



[Good] [Tiwi News]

# Pupuni Ngirramini

November 2024 | tiwilandcouncil.com



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HYACINTH  
TUNGUTALUM'S  
50TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
OF ELECTION TO  
NT PARLIAMENT  
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AFLW INDIGENOUS  
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# Message from the Tiwi Land Council Chair

Dear Tiwi Land Council Members, Staff and communities,

As we reflect on 2024, it has been a year of significant milestones and progress for our communities. I was elected as the Chair for the TLC in March. A first-time experience for me, made even more special because this October marked the 50th anniversary of a historic moment for the Tiwi people and for all Aboriginal Australians – the election of my father, Hyacinth Tungutalum, to the Northern Territory Parliament in 1974. He was the first Aboriginal person to achieve this honour, paving the way for greater representation and voice for our people in decision-making at the highest levels. His legacy inspires us to continue striving for self-determination and a strong future for the Tiwi Islands.

I am also pleased to share that the Tiwi Land Council has taken an important step towards greater efficiency and improved governance with the reestablishment of our Executive Committee. This committee will streamline decision-making processes, ensuring that we can respond more quickly and effectively to opportunities

and challenges. This is a crucial development as we continue to work on projects that strengthen the Tiwi economy and protect our cultural heritage.

Recently, a delegation from the Land Council, including myself, travelled to Canberra for Senate Estimates and productive meetings with several Government Ministers. These discussions were an opportunity to advocate for Tiwi priorities and secure commitments to support our ongoing work in areas like education, health, economic development, and cultural preservation. I thank the Ministers and their teams for their time and commitment to listening to the needs of our communities.

As we close out the year, I am reminded of the strength and resilience of our people. With unity and purpose, we are building on the foundation laid by our ancestors, leaders, and elders, ensuring a future that honours our culture and embraces progress.

I wish everyone a safe and happy festive season. Let us move forward together with pride in our achievements and for what lies ahead.



Warm regards,  
**LESLIE TUNGATALUM**  
Chair, Tiwi Land Council



# Message from the CEO

Dear Tiwi Community Members

It has been six months since I started as CEO of the Tiwi Land Council. A lot has happened in that time.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet and work with Tiwi community members across all eight land-owning groups. I am grateful for everyone's patience as I build my understanding of Tiwi culture and country.

We have come together at Pickertaramoor for the Osprey Pukamani and at Fort Dundas / Punata to recognise the 200th anniversary of the British arrival and Tiwi resistance. We have celebrated Tiwi culture, music and dance – together with families from across the top end – at the inaugural Tiwi Cultural Festival in Wurrumiyanga.

We're working closely with other organisations to ensure that the Land Council is providing leadership across three important areas:

- Culture – Our newly established

Cultural Committee provides us with guidance on Tiwi cultural priorities (including the Festival)

- Country – We're progressing towards dedication of the Tiwi Indigenous Protected Area and strengthening the associated Tiwi-led governance arrangements
- Community – We're taking on responsibility for coordinating the Tiwi Leaders Forum to ensure Tiwi solutions to issues in community.

In the background, we are working hard to improve how we do our core Land Council business; managing the use of, and access to, Tiwi land and waters.

Thanks again for your support and I look forward to seeing you around the Islands.

Mana  
Brendan



**BRENDAN FERGUSON**  
CEO, Tiwi Land Council

# Tiwi Cultural Festival

This year's pilot festival, held Saturday August 24, was a major success marking the first of an annual celebration of the rich cultural heritage of the Tiwi Islands. As we build on this year's success into the future our plan is for the event to be the catalyst to bolster local tourism and foster long-term economic benefits for the Tiwi community.

The Expo component of the Festival ran throughout the day from 11.00am. Master of Ceremonies throughout the day and night was Brian Tipungwuti, Ranku Trustee and Chair of the Tuwurrampila Cultural Heritage Committee. The festival was formally opened with a welcome to country by Bonaventure Timaepatua and Wayne Joseph Pilakui followed by Yoi from Tiwi dancers representing the 8 land owning groups. This was followed by the Red Flag Dancers from Numbulwar making their first ever visit to the Tiwi Islands. The evening entertainment was led by Ngarukuruwala – the Tiwi Strong Women's Choir and performances by Stanley Tipiloura Junior, Ngawa Yati band, B2M, Yung Milla, Saltwater band, Ngulmiya and Yilila (both from Numbulwar). With attendance over the day and night well over a thousand people it was a strong start to establishing an annual event for the Tiwi's.

## About the Tiwi Cultural Festival

The festival was recommended by the Tuwurrampila Cultural Heritage Committee, established by the Tiwi Land Council in late 2023 to oversee projects that promote and preserve the Tiwi people's cultural heritage. The festival is a showcase of Tiwi culture, art, and traditions, with aims to:

- Promote Public Awareness:**  
The festival highlights the cultural

wealth of the Tiwi Islands through performances, exhibitions, and workshops. It offers a platform to educate the broader public on the challenges faced by the Tiwi people and their continuing fight to preserve their traditions.

