



[Good] [Tiwi News] **Pupuni Ngirramini**

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HEALTHY SEA COUNTRY**

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Tiwi People

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Message from the Tiwi Land Council Chair

I am proud to share that 2025 has had a strong and positive start for the Tiwi Land Council and for all Tiwi people. Together, we are building on the hard work of recent years to create even stronger foundations for our future.

One of the major highlights so far has been the forestry consultation. This was a significant piece of work, and I want to acknowledge the efforts of everyone involved. The Land Council made sure that the project was explained clearly and thoroughly, and that every Tiwi had the opportunity to understand what was being proposed. This consultation showed the big improvements we have made in how we manage land use agreements compared to the past – more detailed information, more open discussions, and more chances for everyone to have a say.

Another important event this year has been the election of our new Council members. We welcome four new

representatives, bringing fresh ideas and a strong future focus. It is great to see the diversity among our new members – including two very young voices, full of energy, and one older past member, bringing valuable experience and wisdom. This mix shows the strength of our leadership going forward.

Our Cultural Committee has also been very busy. There has been a lot of important work around supporting ceremonies like Kulama and planning for our upcoming Festival. These activities are vital for keeping our culture strong and passing our knowledge down to the next generations.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far this year. We have a lot to be proud of, and even more to look forward to.

Mana
Leslie



LESLIE TUNGATALUM
Chair, Tiwi Land Council



Photo: Annette Ruzicka

Message from the CEO

Awana mamanta!

There is a lot to reflect on from the start of 2025 and a lot to look forward to as we move into May.

We completed a round of clan meetings in February that were focused on understanding the Tiwi Plantations Corporation proposal to replant the Melville Island plantations with a new species of tree, *eucalyptus pellita*. Our Land Council staff did a huge amount of work to understand and explain the project to Tiwi people, through our clan meetings and many follow-up meetings. I'm pleased to share that – following extensive consultation – the project was approved by our Full Council in April.

While there is a lot of work ahead, if the project is successful, it can deliver several benefits to Tiwi people, including:

- Lease money for the five clans with plantations on their country
- A share of the project's profits for all eight clans through Tiwi ownership of Tiwi Plantations Corporation
- Training and employment opportunities
- The chance to build a more sustainable Tiwi economy around a 40-year project.

I joined our Deputy Chair, Austin Wonaeamirri, and Munupi representative,

Justina Puruntatameri, in Canberra for a Senate Estimates hearing in February. I was proud to watch them deliver a powerful opening statement and to hear the Tiwi Land Council tell a strong story of progress in the Australian Parliament.

In April, I had the opportunity to attend my first Cultural Committee meeting. It was exciting to see how that group has matured in its first 12 months and to hear of their plans to bring Kulama back to Milikapiti and Pirlingimpi in 2025.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the hard work that has gone into the development of the Tiwi Leaders Forum. The Land Council was asked to take on the Leaders Forum in 2024 through a funding agreement with NIAA. James Scrymgour has been consulting widely to develop a model that can support the coordination of all Tiwi organisations, government agencies and service providers to deliver better outcomes for our Tiwi communities. We are now seeking Expressions of Interest from Tiwi people to participate in the Tiwi Leaders Forum.

As we look ahead to the dry season, we have another round of clan meetings planned for May, Executive and Full Council meetings in June, and a return

of the Tiwi Cultural Festival, together with the TIFL Grand Final, on 19-20 July.

I look forward to seeing you in the coming months.

Mana
Brendan



BRENDAN FERGUSON
CEO, Tiwi Land Council

Watch out for yirrikipayi



The waterways on the Tiwi Islands and across the Top End are some of the best habitats for yirrikipayi (saltwater crocodiles) with more than 100,000 calling the Northern Territory home.

But Yirrikipayi are dangerous and are found in both the winga (sea) and kukuni (freshwater).

Rangers have been increasingly worried about people taking risks with yirrikipayi.

As part of the Tiwi Junior Ranger program, rangers, senior elders and NT Government Crocwise staff visited schools across the islands and spoke to all Tiwi students about staying safe.

Ranger Stanley Tipungwuti said all animals are food for yirrikipayi, including people.

"Swimming in the sea or rivers is too risky. Even though you can't see that yirrikipayi he can see you, he could be

in the water, he could be hiding on the bank. He'll sneak up and get you!"

Rangers also want to warn people about the dangers of cleaning fish or leaving meat carcasses near the water's edge.

Derek Puruntatameri said "there was a huge yirrikipayi at Mili recently... it came right up the beach and across the road to get to some old buffalo meat. It's too dangerous, having yirrikipayi so close to people."

Crocodiles are very intelligent and can read you before you can read them.

Ranger James Desantis said "don't go to the same place twice, they'll read your pattern and attack."

The rangers have a strong message for all Tiwi: make sure all children are supervised and please don't take risks with yirrikipayi!





Tiwi Rangers are continuing their battle to control Pujikatuwi (feral cats) on Melville Island.

With the support of an Australian Government Saving Native Species Grant, Rangers, Traditional Owners, Terrain Ecology and Charles Darwin University ecologists are reducing the impact of feral cats in three areas on Melville Island - Rangini (Munupi), Three Ways/ Taracumbi (Wulirankuwu) and Goose Creek (Yimpinari).

