Chairman’s Words

Welcome to the latest edition of 'Your Tiwi'. Again I would like to pay tribute to the wonderful Tiwi people who have left us over the past weeks, including our visionary Yimpinari lady and our TLC Trustee of Mirrikawayanga. Good Tiwi people who have lived their lives for the betterment of their families and wider Tiwi community. May you rest in peace.

People have commented to me that we have our own Ayres Rock on the Islands with a massive amount of woodchip at Port Melville which, as I write, is being loaded onto the ship for sale. In a momentous achievement for us all, our own Tiwi Plantation Company have signed a woodchip sale contract worth over $47 million with 14 shipments over the next three years and with the second shipment due in September.

See page 2
We held our second Science Reference Committee meeting of the year in recent weeks. Our SRC is a partnership between Tiwi and Melbourne University to advise us with quality scientific research and help us with managing our natural resources. Our Land and our Waters are in many ways, our religion, it's who we are and what makes us Tiwi, so this partnership is critical in enabling us to continue to look after our environment for the next generations of Tiwi people.

And on our other Tiwi religion, our under 15's youth Tiwi College girls side cleaned up the opposition in Darwin for their 5th straight win in the competition. Our new Tiwi Football Commission which will oversee all things Tiwi Footy, including the TIFL, Tiwi Bombers, women's and junior football, has kicked off and we welcome the appointment of Aaron Dunster to help bring it all together as part of his Remote Development Manager position based at Wurrumiyanga.

We were also privileged to be invited to a signing ceremony of an MOU between our Tiwi Islands Regional Council and Sydney University to assist the TIRC with Good Local Government Governance and processes which will put us in good stead for years to come.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Tiwi Land Council, to congratulate the ALP for winning the recent Territory election, our new Chief Minister Michael Gunner and our own Lawrence Costa winning the seat of Arafura. I would also like to congratulate Francis Kurrupuwu who has been our local member for the past four years and who did a wonderful job representing our electorate. We look forward to working with our new Government in the years ahead.

Finally, you will also read in these pages a tribute to Norm Buchan, who is leaving us as our longest serving CEO of our Tiwi Islands Training and Employment Board. Norm, after coming to us in 1999 when we had no money, no buildings and Training was all over the place, is heading into retirement after establishing Quality Training Centres in Wurrumiyanga, Milikapiti and Pirlangimpi, overseeing hundreds of Tiwi people completing their Nationally Accredited Apprenticeships and leaving TITEB as one of our most financially viable organisations on the Islands.

Nimpaing Norm, we wish you all the best in your retirement. You are a true friend of the Tiwi and will always be part of our Tiwi family.

Waya,

Gibson Farmer Ilortamimmi
Chairman Tiwi Land Council
Executive Management Committee

EMC’s Notes

The dry season this year has been a great relief from the long Wet Season we experienced earlier in the year - giving everyone plenty of opportunity to head out bush to go hunting, camping, sitting by the beach and feeling happy with family.

But the TIFL Season is nearly here, which means Wet Season weather is coming! Please start thinking early about preparing for Cyclones. Have a look at your first aid kit, or get one together just in case. Preparing a cyclone kit is also a great backup plan. In case of an emergency - you will need stuff like matches, tinned food, lots of water, a set of dry clothes for each person, torch, Panadol, shoes, first aid kit, blankets, towels and don’t forget to keep those important documents and photos safe.

Busy times for the Tiwi Land Council lately. There are lots of positive and exciting business happening. A three-year Woodchip Sales Contract has been signed during a Darwin ceremony with Mitsui. This event is very important for the future of the forestry on the islands and for our people. This contract guarantees us three years of income from our forest’s wood chip.

Tiwi Fire Week was another huge success. By having the touring fire show travel all over the Tiwi Islands, the Tiwi Land Council raises awareness about fire and burning of our country. Thanks to everyone involved, such a big job. Particular thanks to the Tiwi Land Council Land Rangers, Kate Hadden, CSIRO and Charles Darwin University.

Also, we were visited by the Melbourne University representatives in August, who make up the Science Reference Committee (SRC). Some very interesting discussions were had about Tiwi DNA, Kidney disease, flora and fauna studies and a whole range of other topics being researched that are important to Tiwi people. The SRC were able to travel around the Islands, accompanied by the Land Rangers, experiencing firsthand what beautiful country we have.

