



# THE TIWI

NEWS for  
Traditional  
Owners



## CEO's Message

Welcome everyone back to our 50th edition of the Tiwi Newsletter.

Firstly, I pay my respects to all families who have lost loved ones in the past few months, my thoughts and prayers are with you in the sad times.

Before I start, I would like to advise of two additional staff starting with Tiwi Land Council. These have been much-needed positions to assist Tiwi's in applying for funding. They are Kristine Matienzo Grants Officer and Don Sutherland Economic Development Officer.



Andrew Tipungwuti  
CEO Tiwi Land Council

We ask you to make them welcome to the Tiwi as they are here to assist with your ideas.

Over these past months, Tiwi land Council have met with all clans to discuss opportunities in investment.

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## NEWS from your TIWI LAND Council

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## Good to know



In this edition see the fact sheet: "Keeping our animals safe on the Tiwi Islands" page 9-12



**There have been** many discussions around:

## **Northern Territory economic stimulus package**

The funding of the Northern Territory Economic Stimulus package has been granted to the Tiwi Land Council for the opportunity of investing in business is to get a financial return into the Tiwi economy. We seek submissions that will assist clans in development of business and the creation of wealth for the future.

Tiwi land Council has already committed roll out of funds to the purchase of Tiwi Islands Adventures by the Wulirankuwu clan of Milikapiti in which they will continue to pay the surrounding landowners fishing dollars for six months and then per client per day from 2022.

Also on Wulirankuwu land, the possible setup of a crocodile egg hatchery to incubate the eggs collected across Tiwi to grow out small crocodiles to approximately 80 cm which will then be sold to the market. This investment will bring a return financially to all clans on Tiwi Islands.

Tiwi Land Council has also made a commitment to some social benefit of Tiwi which will be for long-term use, these being an additional 16x20-foot containers which come with roof, veranda, all fans, lights, power points, 5000 L water tank, 3.2 kVA generator. these also come with a long drop toilet and road access. All items listed are for each individual container.

Each clan has decided where placement on country and ownership for each container.

## **Traditional owners register**

This has been a hot topic for many years. As we work with clans to update our register, a format has been developed to have subcommittees from clans to work with our registrar Emma, to finalise the updated version. Once we have everyone registered, we will then present to clans for them to confirm registration. Once done they will then be presented to the full Tiwi Land Council for endorsement.

## **Mortuary upgrade**

We are working closely with stakeholders to have these works commenced as soon as possible. Tiwi Land Council has received funding from ABA to do these upgrades and will engage Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics to ensure that works are completed to Department of Health standards.

The upgrade will include three additional bays increasing storage capacity from 6 to 9. A freezer compartment will be added along with a shade structure with water bubbler and table and chairs for families awaiting on deceased members being put to rest in the morgue.

## **Paru Road**

Tiwi Land Council has worked closely with Manti-yupwi landowners to get processes into place for the contractors, Tiwi Partners, to commence roadworks. These works will be underway very soon.

## **ABA Homelands Upgrade**

Tiwi Land Council has received funding from ABA to roll out upgrades to 3 outstations being Condor Point, Taracumbi, and Putjamirra.

These upgrades will be to water lines and tanks, pollution locks, outdoor kitchens, solar including batteries, roadworks, and helipad clearance.

## **Covid 19 Scare**

There was a Covid 19 scare when four visitors from Victoria flew into Darwin at 1 AM in the morning, boarded the Sealink ferry, arrived at Wurrumiyanga, then hopped onto the Tiwi Island Regional Council boat transport, went across the Apsley Strait and hopped onto our Tiwi bus service where they then travelled to Pirlangimpi without quarantining to visit the art centre.

Through the efforts of the Tiwi Land Council and Tiwi locals this was reported to the police and clinic staff. Police at Pirlangimpi then stopped the bus outside of the community and took the visitors into quarantining at Port Melville.

With no intentions of spreading Covid 19 the visitors had tests done and results came back negative!!

**“You all are keeping our community safe”.**

I thank you all for taking the time to read the Tiwi land Council updates and look forward to working with you all and getting the message out.



*Andrew Tipungwuti,  
CEO Tiwi Land Council*

# 50th Chairman's Words

NEWS  
from your  
TIWI  
LAND  
Council



**Hello everyone.** In acknowledging the creation of THE TIWI News in this 50th edition, the biggest thank you belongs to our CEO Andrew Tipungwuti who, on his return from briefing Senators in Canberra 10 or so years ago, couldn't believe how little they knew about Tiwi affairs. Seems that Annual Reports, budget papers and stuff are just too dry for people to get a real picture of our lives and interests. Andrew spoke about his concerns, and about what was needed at many TLC Meetings. Past Chair and past Mantiyupwi Trustee, Walter Benedict Kerinauia supported Andrew. They both saw the need to get our Tiwi news out into the world, not only to Landowners but to the wider public as well, especially among Government Ministers and advisers. Current Trustee Wally Kerinauia keenly supported Andrew and his Father insisting THE TIWI be published five or six times a year, and in full colour. Those black and white news sheets would not cut it.