Ranger Derek Puruntatameri said "the best thing of working with the scientists is they're showing us new ways how to catch these cats".

The Tiwi Junior Rangers are also helping out with the project – they worked with the cat control team and learnt how to set cage traps, cameras and check the data on the Felixer Grooming Traps.

They also learnt how to dissect cat stomachs to find out what animals feral cats are hunting.

Ranger Stanley Tipungwuti said it was great to have Junior Rangers involved.

"I'm hoping to see our future generations, our kids, get as much education as they can out of the feral cat project and the Junior Rangers so when it's their time, they will know what to do," he said.

"They will have a better understanding of why we're managing cats' on the islands, a better understanding of cats impact on the native animals."

Studies from across Australia have shown that cats have a devastating impact on wildlife.

Since European colonisation 33 mammal species have gone extinct, with cats contributing to two-thirds of these losses.

Every year feral cats in Australia kill over 1.5 billion native mammals, birds, reptiles, and frogs, and 1.1 billion invertebrates.

Pet cats kill over 320 million native vertebrate animals each year.

A key aim of the project is to determine what Tiwi animals are most at risk from feral cats.

So far, the project team have dissected 47 cats and Rijinga (Savanna Gliders) are the most hunted mammal – they have been found in the stomachs of a quarter (25%) of the cats caught!

What Tiwi animals are feral cats eating on Melville Island?

Mammals

- Rijinga (Savanna Glider)
- Wuruwataka (Delicate Mouse, Pale Field-rat, Grassland Melomys, Butler's Dunnart)
- Yintumunga (Black-footed Tree-rat)
- Marinyi (Northern Brown Bandicoot)
- Wuninga (Northern Brushtail Possum)

Reptiles

- Wulikarani (Bynoe's Gecko, Zigzag Gecko)
- Pwatipwatinga (Orange-sided Bar-lipped Skink, Top End Mulch Skink)
- Wawungini (Ta-ta Dragon)
- Muwaka (small Goanna)

Birds

- Mwapurawayi (Bar-shouldered Dove, Peaceful Dove)

Insects

- Mole cricket
- Centipede

Frogs

- Arlijarraka (Frog species)

IMAGES: Lorraine Harris



Seagrass - a key to healthy sea country

Seagrass is vitally important to Tiwi marine ecosystems as it provides critical habitat for turtles and dugongs, improves water quality by filtering nutrients and trapping sediments and protects coastlines from erosion.

The Tiwi Rangers have undertaken extensive sea grass surveys across the north of the Islands in collaboration with researchers from James Cook University and Charles Darwin University (CDU).

The teams used live-aboard boats and ranger vessels to survey thousands of sites.

Dugongs and green turtles—species of both cultural and global conservation significance—mainly feed on seagrass.

An adult green turtle eats about two kilograms of seagrass a day while an adult dugong eats about 28 kilograms a day.

Seagrass meadows are also important to climate change because they store large amounts of carbon dioxide from the ocean.

Ranger Stanley Tipungwuti said rangers needed to know the location and health of seagrass on the Tiwi Islands.

“Seagrass is really important for our dugongs and turtles, our marine life and we need to know this scientific information so we can look after our sea country properly,” he said.

CDU Northern Institute Senior Research Fellow Dr

Rachel Groom said the seagrass project empowered Traditional Owners and Rangers, enabling them to merge Indigenous knowledge with scientific methodologies.

“By fostering independence and resilience, this project ensures that the management of Sea Country remains in the hands of those who understand it best,” she said.

The project, which is funded by the NT Government’s Aboriginal Ranger Grants Program, lays the groundwork for ranger-led seagrass monitoring.

The next phase will involve a comprehensive, two-year plan with a focus on equipping rangers with monitoring tools, such as underwater cameras and drones.



Rangers burning to reduce smoke and keep country healthy

Burning Tiwi country makes smoke which contains greenhouse gases.

These gases contribute to making the Earth warmer.

This is called global heating and it is changing the climate.

It's getting hotter and sea levels are rising.

Smoke from Tiwi fires adds to the problem but Rangers are working to reduce the amount of carbon or smoke that goes into the air.

They do this by burning country in Kimirrakinari - early in the Dry Season.

Kimirrakinari fires make less smoke and they keep country healthy.

By burning early and not burning too much country Tiwi can earn Carbon Credits or ACCUs (Australian Carbon Credit Units).

Carbon Credits are valuable.

Tiwi Resources hold the Carbon Credits then sells them when the price is right.

Because there is a lot of land on the Tiwis Rangers can help Tiwi people make good money from carbon farming.

The profits flow back to all Tiwi - funding projects that provide jobs and training, keep country healthy, strengthen culture and support youth programs.

But if fires are lit by people late in the dry season (after July) more country goes up in smoke and less carbon credits are earned.

In 2023 no carbon money was made for Tiwi people because nearly half the islands burnt late in the dry season.

In 2024 only 26 per cent of the islands burnt – 19 per cent in the early dry season and seven per cent in the late dry season.