Remember if you would like to talk to us please feel free to approach any Tiwi Land Council representative and feel free to contact our Headquarters if you have any questions, concerns or thoughts. We are here to communicate with you.

Executive Management Committee
Tiwi Woodchip Contract Signing Ceremony

Parliament House
Darwin 3rd August 2016

Signing of Transaction Memorandum (Woodchip Sales Contract)
by Mr. Yasuhiro Yamano, Managing Director Mitsui Bussan Woodchip Oceania Pty Ltd
and Mr. Kim Puruntatameri, Chairman Tiwi Plantations Corporation.

Key Points

1. The Transaction Memorandum is a contract for sale of approximately 560,000 tonnes of woodchip to Japan over 14 shipments in a 3 year period.

2. At today’s prices and exchange rates the total export value over 3 years is in excess of US$35 million and in excess of AUS$47 million.

3. The 1st ship Taio Cosmos is due 18 August and the 2nd ship Daio Papyrus is due 21 September.

4. The Northern Territory Government, Commonwealth Bank and the Export Finance Insurance Corporation have provided major financial support for the project.

5. Mitsui Bussan Woodchip Oceania Pty Ltd (MWO) has purchased the woodchip FOB Port Melville for on selling to a major Japanese pulp mill customer.
Tiwi Woodchip Contract Signing Ceremony

Background

1. Tiwi took over the management of the plantations comprising the Tiwi Islands Forestry Project in October 2009 following the demise of the previous operator.

2. Tiwi also secured investment through Ezion Offshore Logistics Hub (Tiwi) Pty Ltd for the redevelopment of the wharf at Port Melville to allow export of Tiwi woodchip. Port Melville now has approval to service a wide range of port customers.

3. The project has been assessed on 4 separate occasions as commercially viable.

4. Harvesting of Acacia mangium for woodchip started in June 2015, following purchase of harvesting and ship loading equipment through an Australian Government Aboriginal Benefits Account Grant and a commercial loan from Commonwealth Bank.

5. 2 woodchip shipments were sent out in November 2015 and February 2016, both on the Daio Papyrus, demonstrating that Port Melville could accommodate 50,000 dead weight tonne vessels and woodchip could be successfully loaded from a floating pontoon wharf using mobile conveyors.

6. The 2 woodchip shipments also demonstrated the commercial viability of Tiwi woodchip. MWO are currently seeking a 2nd potential Japanese customer.

7. Areas harvested, approximately 2000 hectares per annum for this contract, will be replanted.

8. The Daruma doll and its significance:

The Daruma doll is a hollow, round, Japanese traditional doll rich in symbolism and is regarded as a talisman of good luck to the Japanese. In Japan, Daruma is often used as a means to keep track of goals and motivate a person to persevere until reaching the goal. The eyes of Daruma are often blank when new. The recipient of the doll fills in one eye upon setting the goal, then the other upon fulfilling it. In this way, every time they see the one-eyed Daruma, they are reminded of the goal.

Speech by Ms. Wendy Holdenson
Chief Operating Officer and Director, Mitsui & Co (Australia) Ltd.

This major woodchip supply agreement is between Tiwi indigenous people, and Mitsui - one of the world’s largest trading conglomerates. This is epoch making.

It is the first time that 50,000 dead weight tonne vessels have come into the Apsley Strait, berthed at a floating pontoon wharf and loaded with mobile conveyors. This too is epoch making.

I would also like to recognise TPC chairman Kim Pu-runtatamini and Tiwi Land Council Chairman, Gibson F. Illortaminini and the respective Boards for guiding this project to fruition. Mitsui also acknowledges the immense contribution of the past Chairman of TPC, sadly not here to share this occasion with us.

Mitsui gives special thanks to TPC General Manager Roger Smith, and Plantation Management Partners Managing Director Glen Samsa for working tirelessly on behalf of the Tiwi people to finalise the commercial arrangements with Mitsui.

Mitsui is grateful to Ezion for constructing and maintaining a safe and secure berth for woodchip vessel loading.

Harvesting, chipping and ship-loading would not have been possible without Plantation Management Partners and the hard working staff on Melville Island responsible for producing woodchips and loading vessels under challenging circumstances. Vessel loading has required staff to work around the clock in monsoonal conditions.