- 2. Preserve and Maintain Cultural Heritage:** Workshops led by Tiwi elders in weaving, carving, traditional dance, and music engages attendees in the living traditions of our people. By involving the youth, we aim to transmit this invaluable knowledge to the next generation.
- 3. Support Environmental Stewardship:** In keeping with the Tiwi people's respect for nature, the festival will include discussions on natural resource management, ecological conservation, and sustainable practices. This reinforces the importance of preserving the islands' biodiversity, vital to the Tiwi way of life.
- 4. Stimulate Economic Development:** We anticipate the festival will attract tourists from across Australia and abroad, creating opportunities for local businesses, artisans, and service providers. This influx of visitors will bolster local tourism and foster long-term economic benefits for the Tiwi community.

### Special thanks go to sponsors and supporters:

- National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)
- Tiwi Islands Regional Council
- Tiwi Enterprises
- Tiwi Islands Training & Employment Board





**TIWI CULTURAL FESTIVAL**

**FEATURING**  
 NGARUKURUWALA [TIWI STRONG WOMEN'S CHOIR]  
 NGAWA YATI [TIWI BAND], YUNG MILLA, YILILA  
 SALT WATER BAND, NGULMIYA [GRANT NUNDIRRIBALLA]

**ART EXPO FROM 11AM, TRADITIONAL DANCING FROM 5PM, BANDS FROM 7PM**

**WURRUMIYANGA  
 TIWI ISLANDS  
 24TH AUGUST, 2024**

# Tiwi group explores important Tiwi cultural collections in Europe dating back to 18th century

Four members of the Tuwurrampila Cultural Committee - Dion Bruno Apuatimi, Richard Hadley Tungutulum, Virgil Kerinauia and Jarmin Puruntatameri - have travelled to Europe to explore Tiwi cultural collections in museums in Rome, Leiden and Paris.

The field trip in September was part of a larger ARC Discovery Project 'Before Cook: Contact, Negotiation and the Archaeology of the Tiwi Islands' (Flinders University).

Chief Investigators Mirani Litster (Archaeology, Flinders University) and Wonu Veys (Wereldcultures Museum) organised the trip and Tiwi Land Council Media and Communications officer Alan James accompanied them.

Rachel Popelka-Filcoff (Archaeological Science, University of Melbourne) joined the group in Paris to identify potential avenues for non-destructive scientific analyses.

The purpose of the trip was to reconnect Tiwi with their materials housed by overseas institutions, including the objects thought to have been collected from the islands in the early eighteenth century now held at the Wereldcultures Museum (Leiden, Netherlands).

Other significant collections held at the Vaticani Museum (Vatican City, Italy) and the Musée du quai Branly - Jacques Chirac (Paris, France) were also included in the itinerary.

The trip has had a lasting impression on those that travelled, igniting discussions about future repatriation and the need for a museum quality storage facility on the Tiwi Islands.





# Turning rubbish from the sea into art

Marine rubbish can injure or kill Tiwi marine and coastal wildlife and damage habitats.

Rubbish can also impact plankton, invertebrates, fish, cetaceans, sea turtles and seabirds.

The Tiwi Islands are an important sanctuary for Loggerhead, Pacific Ridley, Hawksbill, Flatback and Green Turtles but they can become entangled in fishing nets and plastic and die.

Derelict fishing gear, including "ghost" nets, can also trap fish and other animals long after it is out of the control of a fisher.

Marine debris also impacts Tiwi wildlife through ingestion.

Birds and turtles may mistake balloons or plastic bags for prey.

As plastic debris breaks up into smaller pieces it is easier for animals to eat.

Rangers have been cleaning up Tiwi beaches with the help of Sea Shepherd Australia but instead of burying the rubbish in landfill they have been making art with the Tiwi Junior Rangers.

In August, the Junior Ranger Program hosted a Plastic Collective workshop on transforming waste plastic into a resource at Tiwi College.

The workshop was supported by the Hunter Gatherer Networks - a project focused on supporting communities dealing with marine debris.

Ninety per cent of marine debris in northern Australia is plastic and most of that can be reused, repurposed, or recycled into valuable products.

Students, Rangers, and Elders learnt how to create saleable art from old fishing nets (ghost nets), ropes, thongs, and other plastic rubbish.



A kit of tools and equipment to process the rubbish and make sculptures, weavings and jewellery was donated to Tiwi College.

An online digital marketplace will also allow students and Rangers to sell their products - turning marine debris collected on the islands into treasure.

**Tiwi College Enrolments**

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- ✓ PERSONALISED LEARNING SUPPORT
- ✓ VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND PATHWAYS

FOR 2025

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# Pujikatuwi (cats) threaten Tiwi wildlife

Tiwi animals are under threat from Pujikatuwi (feral cats). Every night cats kill 75 million native mammals, birds, reptiles, and frogs across Australia.

On the Tiwis the need to control feral cats is urgent as the islands are home to many threatened animals that have gone extinct or significantly declined on the mainland.

And Traditional Owners are worried. "Feral cats killing them, killing all those animals, it's very bad for our country," says John Wilson.

The Tiwi Islands IPA Committee has identified cats as a key threat to biodiversity in the IPA Plan of Management.

With the support of an Australian Government Saving Native Species Grant, Tiwi Rangers, Traditional Owners, Charles Darwin University and Terrain Ecology researchers are aiming to reduce the impact of feral cats in three areas on Melville Island – Rangini (Munupi), Three Ways/ Taracumbi (Wulirankuwu) and Goose Creek (Yimpinari) – and establish a sound knowledge base for ongoing cat management.