## 50th edition of "The Tiwi"

**So our thanks** to CEO Andrew and to Wally, and of course to the many contributors who take the time to write a story and take some pictures, many on a regular basis time after time. THE TIWI remains an important publication with copies in Libraries throughout Australia, and on the desks of political, economic and social decision-makers. You have provided us reach beyond our Islands and confirmed our unique and original Tiwi way of doing things. Thanks to all.



Andrew Tipungwuti



Walter Kerinauia



Walter Benedict Kerinauia



50 times News  
from your  
Tiwi Land Council

**Speaking of Tiwi uniqueness;** I have been working with historians Peter and Sheila Forrest who will soon visit Dr. John Morris down near Ballarat and bring his records and amazing photographic collection to the Islands. John was the Government Officer at Wurrumiyanga (Nguiu) back in the early 1960's. His books and papers and research gave confidence to the Land Titles Commissioner in 2014 to grant our ownership of the Vernon Islands.

**They are valuable records for us.** I have seen some of the photos John has. They are amazing. It is a privilege to have them in our custody, something I am very proud to have secured now that the Covid situation in Melbourne allows a visit.

*Gibson Farmer Illortaminni  
Chairman Tiwi Land Council*

# Tiwi Land Council at work



Executive Member Committee meeting with Bishop Charles Gauci in Darwin TLC office



Full TLC meeting at Port Melville with Lawrence Costa MLA

Our Chairman in Darwin representing the Tiwi Land Council at the ChangeFest

ChangeFest is a gathering of people and agencies involved in place based change. Its a real celebration of community led change. ChangeFest took place in Palmerston 8-11 June in Goyder Square. Chairman of TLC Mr Gibson F. Illortaminni was invited as a guest speaker to address the interstate and local crowd about the leadership taken by TLC in March 2020 by closing the Islands off to visitors to protect their people from COVID19.



TLC Chairman and Bonaventure Timaepatua attend Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory (APONT) Workshop over two days in Darwin.

## Past and present Tiwi Leaders

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



# CEO's Message



**New works** from the Stimulus funds:  
All 16 units have their floors taken out.

6 units have cut outs ready for structural steel and we will start fitting in the coming 6 weeks.

The first lot is located in Pinyinapi.



Unit outside with water tank



**We have a new staff member on our TLC Team.**



**Kristine Matienzo**  
Grants Officer  
Ph: 08 8997 0714  
Email: [grants@tiwilandcouncil.com](mailto:grants@tiwilandcouncil.com)



**Don Sutherland**  
Economic Development Officer  
Ph: 08 8997 0712  
Email: [ecodev@tiwilandcouncil.com](mailto:ecodev@tiwilandcouncil.com)



# Caution - Mosquitoes



## Advice from the CEO and Tiwi Land Council:

### Caution while out at night and keep safe

Whilst everyone is looking forward to the dry season holidays, we ask all families that are planning camping trips to country or going out at night, to be careful.

Rangers are working with quarantine, testing feral pigs, buffalo and horses for diseases.

Mosquitoes can transfer diseases through blood. We ask you to protect your families by wearing extra clothing, applying repellent, and taking extra Mosquito coils out bush.

**THIS CAN BE LIFE THREATENING!**



Mosquito net



# Science Reference Committee meeting (SRC) on 26th May 2021



At Wurrumiyanga, but also involved a video link-up with over 50 attendees

## Mantiyupwi meeting room, Wurrumiyanga

John Wilson  
Sarah Ryan  
Willie Rioli  
Brain Austral  
Hugh Davies  
Wesley Kerinauia  
Alyson Stobo-Wilson  
Alys Young  
Warwick Puruntatameri

Dominique Michel  
Yvonne Kelly  
Sam Banks  
Shane Austral  
Colin Kerinauia  
Alice Munkara  
David Austral  
Derek Puruntatameri  
Wendy Van Duivenvoorde

Kim Puruntatameri  
Cecil Black  
Leslie Pyne  
Michael Fletcher  
Georgie Neave  
Chris Long  
Adam Tipiloura  
Daryl Wesley  
Clinton Rioli

