



[Good] [Tiwi News]
Pupuni Ngirramini



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NEW JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM >> PAGE 4



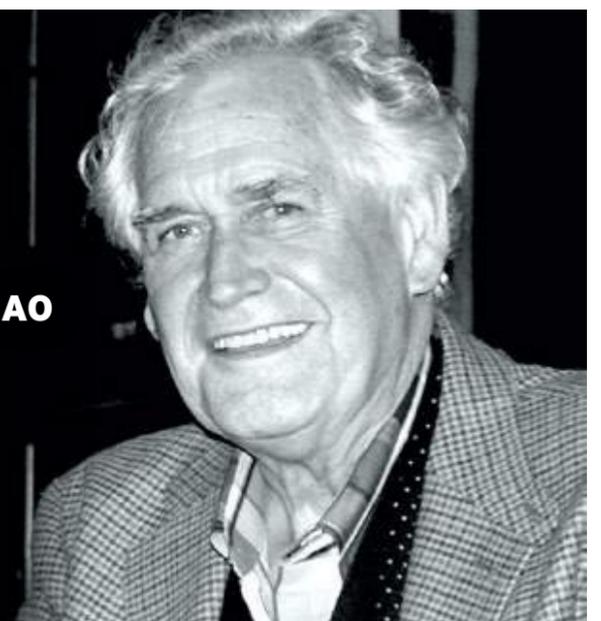
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MESSAGES**

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Message from the Tiwi Land Council Chair

Dear Tiwi Land Council Members, staff and Community,

It is with great respect that I acknowledge the ten years of dedicated service by our outgoing Chair, Gibson Farmer Illortaminni. Gibson's leadership and commitment have been instrumental in guiding our Council through significant milestones, and we owe him a great deal of gratitude for his unwavering dedication to our community.

I would also like to extend my thanks to our new Deputy Chair, Austin Wonaeamirri, for his solid support. I look forward to working with him as we continue to strive for the betterment of our community.

Additionally, I am proud to acknowledge the new composition of the Tiwi Land Council, with 50% of our elected Council members being women for the first time. This marks a significant and positive shift towards greater representation and inclusivity within our Council.

I am pleased to welcome Brendan Ferguson as the new CEO of the Tiwi Land Council. Brendan and I have already begun working together productively, and I am confident that his leadership will be a valuable asset to our Council.

We recently had the honour of hosting Linda Burney the Minister for Indigenous Australians, Selena Uibo the NT Minister for Remote Housing and Homelands, Malarndirri McCarthy the assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians, Marion Scrymgour the member for Lingiari and Manuel Brown

the member for Arafura. Also present were representatives from the three other Northern Territory Land Councils at a press conference in Milikapiti. This event marked the announcement of the new partnership agreement with Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory (AHNT) and the four Northern Territory Land Councils. This unprecedented investment from the Commonwealth Government of \$4 billion over ten years for housing in remote communities and an additional \$240 million over three years for housing improvements and essential infrastructure upgrades in Northern Territory homelands is a monumental step forward for our people.

In recent weeks, we had the privilege of hosting two distinguished visits. On Thursday, 14 March, the Governor-General David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) and Her Excellency Mrs. Linda Hurley travelled from Canberra to Melville Island. Upon their arrival, they received a Welcome to Country from members of the Pirlangimpi community and attended a meeting with representatives of the Tiwi Land Council. Their visit also included a tour of Fort Dundas and, as guests of senior artist Ms. Carole Puruntatameri, they visited the Munupi Arts and Crafts Association.

Furthermore, on 22 May, we welcomed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Richard Marles and Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians Malarndirri McCarthy to Pirlangimpi. Their visit involved meetings at Port Melville, discussions with the Tiwi Land Council, a beautiful Welcome to

Country at Main Beach, and a catch-up with students from Tiwi College at Fort Dundas.

It is encouraging to see the Tiwi Islands included in the itineraries of these important visitors.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support and dedication to our community.



Warm regards,
LESLIE TUNGATALUM
Chair, Tiwi Land Council

Message from the CEO

Dear Tiwi Community,

I am delighted to take on the role of CEO at the Tiwi Land Council. I thank my predecessor, Robert Graham, for his leadership and significant contribution to strengthening the foundations of the Tiwi Land Council.

I am excited by the opportunity to build on those foundations, working together with our Council and our eight clans to deliver great outcomes for Tiwi people.

I have a lot to learn about Tiwi country and culture and I am grateful for the patience and support of our new Chair, Lesley Tungatalum, and Deputy Chair, Austin Wonaeamirri. I have benefitted from their guidance, and that of all our Council members and Trustees as I transition into this role.

There are four key priorities that I am working on right now:

- Meeting and building trust with Tiwi

community members

- Strengthening working relationships with stakeholders like the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), the Office of Township Leasing (OTL), NT Government agencies, the Tiwi Islands Regional Council and various Tiwi organisations
- Embedding strong governance within our new Council, to ensure that our staff are led by strong, informed Tiwi decision-making
- Ensuring the effective allocation of resources, through the annual budget process and changes to our staffing structure.

If I haven't met you yet, then I look forward to meeting you and working with you to achieve our shared goals.

Thank you for your warm welcome and ongoing support.



Warm regards,
BRENDAN FERGUSON
CEO, Tiwi Land Council

■ EDITORIAL

Pupuni Ngirramini is published by the Tiwi Land Council for the Tiwi People

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Consulting

New approach for fire season as students learn importance of yikwani

It's Kimirakinari (fire season) on the Tiwi Islands and a new approach is being taken to teach students about the importance of good yikwani (fire) management.

A large three-dimensional (3D) interactive model of the Tiwi Islands developed by Charles Darwin University researchers for the Junior Ranger Program will help students learn about fire ecology and behavior and managing fire to earn carbon money.

In May, the Tiwi Rangers and Tiwi College students were the first to engage and "play" with the new 3D mode.

Projection of real Tiwi fire history onto the model allowed students to see when and where fires have been lit in the past and how far they spread.

They could see that in 2023, 37 wildfires were lit by Tiwi people along roadsides late in the dry season.

Late dry season fires are hotter and more destructive than fires early in the dry season and can burn huge areas of country – they are bad for Tiwi plants and animals and bad for the carbon project.

Tiwi Ranger Derek Puruntatameri said

"last year was a really bad year for fires, lots of fires being lit when they shouldn't be, lots of late fires on Melville – almost half the islands were burnt. We're not going to be making any carbon money from those fires."

Ranger Purantatameri explained to the students why they needed to learn about fire.

"This is your country, you've got to look after it. One day you mob will be the ones lighting the fires...you need to know about all this, it's your future we're talking about, you're going to be the rangers, you'll be looking after country," he said.

The Rangers will use the interactive 3D model to talk to all students about how good fire management protects biodiversity while earning carbon money.

It will also be an important communication tool for rangers when they are fire planning with landowners.

It will increase awareness and understanding about the negative impacts of late dry season fires and help everyone to work together to ensure that country stays healthy, and the Tiwi Fire and Carbon Project is a success.



First Junior Ranger program for Tiwi Islands to help retain culture and identity

The Tiwi Islands now has its first Junior Ranger Program.

Tiwi elders have long expressed their concern about the loss of language and cultural knowledge as old people pass away and young people look to Western influences.

They want their young people to achieve educational success, retain their culture, language, and Tiwi identity, and live long, healthy lives.

To achieve this, Traditional Owners from all eight clans identified the establishment of a Tiwi Junior Ranger Program as a Key Action in their Tiwi Indigenous Protected Area Plan of Management (2023 – 2033).

"Our young ones are our future. Can't leave it too late, got to open the door for our young ones," a Traditional Owner said.