Tiwi feral cats are the same species as pet cats living with people in communities. However, once they escape to the bush they can easily survive by hunting or scavenging, mostly at night. The stomach of one Tiwi cat caught by rangers revealed that it had just eaten three Rijinga (Sugar Gliders) and a Wulikarani (gecko). Another large (6.4kg) cat had the remains of a Yintumunga (Black-footed Tree-rat) in its stomach. Feral cats live on average for five years and female feral cats produce two litters every year.

To estimate feral cat density 196 remote cameras have been deployed across three grids in the project areas on Melville Island. Feral cats were detected in all areas and densities are currently being estimated. Many threatened native animals have also been detected on the cameras, including Pwampunga (Brush-tailed Phascogales) which are very rare on the mainland.

Cat control has begun in all three project areas on Melville Island. Control methods being used include cage traps, spotlight shooting with thermal scopes and Felixer Grooming Traps. Between July and November seven cats were killed with Felixer traps, 14 by spotlight



shooting and one in a cage trap.

Tiwi Ranger Derek Puruntatameri said "the best thing working with Georgie and them (ecologists) is they're showing us new ways how to catch these cats."

In August, Rangers Stanley Tipungwuti, Dominic Tipiloura and Kahlisha Austral spoke about the Tiwi feral cat project and fire management at The Island Arks Symposium on Kangaroo Island in South Australia.

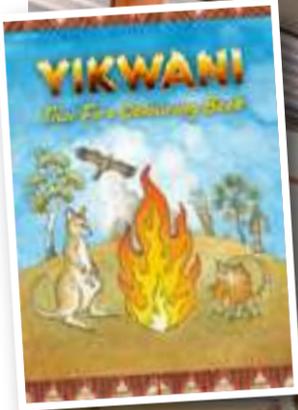
"I'm hoping to see our future generations, our kids, get as much education as they can out of the feral cat management program and Junior Rangers so when it's their time, they know what to do," Stanley said.

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

Stanley said fire management also played a big role in feral cat management on the Tiwis. "If someone burns at the wrong time then it makes it easier for cats to get around and hunt," he said.



# Junior Rangers produce beautiful colouring book



Tiwi kids are the Rangers of the future – and it's never too early for them to start learning about yikwani (fire) and looking after murrakapuni!

To help make this more enjoyable, a beautiful new Yikwani - Tiwi Fire Colouring Book has been produced by the Tiwi Junior Ranger Program.

It was recently launched by Rangers Stanley Tipungwuti, Derek Puruntatameri and Lorenzo Kerinauia with help from elders Marilyn Kerinauia and Jane Puautjimi at Murrupurtiyanuwu Catholic Primary School, Xavier Catholic College and Milikapiti School.

Rangers will also be presenting

the book to Tiwi College and Pularumpi School students.

The artwork is by local artist Sandra Kendell and advice about Tiwi language used in the book was provided by Fiona Kerinauia and Ancilla Kurrupuwu.

Ranger Stanley Tipungwuti said it was important for kids to learn about fire.

"This colouring book is great for kids. It's got all the pictures of our animals and plants and it's got the Tiwi names too," he said.

"Kids need to learn about fire... they're the ones that will be looking after country when they grow up."



## No lighting fires as Kimirrakinari has finished

Rangers and Tiwi elders were at Xavier Catholic College in August letting students know that now Kimirrakinari (the fire season) has finished people should not be lighting fires on murrakapuni (country).

Using a 3D model of the Tiwi Islands developed by Charles Darwin University, Rangers and scientists could show students and Elders how big hot yikwani (fires) late in the dry season are bad for murrakapuni.

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.

Rangers explained how all the extra kumurrupuni (smoke) from late fires also reduces the amount of carbon kunawuni (money) Tiwi people can earn.

Tiwi IPA Committee Member John Wilson said "We set up that carbon program, if we burn that country, that money goes up in smoke."

# Student researchers survey the bush

During the Dry Season the Tiwi Junior Rangers discovered that they share the bush around Tiwi College with lots of interesting neighbours.

Working with NT Government Flora and Fauna Division researchers and Rangers the students created a list of mammals, reptiles, frogs, and birds that were caught, seen or heard over a two-day recording period.

They dug pitfall traps, set funnel, Elliot, cage and harp traps and recorded species seen during night-time spotlighting.

They also conducted bird surveys and captured images from camera traps set-up on a previous trip.

Two busy days of trapping and observing resulted in a list of 12 mammal species, 15 bird species, three reptile species and one amphibian, including threatened animal species such as Mapulinka (Partridge Pigeon) and Yintumunga (Black-footed Tree-rat).

The Junior Rangers look forward to adding to this list when they undertake another survey before the end of the year.



# Ngini Ngawula Pikaryingini

The annual Tiwi exhibition held at The Reflection Room at the Double Tree Hilton Esplanade every year as part of the Darwin Festival program is an incredible celebration and showcase of Tiwi art and culture.

The exhibition has been running for over 10 years and opens with a Tiwi yoi (dance) with upwards of 30 dancers from both of the Melville Island art centres.

Always opening in early August the Friday after Picnic Day (Darwin Cup) long weekend the exhibition by Jilamara and Munupi Arts is a great celebration of Indigenous art in the Top End.

It is a much anticipated event for local and interstate art enthusiasts, celebrating Tiwi art, yoi (dance) and jilamara (ochre body paint designs) at a time when there are many visitors in the top end for events such as Garma Festival, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Salon Art Projects and even the Indigenous Music Awards.