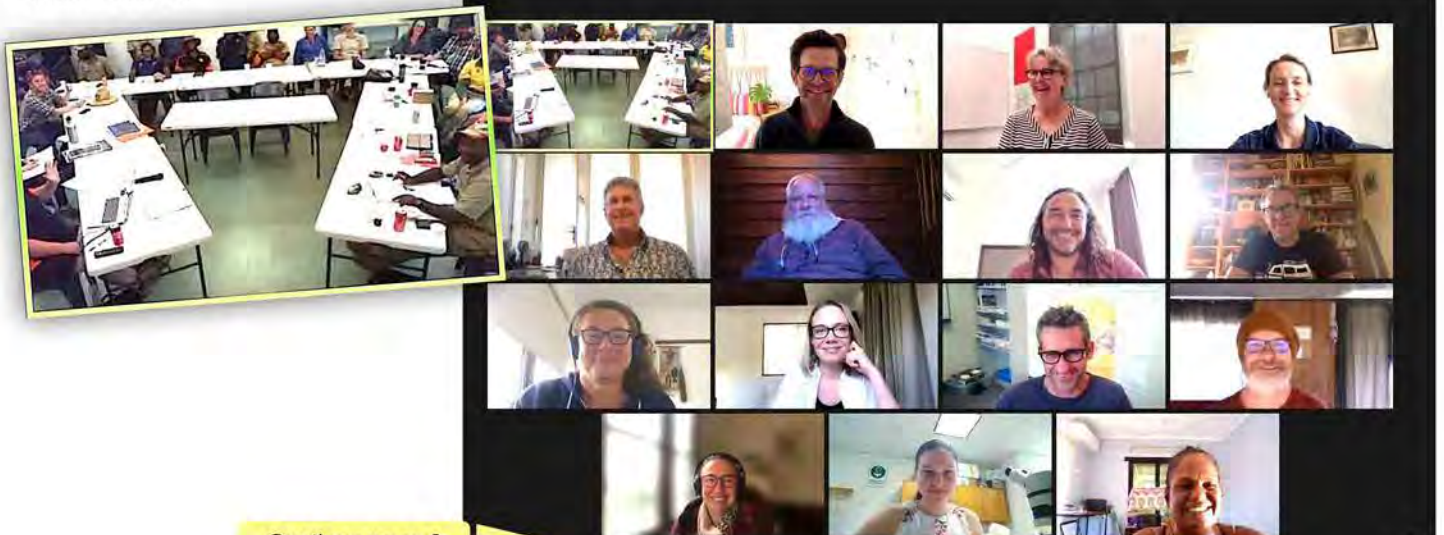


## Via Zoom

Peter Vesk (Chair and Amazing Facilitator)  
Marg Ayre  
Mitchell Jones  
Emily Nicholson  
Elissa Waters  
Mavis Kerinauia  
Michael Fletcher  
Chris Weston

Robyn Trethowan (Amazing Facilitator)  
Lesley Head  
Greg Leach  
Jane Elith  
Gerd Bossinger  
Jon Barnett  
Nic Gambold

Tim Dempster  
Kinji May Munkara  
Brett Murphy  
Jo Wapling  
Sergio Jarillo de la Torre  
Luba Volkova  
Andy Bubb



# Science Reference Committee meeting (SRC) on 26th May 2021



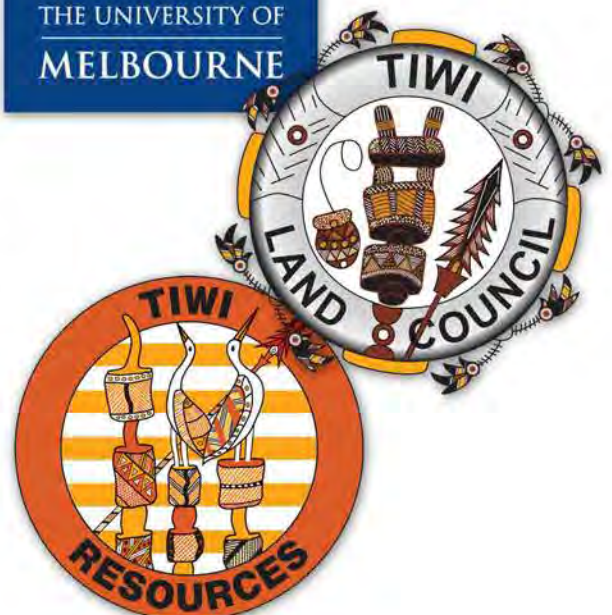
## Issues we discussed on the day included the following:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Land Use Planning ARC Linkage Project  | Mitch Jones, Mavis Kerinaiaua, Alys Young  |
| 2. Fire and native mammal populations   | Hugh Davies, Georgie Neave, Sam Banks  |
| 3. Update on return of cultural Collection  | Lesley Head  |
| 4. Observations of environmental change in Tiwi Islands                                   | Jon Barnett, Lesley Head   |
| 5. Before Cook: Contact, negotiations and Archaeology of the Tiwi Islands                 | Daryl Wesley, Wendy Van Duivenvoorde   |
| 6. Medicinal Plants   | Greg Leach, Jo Wapling   |
| 7. Maximising northern tropical forestry, linking Communities and cutting-edge technology | Andy Bubb, Mark Ashley, Chris Weston<br>Gerd Bossinger, Luba Volkova,<br>and Kim Puruntatameri |
| 8. Fire Plots on Melville   | Alyson Stobo-Wilson, Sarah Ryan  |
| 9. IPA (Indigenous Protected Area) Update   | Nic Gambold, Dominique Michel, Barbara McKaige   |

## A huge shout-out of THANKS to:

- Peter Vesk (University of Melbourne and SRC Chairman and SRC Facilitator),
- Robyn Trethowan (University of Melbourne and Facilitator for SRC Meetings),
- Yvonne Kelly (Tiwi Resources) for also contributing hugely to facilitating the meeting and arranging a feed for all attendees,
- Tiwi Island Rangers- for your input and engagement on the day of the meeting, for diligently working with Scientific Researchers so that they pursue research that is meaningful for Tiwi people, and,
- All the Researchers who are working to answer questions raised by Tiwi people.

