



# THE TIWI

NEWS for  
Traditional  
Owners



**NEWS**  
from your  
**LAND**  
Council



UNITED NATIONS  
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

WORLD  
ENVIRONMENT  
DAY AWARDS

WINNER  
2015



Included in your copy

## Topics

Chairman's Words	1-2
UN Environment Award	3-4
EMC Notes	5
Tiwi Forests - harvest begins	6
Port Melville update	7
Unique environmental values	8
Myrtle Rust disease found	9
Mantiyupwi progresses	10
Tiwi Fire Week 2015	11
Poster Competition for Fire Week	12
Tiwi Islands Adventures	13
Tiwi College term 3	14
Tiwi Knowledge Calendars	15-16



## Chairman's Words

Welcome to the most exciting edition of 'The Tiwi' in its short history! As you read this our own Tiwi workers are in the field, on our own land, harvesting our first plantations as part of our own Tiwi Forestry Project!

In what may seem like an eternity and against all the odds and doubters, we are harvesting. I salute our leaders of the past, many of whom have sadly left us, but who had the vision and foresight to see this day come to fruition.

For our salute  
See page 2



On top: Cyril Kalippa, Chairman Tiwi Plantations Corporation and Gibson F. Illortaminni, Chairman Tiwi Land Council starting the Tiwi Forest harvest, June 2015



Ready for harvesting

Photos by Glenn Campbell

## Good to know

The Tiwi Land Rangers won the UN World Environment Day Award on the 5th of June.



The Tiwi Tropical Fire Ant Project won the Biodiversity category of the 2015 UN Association of Australia Awards on June 5th. The project, a collaboration between Tiwi Land Rangers, CSIRO and Tiwi Plantations Corporation, has achieved some of the world's largest pest ant eradications! See page 3/4



# Chairman's Words

Working - through the years



Below is a tribute to our leaders:

“Somebody said that it couldn't be done  
 But they with a smile replied  
 That maybe it couldn't but they would be the ones  
 Who wouldn't say that till they tried  
 So they buckled right in, with a bit of a grin  
 On their faces if they worried they hid it.  
 They started to sing as they tackled the thing  
 That couldn't be done, and they did it!

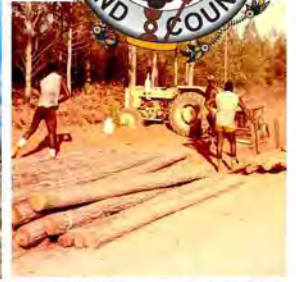
Somebody scoffed: “Oh you'll never do that;  
 At least no one ever has done it”  
 But they took off their coats and they took off their hats  
 And the first thing we knew they'd begun it.  
 With a lift of their chin and a bit of a grin  
 Without any doubting or quiddit,  
 They started to sing as they tackled the thing  
 That couldn't be done, and they did it!

There are thousands to tell us it couldn't be done,  
 There are thousands to prophecy failure,  
 There are thousands to point out to us one by one  
 The dangers that wait to assail us;  
 Just buckle in with a bit of a grin,  
 Just take off our coats and go to it,  
 Just start to sing as we tackle the thing  
 That “couldn't be done” and we'll do it!”

There is still work to be done and it is up  
 to all of us to make sure that we complete  
 the task that has been set for us many  
 years ago. And we can, because we are  
 Tiwi. We are the 'can do' people and we  
 must, for the sake of our children and our  
 children's children.

Nimpangi

Gibson Farmer Illortaminni,  
 Chairman  
 Tiwi Land Council



2015





# Winner - 2015 UN Environment Award

**When native animals** start behaving in strange ways, it could mean that there is a problem, and when Therese Bourke from Pirlangimpi asked the Land Council about strange behaviour in Green Ants in 2003, we thought we should check it out. The Land Council contacted Ben Hoffman from CSIRO who is an expert on ants to see if he could help. Ben spent several weeks on Bathurst and Melville Islands in October and November 2003, and found large outbreaks of ants that didn't belong on the Tiwi Islands, including big-headed ants and tropical fire ants.



