



THE TIWI

NEWS for
Traditional
Owners



CEO's Message

Hello Everyone and welcome back to the 47th edition of our Tiwi Land Council Newsletter.

I would like to pay my respects and acknowledgement of our past and present leaders of the Tiwi Land Council and Tiwi Community.

I also extend my condolences to all the families who have lost loved once since our last Tiwi Edition.

In the past few months Tiwi Land Council have been very busy with many great outcomes such as the new Marine Ranger vessel which was officially launched at East Arm boat ramp on the 11th of August 2020. This boat is also a valuable asset for the community in water safety.

We are excited with the IPA consultations that are currently been held on the Islands.

The COVID-19 Relief - now this is a project that we all should be very thankful and happy about, because there are two Respite Centre's for each clan group, that are been currently built and would be ready very soon to be placed in your home lands - hopefully by the end of November 2020.



A. Tipungwuti, CEO




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NEWS from your TIWI LAND Council

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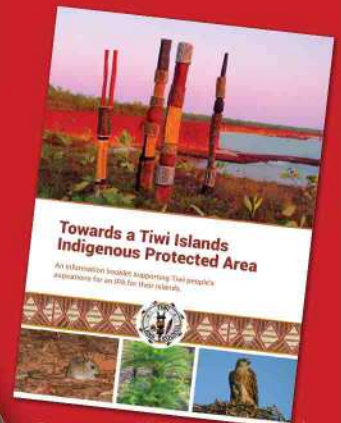
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Healthy Country



Good to know

Booklet about the Tiwi Islands in support for IPA funding can be downloaded now.



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CEO's Message



Containers



Toilet Frames



Steel for Verandas

The CEO Andrew Tipungwuti would like to share with the communities that, these are photos of the work in progress of the Construction of the Respite Centres COVID-19, there will be two Centres for each clan group once completed!



Verandas ready to be hot dipped



Toilets



Measuring the new toilets

Homelands

The Tiwi Land Council has been awarded a grant to upgrade Water Supply, Power Supply, and Sewerage Systems plus Road works, Site clearance, foodpreparation areas and Ablutions block at Putjamirra, Taracumbi and Condor Point.

Work will be on the way soon.



Garry Cross

Acknowledgment

On behalf of the Tiwi Land Council I would like to thank Garry Cross for his time and efforts that he has rendered to the TLC for the past 2 years and wish him all the very best. He was an inspiration to us all. Garry has taken up working at TIA fulltime now. We will see him around on the Islands from time to time.

I would also like to mention that as best practice Employers, we at TLC reward and acknowledge committed staff:

Leonie Melder is now, **The Executive Officer** for TLC, and is always willing to assist. Please contact Leonie on: **08 8997 0704 or 0477 037 900.**



Leonie Melder

We still need to be vigilant about COVID-19, so until the next edition, please keep yourself and your families safe and listen to all updates regarding this Virus.

We would like to acknowledge Mr Gibson Farmer Illortaminni and Tristan Mungatopi our 2 Tiwi Candidates for Arafura and congratulate Lawrence Costa on his success.

Mana.
Andrew Tipungwuti,
CEO Tiwi Land Council

Past and present Tiwi Leaders

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



Aged Care - caring for those who cared for us



The CEO Andrew Tipungwuti addressing the Executive and Trustees at the last meeting held in the Darwin office board room, keeping them informed of progress of the Land Council on business

Our meetings respond to the various concerns of all Members and Trustees. TLC members expressed the passion and sense of obligation led by our CEO in responding to the demands of best care for our Elderly at the Aged Care facility on the Islands.

At his invitation Rosemary Taylor and Robyn Johnson attended a Full TLC Meeting to discuss care levels and support. Our CEO and community leaders left none in doubt of their love and respect for the most vulnerable people among us growing old. They agreed that they count as our most valuable treasures.



A. Tipungwuti, CEO



Full Land Council Meeting at Wurrumiyanga

Marine Ranger Vessel Launch



The new Marine Ranger vessel was officially launched at East Arm boat ramp on the 11th of August. The event was attended by representatives of NIAA, Tiwi Land Council, Tiwi Marine Rangers and Tiwi Resources. The days following the launch, allowed Tiwi Marine Rangers to familiarise themselves with the boat, working alongside NT Parks and Wildlife and NT Water Police on Darwin harbour. The Marine Rangers also toured the NT Parks and Wildlife Crocodile Management and NT Water Police headquarters.