**What a fantastic Committee we are all a part of!**





## Keeping our animals safe on the Tiwi Islands

Project 1.1.12

### Looking after country and keeping our animals safe

Many animals are disappearing from across northern Australia. Some might be lost forever unless we can find ways to keep them safe.

The Tiwi Islands are healthier country than other places. We haven't lost any animals yet. However, some animals are starting to disappear. We have to be careful about looking after country, otherwise some Tiwi animals could be lost **forever**.

Some of these animals that are starting to disappear are the northern brown bandicoot, black-footed tree-rat, maybe even the possum.

We need to protect these animals because: they help keep Tiwi country healthy; they are good bush tucker; and they are important food for other Tiwi animals, like the carpet python and the masked owl.

If these animals disappear, part of Tiwi culture will be lost forever.

### Feral cats

Feral cats are very bad for country. They are a big reason why these animals are disappearing across northern Australia.

A feral cat can eat lots of animals every single day. If there are too many feral cats in the bush, they eat too many Tiwi animals, which makes them disappear.

We need to know more about feral cats to make sure we can stop them and help keep Tiwi country and culture strong.



Northern brown bandicoots are starting to disappear.  
Image: Daniela Parra, CC BY-NC 2.0, Flickr

### What we are doing about feral cats

A feral cat caught on a camera on Melville Island.  
Image: Hugh Davies



Tiwi Land Rangers and researchers from Charles Darwin University (CDU) have been using cameras to record cats across the Tiwi Islands. These cameras take a picture when an animal walks past. Using these pictures, we can work out where cats like to hunt. We can also work out how many cats are out in the Tiwi bush.

## What we have found out about cats

There are more cats in areas where there have been big hot fires, and lots of buffalos and horses.

There are more cats on Melville Island than on Bathurst Island.

We see the most cats between Three-Ways and Pickataramoor.

If we can stop hot fires and keep the numbers of buffalo and horses low, we can help stop feral cats from eating Tiwi animals.

## What Tiwi Land Rangers and CDU are doing to help

- We are using cool fire in kimirrakinari (season of fire) to stop big hot fires later in the dry season.
- We are finding ways to stop feral cats from hunting Tiwi animals.



A black-footed tree-rat and her babies. Image: Leigh-Ann Woolley

## What you can do to help

- *It is best if you don't have cats as pets.*
- *If you do have a pet cat, go to a vet to have it de-sexed, and keep it indoors.*
- *If you see a cat when you are out bush hunting, shoot it.*

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the Traditional Owners of the Tiwi Islands for their ongoing support of scientific research on their land. This study was supported by funding from the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program via the Threatened Species Recovery Hub and the Wottenhall Environment Trust, with logistical support from the Northern Territory Government's Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Research conducted by Hugh Davies and the Tiwi Land Rangers. Translation by Jacinta Alimankinni and Mavis Kerinaia.



Healthy country on the Tiwi Islands.  
Image: Nicolas Rakotopare

## Ngamatayamangi nginingawila yanamurluwi ngini pakumwara wutamuwu awungarra Tiwi Murrakupuni.

Project 1.1.12

### Ngawurrayamangi nginingawila murrakupuni amintiya yanamurluwi ngini pakumwara wutamuwu.

Tayikuwapi yanamurluwi wupamulijipa nginingaji-ngatawa murrakupuni apungimi awungarruwu Northern Australia. Yingwapa yiloti wupamulijipa. Api ngawatuwu wiyi warntirrana ngamatayamangi ngini papurajuwi pirimatuwu.

Tiwi ratuwarti, warntirrana kurrupuraji murrakupuni karluwunara yoni murrakupuni. Karrikamini ninganuwanga yanamurluwi pirripamulijipa awungarra. Api yingwapa yanamurluwi wuta waya wumakirringimi kutamaka. Arrana ngarimi wiyi karri ngawatamangi nginingawila murrakupuni pili yingwapa yanamurluwi kalikaki wurimi kiyi wupamulijipa yiloti.

Wutatuwu yingwapa yanamurluwi mamana wupamulijipa kutamaka awuta kapinaki marinyi, yintumunga amintiya wuninga.