"Kids need to learn how to be a ranger. It's a good pathway for our young people. Training Junior Rangers needs to happen at Tiwi College," the TO said.

"Our young people need training to become rangers. We need a Junior Ranger Program, so young ones can become rangers when they leave school."

A Tiwi Resources application for NIAA funding in 2023 was successful and the Tiwi Junior Ranger program commenced at Tiwi College in February this year.

The Program will combine curriculum and culture to build the skills, confidence, and capacity of students – the Tiwi islands' future leaders.

Rangers, teachers, elders, and

partners will deliver enjoyable, culturally appropriate education and training with a focus on intergenerational transfer of traditional knowledge.

Charles Darwin University and the Flora and Fauna Division of the NT Government are key partners in the program.

CDU has already delivered two modules of training for Certificate I in Conservation and Ecosystem Management, providing foundation level skills and knowledge required for working as a ranger, in wildlife management or in horticulture.

CDU Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods is also running a Tiwi biodiversity education program, with the first activity focusing on plants held with students, Rangers, and elders in April.

"I liked learning about new plants, plants I didn't know. Liked going outside, drawing the plants, learnt about different kinds of plants, different things, the leaf shapes," a Tiwi Junior Ranger said.

To help address loss of culture a key part of the Junior Ranger Program will be participation in Tarntipi Bush Camps, run by the Tarntipi Homelands Aboriginal Corporation on Bathurst Island.

"Need to teach culture, language, dancing, singing, ceremony – all that," a TO said.

"Kids are too busy on Facebook and Instagram, they're losing culture. They need time on country, they need culture camps so they can learn more about culture and ceremony."



"Lots of kids don't know their tribe or skin group, don't know their ancestors."

Tiwi College Principal, Greg Hollis, said "we want our students to complete school as self-reliant and capable individuals ready and prepared to enter the workforce. The skills and competencies acquired as part of the Junior Ranger program will help to provide more opportunities and choices for young Tiwi people."

The Program is being administered by Tiwi Resources, the manager of the Tiwi Rangers and, in the first phase, will be delivered through Tiwi College with activities extended to Xavier Catholic College.

The Junior Ranger Program Coordinator, Stacey Rosas, is based at Pickataramoor.

"We are yesterday people, our kids, they are tomorrow people. A TO said.

Xavier Catholic College goes bush to share cultural knowledge and skills

Tiwi Language and Culture are important areas for learning at Xavier Catholic College in Wurrumiyanga.

Every week there is dedicated time for students to focus their learning on these two areas.

The program is developed by Tiwi Teachers and tries to make Learning on Country a weekly event.

Here are just some of the experiences students can engage with as part of the Culture Program at Xavier:

- Fishing and hunting
- Gathering pandanus
- Weaving
- Making ochre paint
- Spear making
- Building shelter
- Singing and dancing
- Language development
- Visits to the Patakijiyali Museum
- Day trips out bush
- Overnight camping

This Term saw students enjoy two Hunting Days Out at Tarpiti.

These days out bush were attended by all members of the school community – from students and teachers to cleaners and administration staff.



Not only did these days enhance students' connection to country and build up their hunting skills but it also offered the whole school community the opportunity to connect with each other and share their knowledge and skills.

Everyone is now looking forward to the Term Three Culture Program that will give students further opportunities to learn about and promote their culture.

Fun packed action at College Fete

The Tiwi College Annual Fete held on 6 June is a highlight of our school calendar, bringing together students, families and friends for an action packed fun filled day.

While driven by our family group home parents, its focus is very firmly fixed on demonstrations of student learning and making learning fun.

Our life skills program may have facilitated the opportunities for students to explore money matters such as fund raising, profit and loss, entrepreneur mindset and goal setting but the decision to donate some of their profits to charity organisations came from the heart.

The highlight this year was the Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF) sponsored book launch of Marius and the Tiwi seasons - a book written and illustrated by our very own college students and read by the ILF team members present.

The success we regularly enjoy stems from the wonderful students we have, the unwavering support of our communities and the many sponsors who generously support our endeavours year in and year out.

This year that list included the Indigenous Literacy Foundation, Bright Moon Trust, Nguuu Club, Tiwi Islands Training and Employment Board, Jilamara, Tiwi Designs and Tiwi Enterprises Limited.



Tiwi College

- Tiwi College is proud to announce an **exciting new curriculum** being introduced in Term 3, 2024
- Enrolments are available
- Nurturing and safe boarding program
- Contact us now to enrol or for more information
- Phone 8970 9024 or email admin.tiwicollege@ntschools.net

Enrol now - 8970 9024

Governor-General sees “strong sense of community” during official visit to Melville Island

The Governor-General David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley travelled from Canberra to Melville Island on Thursday 14 March.

On arrival, the Governor-General and Mrs Hurley received a Welcome to Country from members of the Pirlangimpi community and attended a meeting with representatives of the Tiwi Land Council.

They also visited Fort Dundas, the site of the first attempt at a settlement on the north coast of Australia by the British, 200 years ago.

As guests of senior artist Ms Carole Puruntatameri, the distinguished couple visited the Munupi Arts and Crafts Association.

The Governor-General was presented a gift that showcased the rich history of Indigenous art.

In the afternoon, the Governor-General and Mrs Hurley travelled from Melville Island to Darwin.

After leaving the NT, the Governor-General said in a thank-you letter that he thoroughly enjoyed visiting Melville Island to meet with members of the community, particularly the children.

“The strong sense of community on Melville Island was heartwarming to witness in person and we are thankful of the opportunity to conduct such a meaningful visit,” he said.

The Governor-General of Australia is His Majesty The King’s Representative.

In practice, they are Australia’s Head of State and have a range of constitutional and ceremonial duties.



The Governor-General is also the Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Defence Force.

These duties are essential to Australia’s modern democracy, however perhaps the most important role of the Governor-General is their work in the Australian community.

Each year the Governor-General

hosts or attends hundreds of events around the country and meet tens of thousands of Australians.

They do this to celebrate the best of Australia and recognise the everyday Australians who, without fuss or fanfare, contribute to the lives of others and make Australia such a compassionate, harmonious and peaceful place.

The Governor-General’s visit to Melville was one of his last trips as Governor-General.

His term in office ends on July 1. Sam Mostyn, a former political staffer who rose to prominence for her corporate work campaigning on economic empowerment of women, will be Australia’s next Governor-General.



Government signals greater use of Port Melville by the navy

The Australian Defence Force has identified Port Melville on the north coast of Melville Island as a key logistics base where more Australian navy ships could refuel.

Defence Minister Richard Marles signaled the greater use of the port during a visit to Melville Island in May.

The Australian Government's recently released Defence Strategic Review recommended a growing Defence presence in northern Australia.

Port Melville has already been used to refuel Border Force and navy ships but Minister Marles made clear during his visit that his government sees use of the facilities increasing.

"What is really clear is that when we look at where our national security lies, it lies well beyond our borders and we need to have capacity to project," Minister Marles told Sky News, whose reporter travelled to the port with the minister.



Member for Arafura provides update on NT Government projects

By **MANUEL BROWN**, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Arafura

Awana Mamanta.

I am proud to represent Tiwi voices as the MLA for Arafura, ensuring that investments are directed where they are most needed on our islands.

It has been just over a year since my election and I want to provide the community with an update on our achievements and the plans from the Labor Government.

Road works: So far the Northern Territory Government has put \$52 million to upgrade roads on the Tiwi Islands.

We have made significant progress on upgrading and sealing sections of access roads, including Paru Road.

This project is crucial for economic growth by benefiting the timber plantation and helping locals with easier transportation.

The upgraded roads will also ensure smoother travel for our football teams, reducing last-minute changes to game schedules.