Ben treated as many ant nests as he could, and had excellent support from Therese Bourke at Pirlangimpi, the Tiwi For Life Team at Wurrumiyanga, and Junior Guy from Milikapiti. The big-headed ants were eradicated pretty quickly, and we then turned to the issue of the tropical fire ants, which are very hard to get rid of. It was estimated that there were three million ants that needed to be eradicated.

With funding support from the Indigenous Land Corporation, a programme was developed to start working at Pirlangimpi and Yapilika to eradicate the fire ants. When funding ran out, the work kept going, with Tiwi Plantations doing the work at Yapilika, Tiwi Rangers doing the work at Pirlangimpi, and Ben working across both areas. Twelve years later it finally looks like the ants are under control in the target area, and the project has been recognised with a prestigious international award - the United Nations Association of Australia 2015 World Environment Day Biodiversity Award. Willie Rioli, David Austral and Ben Hoffman were in Melbourne on 5th June to collect the Award.

Well done everyone involved!

*Kate Hadden, Environmental Officer  
Tiwi Land Council*



The grinning winners! Tiwi Forest worker, David Austral (left) and Land Ranger Willie Rioli with CSIRO's Ben Hoffmann accepting the UN Award at the presentation dinner on June 5th in Melbourne.





# UN Award for Tropical fire eradication



**The Tiwi Tropical Fire Ant Project** won the Biodiversity category of the 2015 United Nations Association of Australia World Environment Day Awards on June 5th. The project, a collaboration between Tiwi Land Rangers, CSIRO and Tiwi Plantations Corporation, has achieved some of the world's largest pest ant eradications!

The Tropical fire ant (*Solenopsis geminata*) is a major pest of agriculture and horticulture around the world. The ant gets its name from the burning sensation that results from its powerful sting, which can also result in anaphylactic shock in people allergic to wasps, ants or bees. Since 2003, CSIRO's Ben Hoffmann has been working with the Tiwi Land Rangers and the Tiwi Plantations Corporation to eradicate them from Melville Island, the second largest island in Australia. Two of the three areas where Tropical fire ants have been eradicated are the second and fourth largest ant eradications ever achieved - 252 and 59 hectares respectively.

Tiwi Land Ranger supervisor and mentor, Willie Rioli said the ants were most likely introduced to the Tiwi Islands via barge cargo from Darwin. "We now have introduced biosecurity protocols and monitoring that will help prevent pest ants arriving on the Tiwi Islands in the future", he said.

"But we need to make sure the ants don't leave Darwin in the first place - that's why quarantine is so important."



Willie said the control of Tropical fire ants could not have been achieved without the strong support of the Tiwi people. "The work involved at least fifty three inspections of every household at Pirlangimpi on Melville Island for ten years", he said. "The residents of Pirlangimpi have been fantastic - we couldn't have done it without them."

Although there has been considerable success in eradicating Tropical fire ants on Melville Island, two infestations are still being worked on: one at Yapilika and the other at Milikapiti. Willie said winning the UNAA award was great recognition for all of the hard work that has gone into the project but that ongoing funding was crucial to the success of future eradications.

"We've already demonstrated how we can successfully eradicate highly invasive ant species on the Tiwi Islands. We just need extra support to finish the job off," he said.

*Barbara McKaige  
Project Coordinator, CSIRO*



Willie Rioli with the UNAA Award



# Executive Management Committee Notes



Tiwi Land Council Executive Management Committee

**Exciting times** are here! Tiwi people are leading the way. Other communities around Australia are looking at us to see how we're doing it! Tiwi people have never been afraid to try something new. If something is seen to potentially benefit all Tiwi, your Land Council has tried hard to make it happen with the community's support. We will always try, we have never been afraid to have a go.

Right now we are still having a go, looking closely at every opportunity that comes our way. We strongly believe in creating a strong future for our kakirijuwi and their kakirijuwi for years to come.