Ngawa ngawutimarti ngini ngamatamangi kapinaki yanamurluwi pili wupakirayi pupuni murrakupuni. Naki awarra pupuni warntiyanginila yinkituwi ngini yanamurluwi puranji wuwapa nginingaji yilinga amintiya pinjoma.

Ngini kapinaki yanamurluwi wupamulijipa api wiyi nginingawila yiminga ampamulijipa.

Ngini kapinaki yanamurluwi wupamulijipa api nginingawila yiminga apawurtipa yiloti.



*Tiwi Land Rangers are working with researchers from Charles Darwin University. Image: Michael Lawrence Taylor*



*Brush-tailed rabbit-rat, another Tiwi mammal at risk. Image: Hugh Davies*

*Northern brown bandicoot. Image: Alaric Fisher*



### Pujikatuwi

Pujikatuwi wuta jirti yanamurluwi wurumu kapi murrakupuni. Wuta wumatakuna yingwapa yanamurluwi ngini wupamulijipa kurrukala Australia.

Awuta Pujikatuwi wuwapa yanamurluwi nginingaji-ngatawa wumunga. Ngawa ngawuni tayikuwapi Pujikatuwi kapi warta ngini kurlalaga wurimi awuta kapinaki yanamurluwi ngini kalikali wumakirringimi kutamaka.

Ngarimungurumi kapinaki Pujikatuwi ngini ngajiti wupajawani waya ngini ngamatamangi nginingawila murrakupuni amintiya yiminga.

## Awungana ngamatama ngini awuta Pujikatuwi

Tiwi Land Rangers amintiya Researchers kapi wupamurrumi Charles Darwin University wuta yimanka wuwunga amintiya ngini wupalamiya kangu pukaringini ngini awuta Pujikatuwi wurumu kapi Tiwi murrakupuni. Awarra

naki yimanka ngampakurluwuni awuta Pujikatuwi wupangurlumayi kapi warta amintiya kurlalaga ngini wuta puranji wuwapa. Ngarimungurumi ngini awunginari Pujikatuwi wurumu kapi warta.



Tiwi Land Rangers are helping keep Tiwi mammals safe. Image: Tiwi Land Council

## Kamini awarra ngarimajawu ngini awuta kapinaki Pujikatuwi

Kamini awarra ngarimajawu ngini awuta kapinaki Pujikatuwi

Yita tayikuwapi Pujikatuwi kurlalaga wurumi awungarruwu kapi yikwanamini yikwani jurrumumi awungaji kapi wurumu jarranguwi amintiya pika.

Pujikatuwi wurumu waya awungaji kapi Melville Island karrikamini kapi Wurrumiyanga. Ngampakurluwuni tayikuwapi Pujikatuwi wurumu kapi three ways amintiya Pickataramoor.

Ngawa ngajiti jurrumumi yikwanamini pili ngawatuwu ngawatawani jarranguwi amintiya pika ngini warntirrana pirimatamuwu. Ngawa karluwu ngawutimarti ngini Pujikatuwi wuwapa Tiwi yanamurluwi.

## Awungana wurima Tiwi Land Rangers amintiya Charles Darwin University ngini warntirrana wupamurrumi

Ngawa ngawutimarti ngini ngarikirimi kiyija yikwani karri kimirrakinari (season of fire) amintiya karluwu ngarikirimi arikulani yikwanamini karri kimirrakinari (dry season).

Ngawa ngawutimarti ngini awuta Pujikatuwi ngajiti wuwapa nginingawila Tiwi yanamurluwi.

## Awungana ngamatama ngini ngawiyati ngapamurrumi

Awarra pupuni ngini ngajiti ngarimajila awuta kapinaki Pujikatuwi.

Ngini nuwa nimpirimajila Pujikatuwi api napamarruriyi kapi yanamurluwi takutuwi (vet) kiyi takumuna ngini-wutawa pajini kiyi wumarruriyi jajuja kiyi pakumwara yilaruwu kapi kurrampali.

Ngini ngapakurluwuni Pujikatuwi karri ngawuriyi warta api turli nirrami amintiya nimarra nyirrami wiyi kapi Tiwi Rangers.

### Waya juwa



Black-footed tree rat. Image: Hayley Geyie

# Fire Ant eradication project



**For the past two years** Tiwi Land Rangers have been working with CSIRO to eradicate Melville Island's last known population of fire ants, (officially called Tropical fire ant, but also known as ginger ants and cheeky ants). The surveys involve walking around Milikapiti, the farm and the barge landing looking for ant nests and using chemical to kill the ant colonies.

**Fire ants are small,** slow moving and yellow/orange in colour. Their nests are distinctive piles of loose dirt, but the nests are most often hidden and all that will be seen are trails of ants above the ground. These ants are rarely found inside houses.

**Fire ants are not from Australia,** they are from the central Americas, and they are a pest. The biggest issue with this ant species is that it has a powerful sting, hence the name "fire ant", because the stings hurt like fire.