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Marine Ranger Vessel Launch



The 7.6m vessel and trailer, now based in Wurumiyanga, were designed and constructed by Dale Smith from Custom Works. The design of the vessel was based on the requirement to perform extended patrols from Cape Fourcroy to Gunn Point including the Vernon Islands. The new vessel will also be an important safety resource for the community in the event of a marine emergency and the Marine Rangers will be trained to respond to NT Water Police requests for search and rescue operations.



Science Reference Committee Meeting at Wurrumiyanga



Tiwi Land and Marine Rangers, Tiwi Resources Business Manager Yvonne Kelly and TLC Reps Dominique Michel and Leslie Pyne, during video-conference with various scientists from various universities.



An SRC meeting was held on 19th August 2020. With over 30 attendees including scientists, Tiwi Rangers, Tiwi Resources personnel and TLC representatives. This meeting was chaired by Peter Vesk (University of Melbourne) and held via video conferencing due to COVID-19 travel restrictions and because many of those participants reside interstate.

The meeting was aimed at reviewing various research projects that are underway or proposed on the Tiwi Islands. Updates were given by each project facilitator and Rangers, and projects summarised included:

- Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) (Barbie McKaige, Tamarind Planning)

- Land Use Planning ARC Linkage Project (Marg Ayre, University of Melbourne, Mitch Jones, University of Melbourne, Emily Nicholson, Deakin University, Brett Murphy, CDU)

- Before Cook: Contact, Negotiation and Archaeology of the Tiwi Islands (Daryl Wesley, Flinders University and Wendy Van Duivenvoorde, Flinders University)

- Submission to CRC for Developing Northern Australia (Mark Ashley, Tiwi Plantations, Gerd Bossinger, University of Melbourne)

- Return of Cultural Collection (Lesley Head, University of Melbourne)

- Medicinal Plants Project (Greg Leach, Menzies CDU)

- Observations of environmental change in Tiwi Islands (John Barnett, University of Melbourne, Lesley Head, University of Melbourne and Theresa Konlechner, University of Melbourne)

- Tiwi Native Mammals: an update on recent fieldwork (Hugh Davies, CDU)

- Tree dwelling mammals and tree hollow availability on Melville Island (Cara Penton, CDU)

*Dominique Michel
Natural Resource Support Officer
Tiwi Land Council*

The Tiwi Islands - on the way to becoming an Indigenous Protected Area!

A circular graphic with a dark background. At the top, the words 'Healthy Country' are written in white. Below the text is a vibrant sunset scene with a large, bright sun partially obscured by clouds, casting a warm glow over a landscape with trees and water.

Healthy Country

For many years Tiwi Traditional Owners have talked about options for a conservation reserve on the islands and in 2017 there was unanimous support from the full land council to apply for funding for an Indigenous Protected Area or IPA. Last October the Australian Government announced that the Tiwi Islands were one of seven new proposed IPAs – a great achievement!

This means that Tiwi will receive significant, on-going government funding to care for country and protect the Islands' cultural values. The Tiwi IPA is a project that will benefit not only Traditional Owners but all Australians. Alongside national conservation outcomes, the IPA Program aims to bring jobs, training, and experience to local communities. IPAs provide unique opportunities to work on country, engage traditional owners, use traditional skills and knowledge, and lift well-being through active, relevant employment. They also result in healthier country.

Once dedicated by Traditional Owners, the Tiwi IPA will become part of the National Reserve System, which includes all of Australia's IPAs, national parks, and nature reserves. It will be managed by Tiwi Rangers and administered by Tiwi Resources on behalf of the TLC. Nationally, the IPA Program is run by the National Indigenous Australians Agency in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment.

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The Tiwi Islands - on the way to becoming an Indigenous Protected Area!



The First Step

Before the Tiwi IPA can be dedicated and receive Government funding, an important first step must be completed - the Consultation Phase. This involves informing all landowner groups across the islands about the IPA, talking to people about cultural and natural resource management concerns, running workshops on management targets, threats and strategies, compiling relevant research and then writing a comprehensive draft IPA Plan of Management for the Tiwi Islands. Consultants Nic Gambold and Barbie McKaige have been employed by Tiwi Resources to do this job. Once the Consultation Phase is finished and the Plan of Management has been approved by Traditional Owners and submitted to the Government, the IPA can be dedicated. This is expected to be sometime in 2022 and funding for land management and cultural activities will then commence.