Opening the bridge with Minister Joel Bowden last year was a significant milestone.

Pirlangimpi Renal Ready Room Construction: We have constructed the Pirlangimpi Renal Ready Room to provide essential health services to our community.



Funding for Tiwi Design Aboriginal Corporation: We secured funding to upgrade infrastructure at the Art Centre, supporting our cultural and artistic heritage.

Jirnani Creche Security Enhancements: The Tiwi Islands Regional Council received funding to enclose and secure the Jirnani Creche in Wurrumiyanga, ensuring a safer environment for our children.

Support for Tiwi Rangers: We provided funding for new equipment including vehicles and trailers to help the Tiwi Rangers take care of country.

Tarntipi Homelands Aboriginal Corporation: Funding was allocated for business and governance training and to provide solar power and an onsite workspace equipped with tools and equipment at the Tarntipi Bush Camp.

Bima Wear Association Support:

Bima Wear Association received funding to continue their important work in our community.

Housing Improvements: We are committed to building and upgrading homes for healthier and stronger communities.

These include:

- 45 homes built or upgraded in Milikapiti
- 143 homes built or upgraded in Wurrumiyanga
- 52 homes built or upgraded in Pirlangimpi

Wurrumiyanga Remote Power

Project: This project is underway and aims to reduce Bathurst Island's reliance on diesel for power.

Tiwi Island LDM: The Local Decision Making (LDM) agreement is close to being signed, empowering our community with greater control over local decisions.

There is still plenty of work to do.

I will continue to fight for our share of funding for homelands, housing, and education funding that the Federal Labor Government has committed to.

I will also work with our federal representatives to fix the Community Development Program (CDP) to ensure more money and better work options are available for our mob.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Senate Estimates in Canberra

In early June members of the Tiwi Land Council attended Senate Estimates in Canberra. CEO Brendan Ferguson attended by Teams from overseas.

The members that attended each read a section of the opening address. Below is a transcript of the opening remarks as presented by the four Council members.

Spoken by KARINA COOMBES

Good morning Senators,

My name is Karina Coombes, I am the Trustee for Munupi Clan group.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. I am joined by my colleagues – Cheryl Kerinauia, Anastasius Vigona and Tyeanne Heenan – Tinoco.

The Tiwi Land Council is dedicated to the care for and advancement of our Tiwi Islands.

Firstly, welcome to our new CEO, Brendan Ferguson, who brings a wealth of experience and a fresh perspective.

We also thank outgoing CEO Robert Graham for his 18 months of stabilising leadership and implementation of the ANAO review recommendations.

We also welcome our new Chair Mr. Tungalum and acknowledge the ten years of service given by outgoing Chair Gibson Farmer Illortaminni.

The full Tiwi Land Council has recently met, after elections held in December & January, with fifty percent of new members being women, making our Council more representative of our Tiwi community. Our voices bring balance and enrich our decision-making processes.

The Tiwi Land Council recently completed a staff restructure in order to better serve the Tiwi people, aiming for more efficient operations and improved communication, accountability, and service delivery.

Spoken by CHERYL KERINAIUA

We proudly announce the Tuwurrampila Cultural Committee, ratified by the full Land Council to guide culturally significant decisions, ensuring respect for Tiwi traditions and values and providing a means to achieve cultural initiatives identified as priorities for the Tiwi Islands and our communities.

We are collaborating with NIAA to establish the Tiwirrampila Leaders Forum aimed at better coordinating and creating opportunities for emerging Tiwi leaders.

A critical issue is suicide.

Late last year, we had two suicides within weeks.

Our Cultural Committee and Tiwi Leadership Forums aim to address this.

Tiwi culture and self-determination can be protective factors. Enhancing social and emotional wellbeing involves maintaining connections to country, culture, spirituality, and kinship networks. Investment in Tiwi culture and self-determination is fundamental to healing.

Spoken by TYEANNE HEENAN – TINOCO

The Land Council continues to implement the ANAO audit recommendations, with many addressed and others ongoing.

Securing rights over Tiwi Sea country is crucial for our identity and culture, enabling us to manage marine resources sustainably and benefit directly from them.

We aim to reset relations with oil and gas stakeholders, ensuring appropriate processes around their activities and future engagement.

We have met with them twice in the past three weeks to further discuss what this might look like.

Spoken by ANASTASIUS VIGONA

We are committed to assisting Tiwi people with culturally appropriate and environmentally sustainable economic development opportunities that give us financial independence.

In closing, the Tiwi Land Council is committed to a future where our cultural heritage and community wellbeing are prioritised.

We are excited about the positive changes and opportunities ahead, supported by new leadership, diverse voices, and our Cultural Committee.

Thank you.



Federal and Territory governments sign historic 10-year Remote Housing Partnership Agreement in Milikapiti



Northern Territory and Commonwealth ministers gathered with four Land Councils, including the Tiwi Land Council, in Milikapiti on June 20 to sign the Northern Territory's largest ever remote housing investment agreement.

The new \$4 billion 10-year remote housing partnership agreement is designed to halve overcrowding in Aboriginal communities.

The Partnership Agreement represents a new way of working collaboratively with Aboriginal communities and housing organisations towards a better remote housing system across the Territory's 73 remote communities, including those on the Tiwi Islands.

The \$4 billion agreement commits Federal and Territory governments to working with all four NT Land Councils and Aboriginal Housing NT to work together to improve existing housing and build houses that are culturally appropriate and meet the climate challenges of the Northern Territory.

Construction of up to 2,700 new homes across the Territory will halve overcrowding in the next ten years, aligning with the National Closing the Gap targets with improvements in health, education and community safety, as well as opportunities for economic growth across the Territory, both governments say.

Since 2016 almost 4000 new and improved homes have been built across the Territory with the help of works under the current joint remote housing program with the Australian Government.

Federation Funding Agreements between the NT and the Commonwealth, informed by this Partnership Agreement, will also include better repairs and maintenance in remote community housing and improvements and infrastructure upgrades in homelands.

The Albanese Government will also extend its commitment to housing upgrades and improvements to essential

infrastructure in Homelands, matching the Northern Territory Government's ongoing \$40 million investment over three years, representing a joint investment of \$240 million over that period.

Some Traditional Owners who attended the signing ceremony voiced support for more homelands' investments.

The Land Councils have been calling for years for homes to be built in both communities and on homelands.

The federal government will also provide \$1 million over two years to assist Aboriginal Housing NT to develop a community-controlled housing model.

In March, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said housing was critical for progressing Closing the Gap Targets around education and health.

"If you don't have a secure roof over your head, the chances of you having a healthy life, of you getting on with your education, of you being able to prosper and seize opportunities, simply won't arise," he said.

The new National Partnership supports Local Decision Making, with a focus on flexibility to support opportunities for local and Territory businesses and employment, supporting Aboriginal Business Enterprises, and improving housing and tenancy of remote housing.

Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney, who travelled to Milikapiti for the signing, said "this is a landmark housing agreement that is designed to tackle the problem of overcrowding in First Nations communities in the Northern Territory."

"We know that overcrowding leads to poorer outcomes in terms of health, education and safety," she said.

"If we invest in better housing, we will get better outcomes across the board."

Minister Burney said the partnership with the Northern Territory Government,



Aboriginal Housing NT and Aboriginal Land Councils is vital to successfully deliver homes for more communities across the NT.

"This is about a new way of doing things – in genuine partnership with communities and Land Councils to create a better remote housing system," she said.

NT Minister for Remote Housing and Homelands Selena Uibo said "our Territory Labor Government has already overseen sweeping changes to the quality and number of homes in every remote community across the Territory, and I'm honoured to announce the extension of this program."