In 2024 about 20 fires were deliberately lit by people along roadsides after July and 2000 hectares of forestry plantations were burnt.

Ranger Derek Puruntameri asked for community support.

“Please stop burning after July. All those late fires are bad for country...we lose carbon money and all that extra smoke from those fires is bad for our old people's health,” he said.

The message from Tiwi IPA Committee member John Wilson is clear.

“We set up that carbon program...if we burn that country wrong way, that money goes up in smoke.”



Tiwi Rangers talking fire at the Savanna Fire Forum

Tiwi Rangers spoke about their Tiwi Fire and Carbon Project at the North Australia Savanna Fire Forum at the Darwin Convention Centre in February.

The annual forum is run by the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network (ICIN) which facilitates knowledge sharing and improved understanding and practice within the Indigenous carbon industry.

ICIN includes 24 Indigenous land and sea management organisations, including Tiwi Resources and the Tiwi Rangers.

The rangers were proud to announce that the Tiwi Fire and Carbon Project is now a 100 per cent standalone Tiwi-owned business which is creating economic, social, and environmental benefits.

From 2016 the project's establishment was supported by the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation's Savanna Fire Management Program

with funding from the INPEX Corporation.

Last October the project became fully independent.

This transition away from external funding was due to successful project management by Tiwi Resources and the Tiwi Rangers.

The rangers also gave a summary of last year's fire season, talked about the importance of their community engagement activities and outlined their plans for the upcoming 2025 fire season.

Ranger Stanley Tipungwuti said it was important for rangers to share knowledge about fire with other ranger groups.

'It was good for us to come together like this. It's two-way learning – we get information from them, but they also get information from us,' he said.

Photos: © Indigenous Carbon Industry Network Ltd, 2024



Senate Estimates

Tiwi Land Council Opening Statement

Austin Wonaeamirri – Deputy Chair Tiwi Land Council

We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people, Traditional Owners of this land, and thank the Committee for having us today.

My name is Austin Wonaeamirri. I'm the Deputy Chair of the Tiwi Land Council, a proud Andranagoo man from Melville Island.

Attending Senate Estimates gives us Council members a chance to learn more about how our Council is regulated and ensure that the Tiwi Land Council continues to serve our Tiwi people with accountability and purpose.

But it is also a chance for us to share our story.

Since the last Estimates hearing, we have continued to progress our agenda of improved governance and administration:

We have reestablished our Executive Committee, and approved a revised Governance Framework, to improve the efficiency of Land Council decision-making.

We revised the Charter for our Audit and Risk Committee, which provides critical oversight and feedback on our internal controls.

We have closed out a series of Land Use Agreements, providing economic opportunities for our Tiwi people on Tiwi country.

Good governance is not just about rules. It is about ensuring that our Tiwi people trust the Land Council to make the right decisions for the future of our Tiwi people.



Justina Puruntatameri – Tiwi Land Council

My name is Justina Puruntatameri. I'm a member of the Tiwi Land Council, a proud Munupi woman and a traditional owner of Rangini.

The Tiwi Land Council's role is explained in the Aboriginal Land Rights Act. But Tiwi people also expect more of the Land Council. They look to its leadership in matters of culture, country and community.

The issue of suicide is critical. Too many of our young Tiwi people have taken their own lives in recent months. They are not just statistics; they are our sons, daughters, nieces and nephews.

The Tiwi Land Council holds culture as a protective factor. That is why we established the Tuwurrampila Cultural Committee – to strengthen our traditions, language, and identity.

We also know that local stakeholders must work together, not in silos. Too often, our people are forced to navigate

a fragmented system where health, education, employment, and social services operate separately, leaving critical gaps in care.

The Tiwi Leaders Forum will bring together local stakeholders—our old people, emerging leaders, government and service providers—to discuss and implement Tiwi led solutions to Tiwi problems.

A consistent message from our Tiwi people is their desire to access and live on their country. Our people are seeking more homelands housing, but there's not enough money to maintain existing housing and infrastructure. And only 1% of homelands funding in the NT is directed to Tiwi homelands.

Our vision is one in which Tiwi people can be strong in their culture, living on their country and participating in the economy with high quality education and training and meaningful jobs. This is the vision that we have for future Tiwi generations.