Your IPA needs a Planning Committee!

In August and September meetings were held at Wurrumiyanga, Pirlangimpi and Milikapiti about the proposed IPA and each landowner group nominated two representatives (as well as two proxies or deputies) for the Planning Committee. The list of members is in the table below. Nic and Barbie will work closely with this committee over the next 12 months, with the first meeting to be held in November. If you missed the meetings about the IPA but would still like to be involved, please talk to your representatives on the committee or Dom from the Land Council.



Wulirankuwu meeting at Milikapiti



Lynette Johnson and Bernard Tipiloura attended the Yimpinari and Wulirankuwu meetings at Milikapiti



Barbie McKaige presenting to the Wulirankuwu meeting at Wurrumiyanga



Jikalaruwu meeting at Wurrumiyanga

The Tiwi Islands - on the way to becoming an Indigenous Protected Area!



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Tiwi IPA Planning Committee

Landowner Group	Members	Proxies
Jikilaruwu	Ann Margaret Munkara James Darren Puantulura	Betty Warlapinni David Puantulura
Mantiyupwi	Tina Patlas Walter Kerinauia	Phyllis Daniels/Cheryl Kerinauia Greg Orsto/Craig Winston
Wurankuwu	Regina Kantilla Ron Poantimilui	Jacinta Tipungwuti Nathan Pilakui
Malawu	Jane Puautjimi Richard Puruntatameri	Cathy Stassi Xavier Tipuamantamirri
Munupi	Nikita Puruntatameri Anthony Pruntatameri	Laelie Dunn Gerry Heron
Wulirankuwu	Wendy Miller Gerry Mungatopi	Karen Tipiloura Karl Miller
Yimpinary	Marilyn Kerinauia Patrick Grant	Mary Guy/Michelle Bush David Guy (DJ)
Marrikawuyanga	Pamela Brooks Kim Brooks Wommatakimmi	Leonie Carpenter Barry Black



Arthurina Poantimilui with her daughter Catalayo Tipiloura, Jocelyn Tipungwuti and Mary M Poantimilui at Wurrumiyanga



Charles Tipungwuti, Yvonne Kelly and Land Ranger Colin Kerinauia at the Jikilaruwu meeting



Dom Michel and Barbie McKaige with Betty Warlapinni and Ann Margaret Munkara at the Jikilaruwu meeting



TLC's Murphy Tipakalippa was with TPC Chairman, Kim Puruntatameri, and grandson, Chris at the Munupi meeting.

Got a question?

If you would like to talk to someone about the Tiwi IPA, please contact Dom Michel from the TLC

T: 0418 851 248

E: Dominique.Michel@tiwilandcouncil.com

Barbie McKaige and Nic Gambold

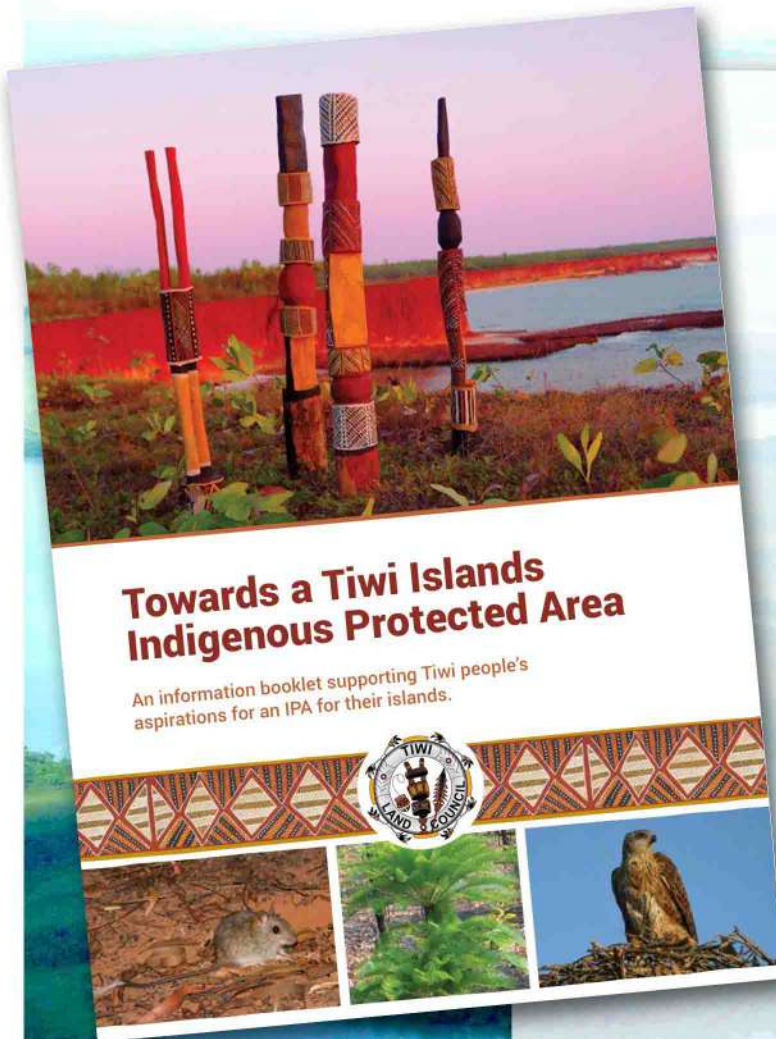
The Tiwi Islands - on the way to becoming an Indigenous Protected Area!



