



# TIWI NEWS

NEWS for  
Traditional  
Owners



## NEWS from your TIWI LAND Council

### CEO's Message

Hello Everyone, and welcome back to the March edition of our Tiwi News Letter.



A. Tipungwuti, CEO

See page 2

Firstly, with personal sadness, we regret to inform you all of the passing of Mr. Robert Tipungwuti - past Chairman of the Tiwi Land Council. He was one of our great leaders and is sadly missed. His determination to put Tiwi on the map, will be remembered for many generations to come. Rest in Peace (Dad).

A Memorial Service will be held in Darwin at St Mary's Cathedral on the 5th May. The Funeral itself will then take place at Ranku on Bathurst Island on the 7th May 2020. More information will be available on the Land Council web site during coming months.

### Topics

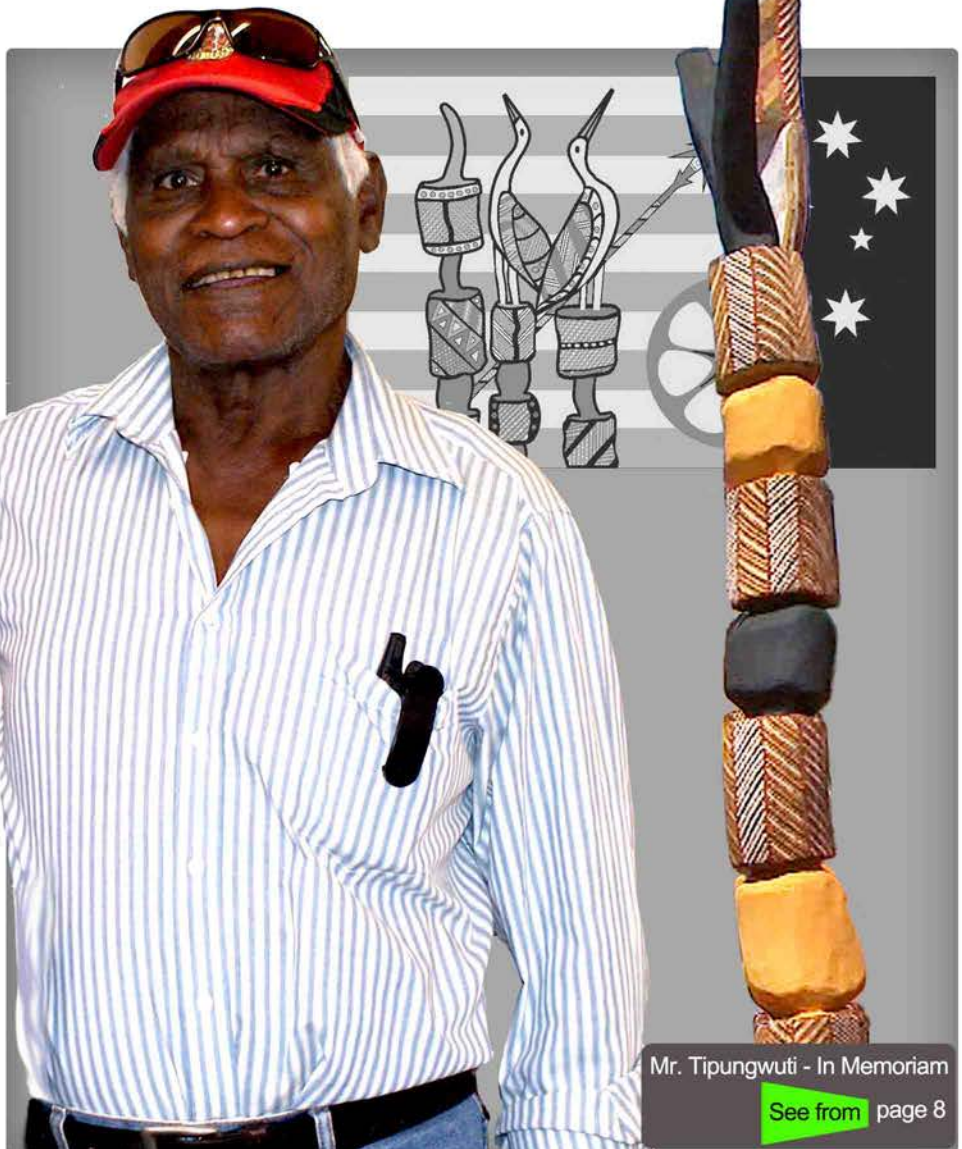
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### Good to know



Opening of  
Welcome Centre  
and new Ferry  
Landing

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Mr. Tipungwuti - In Memoriam

See from page 8

# CEO's Message



**I trust everyone** has had a safe transition from the past decade into 2020. Sadly, many have lost loved ones along the way. We extend our condolences to all those families in their loss.