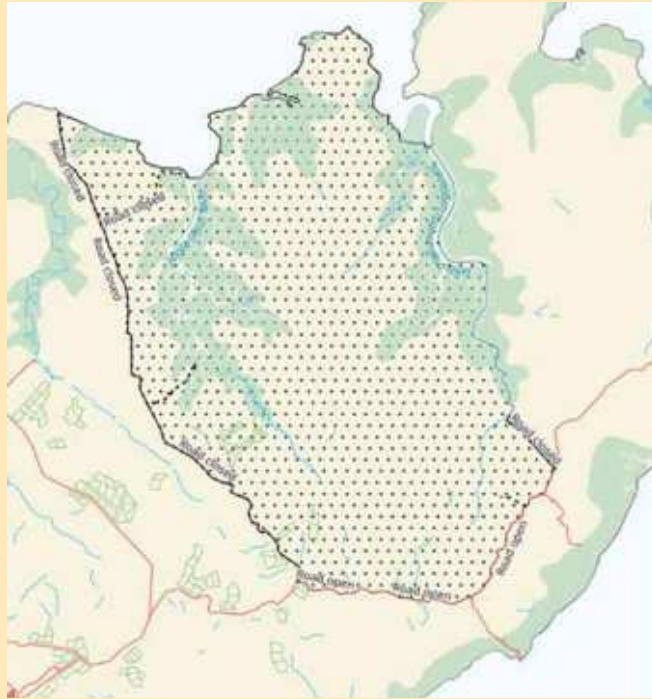


Tiwi Land Council Responds to NOPSEMA Approval of Santos Barossa Gas Project

The recent approval by the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) of the Santos Barossa gas project marks another chapter in a process that has caused deep concern and division among Tiwi people. It underscores the urgent need for Tiwi to assert and secure native title rights over sea country.

The Tiwi Land Council is actively working to progress a native title claim, with the aim of strengthening our Tiwi people's right to speak for our seas when developments are proposed that may impact our marine environment and cultural heritage. Securing rights over sea country is not just about protection—it's about identity, culture, and sustainable futures. It supports Tiwi people to manage marine resources in ways that align with our values and traditions, and to share in associated economic benefits.

The Tiwi Land Council has reset its relationships with offshore resources companies, including Santos, in the hope that future activities are conducted with transparency, respect, and in accordance with proper process. We remain firmly committed to supporting our people with development opportunities that are culturally appropriate, environmentally sustainable, and economically empowering. Our goal is long-term financial independence for Tiwi people—built on respect for country and culture.



Cultural Closure Notice

The area between Jessie River and Johnson River on Yimpinari country (Turrupwi) is closed for cultural reasons to all for recreational activities until 1 June 2025.

No recreational fishing, hunting or camping.

The area remains open for business and tourism activities.

The road from Pickertaramoor to Tinganoo remains open.

If you're unsure about whether your activity is business, tourism or recreational, please contact the Tiwi Land Council on 0407 528 733.

Land councils opposed Territory Coordinator Bill

The Tiwi Land Council and the Northern Territory's three other land councils united in calling for the Territory Coordinator Bill to be dumped.

But the Northern Territory Government passed the Bill during Parliament's sitting in March.

The Bill excludes Aboriginal people from involvement in development decisions on their traditional lands and prevents them from protecting their land and culture, the councils said in a joint press release on 12 March.

The Bill formally appoints the Territory Coordinator who will hold unchecked, expansive powers to circumvent regulations and bypass Territory laws and government processes.

This includes the authority to declare a Territory Development Area (TDA) or an Infrastructure Coordination Area (ICA) on Aboriginal land and Native Title areas without any prior consent or consultation with Traditional Owners.

The Territory Coordinator will be able to affect decisions and processes across 32 Scheduled Acts listed in the Bill, along with a host of regulations made under those Acts giving the coordinator unprecedented and sweeping powers.

The addition of the Heritage Act 2011 to the list of Scheduled Acts will make it subject to the powers of the unelected Coordinator, demonstrating that the NT Government is callously uninterested in the protection and preservation of our places of historical importance; and powers to enter private property including Aboriginal freehold land without a warrant are a breach of fundamental rights.

It is also concerning that the Bill's Scheduled Acts can be updated at any stage by regulation, the councils said.

While the Northern Territory Sacred Sites Act 1989 is currently not listed, it can be added at the Territory Coordinator's request – greatly increasing the vulnerability of thousands of critically important cultural and sacred sites.

While the Territory Coordinator cannot exercise powers over Federal laws such as the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth) and the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth), he can modify the 32 scheduled pieces of Northern Territory legislation, most of which contain protections for Aboriginal culture and land rights.

Consultation on the Bill has been tokenistic at best, with almost no recommendations made by Land Councils taken on board from our comprehensive submissions, the councils said.

This feels like a sign of things to come. Instead of improving the Bill, the Territory Coordinator's decision-making powers in the final draft are expanded, and the public's right of review is removed," they said.

The councils also criticised the removal of merits review from the NT Petroleum, Planning and Water Acts.

When taken alongside the Territory Coordinator Bill, this represents a fundamental attack on the rights of Territorians to scrutinise government decision-making and protect the parts of the Territory's society and environment that are important to them, the councils said.

Tiwi Land Council Chair Leslie Tungatalum said "the people of the Northern Territory have had a lot to say about this Territory Coordinator through more than 540 submissions but the government won't release them. This is a government that claimed they would be transparent. Their actions speak louder than words."

Northern Land Council Chair Matthew Ryan said "we should not be sidelined by the NT Government, we should have a seat at the table when it comes to decision-making that affects our future.

"Most land from the Top End islands to Central Australia, including our coastline, is owned by Traditional Owners or is subject to Native Title which gives us an enormous stake in the Northern Territory economy."

Central Land Council Chief Executive Les Turner said "this deeply anti-democratic law would give an unelected bureaucrat almost unlimited power to make up the rules on the run and ignore our elected representatives. "Like Aboriginal people at the mercy of an all-powerful mission manager, this time all Territorians would have to submit to the Territory Coordinator who has been appointed specifically to undermine Aboriginal involvement in assessment and approval processes under current laws."