The Tiwi Islands are special!

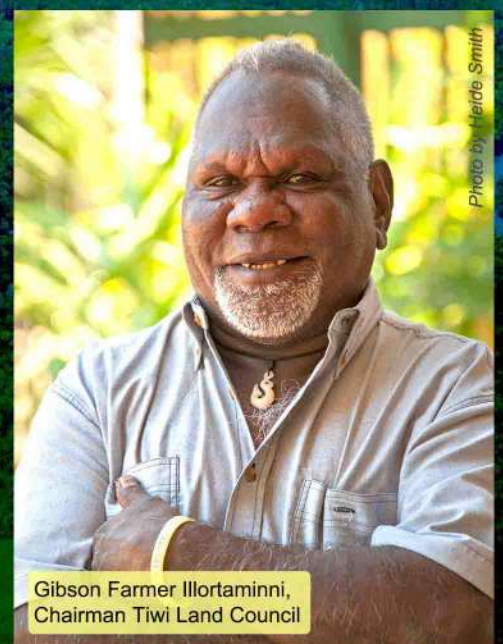
A booklet about the Tiwi Islands was produced. A booklet about the Tiwi Islands was produced to support the TLC's application for funding for an Indigenous Protected Area. Copies are available from Tiwi Resources or the TLC. It can also be downloaded from the TLC website - look under the *Publications and Resources* heading.

- The Tiwi Islands are the largest NT islands and Australia's 2nd and 5th largest islands.
- There has been an unbroken history of occupation and ownership of the islands for many thousands of years by Tiwi people, who possess a strong and distinct culture and language.
- The islands are a biodiversity hotspot with 46 threatened plants and animals.
- They are a stronghold for some species, such as small mammals, under threat or no longer present on the Australian mainland.
- There are major colonies or nesting sites for sea turtles, sea birds, wetland birds and migratory shore birds on the islands.
- There is a high number of plants and animals found nowhere else in the world.
- The Tiwi Islands have extensive areas of the best developed Eucalypt forests in the NT.
- More than 1200 patches of healthy rainforest are on the Tiwi Islands, with 10 listed on the Register of National Estate.



"Just as Tiwi traditional owners understood and cared for our land when we used it for the traditions in the past, the new generations of Tiwi land managers need to understand and care for it now and into the future. To keep our country healthy, our people healthy and our culture strong, we need to bring together our knowledge of the past with new ways of doing things today. A Tiwi IPA will help us to continue to look after our country and our culture for all the generations to come."

Gibson Farmer Illortaminni, Chairman TLC



Gibson Farmer Illortaminni,
Chairman Tiwi Land Council



The Tiwi Islands - on the way to becoming an Indigenous Protected Area!



What is an IPA?



Building an IPA



The IPA Planning Process



Munupi women chose Nikita Puruntatameri to be their representative on the Tiwi IPA Planning Committee, and Laelie Dunn to be Nikita's proxy.

Logs and fires

Tiwi Forestry update



Mark Ashley,
General Manager
Tiwi Plantations
Corporation



It's has been a busy few months for the Tiwi forestry crew. The Tiwi Plantation Corporation forest protection team has been focused on fire management up until July and did a super job installing over 1000km of firebreaks around the entire plantation. This huge effort involved grading and Tiwi Forestry crew backburning from the ground to create large areas of strong firebreaks surrounding the plantation estate.