**We are pleased to announce** some new faces in our Tiwi Land Council team. Their roles are to better facilitate further discussions and advance proposals with all clans at meetings throughout the years.

## They are:

Marni Clark – Reception and Administration  
Murray Knyvett - Resources and Environmental Officer  
Leslie Pyne – Anthropologist  
Dominique Michel - Natural Resource Support Officer  
Murray MacAllister – (new) General Manager.

Marni Clark, our new Receptionist at our front desk in Darwin, is the daughter of Shawn Clark who many will remember was based at the Garden Point Police Station some years' back.



<b>Marni Clark</b> Reception and Administration Ph: 08 8997 0797 office@tiwilandcouncil.com	<b>Murray Knyvett</b> Resource and Environment Officer Ph: 08 8997 0703 M: 0409 640 549	<b>Leslie Pyne</b> Anthropologist Ph: 08 8997 0708 M: 0409 045 145	<b>Dominique Michel</b> Natural Resource Support Manager Ph: 08 8997 0707 M: 0418 851 248	<b>Murray MacAllister</b> General Manager Ph: 08 8997 0705 M: 0427 868 928
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### Email contacts:

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**Also during this year** we hope to finalize and present to all clans the updated Register of Traditional Owners. This will initiate many discussions before tabling and endorsement of the Land Council itself.

Over the past year, TLC has worked closely with the National Indigenous Australians Agency [NIAA] and relevant Government Departments to seek investment into our Outstations. Scheduled during the coming Dry Season is completion of upgrades to solar installations; solar batteries and Water Tanks etc. We are also pushing for increased maintenance and housing.

I would like to congratulate Tiwi Enterprises on their completion of the pontoon project. This has been a long outstanding and very much needed infrastructure asset for all Tiwi, visitors, guests, and others arriving by ferry.

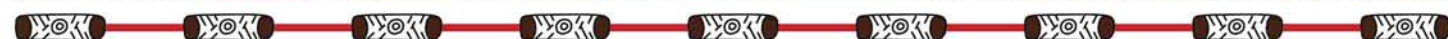
**Congratulations** are also due to our Tiwi Islands Regional Council, [TIRC] for having the Two Car Ferry built and now in operations between Melville and Bathurst Islands. The safety of Land Owners has been an issue for a long time when crossing the Aspley Strait. We thank Custom Works who built the ferry in Darwin, and for the support that has been given by the Northern Territory Government.

**These are great outcomes** with which to commence our new decade of 2020....May we all strive for continuing and better improvements across the Tiwi Islands.

*Andrew Tipungwuti*  
CEO, Tiwi Land Council

## Past and present Tiwi Leaders

The Tiwi Land Council would like to acknowledge all our past and present Tiwi Leaders.



# Congratulations and Achievements Damascena (Brandy) Kerinauia



**Damascena (Brandy) Kerinauia** is the 2nd ever student studying on the Tiwi Islands to achieve not only the NTCET, but complete additional studies to gain an ATAR score. The Australian Tertiary Admission Ranking (ATAR) is a national ranking system that enables students direct access to university and other tertiary institutions in much the same way that the AFL draft gives players access to the AFL competition. Students must complete extra subjects than what is required to gain the NTCET and so qualifying for such a ranking is a massive achievement!

**Brandy was recognised** for her outstanding achievements earlier in February at the Northern Territory Board of Studies awards, which were hosted at Parliament House. Brandy received the Kami Sceney Remote Aboriginal Excellence and Leadership award for her outstanding academic achievements and proving that quality educational outcomes can be achieved whilst staying connected to family and culture on the Tiwi Islands.

*Tiwi Land Council*

Brandy receiving the Kami Sceney Award - Remote Aboriginal Excellence and Leadership Awards on 14th February at Parliament House

## Major Francisco Babui

**Major Francisco Babui** has been saving Children from crime for the past 20 years serving for NORFORCE.

The Tiwi Land Council presented Cisco with a Certificate of Acknowledgement at the full Land Council meeting in Wurrumiyanga on 26th February 2020.