Anindilyakwa Land Council Chair Cherelle Wurrawilya said "all activities on Aboriginal land must involve the owners of that land. "After all this is privately owned land. Any other private land owner would have the same expectations. The right people must be consulted and give their free, prior and informed consent."

The NT Government said in a statement that public and stakeholder engagement on the draft Bill was an essential step in establishing the role, with more than 550 written submissions received.

"The position of the Territory Coordinator is being created to drive economic growth in the Northern Territory and accelerate private sector jobs and opportunities for all Territorians," the government said.

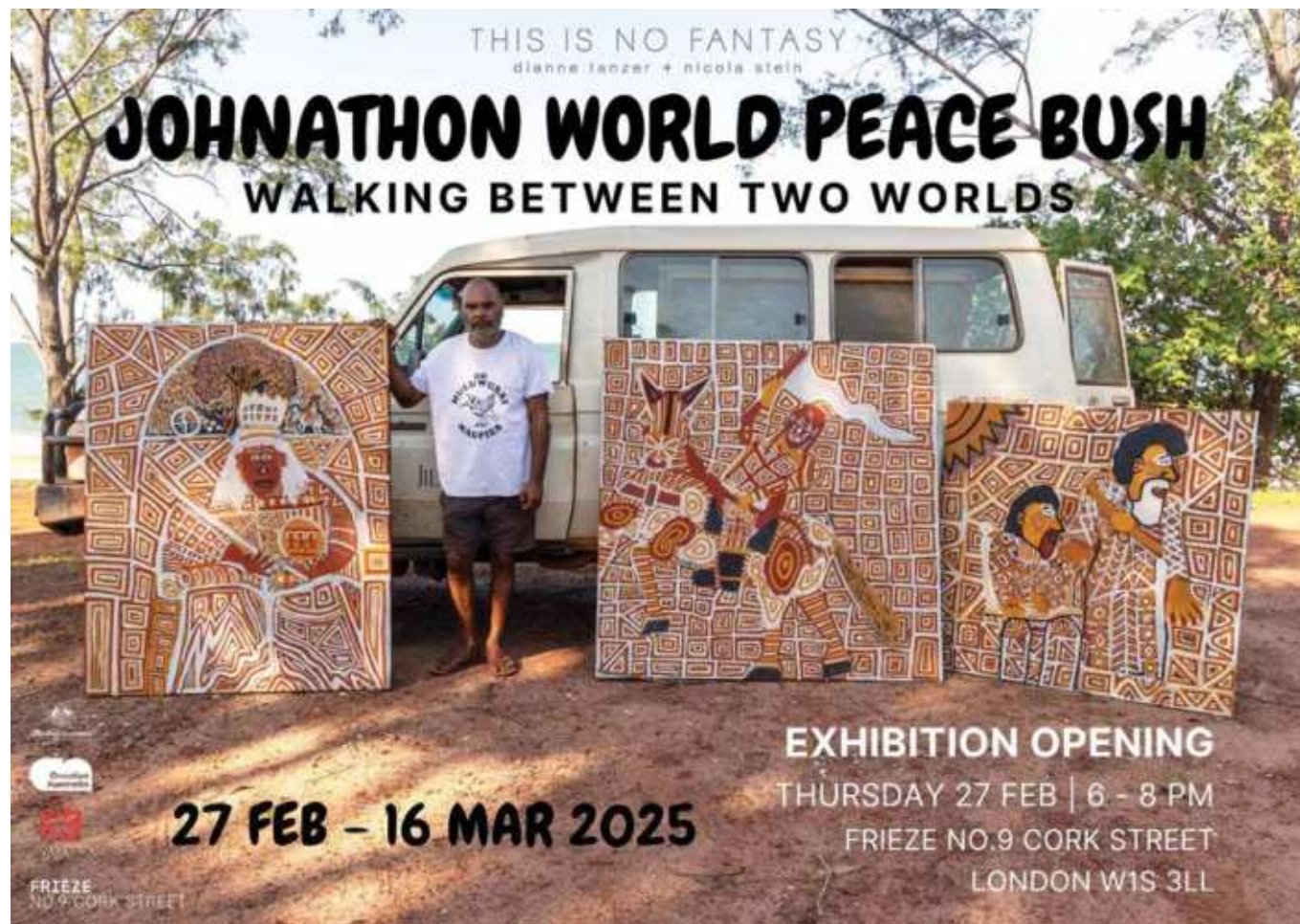
Tiwi artist celebrated in London while others showcasing in Australia

Tiwi artist Johnathon “World Peace” Bush had an incredible opportunity to share his work with international audiences in London in early March.

The event at Frieze No. 9 Cork St, a gallery run by Frieze that organises the famous Frieze Contemporary and Frieze Masters Art Fair’s in London as well as other fairs in Los Angeles, New York and Seoul, was a celebration of Johnathon’s work.

A well-attended panel discussion drew inspiration from Johnathon’s statement that “I hold the Western and Aboriginal law in my hands for all humankind to be equal. I have to balance both laws.”