The elders of the past and present have always said that we must have opportunities and jobs **here on the Tiwi Islands for our own people**. A lot of exciting projects are happening right now that are providing opportunities to Tiwi people. If you are prepared to do the training and work hard there are jobs for the taking right now!

**Let's also not forget** what the vision for this project was – with first discussions, regarding forestry in particular, over 30 years ago by leaders of the past. They knew that Tiwi people would benefit greatly by this project with jobs, job, jobs - along with the other opportunities that will arise from development right here on the islands.

This has all come about through a strong vision, unwavering patience and incredible persistence. Never give up on your dreams!



Tiwi Leaders Jimmy Tipungwuti, Cyril Kalippa, Walter Kerinauia and Matthew Wonaeamirri in 1995



**Other things happening** at the moment are:

- Oyster farming on Munupi country
- Marine and Land Ranger programmes are ongoing
- Major Road works
- X2 4WD Tiwi buses coming soon on Melville Island – servicing all communities and Paru.
- Tiwi College is expanding further, with new classrooms and new houses for the students in the works.

**Tiwi College is the foundation** and legacy of past and present Tiwi leaders. It was a vision and belief of the old leaders that it all starts with educating our kids properly, right here on the Tiwi Islands. Combine such a solid educational base with the current job opportunities coming from a range of economic development on the islands and our children can have a bright future – right here on their doorstep.

So let's all get behind our kids, send them to school every day. Young and old - it's all about having a go!

*Executive Management Committee  
Tiwi Land Council*

**Take the next step  
Join our Tiwi workforce**

**Contact TITEB**

**Norm Buchan  
on 8941 5988**



# Tiwi Forests - Harvest begins



Open Day at the start of the harvest



■ 30,000 ha Tiwi Forest Plantations strategically located close to Port Melville, a deep water port



**This month sees** the achievement of an amazing milestone for the Tiwi Island Forestry Project, the commencement of harvest!! Something we have waited and worked to achieve for a long time.

To start with we have trainers from Komatsu Forestry equipment, Tigercat, One track and Petersen to assist our staff with start-up.



**On the 23rd June** we held an open day for all Tiwi to come and view the equipment working at Kilu Impini. We would like to sincerely thank our strongest supporters at this event such as the CLP NT Government and Senator Nigel Scullion, Federal Minister for indigenous affairs.

Once this is over we will settle into the job of stockpiling the first load of wood chip as quickly as we can.



Roger Smith and Cyril Kalippa, Tiwi Plantations Corporation at open day event

**Yapilika Forestry centre** has become extremely busy with lots of new faces and some old ones with some of our original Tiwi trainees coming back to work with us which is fantastic.

Our port development is continuing and the final parts of our wood chip screen have now started their long journey from Mt Gambier in South Australia to Darwin before coming across to the island for installation. Whilst we won't have all the port equipment in place we will commence stockpiling as timing is very important.

*Craig Phillips, Tiwi Forestry*



More equipment on its way to Melville: wood chip screen



Pad at Port Melville ready for the wood chip



# Developments at Port Melville



The Bandicoot at wharf

It is exciting times at Port Melville, as Stage 1 Construction Works near completion and we step closer to the Port becoming operational. Sometimes it is hard to remember what the Port looked like only 3 years ago, but the focus is on today and the future and how the Port has developed and the opportunities that it now presents. The Village Accommodation project was finished in early May, and the Tank Farm and Woodchip Stockpile and Load out works remain on schedule to be finalised by the end of July. Arrangements are currently underway for an opening ceremony to celebrate these achievements and to introduce the Port Melville Operation to the world. As part of an art contest sponsored by Ezion Offshore Logistics Hub (Tiwi) Tiwi students have been designing new Logo's for Port Melville and Top End Marine Transport. With the winners to be announced at the opening ceremony currently being planned for July 29.



Tank painting



Woodchip stockpile area

Equipment for the wood chipping operation has been arriving on Tiwi for the last couple of months, and the groundworks on the Port Melville site for the stockpile and loading of the ships has been progressing at the same time. All of these arrangements have taken a huge amount of effort from those involved to make happen and bring the date for the first load out of woodchips closer to being realised.