*Tiwi Land Council*



# Opening - Tiwi Islands Pontoon and Welcome Centre



Tiwi Smoking Ceremony

Andrew Tipungwuti, CEO TLC during his opening speech

On 30th January 2020 after years of planning and hard work the new Tiwi Ferry Landing and Welcome Centre were officially opened - a true milestone for the development of Tiwi infrastructure and tourism on the Tiwi Islands.

**Come and visit.**

L to R: C. J. Kerinauia, Mark Muller, Walter Kerinauia Jn. and Sen. Sam McMahon



L to R: Derek Mayger, Andrew Tipungwuti, Wesley Kerinauia, Sen. Sam McMahon and Gibson F. Illortaminni



Holding opening speech - Wesley Kerinauia and Ray Allwright

# Opening - Tiwi Islands Pontoon and Welcome Centre



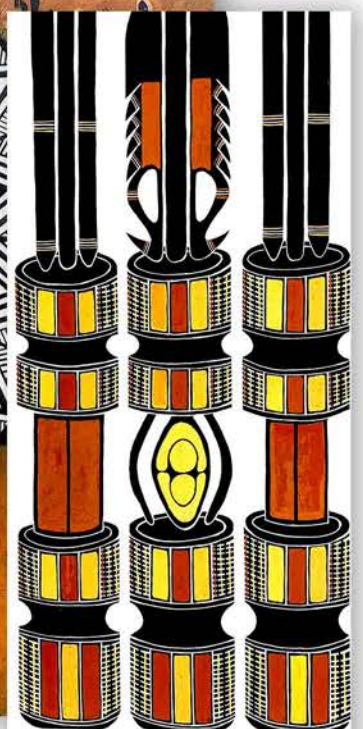
Tiwi opening ceremony for new ferry landing and Welcome Centre at Wurrumiyanga, Bathurst Island



Senator Sam McMahon speaks at the opening



Jock Puautjimi's artwork in the new Visitor Centre



# New training and employment to improve kids' ear and hearing health



**Does your child have ear problems** or trouble hearing? Hearing for Learning training has begun in Wurrumiyanga with 13 community members doing 6 weeks of training to become ear experts.

From the group of Trainees, 2 people will be employed part time by the clinic as Ear Health Facilitators working with families and the schools to help kids who might not be hearing well.

**Ear disease is a big problem** in Northern Territory communities and can affect children for the rest of their life if left untreated. There is some evidence that shows a lot of people in jail have hearing loss.

The Menzies School of Health Research received approval for the Initiative at the Tiwi Land Council meeting on 26 February in Wurrumiyanga. It aims to show that training people on country with knowledge of their people, language and culture is the best approach, rather than fly-in fly-out services.

This followed approval of the Initiative by the three Tiwi Local Authorities and Tiwi Islands Regional Council in 2019.

**The Initiative has begun** with a pilot phase in Wurrumiyanga and Kalkaringi and training began on 3 February. A Community Reference Group will be established to help guide the Initiative in each community, and the Wurrumiyanga group met 26 February to discuss progress.



Photo by Lauren Roberts

**Pirlangimpi and Milikapiti** are also part of the Initiative which will continue until the end of 2022. Training will be delivered over 3 months beginning at six-monthly intervals in 20 communities across the Northern Territory – we don't know yet when training will start in the other Tiwi communities, but we will keep you updated. Gunbalanya and Katherine are next.

**The Initiative is funded** by lead philanthropic supporter The Balnaves Foundation, and the Australian and Northern Territory governments.

**For more information please email [hearingforlearning@menzies.edu.au](mailto:hearingforlearning@menzies.edu.au) or call (08) 8946 8600.**

*Menzies School of Health*



Community Reference Group on 26th February 2020



Tikalaru meeting with Daniel Tucker

**The Tikalaru Clan** have been looking at the possibilities in relation to sand mining on their country over the last twelve months or so. Whilst we are still in the preliminary stages and a long way from any sand being sold, we were very lucky to be able to hear the entrepreneurial story of Daniel Tucker, a Wongatha man from the Eastern Goldfields regions of Western Australia. Daniel was at Wurrumiyanga for the opening of the newly constructed Visitors Centre and Pontoons. He is the founding Managing Director of Carey MC, the contractor who built the pontoon.