**This is the first time in 18 years** that no fire ants have been found anywhere on Melville Island and is a great sign that either eradication has been finally achieved or we are right on the cusp of achieving it. Milikapiti is the last place to have these ants, after getting rid of them from Pirlangimpi, Yapilika Forestry Centre, and other remote places.

**When the fire ant eradication project** moved to Milikapiti two years ago there were over 200 nests found in the first survey. For the past year, there have only been a few nests and the last survey in April found none.

**If you think you see any fire ants or their nests, please let one of the Tiwi Land Rangers know.**

# Fire fighting training for PMP staff and Tiwi Rangers



**Held 18th and 19th May 2021**

**The Tiwi Rangers and PMP staff** attended two days of Fire Fighting Level 1 training at the Ranger Headquarters, 3-ways. The nationally accredited training was facilitated by CDU (Charles Darwin University) and Bushfires NT. The Trainers were Shane Leech and Nathaniel Staniford (Bushfires NT).

**Well done to all who participated.**

## Attendees included:

### Tiwi Rangers

Cinton Rioli, James Desantis  
Cecil Black, Chris Long  
Warrick Puruntatameri  
Derek Puruntatameri  
David Austral  
Brian Austral  
Shane Austral  
Adam Tipiloura  
Colin Kerinaia

### Forestry Plantations staff

Hunter-Xenie Kogie  
Bradley Rioli  
Desmond Bruppacher  
Kirby Davidson  
Chris Brogan  
John Byrne  
Marbine Astral



Driptorch training



Final gathering after two days training



# Tiwi chip shipment



**TPC and PMP are planning** for a chip shipment in late July from Port Melville. Chip will be sold to a Japanese customer who will send their own ship to carry the cargo. Ship will be loaded by PMP employees.

**The ship's crew** will quarantine for 14 days before arrival. The crew will **NOT** come off the boat at any time. All covid-19 precautions will be taken including total separation between ship's crew and PMP personnel.

# Wildlife on the roads

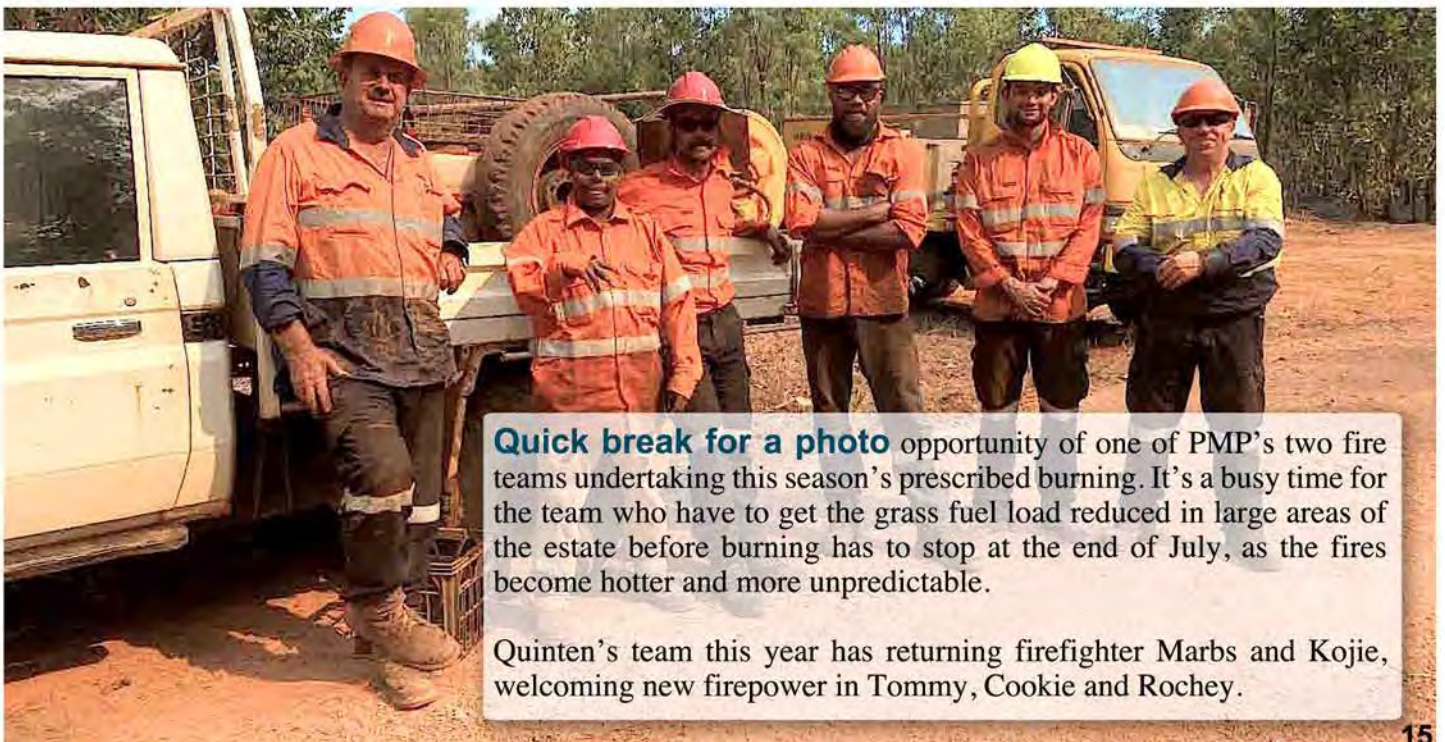


**There's been** an increased number of snakes and lizards on the roads while the weather remains warm.

Pete was trying to remove a large Carpet Python to protect it from getting run over but didn't get much thanks!