It is a great chance to see work from a range of artists from each Melville Island art centre, including younger emerging artists as well as senior established artists.

Collectors, gallerists, curators and the general public take the opportunity to acquire artworks directly from the art centres.

The artists of Melville Island on the Tiwis create their works using a simple palette of red, yellow, black and white.

Even with this limited selection,

they've been able to create a broad mix of exciting works.

Ochre is the medium of choice on the Tiwis, the colour transformed by applying heat. Yellow ochre is burned to create red ochre, and both can be mixed with white and black clay to create a vibrant variety of hues.

Munupi Arts Manager Guy Allain says the artists can get quite creative with the colours.

"They've been experimenting forever with the ochre ... they put a little bit of red into the white and get pink, they put a bit of black into the yellow to get greens, or black into white to get greys."

The result is a striking variety of contemporary and traditional works by established and emerging artists.

Jilamara Arts Manager Will Heathcote says it is important the artists make the annual trip across the sea.

"What we really noticed, when events like this weren't happening during COVID, is that they are a great space for people coming together from remote communities," he says.

"Obviously, Jilamara and Munupi are on Melville Island but to be part of a broader Darwin program around the Darwin Festival ... it creates this kind of public forum where artists from the community can come together to share their culture but also the contemporary artworks that they're making.

"One of the greatest celebrations of these kinds of events is that the artworks are a testament to ancient living culture, and culture that's still alive. But the artworks are contemporary artworks in their own right as well."



# (Our Stories) August 2024



# Proud celebration of Hyacinth Tungutalum's 50th anniversary of election to NT parliament

Tiwi islanders can proudly celebrate the 50th anniversary of Senior Traditional Owner Hyacinth Tungutalum's election to the Northern Territory Parliament, the first Indigenous Australian elected to a state or territory parliament.

The late Mr Tungutalum, a prominent Tiwi footballer and community leader, was elected to the NT Parliament in October 1974 to represent the Tiwi Electoral Division, which is now known as the electorate of Arafura, for the Country Liberal Party (CLP).

He served in parliament until his retirement at the 1977 NT election.

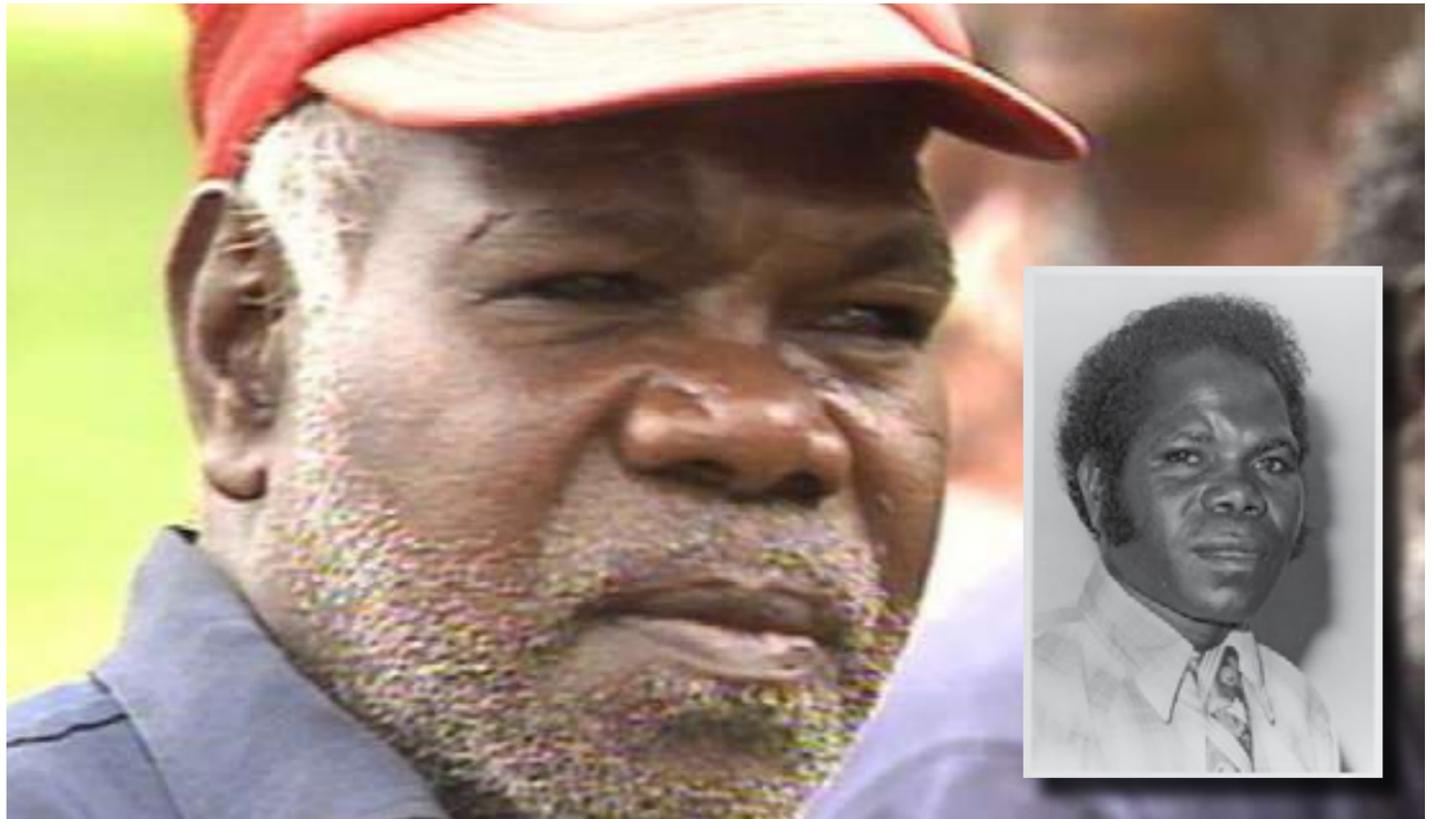
Mr Tungutalum was invited to represent Tiwi islanders in parliament after years of outstanding community service, especially in the areas of Aboriginal rights and education and serving on a number of health and education boards.