**Daniel graciously gave up his time** to speak of his business experiences with the Tikalaru Clan. He shared his story of working his way up from his first job of mopping floors and cleaning windows, to getting the opportunity to train as an engine driver, to starting his own business, Carey, in 1995. Today Carey has 3 arms – Civil, Mining and Training – and has the vision to create ‘new horizons for Indigenous people through business’. He wished the Tikalaru Clan all the best, encouraging them to think big, but also cautioning them to have a good business model in place.

*Tiwi Resources*

## Tiwi Calendar 2020

A colourful and educational 2020 calendar featuring Tiwi plants and animals has been distributed by the TLC to Tiwi students, families, friends and visitors. The information in the calendar is based on the Tiwi Seasons and Tiwi Plants and Animals calendars, which were produced with elders a number of years ago. Each month features different plants and animals with Tiwi and common names. The three main Tiwi seasons – Kumunupunari, Tiyari and Jamutakari - and 13 sub-seasons, are also highlighted. The photos are a reminder of the amazing plants and animals found on the Islands and the Tiwi names will help keep culture alive. We also hope the calendar will be useful for remembering appointments and important dates throughout the year. If you would like a copy please contact the TLC office.



# Chairman Tiwi Land Council 2006-2012

## Mr. Tipungwuti - In Memoriam



### Robert Tipungwuti

Born on Bathurst Island 13th July 1939. He has had a distinguished career as Commissioner of the Aboriginal Development Commission through the 1980's and held other senior leadership positions in Aboriginal Affairs. He was widely credited with the establishment of the Ranku Outstation on Bathurst Island. During the 1980's and 1990's Mr. Tipungwuti was the President at Milikapiti and secured the Tiwi strength of this vital Township on Melville Island.

**His determination and leadership** have been a driving force behind economic development on the Tiwi Islands for many years.

He was also a member of the Tiwi Education Board establishing the Tiwi College at Pickataramoor on Melville Island in association with government and industry partners.

Mr. Tipungwuti was a ceremonial leader with strength and determination and was committed to the service of his people, and to better their education, health and participation as a secure people within Australia.

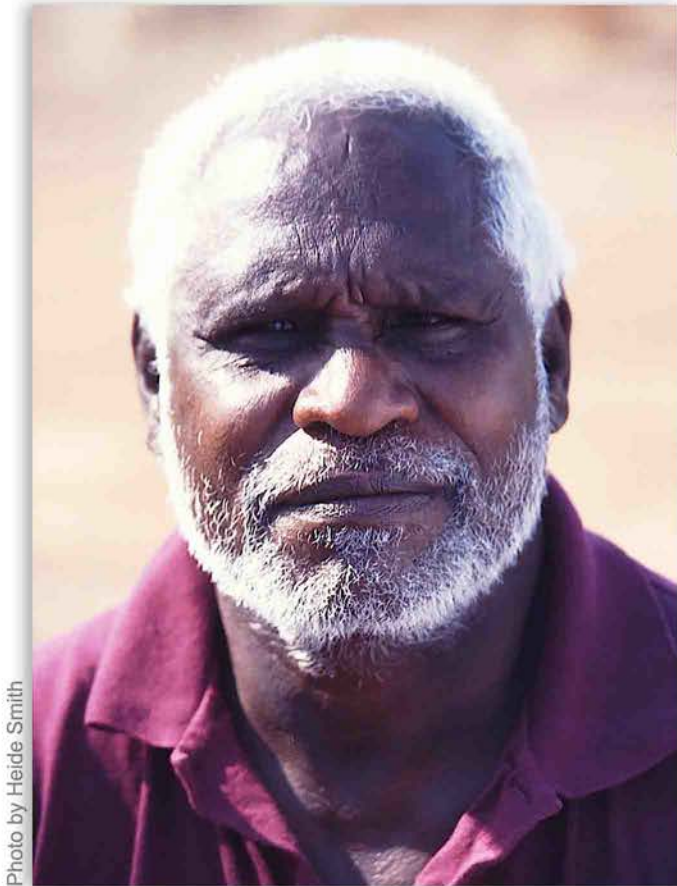


Photo by Heide Smith



Tiwi Land Council meeting 2012



Tipungwuti family Tiwi ceremony

**A Memorial Service will be held in Darwin at St Mary's Cathedral on the 5th May.**

**The Funeral will take place at Ranku on Bathurst Island on the 7th May 2020.**

Time to be advised





# Chairman Tiwi Land Council 2006-2012

## Mr. Tipungwuti - In Memoriam



He was member of the NT Government Indigenous Reference Group.