"We know that this has made a positive impact on the lives of many thousands of Aboriginal people and this investment will not only yield more homes but will also unleash a pipeline of construction over the next ten years that boost our Aboriginal workforce and benefit businesses across the Territory," she said.

"This partnership agreement marks an unprecedented investment by both Territory and Commonwealth governments and commitment to

community consultation in planning, design and building works through Local Decision Making."

"Since Territory Labor came to government in 2016, our housing tally is nearing 4000 homes, and now we are creating more homes, more work, and more training opportunities with this \$4 billion investment that will go straight into the pockets of Territorians."

Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians and NT Senator Malarndirri McCarthy said "improving housing is so important to closing the gap...that's why we've made this historic joint funding commitment that will see more homes for families in remote communities. It will go a long way to easing serious overcrowding."

Covering the signing ceremony, the ABC interviewed Jacinta Bennett and partner Dominic Brown who after a 15 year wait are moving out of their old, overcrowded house moving to a new home where they will live with their six children and Mr Brown's elderly mother.

"It's been suffocating for us...but we've finally got there and can start afresh," Ms Bennett told the ABC.

Outcome of Tiwi Land Council Elections for Chair and Deputy Chair Positions

The Tiwi Land Council is pleased to announce the results of the elections held on March 14, 2024, by the Northern Territory Electoral Commission for the positions of Chair and Deputy Chair. Following a democratic process, Mr Leslie Tungatalum has been elected as Chair, and Mr Austin Wonaeamirri has been elected as Deputy Chair. The elections held in Pirlangimpi witnessed a robust participation from the Tiwi Land Council members, reflecting their commitment to the governance and stewardship of Tiwi Land. The Tiwi Land Council extends its gratitude to all candidates who participated in the electoral process, as well as to the Tiwi Land Council members for their engagement and support throughout. Leslie Tungatalum brings a wealth of experience and dedication to the role of Chair. His leadership qualities and deep understanding of Tiwi culture will undoubtedly serve the Tiwi Land Council and its constituents well throughout his term. Likewise, Austin Wonaeamirri's election as Deputy Chair marks a significant milestone. His passion for community development and his strong advocacy for the Tiwi people will

undoubtedly contribute to the Council's mission of promoting the interests and welfare of Tiwi Landowners and stakeholders. CEO Robert Graham extends his heartfelt congratulations to both Leslie Tungatalum and Austin Wonaeamirri on their successful election. He expresses confidence in their abilities to lead the Tiwi Land Council with integrity, diligence, and a steadfast commitment to the Tiwi people and their land. The Tiwi Land Council also extends its appreciation to outgoing Chair Gibson Farmer Illortamini for his dedicated service and leadership during his tenure. His contributions to the Council have been invaluable, and his guidance has left a lasting impact on the Tiwi community. The Tiwi Land Council management and staff look forward to working closely with Chair Leslie Tungatalum, Deputy Chair Austin Wonaeamirri, and the entire Council to continue advancing the interests and aspirations of the Tiwi people.



TLC CHAIR & DEPUTY CHAIR ELECTIONS



Incredible legacy left by retiring Joy and John at Ngaruwanajirri

Joy and John Naden are retiring after supporting and developing artists at Ngaruwanajirri, the art centre in Forestry Wurrumiyanga, for 30 years.

They set-up the centre in 1994 after seeing a need in the Wurrumiyanga community for people with disabilities.

Working from the beautiful and iconic Keeping Place building their legacy is inspiring for incoming manager Jane Polkinghorne and arts worker Sarah Newall.

"It is a huge privilege and big responsibility taking over from Joy and John, who have mentored us into the roles," Jane says.

"They are leaving Ngaruwanajirri in an excellent position and hopefully we can continue the incredible work they have done here on Bathurst Island to develop the careers and art practices of the artists and carvers at Ngaruwanajirri."

Sarah added "we have been so welcomed by the artists and carvers at Ngaruwanajirri. They have helped us to learn about beautiful Tiwi culture and jilamara. We are very excited to be working with such a talented group of Tiwi artists and carvers."

The artists work across a range of mediums and styles, including using local ochres on paper, canvas and more recently tunga (bark).

Other mediums include beautiful batik silk scarves each with a unique design, prints and lino blocks.

A group of men do carvings in Tiwi style of tokwampini (birds), tutini (poles), and figures based on Tiwi myths.

Joy and John Naden have worked closely with all the artists over the years to develop their art making.

As a result Ngaruwanajirri artists such as Jane

Tipaumantumirri, Lillian Kerinauia and Lorna Kantilla are represented in some of Australia's most respected museums including the National Gallery of Victoria and the South Australia Art Museum.

For many years, Joy has worked closely with Alfonso Puautjimi Jnr (known locally as Hardy), to develop his quirky paintings with ochres on paper and canvas.

As a result, one of Hardy's iconic bicycle paintings will be exhibited in the works on paper section of the 2024 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards opening in Darwin on 22 June.

Known as the NATSIAA, this is the most prestigious First Nations art award in the country - very exciting for Hardy as he joins Lorna Kantilla and Lillian Kerinauia as past participants in this award.

In August, Ngaruwanajirri will once again participate in the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, alongside other Tiwi art centres Bima Wear, Jilamara and Munupi.

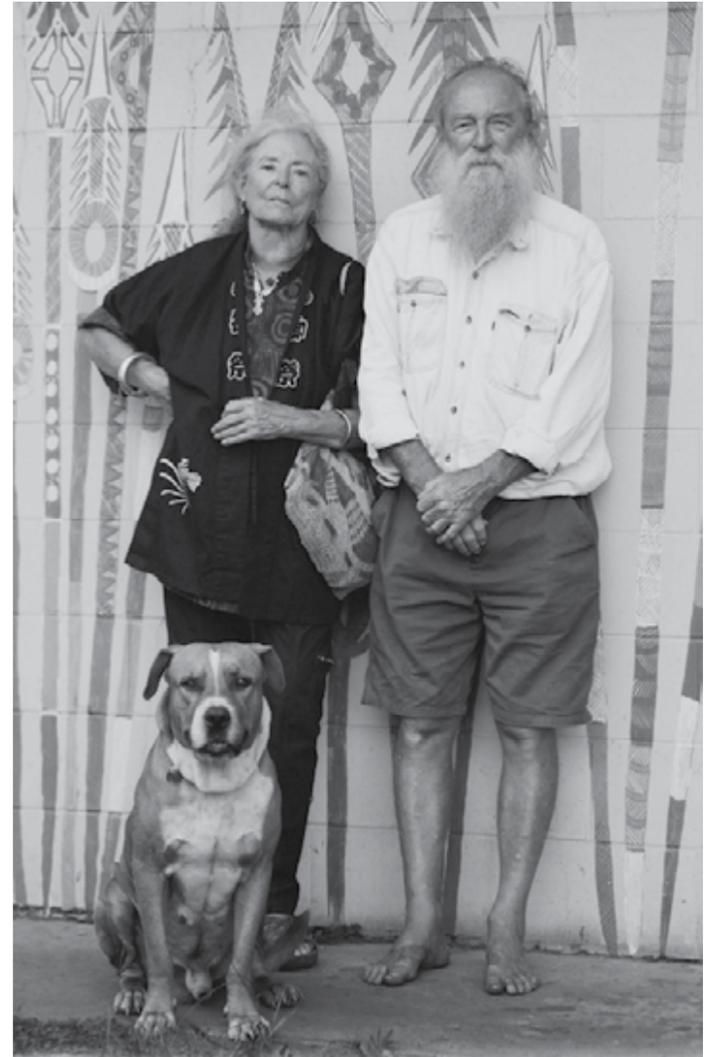
This year Ken Wayne Kantilla will be Ngaruwanajirri's featured artist.