Woodchip ship loader

The Tank Farm works are progressing excellently. The 3 Tanks, which have been installed inside of a 140m long x 45m wide x 3m high concrete containment bund, all have roofs on and are now starting to get painted. The works are now at a stage referred to as “commissioning”. This is when all of the checks and balances are completed on the installation to ensure that everything is working properly and safely before the facility is actually used. For example during “commissioning” all of the pipework is pressure tested and checked for leaks using fresh water, which ensures everything has been installed correctly before diesel is actually run through the lines.

Some recent guests to the Port include:

- Tiwi Land Council & Munupi Director Representatives
- The Ausgroup Board, and
- Tiwi College Students



Tiwi College students visiting the port

Port Melville Port Corp would like to thank the people of Tiwi for their ongoing support of the Port Melville development and look forward to our continued working relationship and joint success.

Sean London 7



# Unique environmental values



**Recent allegations** have been made that the Tiwi Land Council has allowed development on the Tiwi Islands without environmental approvals, suggesting that businesses have been operating outside of environmental law on leased land. The Tiwi Land Council dedicates significant time and resources to the management and protection of the unique environmental values of our land. This is shown by the many environmental awards we have won over the years, the most recent being the UN Award reported in this edition. We have also developed processes and procedures that businesses must follow if they want to use the land and resources of the Tiwi Islands.

We are leaders in this area.

We always work closely with major developers on the Tiwi Islands to ensure that they follow correct environmental procedures and respect the land they are working on. In the most recent case, we have also been advised by the Commonwealth Government that there have been no breaches of environmental law. Media stories suggesting otherwise are incorrect.

*Tiwi Land Council*

## Some headlines from several awards:

“Tiwi Land Council is a winner”

“The Tiwi Land Council has won the Northern Territory Coastcare Award for 2004, the first time the Award has been run in the N.T.”

“Tiwi turns heads at Landcare Awards”

“Tiwi Land Council’s Toad Plan wins Australian Government Bushcare Nature Conservation Award at NT Landcare Awards”





# Myrtle Rust disease found on Melville



In May Tiwi Rangers assisted Commonwealth Government Quarantine Officers in a Plant Health Survey across the Tiwi Islands. The surveys are done regularly to check for any unwanted pests or diseases coming into Australia from overseas. On this survey the team found Myrtle Rust disease in several places across Melville Island.

Myrtle Rust is a disease that affects plants belonging to the Myrtaceae family, which includes many native Australian plants. The disease can cause plants to get sick and lose their leaves, and in some cases can cause the trees to die. It is not known how the disease will affect native plants on the Tiwi Islands, but it won't cause any harm to the forestry trees.

So far Myrtle Rust has been found on only one type of native plant on the Tiwi Islands, and on some different garden trees not native to Tiwi. While we don't know how the disease will progress, the native plants found with the disease seem to be only mildly affected.

Myrtle Rust was first found in Australia in 2010 in NSW, and since then it has spread to Victoria and far north Queensland. Nobody knows how the disease came to Australia, or how it has spread since. Because it is a fungus it sends out millions of small spores that can be carried by the wind, so it is very hard to control. Very little is known about what impact it will have in Australia.

We will continue to work with NT Quarantine to learn how this disease might affect plants on the Tiwi Islands, and keep everyone informed. In the meantime, if you see any unusual growths on plants - especially what looks like yellow powder - please let the Tiwi Rangers know and they will have a look. It is important that you don't touch the plant to prevent spreading any spores to other areas.

*Kate Hadden, TLC*



Fungus looks like yellow powder



Myrtle Rust disease on leaves



# Mantiyupwi continues to make progress

**The Annual General Meeting** for Mantiyupwi PTY LTD was held at the motel on 30th April. The meeting was attended by 68 family members. The highlight of the meeting was the financial report which recorded for the first time that income was greater than expenditure.