He was a teacher at Saint Xavier's at Nguuu, a member of the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee and the Aboriginal Secondary Grant Scheme and was a founding member of the Tiwi Land Council in 1978.

In 1995 he was named ATSIC National Administrator of the Year.

His legacy paved the way for many other strong Arafura members of the NT Parliament, including Maurice Rioli, Marion Scrymgour, Lawrence Costa and Manuel Brown.

Mr Tungutalum's passions extended beyond politics.



He was an avid fan of Australian Rules Football and played for the St Mary's Football Club in the 1960s.

He was a premiership player and president of the Tiwi Islands Football League.

Mr Tungutalum passed away on 7 April 2009, aged 62.

Hundreds of people attended his

funeral to mark the life of a trailblazing leader of his people, including former prime minister Malcolm Turnbull and then Chief Minister Paul Henderson.

Pallbearers wore St Mary's green and gold colors.

Malarndirri McCarthy, the Minister for Indigenous Australians, said at the time that Mr Tungutalum was a torch of

inspiration for her and ensured more Aboriginal people took on leadership roles.

"He has made a huge contribution to the Aboriginal Land Rights Act and was able to be part of the debate prior to Aboriginal land rights coming in," she said, adding he sent strong messages to former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam.

## Ghost nets and Marine debris continue to invade Tiwi coastline

Ghost nets and Marine Debris are still a problem on the Tiwi Islands. Twelve months ago, the Tiwi Land Council and Tiwi Rangers conducted a 3-day survey of the Tiwi Island's coastline identifying 40 ghost nets in over 20 locations. This is a major problem, and it needs to be given more attention because more nets will have washed up since then. Many of the identified nets were nestled (stuck/caught) in areas only accessible by water that require retrieval via a purpose-built barge and mechanical winch. Unfortunately, no Tiwi organisation has this kind of boat and consequently, no action has been taken to remove the nets and other marine debris. These nets are a hazard to turtles and other marine life as well

as potentially bringing in exotic invasive pests and diseases to the Tiwi Islands.

The Tiwi Land Council has been lobbying the Commonwealth Government to take action and will continue to do so until a plan of action is in place and the nets are removed every year. This is not a job that can be done once as new nets will arrive every year. The Land Council is also lobbying for funds for a small purpose built barge that can be used for retrieval of the nets and act as a back up for the interisland ferry when it is out of commission for repairs.

If you sight a ghost net please report it to The Tiwi Land Council or the Tiwi Rangers so we can add it to the data base of known nets and their locations.



# Redress for Stolen Generation survivors ends in 2026

Stolen Generation survivors who were removed as children from their families or communities in the Northern Territory can apply for redress until 28 February 2026.

The Territories Stolen Generation Redress Scheme is open for applications until this date. The Scheme is administered by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA).

Many children taken from their families were brought to the Catholic Church's Garden Point Mission on Melville Island, which was established in 1940.

A residential school operated at the Mission for children aged five to 17 years.

Government took over responsibility for the Mission in 1967 and the last of the children returned to the mainland in 1969.

Records show that the area had previously been utilised from 1937 as a place to send what were claimed to be troublesome Aboriginal people from the Darwin area.

On Melville Island where they were placed under the supervision of a Control Officer.

In 2021, almost 60 years after the Garden Point Mission closed, the Aboriginal children who were stolen from their families and

abused at the institution received public apologies from the church and Australian Government.

Since that time, several legal claims have been brought against the Commonwealth Government by Stolen Generation survivors, which have been settled privately.

The Redress Scheme offers eligible applicants a redress payment of up to \$75,000 and a healing assistance payment of \$7,000.

The Scheme also offers the opportunity for Stolen Generation survivors to have their story about the impact of their removal acknowledged by a senior government official, should they wish, and have it acknowledged in a written and/or face-to-face way.

Applications can be submitted for Stolen Generation survivors who passed away after 5 August 2021 but would be otherwise eligible for the Scheme. Contact the Scheme if you'd like to know more about applying for a family member who has passed away.

Applicants do not need to have records about their removal to apply but may wish to share any documentation they do have with the NIAA.

Free support services, like knowmore legal service, are available to help applicants throughout the application process—they can access these services even if they are just thinking about applying.

The Scheme website explains how to apply, or you can ring and speak to an NIAA staff member to find out more.