Ken is renowned for his painstaking approach to painting Tiwi jilamara using ochres on canvas and paper.

He paints lines and hatching to create mesmerising patterns in response to the historic paintings on the ceiling of the Keeping Place.

Come up and visit us at Ngaruwanajirri as the artists are always excited to share their work and culture with visitors.

Or drop by our stall at the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair 9-11 August.



Big multi-force military exercise coming to Melville Island in July

Soldiers from the Australian Army's 1st Brigade will soon be undertaking the largest military exercise the Top End has seen for many years, including on Melville Island from 23 to 28 July.

They will be arriving in Mantiyupwi Country at Purnalli Beach and Paru and move through Mantiyupwi, Yimpinari, Wulirankuwu and Munupi Country, culminating with a mock military action at Yapilika.

Called Exercise Predator's Run 2024, the exercise will involve forces from the 1st Brigade, the United States, the United Kingdom, the Philippines and Timor-Leste.

Activities will span from Arnhem Land (Nhulunbuy, Milingimbi, and Waruwi), Tiwi Islands, Darwin, Mount Bunday Training Area and Bradshaw Field Training Area.

Exercise Predators Run will begin on 15 July and conclude on 28 July.

The exercise will allow the nations' forces to work together, practice their military skills and experience our unique and precious culture and country throughout the Top End.

As part of the exercise units from the Australian Army and United Kingdom



will be conducting activities in Jikilaruwu Country near the Cape Fourcroy Radar Site from 17 to 23 July.

All of the military actions will involve use of gammon weapons and ammunition - no real bullets will be used.

A team has been working closely with Tiwi Land Council and will be present at

both Bathurst and Melville Island as an Exercise Control.

They will ensure all movements and actions are conducted in accordance with the approved Permit and with respect to the Country and Arikutumunuwi of Tiwi.

The Australian Army thanks the



People of Tiwi and the Tiwi Land Council for their acceptance and collaboration in what is set to be a safe and effective exercise for the Australian Defence Force and our Allies.

Nimpangi Mamanta

More funding for feral cat control on Melville Island



What is the home range size of a feral cat on the Tiwi Islands?

In 2023 Tiwi rangers worked with scientists to put GPS collars on four feral cats on Melville Island. Collars collected cat location data over 2 – 4 months.

Two male cats and two female cats were caught in cages near 3 ways/Taracumbi and Pickataramoor.

Home range sizes were 5.3 km² and 18.6 km² for the female cats and 18.5km² and 23.5km² for the male cats.

Cats liked to shelter in the plantation and rainforest along Taracumbi falls.

One female cat frequently followed fire scars and one of the male cats moved 8km in one night.



Tiwi Rangers have been awarded two years of funding to continue and expand cat control efforts that they started in 2023 on Melville Island.

Feral cats are responsible for widespread environmental damage across rural Australia.

Rangers will be working with Yimpinari, Wulirankuwu, Munupi and Mantiyupwi Clan Groups to identify areas where cat control will be done.

When cat control areas have been chosen, signs will be put out on roads that enter these areas and maps will be put up at community stores.

Spotlight shooting, cage trapping and Felixer Grooming Traps will be used to kill feral cats.

Felixer Grooming Traps are a device that uses lasers and a camera to identify feral cats from native animals as they walk past.

Once a cat has been identified by the Felixer it sprays a poison gel (1080 poison) onto the fur of the cat.

The cat then licks itself to remove the poison gel and dies.

If you see a Felixer Grooming Trap out bush please leave it alone.

There will be warning signs out near every Felixer.

Felixers will be active between June 2024 – December 2025.

Felixers will not be set near communities, or camping, swimming and fishing spots.

Felixers will not spray poison gel at people or cars as they are made to target cats only.

They will also not spray poison at non-target species like possums, bandicoots and adult dingoes.

If you see any feral cats out bush please report the location to the Tiwi rangers.



Pick the toads

There are five cane toads in here. See if you can identify them all.



Tiwi Clan Groups

M W L A U A A I I U A G U I U U P M
 Y U R N I W Y K P U N T R A Y U W U
 U R W N R I I G U I A N G U I K U P
 U A A W U R I I M N Y U R T A A W I
 P N P U U N K I W I I A U Y P A I U
 W K W L U I A U U N U K A A N Y J W
 P U I I A W I T I R A I U I R I A
 R W W R A I W I M U W I N A K M K R
 R U I A M W P U W A A L U I T P A N
 W U A N W U U A I M L L U L N A I U I
 P M A K N P Y K A N I A U I A N A U
 T I A U K Y I U A P R W W Y W A W I
 A M M W I J T I Y U N W N U W R M N
 I P N U W I N Y W I N U U Y I I U A
 U I Y P I N A U A K N N I K M P K M
 A N K W Y K M U M N I A Y K Y R Y M
 A I I A A N A I U A K A R W I A R U
 M I M A R R I K A W U Y A N G A N N

Tiwi dancers shine at Barunga festival, June 2024

For the first time Tiwi dancers performed at the Barunga Festival, one of the most significant Indigenous cultural events in Australia.

Thousands of people attended the festival over the King's Birthday long weekend which observers hailed as a huge success.

The festival featured activities including traditional dance and music performances, art exhibitions, workshops, sports competitions and cultural talks.

Six Tiwi men and six Tiwi women who danced in the bungul on the Saturday of the festival were a big hit with the crowd.

The dancers' visit was organised by the Tiwi Land Council in conjunction with the Tuwurrampila Cultural Committee.

Helen Daiyi, who tour-managed the group with help from TLC anthropologists Isabelle and Nicole, thanked those who made the performance possible.

"I wish to thank all staff and our land council member, Claire, who volunteered at Barunga this year," Helen said.

"Feedback from the Tiwi dancers was one of immense gratitude and pride in being given the opportunity to represent their people and culture," she said.

"The highlight for me was not only seeing our people perform and showcase our unique culture but also participating in an alcohol-free community event.

"It really showed that our people do not need grog to have a good time. It was amazing despite the early Sunday morning temperature of seven degrees."

The festival also featured performances by talented Indigenous groups including the White Cockatoo dancers and the Red Flag dancers from Numbulwar.

Observers said the groups added to the rich tapestry of cultural expressions showcased at the festival.

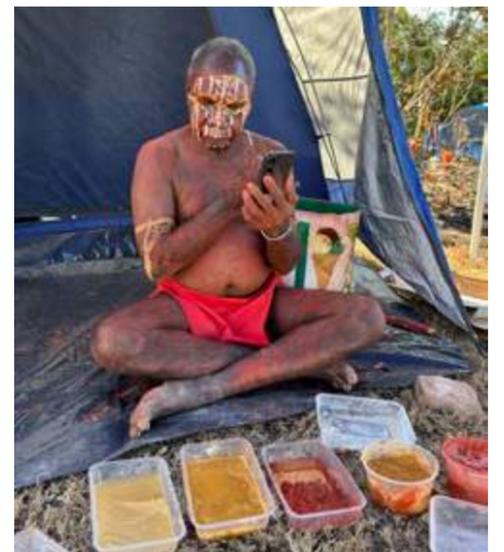
The Tiwi dancers highlighted Tiwi's unique traditions, cultural heritage and skills and fostered a sense of community pride.

Among the headline acts was the world famous Yothu Yindi band from Nhulunbuy.

Other notable performances included Ngulmiya from Numbulwar, Tjupi Band from Papunya, J-Milla from Darwin and many more, making the festival a vibrant celebration of Indigenous music and culture.

We look forward to more opportunities where our talented dancers can continue to share and celebrate Tiwi culture on such important platforms.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this event a success.