The project was managed by Jilamara in partnership with Johnathon’s Melbourne based gallery “This Is No Fantasy” and was supported by Creative Australia and Arts NT.



Local artists impressing in prestigious exhibitions

Tiwi artists Timothy Cook, Conrad Tipungwuti and Walter Brooks recently showcased some of their work in the Melbourne Art Fair - one of Australia's most prestigious contemporary art fairs.

It has been noted how so many Tiwi artists are showcasing in world-class exhibitions this year.

Timothy Cook was showing with D'Lan Contemporary Gallery and Conrad and Walter with Vivien Anderson Gallery.

Munupi Arts were also there with Alison and Carol with one of the William Mora Indigenous Art Centre booths.



Michelle Woody Minnapinni also had an exhibition in Sydney at Station Gallery in Surrey Hills at the end of February, in partnership with Jilamara Arts & Crafts.

Michelle's *Ngiya Murrakupupuni (My Country)* captures the artist's relationship to Murrakupupuni and commitment to her heritage.

Maintaining the long-standing practices of her ancestors, Michelle works with natural ochres sourced on Murrakupupuni around Milikapiti, Tiwi.

The earth pigments are collected, crushed and burned into white, yellow and red, reflecting the colours of the island's landscape.

Michelle applies the earth pigments using the iconic kayimwagakimi or powja, a toothed painting tool carved from locally harvested ironwood and used in ceremonial Tiwi body painting, to create contemporary representations of Tiwi Murrakupupuni.

In this way Michelle asserts her connection to Murrakupupuni, embedded within every layer of her paintings.

Tiwi islanders becoming more aware of threats

By Tamara South, biosecurity and quarantine officer

Since the last issue we have been working with several different companies including the barge and ferry companies to broaden the knowledge of everyone involved in transporting goods to the Islands.

To date there have been over 130 inspections with most having few or no issues.

It is my absolute privilege to work alongside the Tiwi community and stakeholders to ensure that the Islands are free from any pests and weeds that pose a great risk to the Islands if they were to get established.

One of the main concerns I have come across with a lot of inspections is the amount of seeds and bugs in radiators.

Whilst the bugs themselves do not pose a serious threat they do attract ants of all types, some of which are not currently present on the islands.

Seeds are of major concern.

They get caught in radiators on vehicles and machinery and can get pushed out due to water and wind.

Gamba grass seeds are also a main concern.

Gamba is currently under control on the islands but we must be careful and do everything we can to ensure that we do not bring any more over. This is a top priority.

Please remember if you wish to take machinery, vehicles, or luggage to the Tiwi Islands, they must be clean, free from all seed, plant materials, dirt, cane toads and other pests.

If they do not meet these standards your goods will not be allowed to travel to the islands until they are thoroughly cleaned and inspected.

For any queries or guidance, please contact the Quarantine and Biosecurity officer on 0483 210 298.



Using science to protect country



Biosecurity plays a critical role in protecting country from invasive pests and diseases – not only on the Tiwi islands but across Australia.

As part of the Tiwi Junior Ranger Program, Xavier Catholic College students recently learnt how molecular biology is used to identify insects that may be harmful to native plants and animals.

With the help of Rangers and elders they trapped insects, observed them under microscopes, and learnt how to extract insect DNA and transfer the mix to agarose gel.

The way the DNA moves through the gel can tell scientists whether the insect is native (good) or a pest (bad).

Ranger Derek Puruntatameri said "it's important that kids learn science so they can look after country in the future. They need new knowledge because there will be new challenges for them in the future."

Ranger Dominic Tipiloura added "it was good to work with the kids - seeing the insects up close under the microscopes and the DNA. We were learning about science with them."

The workshop was run by NT Department of Agriculture and Fisheries scientists Sonu Yadav and Asha Tonkin-Reeves.

"I am excited to share my experiences in STEM and demonstrate how DNA and molecular science is transforming biosecurity," Dr Yadav said.

"This initiative fosters curiosity and passion for STEM careers, empowering the next generation of scientists."



Workshop provides insights into opportunities in aquaculture industry



The Aboriginal Sea Company (ASC) and Skills Insight partnership is off to a great start in 2025, launching with a successful two-day workshop under the Community-Based Aquaculture Training (CBATT) Project.

The workshop brought together ASC, Skills Insight and key community stakeholders to collaborate on developing culturally appropriate aquaculture training tools that will empower First Nations communities.

The sessions provided valuable discussions, hands-on activities, and insights into the skills needed for First Nations people to succeed in the aquaculture industry.

The CBATT Project is a key part of ASC's Strategic Plan ensuring culturally appropriate training across northern region communities.

An Advisory Committee was formalised at the conclusion of the two-day workshop to help guide this work.

"A key aspect of this project is that the design of the tools is driven and led by community and structured to ensure

continuous opportunities for community involvement in their development and delivery," said Bo Carne, CEO of Aboriginal Sea Company.

"By ensuring training is delivered on our land and in a way that respects our culture, we're not just teaching skills—we're opening doors to real economic opportunities for our people," he said.