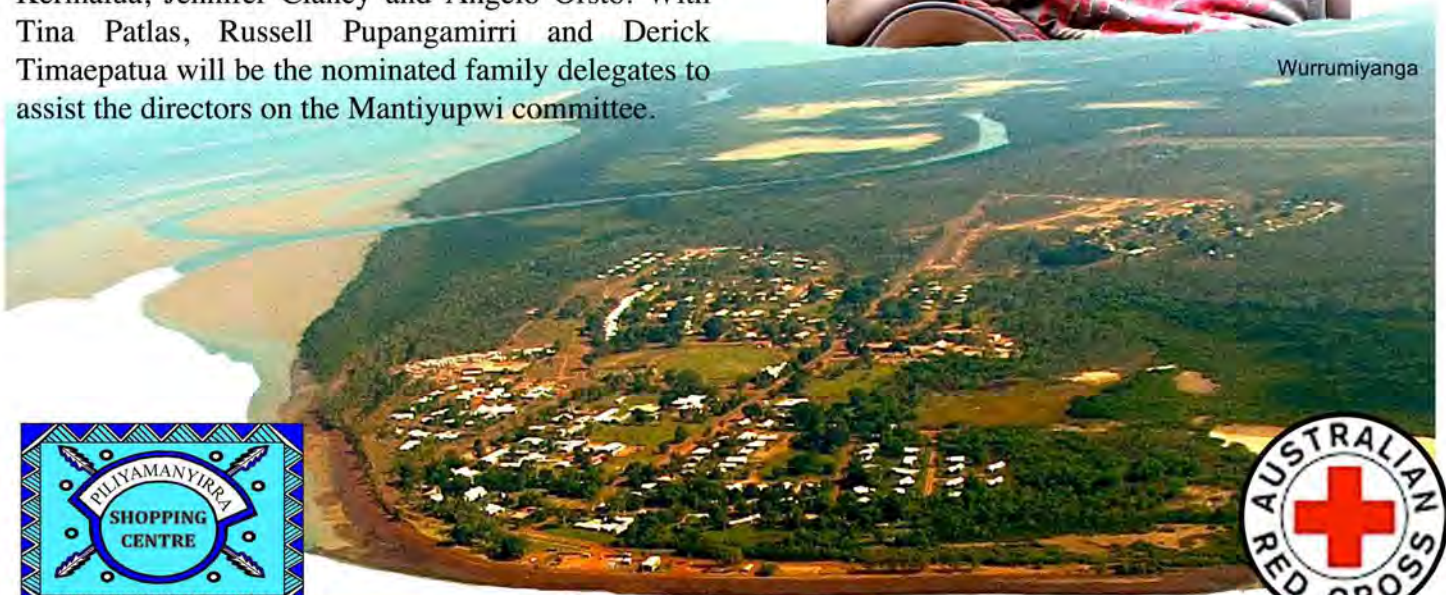
The expenditure involves interest payments to other TIWI families for their valued financial assistance, interest and repayments to Westpac for the shopping centre, quarterly payments to sick and elderly family members, travel payments to students and patients travelling interstate, the financial support to operate the Tiwi Islands Football League as well as the operational expenditure for the various Mantiyupwi businesses.

The following people were elected as directors: Wesley Kerinauia, Mavis Kerinauia, Cyril Martin Kerinauia, Jennifer Clancy and Angelo Orsto. With Tina Patlas, Russell Pupangamirri and Derick Timaepatua will be the nominated family delegates to assist the directors on the Mantiyupwi committee.

**It is expected** that during 2017/18 financial year the money that was advanced to Mantiyupwi on signing the 99 year lease with the Commonwealth of Australia would have been fully repaid. This will enable the Office of Township Leasing to commence paying annual rental collections directly to Mantiyupwi instead of to the Commonwealth. This income is estimated to exceed \$700,000 per year.



Wurrumiyanga



## Outback Stores helps Mantiyupwi build an all-weather car park

Because of the success of the Pilyamanyirra supermarket the Outback Stores Directors have approved a loan of \$100,000 to assist with the building of a large all weather car park at the store. The work will be carried out by BIHA and it is expected to be completed by the end of July. The car park is the final task required to get a completion certificate for the supermarket project. To date the supermarket project is the largest project started since the 99 year lease was signed for Wurrumiyanga.