Artefacts taken from Tiwi islands in 1954 inspiring new works

One of the largest collections of Tiwi artefacts which is catalogued on shelves in a basement of the Museum of South Australia in Adelaide is providing inspiration and cultural knowledge for Tiwi artists.

The items were gathered from the islands in 1954 when ethnologist Charles Mountford led an expedition north at the direction of the Australian Geographic Society.

Darwin-based ABC journalist Steve Vivian has written a report for the broadcaster's national audience on the artefacts which can be viewed by appointment.

The collection includes works by the ancestors of Tiwi artist Kaye Brown, who recently visited the collection with family members.

"I wanted to see the old paintings and all the carvings," Brown was quoted by the ABC as saying.

"And to see more skill. I want to know what they used to put the bark together, to make a basket," she said.

"I think they give us more knowledge, what they had, and we try to pass the knowledge to the kids."

The family group hail from Paluwiyanga (Goose Creek) on Melville Island and paint at Jilamara Arts, an



Johnathon Bush (Left) and Pedro Wonaeamirri

Aboriginal-owned collective in the community of Milikapiti.

After viewing the collection the group flew back to the Tiwis and initiated new works for this year's Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art.

But in transit from the Tiwi Islands to the gallery the truck transporting the artwork caught fire, destroying the works.

"It's pretty devastating," Will Heathcote,

the coordinator of Jilamara Arts, was quoted by the ABC as saying.

The works included seven large bark paintings as well as ironwood tutini poles.

Heathcote said it was critical that people still connected to historical artefacts were able to engage with collections housed in museums and galleries.

"As generations are getting older it becomes increasingly important for people to be travelling to these areas and accessing these materials and contributing to the knowledge around them," he said.

Pedro Wonaeamirri, a senior Tiwi artist, spent two weeks at the Art Gallery of NSW last year adding cultural information to the gallery's archives of Tiwi objects.

Wonaeamirri inspected Tiwi burial poles at the Vatican, which Catholic missionaries on the Tiwis brought to the Holy See following colonisation.

As well as updating archive information, the designs Wonaeamirri saw when accessing the historical materials have influenced his artwork.

"It creates dialogues ... and this feeds back into what artists make," Heathcote said.

Despite losing works in the truck fire, Brown and her family group decided to still travel to Adelaide where they performed at the biennial's opening, shared insights into the lost work and discussed the museum's Tiwi collection.

Jilamara Arts has printed a small publication "telling the story and sharing images of the works", which can be found at the gallery.

Bima Wear upgrades and learns new skills after new manager arrives

Bima Wear is having a resurgence. We were thrilled to welcome our new manager, Nicola, to Wurrumiyanga in July last year and with her support we have been able to upgrade our workshop, learn new skills, take more orders and make new items to sell in our shop.

We have just completed renovating our shop and we look forward to welcoming Tiwi and visitors to come and see our work.

We are excited to have the outside of our workshop painted and repaired, including a wonderful mural that includes our own designs.

Now everyone will be able to find us easily.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Northern Territory Government which provided grant funding to help us achieve these upgrades.

And there is more to come. Watch this space!

It's been fun to welcome some school groups through Bima Wear recently and we hope that there may be some budding artists and sewers who might come and work at Bima Wear in the future.

Thanks to the students and staff of Xavier Catholic College and MCPS for making this happen.

Recently we welcomed two new members to the Bima Wear team, Janelle Puruntatameri and Jocelyn Black.

It's great to have extra women working with us as it means we can create more fabric and clothing.

If you, or someone you know, is hard working and might be interested in working at Bima Wear, please come and talk to us about it.

We've also done some screen-printing workshops to learn new skills and make new designs.

We're proud to say we continue to provide an important service to our community by making custom pieces for ceremonies, and special orders, including skirts for the teachers and students at Tiwi College.

We thank you all for your continued support of our Tiwi owned business.

We'd also like to remind everyone that we need a minimum of two weeks for custom orders as we are a small workshop and everything is handmade. Thank you.

This August Bima Wear will be exhibiting at the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair for the first time since 2019.

We are very excited to showcase our unique designs to visitors from near and far and show them that Bima Wear is going strong.

Unfortunately, though, this means



that Bima Wear will not be open in Wurrumiyanga for the Tiwi Islands Footy Grand Final as this is on the same weekend as the Art Fair.

It's a shame to miss this opportunity as we know the art sale is often a very popular part of the Grand Final for many visitors.

And of course we are sad to miss the game as well.

We wish the teams in the league all the very best.

We'll be closed for Bush Holiday from 24 June to 19 July.

We want to say a big thank you to the Board and Staff of TITEB for all their support over the last two years.

We could not have grown this much without them.

And of course we thank you all, our Tiwi community, and we look forward to seeing more people wearing our designs on the islands and beyond.



Projects funded by Tiwi Land Council NT



Oyster Farm Grading May 2024

Oyster farm progress encouraging

The Oyster Farm crew has conducted a Grading on the Oysters with two batches of spat provided by Darwin Aquaculture Centre (DAC).

The growth of the oysters is encouraging.

To achieve full growth of Black Lipped Rock Oyster (BRO's), takes on average 2.5 years so it will be good to see how they continue to grow over the next 18 months.

Joining the Oyster Farm Crew this time around were Leon and Chris Stott (Stott Oyster Consulting), who are helping Mantiyupwi develop the skills and understanding to build a successful Oyster Farm.

Leif Emberg and Josh Herrits from DAC did some work with the crew looking at measuring the spat and how to collect data, which is valuable in showing the level of success the

oyster farm is achieving.

Also joining the crew was Debbie Knight (Skills Insight) and Morris Pizzutto (CDU), who are looking at developing a Cert II in Aquaculture that will be used across the four Oyster growing regions currently established and will involve local language delivery components.

CRC for Developing Northern Australia believe there is real potential to

develop an oyster industry that is solely Indigenous operated and managed.

With an expectation that this new aquaculture sector for northern Australia could employ at least 500 people with a heavy focus on increasing capacity within Aboriginal partners to participate in this emerging industry.

<https://crcna.com.au/projects/northern-territory-tropical-rock-oyster-research-and-development/>

Bush medicine and food industries developed to enable traditional hunting

Tiwi Resources (TR), in collaboration with Menzies School of Research (Menzies) and Integria Health Care (IHC) has been working to develop industries that enable Tiwi to engage in traditional hunting and gathering practices while earning financial incentives.

To help establish opportunities for people who reside in Wurankuwu to have

employment, the start up the Bush Medicine / Bush Foods program will commence there, with the aim to extend these programs across more of the family groups as the industry establishes itself.

TR have been working with Tiwi to learn how to collect two products, Kino, from the Corymbia bleeseri and, mangium leaves, from

the Acacia Mangium.

Land Use Agreements have been lodged with TLC and once approvals have been given, permits with NT Parks & Wildlife will applied for.

This project is expected to employ four to seven Tiwi as part of a harvesting team, of which the product collected will be sold to Integria (QLD).

BUSH FOODS/BUSH MEDICINES

Kino leaks out of the tree and is collected in plastic bags.



Mangium leaves are collected and then shredded and dried.



The work that Tiwi Resources has undertaken with Menzies and Integria Health Care has been ongoing for a number of years now. It is hoped that it will soon have the opportunity to achieve its potential.



Indigenous Economic Stimulus Package

Directors look at options for Johnson River Camp

The Yimpinari Aboriginal Corporation directors undertook a trip to Darwin to look at other Tour Operators and to get some ideas of what could happen at Johnson River Camp.

Assistance for the project has been provided by Bowman Advisory and through NTG Tourism Funding.

The group visited Pudukul Tours at Humpty Doo and Litchfield Safari Camp in Litchfield Park.