These ground backburns were coordinated with the Tiwi Ranger aerial burning program to get the job done in an effective and safe manner. Big Thanks to everyone involved.



The fire season this year has been one of the most severe on record, with catastrophic fire conditions occurring that have never before been recorded in the Territory. The plantation has been exposed to several wildfires all of which were brought under control by the forestry crew, except for one large fire in Late August.

Unfortunately, this large fire started on the 24th August behind the Paru area and over the next 6 days burnt over 700 hectares of forestry plantation. The spread and intensity of the fire was unprecedented and was at times very fast – on the first afternoon of the fire it spread over 10km in two hours driven by strong hot dry winds. It took 5 fire crews, 3 fire engines, 3 dozers, 1 Grader, and an 8000lt water tanker 6 days to eventually bring the fire under control.

Again, thanks to the support of the Tiwi Rangers and the Forestry crew who all worked so very hard to bring it under control. Sadly, Tiwi Plantation Corporation has now lost a significant asset, it's a very powerful reminder not to light fires after July 1 each year. Karluwu yikwani!



Pine logs at Port Melville

In other business, TPC is now harvesting pine logs for sale in November. As a result, you will see large forestry trucks loaded with heavy pine logs traveling the Tiwi Rods. Please slow down and give them plenty of space on the road – safety first for everyone.

Tiwi Tree Research

by Michelle Freeman



Just before Christmas in 2017 I submitted my thesis that described the research I did as part of the Tiwi Carbon Study. The Tiwi Land Rangers, CSIRO and Melbourne University were all involved, supported by the Tiwi Land Council. As many of you will know, the Tiwi Carbon Study is a long-term study that started in 2009 with the aim of figuring out how different types of burning might influence plants, animals and greenhouse gas emissions – all of which helps to inform the early dry season burning that Tiwi Land Rangers do.

The title of my research project was: “From Little Things Big Things Grow – Savanna Burning, Suppressed Trees and Escape from the Fire Trap in Australian Mesic Savannas”. Under frequent fire, tree seedlings and saplings can get trapped in the understory of the forest because they are small and the fire kills their stems. These small trees recover from the fire by resprouting new stems, only for those stems to be burnt and killed again. This is known as “the fire trap”. For the bush to exist like it does, obviously some of these small trees must eventually find a way to break free from the fire trap and grow up to become tall trees - I wanted to try and understand how this happens. Understanding this is important because it has flow-on effects to things like carbon and biodiversity.

So, my research asked questions like:

- How do small trees ever grow up to become big mature trees in the overstorey if they keep getting burnt?
- Are small trees with thicker bark to protect their stems more likely to survive fire and grow tall?
- Does there need to be at least a few years without fire to allow these small trees to grow big enough that their stems survive and they can reach the overstorey?
- Why is the tall canopy of savanna forests dominated by eucalyptus species like woollybutt, bloodwood and stringybark, with fewer other pan-tropical species like cocky apple, ironwood or green plum?

To try and answer these questions, I came to the Tiwi Islands and stayed in Pirlangimpi 3 times a year for 3 years. The Tiwi Land Rangers helped me to measure literally thousands of small trees in the Tiwi Carbon Study fire research plots at the start and end of each dry season and also directly after the trees were burnt around July. We also collected leaves, bark and wood samples from 12 different key study species.



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Tiwi Tree Research

by Michelle Freeman



A patchy burn

When I analysed the data we collected I found that:

- having patchy fire with small unburnt areas mixed amongst the burnt areas makes the small trees in those unburnt patches grow really fast – the fastest was a tree in an unburnt patch that grew 3.3m in height within 10 months!
- there are two main growth strategies small trees use to escape from the fire trap – the eucalyptus species focus on growing tall, while the pantropical species focus on growing wide stems
- Eucalyptus species are not limited from reaching the canopy by frequent fire, but pantropical species are. If fire is excluded for a few years, these pantropical species are able to grow tall and reach the canopy. On the other hand, the ability of Eucalyptus to reach the canopy depends more on competition with surrounding trees than it does on fire.