Mr. Tipungwuti was a Board member of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority from 2006 to 2015 and was an informed voice due to his seniority and extensive official political background. Mr. Tipungwuti was a strong and respected communicator able to build relationships within any community.

Mr. Tipungwuti was also a very active sportsman, having played Aussie Rules alongside Senator Pat Dodson for the St. Mary's Club. His legacy of sports is still carried out on the Islands.

The Members and staff of Tiwi Land Council had the honour of having Mr. Tipungwuti officially declare open the office in Darwin on the 10th of May 2019 - performing the ribbon cutting ceremony while the ribbon was held by the former Senator Nigel Scullion and Senior leader of the Tiwi's Bernard Tipiloura.

This marked the last official performance of Mr. Tipungwuti who was instrumental in forming the Tiwi Land Council.

Mr. Tipungwuti you will be missed by the Tiwi Land Council members, Tiwi people and staff.

May you rest in peace!



Clockwise: Mr. Tipungwuti with young sons; with Tiwi local footy team; winning the NT footy championship; Andrew Tipungwuti with Dad; addressing community 2011; ribbon cutting ceremony



# Among the galaxy of Tiwi stars

## Mr. Tipungwuti - In Memoriam



Photo by Carla Hicks

**Among the galaxy of Tiwi stars**, few have ever shone so bright or for so long as has Robert Tipungwuti. Charismatic, handsome, full of humour, relentless in his push for 'Tiwi jobs on Tiwi land' this pioneer of our economy leaves shoes difficult to fill. Family, those who worked with him, the many thousands touched and enchanted by his charm; - we all mourn the passing of a truly remarkable man.

**His determination and skills of diplomacy** were internationally recognised as Head of the ADC through the 1980's in Canberra and at Embassies and Trade Missions throughout Europe and USA. Always gracious, consistently joyful, he was able to apply his inborn traditional Tiwi understanding of "respect" for the benefit of Australian trade and connections around the world. A diplomat from America, who later visited Melville Island noted that "He could charm the socks off anyone."

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Clockwise: with Prime Minister Bob Hawke; with colleagues at art show; in Singapore with Chew Thiam Keng CEO of Ezion; in Canberra High Court launching the Blue Mud Bay appeal



# Among the galaxy of stars

## Mr. Tipungwuti - In Memoriam

At home his founding of the Wurankuwu Community is legendary. Overcoming all planning and development obstacles he merely stated, "My Father wanted that I make a place for my people. What else could I do?" His talents were formidable when applied for the benefit of his people. They continued through his years as Chairman of our Land Council overseeing infrastructure and development projects, and steering approvals through a network of barriers in Canberra and Darwin.

His was a life surrounded by "getting things done." His words resonate to this day, "If you don't try you don't get." He tried so hard and accomplished so much through a dignified life of service to his people and to Australia. A unique man with skills and attributes that we are unlikely to encounter in many lifetimes. His sickness in recent years has not diminished the pain for family at his passing. We hold you all in sympathy and respect; but more with gratitude for the life and work of a remarkable Tiwi whose presence lit up our own lives, and the lives of so many others. Thank you, dear friend. May you rest in peace. *John Hicks*



Mr. Tipungwuti - with grandchildren at ceremony, Ranku



With Mal Brough, former Federal Minister in 2010



With Andrew Forrest at Picka in 2013



At Tiwi Land Council meeting 2012

# Farewell for our Tiwi College Founder Robert Tipungwuti



The Tiwi College community would like to express our heartfelt condolences to family and friends of Robert Tipungwuti, including to his sons Brian and Andrew, our Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Tiwi Education Board.

Robert was an integral player and supporter of the Tiwi College from the days well before it was built, right through to the construction and operation phases.