The two days of visiting sites was followed by a workshop where the directors considered the pro's and con's of what they witnessed.

The two streams of Grant Funding have progressed YAC significantly its Johnson River camp business planning.

Through the funding, YAC were able to engage Bowman Advisory to facilitate multiple workshops with the Directors to better understand aspirations and goals and qualities they are looking for in a potential business partner.



Pumulayu CFC (Program)

The Pumulayu CFC Staff have been finding ways to collaborate with the wider community, mostly through community BBQ's.

On Mother's Day dugong and turtle were on the BBQ menu.

Developing the skills and capacity of the CFC staff is undertaken as a partnership with CAAPS.

The capacity building takes on many different approaches including firsthand experience of how other CFC's operate, such as Darrandirra at Malak and Ngaliwany Purrr'ku Child and Family Centre (CFC) at Kalkarindji.

Both these CFC's operate on a Community Needs basis, as does the Pumulayu CFC.

Over the past three months the CFC staff and a selected working group have been developing the Service Delivery Plan for the Pumulayu CFC, which identifies the key outcomes the staff believe the community desires.

The Service Delivery Plans are part of the funding arrangements with Territory Families and they evolve overtime as the Pumulayu CFC Program grows with the community.

The Service Delivery Plan is based on the Muranga (Long yam), where the Root represents the Pumulayu CFC, the Stem represents

the services delivered and the Leaf represents the Community, Children and families.

Jacinta Alimankinni designed the plan's front page image with the group identifying this lead statement: "Our Tiwi ways of working with children and families to improve better program, outcomes and fun activities for children and families. The aim is to keep children and families strong and have universal access to services, community, and culture."



Wulirankuwu Tours develop program



At recent directors meeting, Wulirankuwu took further steps to developing their Tour Product.

The aim is to develop a Tour Program that will initially utilise the SeaLink Ferry Service, which will visit places such as Taracumbi Falls, Jilamara Arts and the Museum and Karslake.

Wulirankuwu have already received support from the Tiwi Land Council's Stimulus Funds and have now applied for funding through NT Tourism to further develop their proposal and get the tour program up and running.

Pumulayu CFC (Facility)



The Pumulayu Child and Family Centre is getting closer to being a reality.

SH Build has been selected as the preferred builder and Mantiyupwi are currently working with NIAA to access the funds to start the construction process.

The construction timeline has been

updated with the anticipated commencement in July 2024.

The first stage of the construction will include the dismantling of the Old Clinic.

Some components from the old clinic will be used in the new building, such as the bricks as

part of the outdoor kitchen, some of the old timbers will be used in the new design, as well as other projects, such as replacing steps at the Mantiyupwi Motel.

With the delay in commencement it is now hoped that the final handover date will be in March 2025.

Ron travelled to Vietnam to learn about tiger prawn farming and is using his knowledge to help his people

Indigenous Elders and CSIRO researchers are confident that a new partnership will transform the prawn farming industry across northern Australia, according to a story by Laetitia Lemke, published by SBS's NITV in February.

Here is the story:

Ron Poantimilui sees tiger prawn farming in his future, and he is excited by it.

The Senior Wurankuwu leader has been working with Tiwi Resources and CSIRO to build an industry on his homelands that lie on the western side of Bathurst Island.

"We want to build a tiger prawn farm in Wurankuwu," he said.

"It will be good for my future generations to carry on."

He's travelled to Vietnam to see how it's done.

Smaller scale farms, with a lower density of prawns, are cost effective and manageable.

"I went there for 12 days to look at how they do their prawn farming and it was a good learning experience and beautiful country," he said.

There are no jobs and no industry at this small Wurankuwu outstation, which the Tiwi Land Council suggests is home to around 50 people.

The population is dwindling, with many like Ron needing to move to the larger communities for access to work and health services.

But Ron Poantimilui believes this partnership with CSIRO could lead his people home to Wurankuwu.

"It's where we are from, it's our country," Ron Poantimilui explained.

"It's better for us to move back home and work at home with our people and with outsiders who want to come and bring more jobs to the community."

Researcher Tim Perrin says CSIRO has been exploring cost-effective models for prawn farming in the tropics since the COVID-19 lockdown.

"Off the back of COVID there was a big push towards securing our domestic supply chains, particularly around food," Tim Perrin said.

"There's always been a great opportunity here in Northern Australia, with so much untouched land in a great environment for tropical species."

The CSIRO had decades of work in aquaculture to draw from.

"We kind of put two and two together and a couple of years later here we are," Mr Perrin said.

Snaking ponds in Berry Springs near Darwin are teeming with Tiger Prawns as part of tests to create the most cost-effective and sustainable model for what's known as 'extensive farming'.

"They use extensive farming a lot in Vietnam," CSIRO Researcher Mr Perrin said.



"Most of the industry in Australia is a semi-intensive industry, where you have got somewhere in the range of 70-20 prawns in every square meter of water, when we are talking extensively, we are talking more in the order of one to five."

A scientist and economist, Mr Perrin has spent every day out here feeding and measuring the prawns and prawn numbers to find what works.

Laser and drone technology is being trialled to deter predatory birds and to reduce the work needed for feeding across huge ponds.

The results are promising.

"The opportunities when we do figure it out is limitless," Mr Perrin said.

"There's a lot of things working against you but one of the things we are trying to focus on is working through each of those challenges that we know exist and then systematically finding a solution to each one and then applying them in different ways."

It's not the first time prawn farming has been suggested for the tropics, where salt water is in rich supply.

The Northern Territory, West Australian and federal governments are still smarting from multi-million dollar roads and infrastructure investment for a failed farming venture at Legune Station.

But researchers say there is real potential if it is done properly.

The next step for CSIRO is showing it can work at a commercial level.



"Tiwi Resources, Portaminni Trust and CSIRO had a session at the Tiwi Land Council Office and we worked out what we wanted the actual project to look like in terms of the infrastructure but also the benefits to Tiwi and the employment opportunity," eNTITY1 project officer Anthony Venes said.

Anthony Venes has been contracted by Tiwi Resources to help create opportunities for the Island's eight clan groups, including this prawn venture.

"We are not trying to mass produce a product we are trying to create a unique Tiwi product."

Anthony Venes says the farms will

be low density, with the prawns feeding mostly on natural elements in the water.

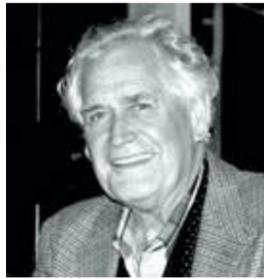
"If you want to buy a Tiwi Tiger Prawn then you know that this is where it's coming from and this is what it is and there's a story behind it."

The next phase will be trying to attract funding for a commercial farm on the Tiwi Islands... and proving the co-led model prawn farming model can work.

CSIRO Researchers and Elders are confident that it will be a success, benefiting the small community of Wurankuwu and transforming the prawn farming industry across northern Australia.

Condolences from the Tiwi Land Council - Mr John Sydney Hicks

It is with sadness we pay tribute to John Sydney Hicks, the longest-serving CEO of the Tiwi Land Council, whose dedicated service spanned nearly 30 years. John's unwavering commitment to the Tiwi people has left an indelible mark on the community and beyond.



John began his journey with the Tiwi Land Council as secretary, later becoming the CEO. Throughout his tenure, he saw his role as an opportunity to empower the Tiwi people, enabling them to benefit from various projects. His vision and leadership were instrumental in steering the Tiwi community towards self-reliance and higher educational aspirations.

One of John's significant achievements was the establishment of a large forestry project. His efforts culminated in the successful sale of millions of dollars' worth of wood chips to Japan and other countries. Understanding the importance of infrastructure for sustainable development, John responded to the Tiwi Elders' request to find investors for the construction of Port Melville. Today, this port is recognized by the Australian government as a vital asset for national defence, underscoring John's strategic foresight.