To apply for the Scheme, fill in an Application for redress form:

- download a copy from [territoriesredress.gov.au/apply](https://territoriesredress.gov.au/apply)
- call the Scheme on 1800 566 111 between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm (Australian Eastern Time), Monday to Friday (excluding Canberra public holidays).
- Email the Scheme on [help@territoriesredress.gov.au](mailto:help@territoriesredress.gov.au)
- Write to the Scheme at Reply Paid 83394, Canberra ACT 2601



# Bird flu is spreading overseas and Tiwi islanders need to stay alert

If you notice sick birds or many dead animals on the Tiwi Islands you should report it immediately to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

The cause could be Bird flu, a serious disease that needs to be reported if you suspect it.

**What You Need to Know:**

Bird flu or HPAI H5N1 spreads easily among birds, especially waterbirds and scavenger birds.

While it hasn't been found in Australian animals yet we must be ready.

**Human Health:**

There have been cases overseas of humans contracting bird flu as a result of direct contact with sick birds.

While the risk to people in Australia is currently low it's important to avoid contact with sick or dead birds and animals as the virus can be passed to humans.

**How it Spreads:**

The virus can pass between birds through droppings, breathing, and close contact.

It can also spread to people if they handle sick or dead birds and to other mammals that may prey on sick birds or eat dead birds.

**Signs to Watch for in Birds:**

Look for unusual behaviors and symptoms, such as:

- Difficulty moving or paralysis
- Coughing or trouble breathing
- Diarrhea
- Sudden deaths of multiple birds

**Are people at risk?**

People who work with birds, like rangers, volunteers, researchers and people who hunt on Country should be cautious.



**Safety Measures:**

If you suspect that a bird or animal is infected with the virus it is important that you don't touch sick or dead wildlife unless instructed.

If you must handle them use protective gear and follow cleaning guidelines.

**Support for Wildlife:**

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is working with other government bodies

and partners to protect wildlife and important places.

We help by working to maintain healthy populations of species important to First Nations peoples.

This includes continuing to support recovery efforts of threatened species led by Traditional Owners on IPAs and other conservation estate like National Parks.

The Australian Government is investing \$35.9 million to protect priority

biodiversity from HPAI H5N1.

This includes identifying species that may be at risk and developing strategies to minimize the virus spread.

IPA managers are working with Indigenous biosecurity rangers, many of whom are already monitoring for signs of this virus.

You can get more information from Wildlife Health Australia which include advice for bird handlers and wildlife rangers.



Red Cliff Road Creek - Yopalika, Munupi country

**Animals in Tiwi**

N W A U G R I A I A K J I J U  
 U I I I J A Y J A G U R M I R  
 N J I K N I J A A N R N I P I  
 R J I I L M G Y K I R J A A P  
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- |               |          |           |             |
|---------------|----------|-----------|-------------|
| Jipwajirringa | Tayamini | Yilinga   | Kurrupurani |
| Jorrijorringa | Ngaringa | Jankinaki | Muwani      |
| Marinyi       | Wuninga  | Pinjoma   | Rijinga     |

# 'You will get there': How Mary Dunn is helping inspire next generation

Meeting Mary Dunn, you're struck by the energy and determination she exudes.

The Anjilunga Lorulla woman is the 2024 AFLW Indigenous Round honouree, recognised "for her devotion to the development of women's football in the Tiwi Islands".

The TIFL women's competition has only been around for two seasons but already has seven teams (with eight in the men's competition), with the premiership cup named after Dunn, who often fills in the gaps in umpiring and officiating when required.

The Tiwi Islands only has a population of around 2,300 people, with more than a third playing in the TIFL across the men's and women's divisions.

"I'm the eighth child of 12, and I think I was pretty much the tomboy of the family, because I was born in the middle of all my brothers," Dunn said with a grin.

"Sports was a big part of my upbringing as well. Footy was always around, it's a really passionate sport.

"I've always been trying to get it started,

not only me, but there were a lot of other women before me. There was a lot of support behind it, it was just the funding and organising and making it achievable."

The mother of six daughters was also instrumental in introducing a women's Tiwi Bombers representative side to the NTFL in 2022, streamlining the playing process for top players from Tiwi, who were previously scattered across other sides based on the mainland.

"It's harder for the girls to rise, especially in Indigenous communities. It was frowned upon, we've got a cultural obligation as well," Dunn said.

"Footy's not only been a big change in our community, it's also made our females and the younger generation of females coming up – they see there's more to life. I reckon it makes them a bit stronger, [as] also, chronic illness is a big part of our Indigenous life.

– Story by SARAH BLACK  
courtesy AFLW



# Tiwi Land Council staff retreat

TLC successfully held their annual staff retreat get-together over 2.5 days this year in August.

This is the second year that TLC have held this retreat and, hope to continue this for many years to come; recognising the importance of coming together as a team to ensure that we remain aligned in our priorities.

The first day was filled with some bowling fun with the TLC team enjoying some downtime at Kingpin.

The last two days were jam-packed with guest speakers, including; Tiwi guest speakers who imparted their invaluable knowledge around Tiwi cultural learnings; a Human Behavioural Specialist who delivered a values-based workshop ending with a rewards and recognition of staff members and plenty of bonding time between the TLC cohort around good food.

Safe to say, everyone enjoyed themselves and we look forward to our next one in 2025!



## Message from outgoing Chief Operating Officer Matt Ellis

After much contemplation I have decided to resign from my position as Chief Operating Officer of the Tiwi Land Council.