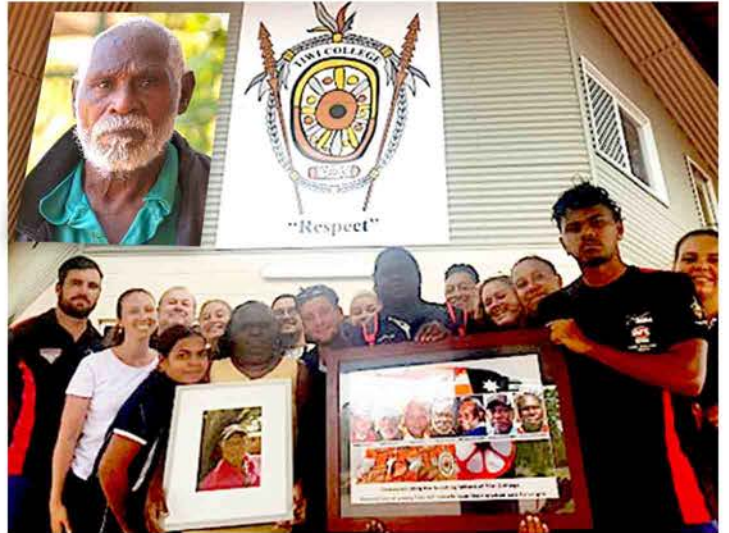
As Chairman of the Tiwi Land Council at the time, Robert went in to bat for our kids and our future to secure the funding for the College which was in the millions of dollars.

There is no question that without Robert's leadership and passion, the Tiwi College would not be a reality and the success story that it is today.

For that and for being the strong, cultural Tiwi man with a wonderful sense of humour and love for all Tiwi people we say thank you.

Past current and future staff and students in the hundreds are a tribute to the legacy of a great Tiwi Leader that we were proud and humbled to call our brother, uncle, father, grandfather and friend.

**Rest In Peace our friend**



Tiwi College staff and students remembering Tiwi College founder Robert Tipungwuti

## Our new Principal at Tiwi College



Outgoing Principal Stuart Ward and Jill Lees - new Tiwi College Principal



**My name is Jill Lees.** I am delighted and honoured to have the opportunity to serve the Tiwi community as Principal at Tiwi College.

I was born in South Africa and have lived in Australia and New Zealand for the last 40 years. My husband is in Western Australia and our children are in Canberra and New Zealand. I am an experienced principal, having led schools in New Zealand, Queensland and Western Australia. I have met many members of our community and I am looking forward to getting to know more about our students and families in the following months. I am a student centred leader who believes passionately in transparency and accountable leadership.

I am fortunate in having this term to work with the outgoing Principal Stuart Ward and thank him for his mentorship and assistance as I settle into my new role. I am especially grateful to have a dedicated and forward thinking team with a strong restorative practice background in Sila Pati (Assistant Principal), Paul Laginikoro (Family Group Homes' Coordinator and Cally Jetta (Academic Coordinator). Thank you again for the very warm welcome I have received by the Picka family.

*Jill Lees, Principal* 12



## What's Happening at Port Melville?

On the 28th of November bulk carrier 'MV Efficiency OL' departed the Port loaded with approximately 24,000 tonnes of Tiwi pine logs for export. This is the fourth shipment of logs and once again loading operations were conducted in an efficient and safe manner which reflects on the professionalism of all involved.

On the 14th of February the fuel tanker 'PVT Saturn' berthed at the Port to deliver the latest parcel of fuel to our tank farm for marine and land bunkering. Again, the Port team carried out operations in a safe, professional and efficient manner assisted by Argonaut Marine Group providing pilotage and CTB providing towage.



This operation was also the first occasion that Port Melville trainees Hayden Henry-Whiting and Richard Djorlom assisted with the berthing and unberthing of the vessel, fuel offload and tug deckhand duties.

The Port also continues to bunker Commonwealth vessels.

## Meet the Port Melville Team

**Hello, my name is Celeste Whiting.** I am the Administrator for NT Port and Marine based at our East Arm site in Darwin. I commenced at NTPM as a casual on a 3 month contract in 2016 and am now in my 4th year as a permanent employee.

The Pirlangimpi community is where I grew up and call home. I have 3 amazing children and love spending time with my family, camping, fishing, hunting and watching Aussie Rules (Go Cats!).