# Prescribed burning



**Quick break for a photo** opportunity of one of PMP's two fire teams undertaking this season's prescribed burning. It's a busy time for the team who have to get the grass fuel load reduced in large areas of the estate before burning has to stop at the end of July, as the fires become hotter and more unpredictable.

Quinten's team this year has returning firefighter Marbs and Kojie, welcoming new firepower in Tommy, Cookie and Rochey.

# Ngarukuruwala in Canberra and Sydney, May 2021

**In May we travelled** to Canberra and Sydney. It was very cold (about 15 degrees each day and down to 5 degrees overnight!) but we were well prepared and had lots of warm clothes given to us by friends in Sydney and Canberra. We stayed as guests at the University Burgmann College which was very warm inside. Over two weeks we did ten performances, five classes and three recording sessions. It was a tiring, but excellent journey and we are proud to have been ambassadors for Tiwi culture in prestigious places such as the Australian National University and the National Gallery. The trip was first organised for 2020 when Ngarukuruwala was approached to perform at the Canberra International Music Festival, but it was cancelled due to COVID. We are lucky to have made the trip this year, with all participants vaccinated and taking all precautions.



**The invitation** to be guests at the Australian National University and the University of Sydney came through Genevieve's position as Research Fellow at the University of Sydney. Over the two weeks we had very generous and positive responses from audiences and the Tiwi Islands got some great media as well, with stories in the Canberra Times, the ABC News and NITV.

## Canberra International Music Festival

This event was planned as a return to NFSA after 13 years, when a group of eleven Tiwi men and women visited the National Film and Sound Archive to view the collection of Tiwi content amongst its film collection in 2009. For this event we showed segments of archive footage from 1912, 1938, 1942 and 1957.

The oldest material is footage taken by Baldwin Spencer on Bathurst Island in 1912 which shows men and women dancing Yoi, the dances that mark the 'Dreamings'. As the men in 1912 were dancing on the screen behind us we danced Crocodile and Buffalo along with them and explained what had changed and what was the same in Yoi and in Ceremony today.

The group put a lot of thought to the uncomfortable reality of the power imbalance, cultural misunderstandings and prejudice that pervade the films made in the 1930s-1950s, trying to look beyond that and see themselves and their families as they are, rather than through the colonial lens of the early mission days. Some of the footage is now (and indeed always was) offensive and patronising. Some of it we decided not to show publicly. Some we chose to share and to ask the audience to confront the racism in it. In order to redress some of that power imbalance, we removed the white man's narration and instead Calista talked about the old days. We then created our own sung soundtrack to these films that contain such rich historical, cultural and sentimental Tiwi heritage.



May 7: Performance/talk at the National Film and Sound Archive. <https://cimf.org.au/cimf-2021-events/eyes-and-ears>



May 8: Performance Belconnen Arts Centre.

<https://cimf.org.au/cimf-2021-events/free-music-at-belco>

**This was an informal performance** given inside the gallery, with many audience members seated on the floor. The Yoi dances were demonstrated as well as a number of kuruwala songs with guitar and danced actions. The women also sang some children's songs for the kids in the audience. It was a very warm and friendly event with some audience participation.



# Ngarukuruwala in Canberra and Sydney, May 2021



May 9: Performance in the Fairfax Theatre, National Gallery of Australia  
<https://cimf.org.au/cimf-2021-events/9/5/2021/the-rainbow-serpent>



**This was a 20 minute performance** within a larger concert exploring artistic celebrations of Rainbow serpent from different areas of Indigenous Australia. Other artists were Jo Geia, didgeridoo and guitar - with ANU Jazz Collective, Andrew Blanch and Vladimir Gorbach, classical guitar, Tammi Gissell, dancer/choreographer and Ensemble Offspring.



## Ampiji - Rainbow

Our performance was built around an audio-visual piece that we created, incorporating imagery, text, artwork and musical soundscape. On stage the group was led by Calista Kantilla as the senior woman with Ampiji Dreaming. She told her story of Ampiji and what Rainbow means in Tiwi culture and then danced Ampiji.



May 10-15 Artists in Residence – School of Music, Australian National University.