## New building for Red Cross

Australian Red Cross and the Mantiyupwi directors have reached a win/win agreement for Red Cross to build an operations centre near the Pilyamanyirra shopping centre. The facility will be used to engage the local community with programs which are not funded by the Commonwealth Government to ensure the extended life of the programs.

It is expected the facility will be completed this year on the site previously used by the men's centre. This will place Red Cross operations in the centre of Wurrumiyanga. The facilities will be transferred to Mantiyupwi ownership after 30 years.



# Tiwi Fire Week 2015



Tiwi Fire Week was held from the 18th to the 22nd May. A travelling roadshow was put together by the Tiwi Land Council, CSIRO, Bushfires Council and Tiwi Forests. The roadshow went to Tiwi College, as well as all communities across the Tiwi Islands.

Tiwi Fire Week is all about letting people know what is happening with fire on the Tiwi Islands. This year Tiwi Land Rangers and Bushfires NT showed how firebreaks can protect buildings and other assets like forestry plantations, and how early fires are better for Tiwi Plants and Animals than late fires. Rangers are now working with traditional owners to help them burn their country nice and early so that the fires don't do too much damage.

*Kate Hadden, TLC*



Willie Rioli lights - Fire Week at Tiwi College

**Also important is burning early so that less greenhouse gases are put into the air.**

**So remember - think about your burning. Burn early and not too much!**



Fire Week roadshow at Wurrumiyanga



Fire Week roadshow at Milikapiti



Fire Week roadshow at Pirlangimpi



Having a rest after a week's roadshow





# Tiwi Fire Week poster competition



Large posters with all entries from each school



A key goal of Tiwi Fire Week 2015 was to engage school students and what better way to do that than with a competition? Students from all schools were invited to draw a poster that best illustrated the Fire Week message - "Think about your burning". The Tiwi Land Rangers judged the best poster from each school and presented the winning student with a prize – a Canon camera.

But what a tough job it was for the rangers! All of the posters were great, and it was obvious the students had worked hard and demonstrated not only creativity, but an understanding of the fire message. "These school kids are our future fire managers and they can help us by telling their families to burn before August and not too much," said Senior Land Ranger, Willie Rioli. "We need everyone on the islands to think about their burning," he said.



Winner Edward Puruntatameri, Pularumpi School and Dora Lorenzo, Milikapiti School accepting their awards from Senior Tiwi Land Ranger Willie Rioli



Winning Poster  
Xavier Catholic  
College:  
by James Tipungwuti

Winning Poster  
Tiwi College:  
by Rosemary Woolley





# Welcome to Tiwi Fishing Guide



**We would like to welcome** our first Tiwi fishing guide James (9 toes) Desantis to Melville Island Lodge. James has been a fishing guide for some 12 years and not only brings a wealth of fishing knowledge to Melville Lodge, but being a Tiwi, he also brings a strong culture and knowledge of the traditional family ways.

James' family area is Rungini Creek.

All our clients and staff are giving very positive feedback and we feel very fortunate to have James as part of the Tiwi Adventures family.



TIA guide Stevie Raines with new TIA guide James Desantis

## 3 Day Tiwi experience

**Tiwi Islands Adventures** have partnered with Sealink to bring visitors to the Tiwi Islands in this limited 3 day tour running for 10 weeks only. 2015 will be the pilot run with a greater influx of visitors starting in 2016.

**Day 1** The tour starts by spending the day at Wurrumiyanga visiting the art centres, museum, church and others before moving on to Bathurst Lodge for dinner and staying the night.

**Day 2** Is a search for all wildlife including the many birds, crocodiles, dolphins, dugong, manta rays. In the evening we head off for a leisurely drive up the beach looking for the many turtle and crocodile tracks on the beach and watch the sun go down on the Timor Sea.