John also collaborated with Tiwi Elders to create a secondary boarding school on Melville Island, which operates under a unique model of house parenting. This initiative provided Tiwi youth with better educational opportunities, reflecting John's commitment to the community's long-term welfare and growth.

In recent years, John supported his wife, Carla, in caring for her mother in Germany. Upon their return to Australia, at the age of 82, John embarked on a new chapter in Allestree near Portland, Victoria. Here, he and Carla started a new and fulfilling life, with John actively participating in community work through a school mentoring program.

Tragically, John was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer and passed away on June 21, 2024. His legacy is cherished by the Tiwi community, and he is fondly remembered by many senior Tiwi people.

We extend our deepest condolences to his beloved wife Carla, and his family. John Sydney Hicks's life was a testament to service, dedication, and love for community. His contributions will continue to inspire future generations, and his memory will forever be etched in our hearts. May he rest in peace.

Funeral details: Thursday 4 July 2024 held at St Johns Anglican Church, 510 Toorak Rd, Vic 3142.

Condolence message on the passing of Mr T Wurramarrba AO

The Tiwi Land Council Members and staff, extend our deepest condolences to Mr. Wurramarrba's family and the Anindilyakwa people.

Mr. Wurramarrba was a remarkable leader and a dedicated advocate for his people. He was elected Chair of the Anindilyakwa Land Council in 2003, a role he held with distinction until his retirement last month.

Mr. Wurramarrba's leadership was marked by his advocacy for economic development and his efforts to involve more women and young people in leadership roles.

Mr. Wurramarrba served on many boards and committees, including the ALC Finance Committee, Anindilyakwa Royalties Aboriginal Corporation, Groote Holdings Aboriginal Corporation, Winchelsea Mining Pty Ltd, and as a trustee of the Anindilyakwa Mining Trust. He was also a director of the Aboriginal Sea Company, APONT, Miwatj Health, and MJD Foundation, and a member of the former ABA Advisory Committee. His legacy includes signing the Groote Archipelago Local Decision Making Agreement in 2018, which led to many significant advancements for the Anindilyakwa community.

The Tiwi Land Council joins the ALC in mourning this great loss. Mr. Wurramarrba's leadership, dedication, and service have left an indelible mark, and he will be remembered with great respect and admiration.

Quote from Tiwi Land Council Chair Leslie Tungatalum:

"Mr. Wurramarrba's commitment to his people and all his hard work for their rights and future is an example for us all. His leadership and vision will be missed greatly."

"Through his dedication and many hard-fought wins, the late Chairman has left a legacy that will continue to inspire and guide us all. Our Council is mourning, but at the same time, we draw strength from celebrating his remarkable life."



New Staff at the Tiwi Land Council: Brendan Ferguson, CEO

We are pleased to introduce Brendan Ferguson as the new CEO of the Tiwi Land Council.

Brendan grew up in Melbourne and now resides in Darwin with his wife and three young children, having spent the last six years in the NT. His connection to the Tiwi Islands dates back to 1998 when he first visited on a school footy trip, playing for Scotch College. Brendan is thrilled about the opportunity to work with the Tiwi people through the Tiwi Land Council.

Since 2013, Brendan has worked as a consultant for Social Ventures Australia (SVA), a non-profit organization. In this role, he worked in partnership with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, Land Councils, government agencies, philanthropic bodies, and private companies to deliver improved outcomes for communities across the Northern Territory. His extensive work with the Anindilyakwa people on Groote Eylandt and the

Yolngu people on the Gove Peninsula has focused on planning for a future traditional owner-led economy after mining.

Additionally, Brendan served as the Interim CEO for ARDS Aboriginal Corporation, where he supported the Yolngu Board through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. He started his professional journey as a commercial lawyer, studying at the University of Melbourne and the London School of Economics.

At the time of publication, Brendan has been with the Tiwi Land Council for five weeks. In that time, he has had the opportunity to meet with many Tiwi people and Land Council stakeholders. He recognises that he has a lot to learn about Tiwi country and culture, but looks forward to that learning journey and the ongoing support of Tiwi people.

We are excited to have Brendan lead our team and look forward to his contributions to the Tiwi Land Council and the Tiwi community.



New Staff at the Tiwi Land Council: Marama Sukani

We are pleased to welcome our new Governance, Risk and Compliance Officer; Marama Sukani who has commenced with the Land Council last month.

Marama is originally from Fiji and, her cultural root is Indigenous Fijian or "I Taukei".

Marama and her family migrated to Australia in 2019 with her husband and 4 children. They are actively involved with their local church and enjoy the outdoors. Marama loves tropical flowers and cultural dances both in the context of learning and performing. Marama credits her Christian faith in all that she has learnt and endured in her life.

Marama has over 14 years of experience in various roles including policy research; continuous improvement; trust accounts administration; conveyancing; estate operational audits; providing secretariat support to Executive and operational committees; community

consultations and stakeholder engagements. Over the last 2 years, she has been actively working in the risk management, safety and operational audits space.

Marama is passionate about natural resource governance particularly empowerment of Indigenous resource owners through training and awareness, equitable sharing of benefits and capitalising on enabling provisions of legal frameworks.

Marama hopes to bring a fresh outlook in governance and risk management; building upon existing knowledge, systems and frameworks and learning as much as she possibly can from the shared experiences in the Team and within the Tiwi community.

Please join us in welcoming Marama to the team!



2023 TIFL Premiers Tuyu Buffaloes

Bombers launch Tiwi-inspired kit

By ESSENDON FOOTBALL CLUB

The Essendon Football Club's 2024 Indigenous guernsey pays homage to the rich traditions of the Tiwi people.

Designed by Tiwi artist Russellina Puruntatameri, the guernsey is intricately crafted with symbolic elements, embodying the rich culture of the Tiwi community.

Below, Russellina explains each element of the design;

Outside Design: The guernsey's outer design draws inspiration from a profound Tiwi legend. It narrates the tale of Purrupali, who took his son to the sea (winga) where Wayai, the grieving mother of Japarra, cries every night.

This poignant story symbolizes the enduring connection of the Tiwi people to their land, sea, and ancestors.

The inclusion of sunrises and sunsets represents the eternal cycle of life and the significance of Arringu (Rock) from Melville and Bathurst islands as protectors of the Tiwi people.

Tutini Pole (Pukumani): Embedded within the design are elements of the Pukumani ceremony, a sacred ritual of mourning and remembrance among the Tiwi.

The intricate Tutini Pole signifies the culmination of mourning for a deceased person, showcasing

the Tiwi community's deep-rooted traditions and reverence for their ancestors.

Male & Female Spears: The guernsey also features ceremonial spears, highlighting their symbolic importance in Tiwi culture.

These spears are not merely functional weapons but are integral to ceremonial displays such as the Pukumani-mortuary ceremony and the Kularma-sacred yam ceremony..

The differentiation between male and female spears adds another layer of cultural significance to the design.

Tartuwali (Tiwi Islands): "Tartuwali," meaning shark in Tiwi language, represents the Mantiyupwi clan group dreaming, a significant aspect of Tiwi identity. Including this symbolism on the guernsey pays tribute to the Tiwi homeland and reinforces the cultural pride of the community.

Additionally, the footprints commemorate the 20th anniversary of Michael Long's historic walk to Canberra, signifying unity, resilience, and progress.

The unveiling of Essendon's 2024 Indigenous guernsey underlines the club's commitment to reconciliation, respect, and inclusivity.

It serves as a powerful reminder of the diversity and richness of Australia's Indigenous cultures.