Celeste Whiting



*Jon Betjeman*  
Business Manager NT Port & Marine  
Email: [jon.betjeman@agc-ausgroup.com](mailto:jon.betjeman@agc-ausgroup.com)  
Mob: 0415 949 019

# Tiwi Forests - work training



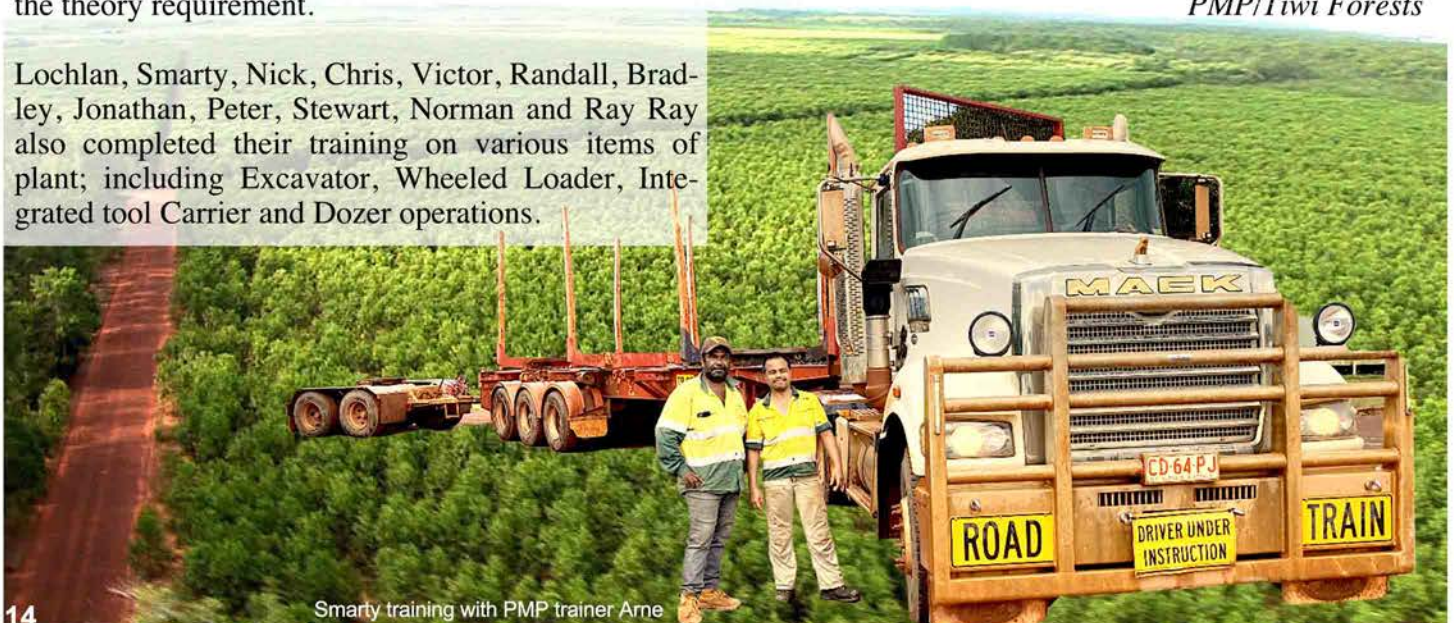
**With 2020 underway**, Plantation Management Partners have again commenced training.

In February Desi, Peter, Sambo, and Billy were amongst sixteen employees issued Statements of Attainment for Civil Construction Plant Operation. The Statements of Attainments were in recognition of their many hours spent developing experience and skills on the plant and the successful completion of the theory requirement.

Lochlan, Smarty, Nick, Chris, Victor, Randall, Bradley, Jonathan, Peter, Stewart, Norman and Ray Ray also completed their training on various items of plant; including Excavator, Wheeled Loader, Integrated tool Carrier and Dozer operations.

**PMP is also upskilling** several our Truck Drivers to MC license for driving Multi Combination trucks. This training includes the practical assessment which requires trainees driving a semi-trailer around Darwin for several hours. This has some worried as they do not like driving in town at the best of times let alone with a truck 19m long. I have no doubt that with the excellent trainers at CDU that they will be OK.

*PMP/Tiwi Forests*



# XCC Graduates story



The 2019 NTCET graduates:  
Laike Pateriki, Damascena Kerinauia, Laressa Munkara and Raphael Poantimlui

**Xavier Catholic College** has a long and proud history of producing graduates of distinction. Since 2013 Xavier has had students achieve the Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET). In 2019 we had 4 students graduate with an NTCET. All these graduations represented significant milestones for not only the students themselves, but for the College and the Tiwi community.

**Laressa Munkara:** Is the first student in her immediate family to graduate with an NTCET, and is a role model for her younger siblings.