I am very proud of the many achievements and improvements we have made over the past two and a half years. We have built a good team and the Land Council is in a much stronger position than it was when I started. I'm confident that that the relatively new Council and it's supporting staff will continue to grow and lead the way, by example, for all Territory Land Councils.

I am grateful for the friendships I have made and the experiences I have had on the Tiwi Islands and with the Tiwi people.

I wish you all the best.

Thank you  
Matt Ellis



## New Principal Legal Officer (PLO); Alex Clunies-Ross

For the past 6.5 years Alex has worked at the Northern Land Council and has thoroughly enjoyed working with Traditional Owners through the Roper River Region.

Alex is suitably qualified and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in the Aboriginal Land Rights legal context as well as strong grounding in statutory authority governance and administrative decision-making.

He was born in Vanuatu and is married with 2 children. In his spare time he loves to explore the NT outback on foot, playing sports and wood sculpting. He is also a Navy Reservist who is actively involved with his local church.

Alex has also spent time in Fiji and is looking forward to working, once again, in an island setting; this time, alongside the Tiwi people in support of their aspirations for management of country and to learn more about Tiwi culture.

Alex is excited about this opportunity and hopes to apply and build upon what he has learnt in a large Land Council setting to the unique work of the Tiwi Land Council.



# We are Hiring

Tiwi Land Council – Tiwi  
Leaders Forum (TLF) Coordinator



## POSITION OVERVIEW

The Tiwi Leaders Forum (TLF) was created to provide a platform for Tiwi leaders to identify community priorities and for all Tiwi organisations and stakeholders to collaborate and deliver Tiwi-led solutions for Tiwi people. The forum is informed by the Tiwirrampila Place Based Plan (the Plan). The Plan sets out how Tiwi people, governments and key stakeholders will work together on community needs and priorities to improve outcomes for Tiwi people and build a sustainable future. This will be achieved through collaborative place-based practice.

Reporting to the Manager, Tiwi Engagement & Strategy, the Tiwi Leaders Forum Coordinator will oversee and facilitate the governance and administration critical for the forum. Included in the Plan are provisions for Action Groups. The Tiwi Leaders Forum will set the priorities and endorse the membership for these Action Groups. The Action Groups will monitor current services providing Tiwi people with greater visibility and say over the services delivered in the community, leading to informed and coordinated decision making. The Action Groups will look at opportunities and strategies around issues affecting Tiwi and identify potential solutions. The action groups will report back to the Tiwi Leaders Forum.

This position will act as the key point of contact within the community for issues to be raised through the Tiwi Leaders Forum, as they arise.

## ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Tiwi Leaders Forum Coordinator is responsible for the organisation and governance of the Tiwi Leaders Forum (TLF) and the associated Action Groups. This position is responsible for:

- Working in collaboration with the Manager of Tiwi Engagement & Strategy, to implement the Tiwirrampila Placed Based Plan across the Tiwi Islands
- Preparing and achieving consensus on the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Tiwi Leaders Forum and all associated Action Groups.
- Establishing a calendar outlining Tiwi Leaders Forum and Action Group meetings dates, locations and times.
- Coordinating and facilitating the governance of the Tiwi Leaders Forum, including: *Meeting notices; establishing a quarterly 2025 meeting calendar; venue bookings; catering; agendas; minute-taking and action item spread sheets.*
- Working with each Action Group to identifying and implement priority action items, with action-item spreadsheets to be presented back to *Tiwi Leaders Forum meetings; TLC Clan Meetings; Executive Committee and Full Council and the Tuwurrampila Cultural Committee (as appropriate).*
- Provide a point of contact within the community for arising issues.
- Work with members of the Tiwi Leaders Forum and its associated Action Groups to facilitate solutions to identified issues.
- Act as a support to the Manager of Tiwi Engagement & Strategy, with hosting Tuwurrampila Cultural Committee meetings and projects.
- Coordinate the work of the Tiwi Leaders Forum Liaison Officer(s), with support from the Manager, Tiwi Engagement and Strategy.

## WHAT'S ON OFFER

\$80,000 to \$85,000 base per annum (negotiable dependent on experience) on a 3year fixed term, full-time period (extension subject to funding)

Council offers some great benefits including a competitive and attractive remuneration package; option to salary package up to \$15,900 per annum, access to our Employee Assistance Program, 6 weeks annual leave plus 17.5% leave loading and training and development opportunities.

## HOW TO APPLY

All applications must include a current resume and a one-page cover letter addressing the selection criteria.

For more information and to request a copy of the position description, please email [recruitment@tiwilandcouncil.com](mailto:recruitment@tiwilandcouncil.com)

*Note:* Council reserves the right to commence short-listing and interviews, prior to the closing date.

*Note: Special Measure Provisions Apply. The position is identified for Aboriginal people only, in accordance with the federal Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cth) and relevant state and territory discrimination laws.*

**Applications Close:** Friday 6 December 2024

# Biosecurity Matters



The biosecurity officer conducted 45 biosecurity inspections in June with four vehicles not passing on initial inspection and another 114 inspections carried out in July with only 12 requiring further action.

July's increased numbers were helped by Military exercise Predator's Run with approximately 47 military vehicles and 287 packs, including body armour, webbing and belts inspected over six days in preparation for transport to the Tiwi Islands.