Brian Tipungwuti, the ASC Director and Wurankuwu (Pandanus) man from the Tiwi Islands said "culturally appropriate and accessible education empowers our communities, allowing us to build a future that's grounded in both culture and progress.

"Skills Insight is proud to partner with the Aboriginal Sea Company, First Nations communities, and RTOs to support work on the cultural knowledge and skills needed to successfully operate a community-based aquaculture farm," he said.

"The project will develop culturally appropriate training tools tailored to the needs of First Nations communities."

Michael Hartman, CEO of Skills

Insight said "aquaculture plays a crucial role in sustainable food production and supporting community employment," he said.

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities have cultivated aquaculture skills for thousands of years, and their knowledge is vital to the industry's sustainability and prosperity.

"By working together, we can support training outcomes that incorporate traditional practices and modern techniques, empowering communities to thrive in the aquaculture industry."

The CBATT Project is being implemented in two key phases to ensure it effectively meets the needs of First Nations communities.

The first phase focuses on community consultation, working with Aboriginal corporations, land councils, and RTOs to identify the specific training needs required for sustainable aquaculture development.

Building on these insights, the second phase involves developing tailored training tools, ensuring they

align with national industry standards while embedding First Nations knowledge and practices to create culturally appropriate learning tools.

To support long-term impact, the training tools will be freely available through Skills Insight for First Nations communities and training providers.

Additionally, the program offers Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) opportunities, helping individuals gain formal qualifications and career advancement.

A final report will be submitted to the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, reinforcing the broader industry benefits of this initiative.

As the project progresses, ASC and Skills Insight will continue collaborating with stakeholders, industry leaders, and community members to ensure the training remains practical, effective, and culturally grounded, further strengthening First Nations leadership in the seafood industry.



Free mobile laundry service and connection place arrives in Wurrumiyanga



Orange Sky, a not-for-profit organisation supporting people in need with free mobile laundry facilities and a safe space for genuine connection, has launched a service in Wurrumiyanga on Bathurst Island.

This is the organisation's eighth service in the Northern Territory.

In partnership with Murrup, Orange Sky has brought one of their bright orange solar-powered remote laundry vehicles fitted with three washing machines and three dryers to the community.

Opened at a celebrating event on February 25, the service is available to the community Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Not only will the laundry truck offer locals a safe space to do their washing for free the partnership with Murrup will also provide employment opportunities for local community members to become part of the team and operate the laundry service.

It will also serve as a point of community connection and facilitate referral pathways to health and other service agencies.

Orange Sky's Wurrumiyanga service will join the organisation's remote community services in the Northern Territory, alongside Alice Springs, Darwin, Gapuwiyak, Maningrida, Nganmarriyanga, Wadeye and Yuendumu.

Skin health concerns affect many remote communities, with a lack of access to laundry facilities contributing to skin health concerns and diseases.

NT Health estimates that scabies affects up to 25 per cent of community members in remote communities and as many as 35 per cent of young children.

Orange Sky Senior Impact Manager Judith Meiklejohn said Orange Sky and the Murrup teams worked together to identify the need and purpose for the service in the region and are thrilled to finally be in a position to bring the much-needed service to the community.

"Many people and families in remote communities don't have access to basic facilities like washing machines and if they do, the machines often struggle to meet the needs of families living in overcrowded conditions or washing of blankets to support skin health," Judith said.

"From our research and through many conversations we have had with local groups, we have learnt there is a strain on the available support resources within the community, specifically, a lack of access to transport and the demand for washing facilities is significant."

In addition to supporting people experiencing homelessness and hardship, the increase in cost of living has resulted in Orange Sky being busier than ever across its metropolitan and regional fleet which now supports a higher number of individuals and families who are struggling to make ends meet.

Murrup CEO Shellee Strickland said Murrup was proud to partner with Orange Sky to bring this essential community service to Wurrumiyanga.

"We know that chronic health issues, such as scabies, crusted scabies and impetigo causes distress in many remote First Nations communities and can lead to more serious health conditions, especially for people who have comorbidity and compromised immune systems," Shellee said.

"This impacts the whole community, but, in particular, can create additional barriers for children and young people to thrive at school and beyond.

"Being able to wash clothes and bedding in hot water, using the free laundry facilities, will provide a solutions-based approach to these issues."

Established in Brisbane in 2014, Orange Sky is the world's first free mobile laundry and shower service, now operating in 46 locations across Australia.

Recycling cans and bottles for cash a huge success

Want to make some easy pocket money while helping your community?

Each month Tiwi Regional Council will conduct a "container for cash" program in Wurrumiyanga, Milikapiti and Pirlangimpi.

Collect recyclable cans and bottles and you will receive 10 cents per item. The money is paid in cash or shop vouchers.

The first collection days on March 24, 25 and 27 were a huge success.

In Pirlangimpi 5,717 cans were brought to the shop.

In Wurrumiyanga 14,563 were brought to the barge landing.

And 14,404 were brought to the shop in Milikapiti.

The containers are put on the barge and sent to the Indigenous-owned Envirobank in Darwin for recycling.