Above all, Mitsui thanks the Tiwi people themselves - the main driving force behind the project, many of them, and many of their elders who have now passed away. Their vision, commitment and perseverance has been extraordinary.

Over the next three years TPC will deliver us half a million tonnes, or about 14 full shiploads of plantation grown Acacia mangium woodchips, which we will on-sell to one of our major customers in Japan.

This marks a significant milestone in the commercial relationship we have developed with the TPC over several years, and follows two successful trial shipments, which have proven the viability of the product.

The Acacia species woodchips from the Tiwi Islands are popular with paper mills throughout Asia as they are a sustainable, high quality and cost-competitive product shipped from Port Melville - a geographically advantageous location.

We are receiving strong interest in the product and are progressing with additional sales agreements.

While the Tiwi provide us with a great product, we are pleased to support TPC to help bring the product to market - by leveraging our relationships with paper manufacturers in Asia, and sharing our expertise in providing market intelligence, price negotiations, and vessel loading experience.

We also hold Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Controlled Wood certification for Acacia mangium woodchips generated from plantations growing on the Tiwi Islands, verifying that the woodchips are sourced responsibly. Certification is fast becoming a basic requirement when marketing woodchips into global markets. Customers increasingly demand that the paper products they purchase are sourced from responsible forestry operations.

Mitsui has a long and proud history of partnering with Australia. We have been investing in Australia since the early 1960s and we have played a pivotal role in promoting the development and expansion of Australia’s key export commodities.

On an equity basis Mitsui and its group companies are the fourth largest exporters in Australia with approximately A$6.5 billion in total exports annually, and in the past 10 years we have invested about A$15 billion in Australia.

And in woodchips, we have been involved in the Australian industry for close to three decades. Today we are a major exporter, shipping about 2.5 million green metric tonnes (GMT) of hardwood and softwood woodchips from Australia.

We enjoy our strong working relationship with TPC. Most importantly, we share a vision to develop sustainable, long-term business.

We thank TPC and the Tiwi people for their cooperation and patience over the past two years in developing this agreement, and congratulate you all for pioneering such a successful woodchip export business from Port Melville.

Our next steps are clear. We will work with TPC and our customers to grow the successful and sustainable export of plantation woodchips from the Tiwi Islands for many years to come.
Tiwi Science Reference Committee meets in Wurrumiyanga

The Tiwi Land Council/University of Melbourne Science Reference Committee meeting was held on the 16th August at Wurrumiyanga. It was the 8th meeting of the Committee, and the 2nd for 2016. The Committee, established by the Land Council in 2011, meets regularly to provide advice on research issues for the Tiwi Islands.

The discussions are lively, and at this meeting some of the projects talked about were Tiwi Health and DNA, conservation planning, acknowledging traditional knowledge, potential economic opportunities from bush medicines, ownership of scientific information and much more.

This year we also held a workshop on the following day to find out what sort of research is important to Tiwi people. The results of the workshop will be used to target future projects.

Some of the visitors then had a look around the Islands, hosted by Tiwi Land Rangers. An exciting part of the trip was trying out a drone to take pictures from the air, which could be useful for future projects.

Sadly we also said goodbye to Professor Janet Hergt, who has chaired the Committee since early last year. We thank her for her support, and wish her all the best in the future.

Kate Hadden, Manager for Land and Resources TLC
The Tiwi Fire Roadshow was held from the 9th to the 12th August this year. The Roadshow visited Pirlangimpi, Milikapiti and Wurrumiyanga with displays about burning and how to best manage fire to support Tiwi communities.

Tiwi Land Rangers and Mark Desailly from Bushfires NT showed how firebreaks can protect buildings and other assets like forestry plantations, and how early fires are better for Tiwi Plants and Animals than late fires. Early fires might also be able to earn money by putting less greenhouse gases into the air.

This year we also had a computer display put together by Rohan Fisher from CDU. The display showed how different wind and temperature conditions affect the way fire behaves.

We had assistance again from CSIRO staff Barbie McKaige and Adam Liedloff who put together "show bags" with caps, water bottles, stickers and information about Tiwi Fire.