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# Ngarukuruwala in Canberra and Sydney, May 2021



Monday May 17 Performance at the newly opened Chau Chak Wing Museum, University of Sydney. <https://sei.sydney.edu.au/events/ngarukuruwala-means-we-sing/>



**In 2009 and again in 2019** we have been working with the Museum curators - correcting descriptions and spellings and providing cultural and artistic context to the Tiwi items in preparation for their new display.

**This performance was an important** symbolic acknowledgment of that story and the connection between the Museum collection and current cultural custodians. As well as giving a wonderful performance of songs, dances and stories about Tiwi culture, the group then gave an official 'blessing' to open the Tiwi display. The Museum staff noted that the Tiwi group is the first group of Indigenous owners to view their community's objects on display in the new museum and they expressed their gratitude to have the display honoured in this way.

Tuesday May 18th. Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Masterclass on Music and the Environment. <https://www.facebook.com/events/280557720439785?ref=newsfeed>

**This was held** as a public Masterclass, with University students of Musicology and Environmental Studies, University staff and members of the public registering to attend. The themes of the class were led by us as we spoke about our connection with Country through songs, ancestral stories and dances. Across two hours we talked about Tiwi melodies, the language in song and the sounds of Tiwi country and there were many thought-provoking questions from the audience.

**John Louis encouraged** the men to dance Yoi and the women invited everybody to join singing and dancing together at the end. That afternoon we also visited the Art Gallery of New South Wales to look at the collection of beautiful Pukumani Poles, which were the first Indigenous Australian cultural items to be commissioned as works of art when they were made in Milikapiti and taken to Sydney in 1956. A very good way to finish off our excellent journey!



**Over the whole two weeks** we were told how important it is to keep Australian Indigenous culture strong and how lucky Tiwi Islands are to have so much of our language and culture compared with other communities down south. We were so proud to have Old Lady Calista with us and she and her wheelie walker led the way the whole time! Nginja ngwuri Jukura.



**We thank** the School of Music at the Australian National University, Canberra International Music Festival, The Sydney Conservatorium of Music, The Indigenous Literacy Foundation, Bathurst Island Housing Association and Ngiuu Ulintjinni Association for their generous support in making this trip possible.

*By: Calista Kantilla, Regina Kantilla, Augusta Punguatji, Frances Therese Portaminni, Katrina Mungatopi, Elizabeth Tipiloura, Gemma Munkara and John Louis Munkara with Dr Genevieve Campbell.*

Our website

<https://www.ngarukuruwala.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/NgarukuruwalaWeSingSongs>

# Awana mamanta from Tiwi College



## Hello Everyone.

Such an exciting time for all staff with Community Engagement this term and so many kids rearing to go. We also have had to welcome staff both new and current to some of their changing roles:

Assistant Teachers	Teachers	Operations	Academy	FGH
Ruby Brooks	Cilia Bari	Sarah Docker	Jeffrey Simon-Yello	Mere Bari
Marie Clancy	Simon Beaton	Peter Fitzgerald	Jeffrey David Simon	Trent Gorrie
Anthony Lee	Amanda Clifford	Sophie Herms	Banita Ullugura-Trouble	
Amy Moreen	Shane Clifford	Consalata Mungatopi		
Bronson Mungatopi	Sam Clay	Emmanuel Pedroza		
Tarlina Tipungwuti	Chelsea Coleman	Matt Quick		
	Jeannie Cook	Katie Ullugura		
	Callan Newman			



# Awana mamanta from Tiwi College



- Community Engagement - Well done to all staff for all your commitment and dedication to work as part of a team.
- HPE Department running morning fitness and the after school program.
- Involvement of the students doing Naplan-Thankyou Geri, Sophie and Tash from AISNT supporting us.
- MYW Trip to Ruyton College in Melbourne although unfortunately was cut short due to Covid, staff and students were forced to quarantine in Howard Springs. Thank you Jeannie and Tarlina in looking after the students. Students seemed to be enjoying themselves working and keeping themselves busy with arts and craft. Visits from Top End Health, Dental Clinic, Deadly Choices, House of Darwin. Thank you Callan in organising this.
- Thursday night community dinner - great way to finish the week leading onto.
- Academy running the Cultural Hub-Tiwi Friday Program.
- Participation of the Deckhand Course and Construction course by SYM - Thanks to Terry, Brad, Jack and Jonus.
- Tuesday and Wednesday Homework sessions.
- SEDA Program for the Senior Boys and Senior Girls. Well done to Jack and Chelsea for facilitating the classes to do coaching clinics in the Primary Schools and act as ATs in the classroom.
- Funerals and Ceremonies: very sad but it is part of the respect we have towards Tiwi Culture for staff and students to attend and send our condolences towards the families - a massive thankyou to all the staff in your understanding of this.
- Church every Sundays - Thankyou to those staff in leading the church in prayer and to the staff for their music and lunch but most of all to invite this to anyone.

*Sila Pati*  
*Acting Principal Tiwi College*