**Day 3** We fly over to Milikapiti and visit Jilamara Art & Crafts Centre and Muluwurru Museum, finishing at Melville Lodge for lunch and a mid afternoon flight back to Darwin.

We are expecting good numbers of both domestic and international clientele to take up this package and will be expanding it to other areas in the coming years. Apart from adding to Tiwi Adventures turn over it will also increase the amount of art sold at the Tiwi art centres.

*Nigel Baxter, TIA Manager*



**SEALINK**  
Northern Territory





## Awuna

In what is a very exciting time for the Tiwi overall, with the first harvest of trees happening, it's very exciting to know that our Senior Students are leading from the front in many ways here at Tiwi College.

Our approach is to ensure students are Work Ready by the time they leave Tiwi College.

**Our Senior Girls** have a very academic focus – doing Stage 1 & 2 via the Northern Territory Open Education Centre (NTOEC). The amount of units achieved – but more importantly the standard of their results have been very pleasing – with praise from within the school – but also from their assessors. They have Work Experience weeks in Darwin – to challenge them further – and this has been very successful over the past few years.

**The Senior Boys** are now producing great results in two VET Certificates. They have been studying Certificate II Construction Pathways over the last two years and are now excelling in Certificate II Sport and Recreation via the SEDA program. These students are now regularly completing Units and are receiving their Statements of Attainment for these courses. Their work out in community – taking coaching clinics for primary schools is going very well. This class has a clear focus of using VET instruction in order to be Work Ready for the types of jobs on offer around the islands in the near future. Next semester they will be completing their Work Experience in Tiwi Organisations on island.

**The most powerful** element of the students' education here at Tiwi College and the key to their success in some of the large work camps being established, is the fact that our students reside here at Picka during the week. Our students are learning to look after themselves and take responsibilities for their colleagues whilst here, which gives them the greatest possible chance of success when adapting to a work place. We believe our students will transition from school to the work place with ease because of our unique style of boarding and learning programs.

## Tiwi College – Tiwi Future in Tiwi Hands

Mana

*Ian Smith, Principal Tiwi College*



Senior Boys' SEDA program completing Units



# Tiwi ecological knowledge captured in two beautiful calendars



Bernard Tipiloura with Pularumpi School students. Holding the calendars is Lynette Johnson, CSIRO's Jon Schatz and Pularumpi teacher, Gilberta Tipungwuti.

The development of the calendars came from a desire to document seasonal-specific knowledge of the Tiwi Islands in an appealing format accessible to both students and the broader community, as well as a strong concern about the loss of knowledge as older people pass away.

Mr Tipiloura said there has been a significant loss of knowledge over the past 10 to 15 years on the Tiwi Islands.

“We’re worried that kids are not learning culture so we need to think of new ways to teach them and these calendars will make a huge difference,” he said.

“I feel very good about the calendars. The more of these things we can do, the better it will be for Tiwi culture. We need to educate the children so they can take over from us when we’re gone.”

The calendars, which were produced as part of an Inspiring Australia Unlocking Australia’s Potential grant, were launched in schools during April.

*Barbara McKaige, CSIRO*

“Our children need to learn about culture, they need to become strong Tiwi people and I want to show them the ways to do that. These calendars are wonderful. I will use them all the time to teach the children culture and the proper ways to live.”

That’s how Senior Traditional Owner, Bernard Tipiloura, described the two calendars of Tiwi knowledge developed by CSIRO in collaboration with Traditional Owners and the Tiwi Land Council.

CSIRO’s Barbie McKaige worked with Bernard Tipiloura, John Wilson, Lynette Johnson, Jacinta Tipungwuti, Eunice Orsto and Judy Puruntatameri to capture their knowledge of the seasons and the environment in two highly visual calendars. The 2001 Tiwi Plants and Animals book was a key resource for the team. One calendar focuses on the three major and 13 minor overlapping Tiwi seasons, while the other focuses on key Tiwi plants and animals.