So thank you to everyone for another successful Tiwi Fire Week, and remember:
The Tiwi Enterprise Story

A long time goal of the Tiwi Land Council has been to create a future for Tiwi people that includes real jobs and a strong economy. In 2007 the decision was taken to establish Tiwi Enterprises Pty Ltd, a private company that is owned equally by the 8 Land Owning Groups. The purpose was to be able to allow Tiwi people to engage in commercial activities that were not dependant on government funding, and to create real jobs for Tiwi people. The start-up capital for Tiwi Enterprises was a loan of $50,000 from each of 3 of the Land Owning Groups. This was repaid, with interest, within 2 years.

The current directors are Andrew Bush, Barry Puruntatameri, Baylon Tipungvuti, Connell Tipiloura, Danny Munkara, Gibson Farmer, Kim Brooks Wommatakimi and Pirrawayningi Puruntatameri.

The first contract was with Great Southern to plant seedlings in the plantations. There was a team of up to 10 Tiwi working in the field, with a total of 23 being involved over the life of the project. It was hard work, and although we did not make a profit on this contract, we learnt a lot about the realities of the commercial world.

Since then we have expanded our operations into different areas, always with the aim of creating jobs for Tiwi in mind. Today we have the following business activities:
Vehicle hire – the first vehicle in the fleet was the Troopy that had been purchased out of the start-up capital for the planting project. Over the years the fleet has grown to now include 14 vehicles, 13 are based in Wurrumiyanga and 1 in Milikapiti. Several of the vehicles are owned by the Land Owning Groups, and any profits are distributed back to the owners.

Nguiu Garage – an offshoot of the vehicle hire business was the need to have the vehicles in good repair, and in a timely manner to ensure customer bookings were honoured. The opportunity came to purchase the garage from the Nguiu Ulintjimi Association in 2013, which has allowed us to ensure that vehicles are maintained in a timely manner, whilst also providing the continuing service on community vehicles and other local businesses. We also sell Sealink Ferry tickets from the Nguiu Garage.

Mantiyupwi asset management – Since Mantiyupwi signed their 99 year lease in 2009, they too have built up their business significantly. Tiwi Enterprises has been engaged to manage some of their assets, which includes:
- the Mantiyupwi Motel, which has 36 rooms available for rent to visiting workers, plus office space currently utilised by Red Cross and TITEB
- other rental properties including the Territory Housing offices, and the Tiwi Tours complex
- the Piliyamanyirra Shopping Centre, which was built in 2013.
- Patakijjali Museum – we have been working with the Mantiyupwi directors and Sr Anne to develop the museum and ensure that the Mantiyupwi people have a high quality archive of their history. The museum is now owned by Mantiyupwi.
- the Mantiyupwi Barge Shed, which is still in its very early days of operations. Already the staff has been involved in freight management training, and forklift training. This facility is aimed at making the delivery a much safer and more efficient process, with no extra charge being made for the service.

Tupariipiya Bus Service – a new service, which is partly subsidised by the Northern Territory Government, and has been the result of a proposal to the NTG by the Tiwi Land Council. Katherine Coaches (formerly The Bodhi Bus) have been engaged to help us to set up the bus service to ensure that we have the correct processes in place to meet all government compliance requirements, and to help with the training of a team of Tiwi bus drivers. We are very pleased to be able to keep the cost to travellers to a minimum of $15 per ticket. It is early days yet, but we are confident that the number of people who travel on the buses will allow us to keep this low price. Without the NTG subsidy, we would need to charge almost double this to cover the costs of running the service.

Tiwi Ranger financial management – The Tiwi Land Council established the Land and Marine Ranger Programs in 2006 and 2001 respectively. Since 2009 Tiwi Enterprises has been engaged to provide administrative and financial management services to these programs. This includes the Tiwi Fire Project, funded through ABA and delivered by the Tiwi Land Rangers. These programs have provided up to 25 Tiwi jobs over the years, and currently employ 6 Land Rangers and 4 Marine Rangers.