Envirobank believes that it's all of our responsibility to care for Country and that encouraging Australians to actively participate in the circular economy through bottle and can recycling is one the best ways to do this.

Look out for notices on Facebook and in the community for information about the next "container for cash" event.

The Tiwi Regional Council is running the program with the support of Northern Territory Government Environmental Health, NT EPA, Envirobank and the Tiwi Land Council.





Tiwi Land Council welcomes four new members

Elections for four vacant positions on the Tiwi Land Council were held recently.

The free and fair elections were again run by the NT Electoral Commission in accordance with the method of choice approved by the Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians.

On 4 March an election for one vacant position for Malawu clan was held at the Mantuyupwi meeting room.

The method of choice stipulates that two positions from each clan must be held by females.

As the previous councilor was female the eligible candidates needed to be female.

Ten candidates nominated and the successful candidate was Ephrianna Tipungwuti (pictured).

On 5 March an election for one vacant position for Mirrikawuyanga clan was held at the Milikapiti Club.

Neville Wommatakimmi was the only candidate nominated so no election was required.

On 6 March elections for the Wulirankuwu clan were held at the Mantuyupwi meeting room. The successful candidates were Bradley Tipiloura and John Tipiloura.



Ephrianna Tipungwuti
Malawu clan



Bradley Tipiloura
Wulirankuwu clan



Neville Wommatakimmi
Mirrikawuyanga clan



John Tipiloura
Wulirankuwu clan

Work, Health Safety & Training Officer

In addition, she has worked in private companies as a Safety and

Raquel is passionate about fostering a strong safety culture and is eager to contribute to our team.



Legal Officer

The two things I'm looking forward to the most about the next 6 months is the chance to work in a smaller team and to be more connected to the outcomes of working with the law. Being on level 20 in the Melbourne CBD surrounded by 600 people who work at the same company that you've often never seen before, can be an isolating experience, both from

Curiosity, courage, and love are my core values and I'm fascinated by leadership, impact investing and cricket. I spent 6 months living in Leeds in the UK last year playing for a local cricket team and I'll be playing for Nightcliff Cricket Club while I'm in Darwin. I can't wait to meet the whole team at Tiwi Land Council and feel incredibly lucky to have been given the opportunity to live and work in Darwin this year.



My passion and interest in the natural environment seamlessly led into my career pathway without clear conscious thought. I began several years ago as a Ranger at a foreshore reserve near my hometown. Here I managed the seasonal influx

Most recently I have spent the past five years working in forest fire management across the entire State of Victoria (and a small stint in QLD). I was based locally on a small island in the middle of Westernport Bay (South of Melbourne). I managed the seasonal preparedness and delivery of fire mitigation programs in bush dominated by productive heathland like the savannah I drove through on my way up around Katherine. In this



In addition to my work experience I have also valued and enjoy continuing to educate myself. I have studied at a tertiary level ecology, conservation biology, environmental law, and project management.

I am excited by this opportunity to work for the TLC and deliver positive outcomes for community and the natural environment. I aim to use my experience and education to contribute to the key programs I will be working on. I can't wait to get started and to learn from those around me and observe the new world I will be immersing myself into and I look forward to meeting you all!

Grand final and Tiwi cultural festival to be held on same dry season weekend

A dry season weekend in July is shaping up to be one of the most exciting times for Tiwi islanders and many visitors.

The Tiwi Cultural Festival will be held at Wurrumiyanga on Saturday 19 July, showcasing Tiwi culture, art and traditions through performances, exhibitions and workshops.

The world -famous Tiwi Islands Football League grand final will be held the next day, Sunday 20 July.

The Tiwi Land Council negotiated with AFLNT and Tiwi stakeholders to hold the grand final on the same weekend as the cultural festival in what is expected to develop into one of the most important two days each year on the Northern Territory's events calendar.

Scores of visitors from across Australia and overseas are expected to travel to Wurrumiyanga over the two days.

Visitors are advised to early book the ferry and planes for weekend.

Last year the pilot cultural festival was held on 24 August while the Tiwi grand final was held on 11 August.



The Tiwi Islands Football League always puts on an outstanding grand final event which is broadcast across Australia.

The day highlights the importance of Aussie Rules football on the islands which has produced some of the Australian Football League's top Indigenous players over many years.

The cultural festival is expected to create opportunities for Tiwi businesses, artists and service providers and boost long-term economic benefits.

The event provides a platform for Tiwi people to educate the broader public about their efforts to preserve their deep culture and traditions as well as safe guarding the islands biodiversity.

Spaces are limited on the Sealink ferry.

The Big Grand Final Day Out ferry details:

- *Departs Sunday, 20 July 2025 at 0900 from Dock 2, Stokes Hill Wharf, arriving at Wurrumiyanga at 1100 (approx.)
- *Enjoy the Tiwi Island Football Grand Final, discover Tiwi art at festival outlets, and immerse yourself in Tiwi culture and heritage.
- *Bring your own lunch
- Strictly no BYO alcohol permitted
- Food and drinks available for purchase.
- *Return Trip: Departs Wurrumiyanga shortly after the final siren
- Arrive Darwin around 6.30pm.
- Onboard Perks for the return include a licensed bar.