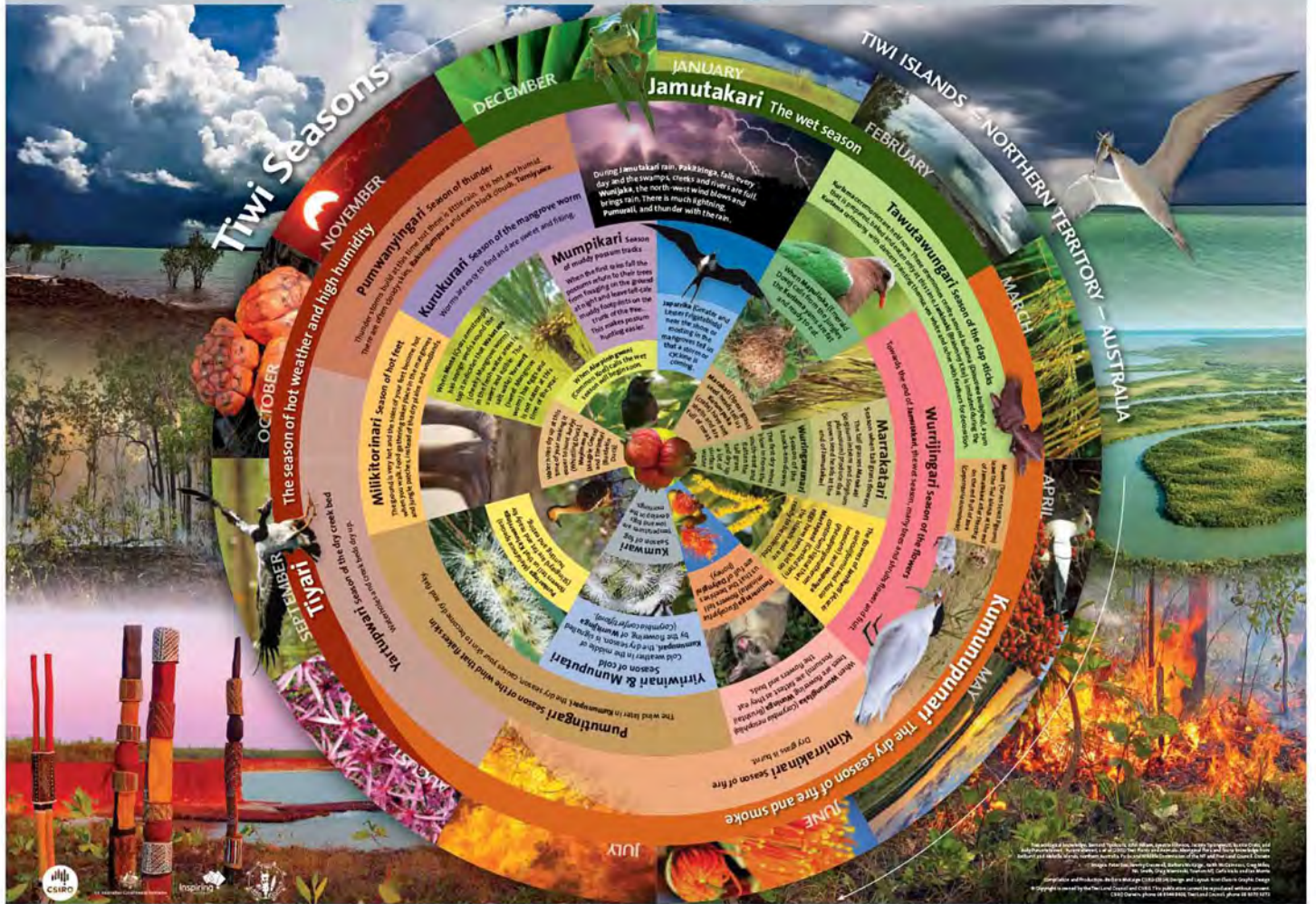
Tiwi College students, Emelio Moreen and Ethan Ullungura, with Bernard Tipiloura and CSIRO’s Barbie McKaige at the launch of the Tiwi calendars on April 21st



See the 2 calendars page 16



# Tiwi ecological knowledge calendars



For more information contact:  
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