inventing new ways of doing business in the bush and thanked the Tiwi for asking the NT Government to partner with them in their vision for jobs on the Tiwi Islands. Gibson Farmer Illortaminni, Wesley Kerinaaua and Richard Purantatameri attended on the night to accept the award with the team.

A $12,500 prize was donated by Airlie and awarded to spend on professional development activities for the team. The project team would like to use this money to support two Tiwi people to further their business development skills through training.

Eucharia Tipungwuti from Department of Education was awarded a Chief Ministers Medal recognising her 27 years of service to the department.

The late Carmelita Sceney also received a Chief Ministers Medal for her work at the Department of Education driving major reform in the area of Indigenous education.

More Tiwi winners - Remote Health Award

Linda Pupangamirri and Joseph ‘Gideon’ Pangiraminni were both nominated for the New Practitioner award, whilst Gideon made the finalist list it was Linda who won the New Practitioner Award.

Gideon was chosen and given the honour by BIITE to give the Students response at the graduation.

Colleen Kantilla not only won the remote health award but also the overall legends award.
Murrupurtiyanuwu goes to Town

All 18 Year 6 students at Murrupurtiyanuwu Catholic Primary School had a fantastic excursion to Darwin from the 17th November - 21st November.
This trip was in recognition of great attendance and behaviour in their final year of Primary school.
Five staff members accompanied the students on this trip.
It was a very busy week and we experienced many new things. Some of these include Archery, Mini-Golf, Rock Climbing, fish feeding, swimming at the Wave Pool, Gymnastics, Ten Pin Bowling, Dinner at Stokes Hill Wharf, shopping at Casuarina and a visit to Saint Mary's school to teach Tiwi Art to the Year 5/6 students.
The Year 6 students were praised by many people around Darwin for their beautiful manners and good behaviour.
The students from MCPS were a credit to themselves and to our school. It was a pleasure taking them to Darwin.

Meredith Quail

Christmas Sale at Munupi Art Centre

20% OFF ALL STOCK
From Tuesday 2nd until Friday 12th of December 2014
Monday – Saturday
9am – 5 pm
After hours by appointment
0408 251 591

Plenty of lovely artworks on offer for a perfect special Christmas Gift. The income generated will help the artist’s families have a Merry Christmas.
Come along! We hope to see you here.
Thanks for your support of Pirlangimpi in 2014!
Have a happy holiday and Merry Christmas,
Munupi Artists

Munupi Art Centre
PMB 163 Pirlangimpi, Garden Point
P. 08 8978 3975 Mob. 0408 251 591
The season to date has challenged the Toll Tiwi Bombers players but with Tiwi and NT football icon and first time Head Coach Willie Rioli generating community support and player confidence the Toll Tiwi Bomber Football Club is looking forward to making every Tiwi supporter proud in 2015.

The Club is especially proud of the performance of the Toll Tiwi Bomber Youth Girls team which is certain to not only qualify for finals but can expect to play a major part in the Premiership result.

The fantastic Toll Tiwi Youth Girls uniform highlighted by the Tiwi design sash is a reminder of the fact the team represents the whole community in a very positive way. The players have earned respect not only for their skill and football ability but also their sportsmanship and attitude. That reflects so positively on the Club but more importantly on the Tiwi Community the Toll Tiwi Bomber teams represent. The requirement of 100% school attendance as a basic qualification to play has been embraced by the players and is credit to Toll Tiwi Bomber Youth Girls Coach Karina Gray.

The Toll Tiwi Bomber Premier League Mens team led by joint Captains Shane Tipuamantimirri, Ross Tungatalum and Aussie Woneamirri have worked hard under Willie Rioli regaining opposition respect and mainland supporters enthusiastic support.

Whilst we play a high risk style of game which is sometimes costly on the scoreboard the Tiwi flair and spirit confirms our status as the AFLNT crowd favourites.

The high cost of playing in the mainland competition is a constant challenge to President Mick Burns and his Board of Lesley Tungatalum, Barry Puruntatameri, Danny Munkara, Cameron Hotton, Brenton Toy and Bob Beadman and we thank every member and sponsor for their financial support.

Are you a Member? We need you to confirm your love and support by being a Member!

Finally a special thanks to Corporate Sponsors Toll Group, Real Estate Central, Sea Link Ferries, Air North Group, various Tiwi Corporate Groups, Cazalys Palmerston, TIO through the AFLNT and especially the Essendon Football Club.

Additionally the critical support of the Tiwi Land Council, the Tiwi Island Regional Council, Tiwi Enterprises, Fly Tiwi and the many small companies is acknowledged and appreciated.

The Toll Tiwi Bomber Players, Board and Members wish the Tiwi Community a joyous 2014 Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Support those who support us – the Tiwi team
One Team One Dream

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QUIZ ANSWERS from page 4

1.b) John Hardy AM
2.c) Named by Phillip Parker King 1818 after Baron Vernon the then Bishop of Carlisle
3.a) Up to 40 million eggs every season
4.b) The oil tanker Sea-wise Giant at 458 metres
5.a) Wattle, established as the national flower 1912
6.c) 173 metres long
7.b) Macassan word for people from Moluccas in Indonesia, who call themselves ‘Haraforas’. Sounds like ‘Arfura’ meaning “people of the mountains” who fish these seas.
8.c) 1913 - It has been flashing every 5 seconds ever since.
The Tiwi Ashes were held again this year at Tiwi College, Pickataramoor on October 17th. About 400 guests visited the school for a huge day of cricket, food, fun, and community spirit. B2M were again there to entertain the crowds, and Tiwi Elders danced a welcome for the guests.

This year saw the return of Glen McGrath, and Matthew Hayden along with new comer Adam Gilchrist. They were very impressed with the continuing development of the Hayden-Reynolds Garden project down on the farm at the college, which over the five years of sponsorship and volunteer programs, has raised $2 Million. This money has allowed the Hayden-Reynolds garden to become a model for schools throughout Australia, but also has allowed tremendous value adding to the college, via projects such as the purchase of books for our library, sponsoring the annual writers camp in Sydney for our Senior Young Women, the purchase of training tops for our football program and backpacks and winter clothes for students when on excursions. The generosity of the Macquarie Group donations has enabled all staff and students to use their own college laptop computers.

Ian Smith, Principal

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE TIWI LAND COUNCIL