Predator's Run saw inspections conducted in various locations across the Top End. All in all, it was a successful exercise from a quarantine awareness perspective as the troops learned a lot about all the places where vehicles can pick up mud and just how easily Velcro can pick up grass and seeds. The troops were more than happy to get in and clean their gear to ensure they were minimising the risks of spreading weeds, reptiles (we had a skink in one belt) or anything else to the islands.

More Military inspections were carried out in August with Exercise Bhakti Kanyini inspections taking place over three days from 7th – 9th August. This saw 45 vehicles and more than 40 packs and body armour

inspected along with several containers of freight for both Australian and US military.

All up for August, there was a total of 229 inspections. This included military exercises, the Tiwi Festival and Paru road project preparation.

September was my final month with the Tiwi Land Council, and I finished up with 48 inspections in the first quarter of the month including inspections for Exercise Kakadu along with several trucks and machinery for road works.

Biosecurity officer Tiana Bremner has now left the Tiwi Land Council for a new role in Western Australia. Tiana said on her departure "It has been my honour to serve the communities of the Tiwi Islands and work with you all to introduce the Tiwi Island Prohibited Species List as well as take steps to raise awareness of the importance of Biosecurity. Doing my bit to ensure anything going to your Islands is free from seeds, weeds and pests has been the highlight of my working week and I would like to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to do what I love for your community. I hope the biosecurity awareness continues to grow, and I look forward to hearing all the updates"



# Thrilling performances

On Sunday 11 August the Tiwi Islands Football League (TIFL) Grand Finals in Wurrumiyanga delivered an unforgettable day of football.

In what became a battle of Bathurst Island versus Melville Island drew thousands of local supporters to witness a thrilling display of the game.

In the history making Women's Grand Final, the Muluwurri Magpies, who had boasted an undefeated record throughout the season, faced a stunning upset in the semi-final against the Tapalinga Superstars.

This loss marked a dramatic turn of events, as the Superstars edged out the Magpies by nine points in a gripping match.

The two teams had previously clashed in last year's grand final, a similarly nail-biting contest that saw the Magpies secure a narrow one-point victory.

This history fuelled Tapalinga's determination, as they burst out of the gates with the first goal in the opening 20 seconds, quickly followed by another.

Muluwurri found themselves on the back foot, conceding a third goal just before quarter time.

The Magpies' hopes were briefly lifted in the second quarter with two scoring shots but both were behinds, while Tapalinga added their fourth and fifth goals.

Muluwurri finally registered their first goal halfway through the second term but Tapalinga's early dominance had already set the tone for the match.

Tapalinga's Edmena 'Gypsy' Johnson was named Best on Ground for her standout performance, scoring an impressive four goals.

Kathleen Cunningham and Gerry Cunningham contributed two goals each and Jasmine Cunningham added another to the scoreboard.

Despite the loss Muluwurri's Rayna Darcy, Leanne Darcy, and Lina Lorenzo each kicked a goal, capping off a remarkable season.

The match marked the first time in TIFL history that the women's and men's competitions were held simultaneously on Grand Final day.

In the Men's Grand Final, the Ranku Eagles and Muluwurri Magpies, who had been the top two teams throughout the season, faced off in a highly anticipated match.

The Eagles had narrowly secured their place in the final with a four-point victory over the Magpies in the semi-final just two weeks earlier.

Ranku dominated the first quarter

but managed only two goals despite controlling the territory. In contrast, Muluwurri took charge in the second term, generating seven scoring shots but converting only two goals, while the Eagles added two more goals to their tally.

The third quarter, known as the premiership quarter, lived up to its name with intense play and Muluwurri closing the gap to four points.

The teams traded goals in an end-to-end contest, leaving the result hanging in the balance at three-quarter time.

Ranku sealed the victory with a final term performance, scoring three goals to Muluwurri's two, leading to jubilant celebrations on the field.

Francis Orsto and Quinton Ross each kicked two goals for the Eagles, while Valentine Jnr Puautjimi, Davis White, Pio Puautjimi, and Clayton Tipiloura added one goal each.

For the Magpies, Nicholas Daniels scored two goals, with Francis Tipungwuti, Steven Lorenzo, Liam Daniels, and Roy Farmer each contributing one.

The 2023/24 TIO NTFL NT News Rising Star, Karlson Kantilla of the Eagles, was awarded Best on Ground for his significant impact in the ruck contests.

Josh Kleine, Football Development Lead for the Tiwi Islands, highlighted the remarkable progress in the 2024 Tiwi Islands Football League (TIFL) season.

He said "This year's Grand Final was historic, featuring both Women's and Men's final on the same day.

"The Men's competition was intensely competitive, with every team showing their capability.

"The Women's game saw significant improvement in quality, driven by advanced coaching and tactical growth. The finals displayed exceptional football, highlighting the hard work of the coaches, players, and the entire TIFL community.

"We'd like to congratulate the TIFL Committee on a successful season."

Participation on the Tiwi Islands has seen substantial growth in recent years, driven by investments from the AFL Game Development Investment Panel (GDIP) in 2023, as well as joint funding from the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) and the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA).

Both Women's and Men's grand finals replays are available to watch via the AFLNTv YouTube channel.

- Story courtesy AFLNT



# highlight grand final day



# 2024 Grand Final Premiers

Ranku Eagles and Tapalinga Superstars