**Laike Pateriki:** Is the first non-Tiwi student to graduate from Xavier Catholic College with an NTCET.

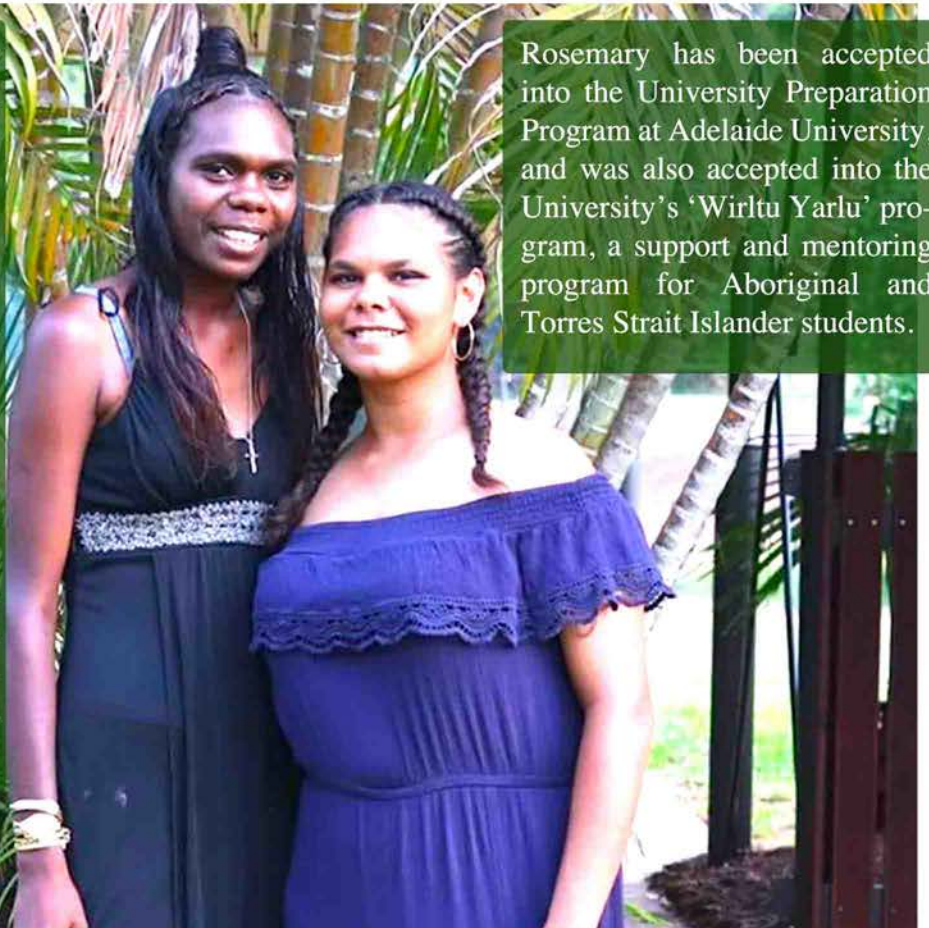
**Raphael Poantimlui:** Is the 2nd male Tiwi student to graduate with an NTCET, and is part of a culture change at Xavier Catholic College, where we are seeing more and more young men remain at school to get a good education.

**Damascena (Brandy) Kerinauia:** See Brandy's outstanding achievements on page 3 in this edition of "The Tiwi".

2019 also marked the start of a new era at Xavier Catholic College, with the first graduation ceremony for the Employment Pathways class. Samara Puruntatameri and Rosemary Woolley graduated after developing an impressive range of employability skills and earning extra certificates and workplace experiences.

These two girls have not slowed down since finishing at Xavier. Samara has accepted a spot in the Indigenous Youth Mobility Pathways program, which will help her live and work in town as she begins Sport and Recreation training at Charles Darwin University.

Rosemary has been accepted into the University Preparation Program at Adelaide University, and was also accepted into the University's 'Wirltu Yarlu' program, a support and mentoring program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.



Samara Puruntatameri and Rosemary Woolley

# ABA Grant Funding Round



Australian Government

## Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) Grant Funding Round



# ROUND OPEN

Funding for one off projects that benefit Aboriginal people in the NT.  
ABA supports projects not covered by other government funding.

**Aboriginal controlled organisations based in the NT are encouraged to apply.**

**Opens: 28 January 2020 Closes: 20 March 2020**

**For more information:**

Contact **1800 354 612** or email **[aba@official.niaa.gov.au](mailto:aba@official.niaa.gov.au)**

Or visit **[www.niaa.gov.au/aba-grants](http://www.niaa.gov.au/aba-grants)**