This information can be used to help scientists improve their models about forest growth, composition and structure that are used to predict future effects of things like climate change. It also helps us to understand what the long-term effect might be of different types of burning. Low intensity and patchy early dry season burning should help most

trees to grow tall and reach the canopy, but will also maintain shrubbiness and prevent big intense late dry season burns, which is a major purpose of early dry season burning. How fire is managed each year is very important to how trees grow, which tree species can survive successfully and helping the Rangers achieve their carbon and biodiversity objectives of early dry season burning.

I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank the Tiwi Rangers and the Tiwi Land Council for supporting ongoing research on Tiwi land. Without the field assistance provided by Willy Rioli, Willy Roberts, Colin Kerinauia, Vivian Kerinauia, Jose Puruntatameri and Kim Brooks, this work could not have been done. I also need to thank Gary Cook, Anna Richards and Jon Schatz from CSIRO, Brett Murphy from Charles Darwin University, Peter Vesk from Melbourne University and Hugh Davies. Prior to Covid-19 I was planning a trip to visit Pirlangimpi again. Unfortunately I have had to postpone, but I hope I will be able to see my friends there soon.

Michelle Freeman

Let the training begin!

Training commenced in Wurrumiyanga, Bathurst Island on Monday 3 February with 14 participants. We commenced the training on day one with HLTAHW001 – Work with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander clients and communities. We commenced training with this unit as a way of getting to know the participants, the community and their culture. This worked really well as it demonstrated to the participants that learning was to be “two ways” and that we wanted the training to be a “sharing of knowledge”. As a result of showing our interest in their views, community and culture, strong relationships were built between trainers and participants and we very quickly gained the respect of the participants and the community.

Participants then completed FSKWTG006 – Write simple workplace information and HLTWHS – Participate in workplace health and safety. The participants really enjoyed the workplace health and safety content. They were very interested to know their rights in the workplace and the responsibilities of the employer and the legislation covering workplace safety. They spent quite some time identifying workplace hazards around the training facility and identified good solutions to reduce the risk of the hazards.

The Work health and safety meeting at the completion of this unit was very lively and went for nearly three hours with a copy of the meeting minutes, identifying hazards and potential solutions, being passed onto the training facility. As a result of this meeting positive changes were made to the training facility to improve safety. Participants also identified that there were not enough people in the community trained in first aid. As a result, the training facility has since provided first aid training to community members. Participants prepared drafts of health promotion posters in FSKWTG006 – Write simple workplace information. Some of the health promotion posters can be seen on the wall in the attached trainee group photo taken at graduation. At the end of week four of training, the accredited units above had been completed and we had 10 participants remaining in the group. All of the units are accredited by CARHDS.



TEHF Scouting at Wurrumiyanga



Tiwi Training



TEHF Scouting of a 3 year old girl at Wurrumiyanga

Find out more about the project at
menzies.edu.au/HfLI
or email us at:

hearingforlearning@menzies.edu.au

Hearing for Learning



Final 2 weeks of training & graduation!



Top down: Blowing noses
Trainee group,
Graduation group at Wurrumiyanga



The final two weeks of training from 4 to 14 August focused on ear health, conducting ear screens and health promotion. The participants were quick to understand and become competent in this skill incorporating the infection prevention information they were taught in HLTWHS – Participate in workplace health and safety. We continued using the “two ways” approach to teaching whereby we got the participants to tell us what they knew of ear disease and hearing problems in their community. Trainers then overlaid clinical knowledge to information they already knew and assisted them with solutions.

On Friday 14 August, a graduation ceremony was held where participants displayed the skills they had learnt by conducting ear checks on community members and posters on ear health were displayed and education on ear health and disease prevention given to attendees by trainees. Trainees displayed their posters at the graduation ceremony and requested they be placed around the town to educate the wider community. Seven participants graduated having completed all the training with less than two days absence.

A total of 10 participants received certificates for HLTAHW001 – Work with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander clients and communities, FSKWTG006 – Write simple workplace information & HLTWHS – Participate in workplace health and safety during the graduation ceremony. In the attached “Trainee Group” photo, participants who completed all the training wore matching skirts arranged and made by the trainees. Thank you for your support and assistance throughout this process.

COVID-19 training

On March 12 2020 training was impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, preventing us from returning to the community to complete training. During this time we kept in contact with the remaining participants with weekly phone calls.

Training resumed on Tuesday 4 August as soon as travel restrictions to remote communities were lifted. Seven (7) participants returned to training.



Science Reference Committee Meeting at Wurrumiyanga



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*Dominique Michel
Natural Resource Support Officer
Tiwi Land Council*