Milikapiti Farm & Nursery – this is also a project that was originally established by the Tiwi Land Council to provide a vegetation rehabilitation service to Matilda Minerals. The program is now entirely operated by Tiwi Enterprises. Over the years the staff at the farm have been involved in not only mine-site rehabilitation, but also in building up and maintaining the farm and nursery, school awareness programs, Kakadu plum harvesting trials and the management of the hire vehicle stationed at Milikapiti. We have been fortunate to have funding for this project through the Indigenous Land Corporation, and are conscious that we need to establish a steady income stream to ensure continued employment for staff when this funding expires in 2018.
Lawn Mowing and Yard Maintenance – this service commenced in 2012. We currently have a client list of 75 people for whom we do regular maintenance of their yards. The Maintenance Team also works on other projects as they arise, such as installing the signs around Wurrumiyanga, and building the plinth for the Matthias Ullungura statue.

TITEB – we have worked closely with TITEB since the start of the RJCP contract in July 2013. Part of our role includes the provision of bookkeeping and payroll services, and we are currently in the process of establishing a host agreement so we can be further involved in the critical role of building the workforce capacity of Tiwi.

We currently have a total of 43 employees working across all of these projects. 34 of these are Tiwi, 9 are female and 19 are full-time.

Whilst we are conscious that we have a wide range of activities in place, and are working to consolidate the newer projects such as the Tuparipiya Bus Service and the Mantiyupwi Barge Shed, we are aware that there is always the call for new ideas and activities. A couple of examples of projects that are on the horizon include:

- Working with Wulirankuwu to establish their motel at Milikapiti, utilising the workers camp obtained from the New Futures Alliance project.
- Working with Mantiyupwi, the Office of Township Leasing and the Tiwi Land Council on the construction of pontoons at Wurrumiyanga and Paru, as well as the planned Visitors Welcome Centre at Wurrumiyanga.

Our directors continue to work hard towards achieving the goal of building a strong economic future by creating real jobs for Tiwi people and ensuring that training and skills development opportunities are provided. Obviously this is a goal of other organisations as well and we look forward to continuing to work with our partners across the various projects to continue moving towards this outcome. We are very proud of what we have achieved over the last 9 years, and look forward to continuing this growth.

Tiwi Enterprises
End of an Era at TITEB

This month marks Norm Buchan’s retirement after starting TITEB in 1999, it’s the end of an era that saw TITEB grow into the productive organisation that it is today. The Tiwi Land Council initiated TITEB to bring to life their vision of having Tiwi receive the same skills, training and employment opportunities as their counterparts on the mainland.

TITEB opened its first office in Bishop Street in 1999, a small office that was across the road from the Old Darwin Brewery. Liz Crosby was recruited to support Norm with TITEB business matters, together they became the backbone of the many successes that followed.

The Registered Training Organisation Training Company was registered and certified in 1999. The following year TITEB formed its Group Training Organisation and recruited Bill Knights, this initiated the strong Apprentice and Trainees some which are training today in 2016, some of which have been qualified workers on the Tiwi’s for many years.

Tiwi Islands Training and Employment Board

OUR VISION: A prosperous future for all Tiwi through lifelong learning and skills development

The past 18 years has seen a strong western learning culture develop that supports Tiwi people to prosper in many ways as well as ultimately by getting and keeping a job. Norm lead TITEB to become a remote community one stop shop, not just in the programs that TITEB run, but the infrastructure that can facilitate the learnings in both a western classroom and in the largest class room, Mother Nature. This includes the Training Centres at each of the 3 main communities and extensive other stock that makes it possible for TITEB to operate at each place.

Since the RTO and GTO, there have been many other programs that TITEB has delivered including: User Choice Funding, Money Management Program, Transition to work, Indigenous Response Program, Recurrent Funding, Workplace English Language & Literacy (WELL), RJCP, Community Development Program.

The Graduations that take place in partnership with Batchelor Institute every 2 years at Wurrumiyanga is truly a celebration of learning and achievement and is another one of Norm’s great achievements. Our tribute to Norm Buchan and all the people that have become part of the TITEB extended family, leaving a truly wonderful legacy to be carried forward for generations to come.

Maria Harvey, CEO TITEB
The Munupi Family Trust received $5000 from Prime Minister and Cabinet to celebrate 2016 NAIDOC across the Tiwi Islands.

Pirlangimpi - Celebrations started off with a Mass service and a smoking ceremony led by elder Mr Tony Pilakui. After Mass the elders, young people and young children convened at the Childcare Centre and meals were served and enjoyed.

Milikapiti - Celebrations started off with a Mass service, songs led by Paul Black. The Mass was held in an open area under the stars at the community basketball centre. TIRC Sports and Recreation Officer cooked the meals; TIRC childcare centre helped with other young people to coordinate the meals. Sr Barbara, Frs Tan and Vincent celebrated with the community. Children served meals to elders.

A final NAIDOC 2016 celebration to be held at the Tiwi College, senior students being recognised as future leaders. Message Sticks will be presented by elders from the 8 clans groups celebrating the culture of caring for country and its future leaders across the Tiwi Island.

Many thanks to Ebony Costa, Josie Bourke, Frs Tan and Vincent, Sr Barbara and Valerie Rowland.
Within our sadness and sympathy extended to Ampiliwayakina’s family, friends and those embraced by the life of a remarkable woman, is the joy that her life gave to so many who knew her. Throughout our lands and the world beyond our Tiwi shores; from Church leaders to environmental activists; from politicians to publicists; from healers of souls to those who nurture all creatures great and small – all were captivated by the energy and strength of her compassion – always infectious and often challenging – never doubting; often convincing. Ampiliwayakina! who lived in our time and walked in harmony with all the unseen influences across our land – thank you for your memorable life. Our gratitude also to the Dunn family who shared her uniqueness with us all.

It is thirty years since she was the first nominated woman to our Land Council. We wonder how history would be changed had she accepted that nomination from Yimpinari. We do know that you touched us all as you now touch the hand of God.

Tiwi Land Council
In term 2 our Tiwi Academy program began a day of Cultural instruction in preparation for their presentation at the Dream-Time game at the MCG.

Thanks to our organisers; Shane Tipuaman-timirri and Emily Alexander & the Essendon Football club the Tiwi Academy was able to send Shane Austral, Dion Apuatimi, Peter Puruntatameri, Phelan Kantilla, William Galarla, Marie Clancy, Frances Fernando, Gladys Puruntatameri, Mickey Mungatopi, Juliette Puruntatameri, Ella Moreen, Freda Puruntatameri to go down and perform cultural dancing at Essendon Football Club and at the MCG before the game.

Many thanks to our cultural advisors Eustice Tipiloura, Pedro Wonaearirri and Mary-Elizabeth Moreen for accompanying the students and their tuition in the lead-up to Melbourne. Thanks to Gladys Puruntatameri, Caitlyn Moreen and Peter Orsto for their guidance throughout the sessions and the trip.

Ian Smith, Principal Tiwi College

Michael Long participating in traditional Tiwi dance
TIMETABLE

MONDAY TO FRIDAY
DEPARTURE FROM MILIKAPITI AND PIRLANGIMPI
DEPART 8.30 AM ARRIVE PARU 9.30 AM
DEPART 2.00 PM ARRIVE PARU 3.00 PM

MONDAY/TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY
DEPARTURE FROM PARU FOR PIRLANGIMPI AND MILIKAPITI
DEPART AT 9.45 AM ARRIVE AT 10.45 AM
DEPART AT 3.15 PM ARRIVE AT 4.15 PM

THURSDAY/FRIDAY
DEPARTURE FROM PARU FOR PIRLANGIMPI AND MILIKAPITI
DEPART PARU AT 10.45 AM ARRIVE AT 11.45 AM
DEPART PARU AT 3.15 PM ARRIVE AT 4.15 PM

SUNDAY
DEPARTURE FROM MILIKAPITI AND PIRLANGIMPI
DEPART 12.15 PM ARRIVE PARU AT 1.15 PM
DEPARTURE FROM PARU FOR PIRLANGIMPI AND MILIKAPITI
DEPARTS PARU 2.00 PM ARRIVES AT 3.00 PM

All tickets cost $15 - children aged 4 & under are free.
IF YOU PRE-PAY THE OFFICE ON 8941 1162 OR A BUS DRIVER YOU CAN RESERVE A SEAT ON A FUTURE SERVICE
EFTPOS & BASIC CARDS facilities are available on the buses.
For bookings call 8941 1162
For charter enquiries call 8978 3755

The Tuparipiya Bus Service is a Tiwi Enterprises business supported by the Northern Territory Government.