



THE TIWI

NEWS for
Traditional
Owners



NEWS from your LAND Council



Chairman's Words

Welcome to our Christmas Edition of *The Tiwi*.

We have had a number of deaths in recent weeks and I would like to pass on the thoughts and prayers of your Land Council members to family during this sad time.

partners in Tiwi Plantations Corporation, Plantation Management Partners, Tiwi Resources, Tiwi Enterprises, Port Melville, TITEB, TIRC, our friends in the NT and Federal Governments as well as EZION for building the Port to make the shipments possible.

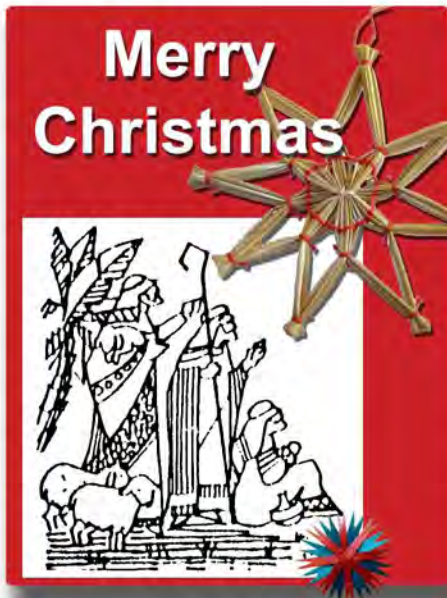
On a happier note, you will see throughout the pages of this edition, the realisation of a dream for all Tiwi people with the harvest and first shipment of our Tiwi wood chip from Port Melville in late November. From our fathers and grandfathers we have finally turned their vision into reality for the benefit of all of our people.

The first shipment is not the end, but just the beginning of seeing an end to welfare dependency for our people. Your Tiwi Land Council encourages all of our young Tiwi men and women to take up the opportunities that will increasingly become available over the coming months and years.

Congratulations must go to our forefathers who started this project, right through to our up and coming leaders who have seen it through to where we are now. We must also thank our terrific Tiwi and non Tiwi

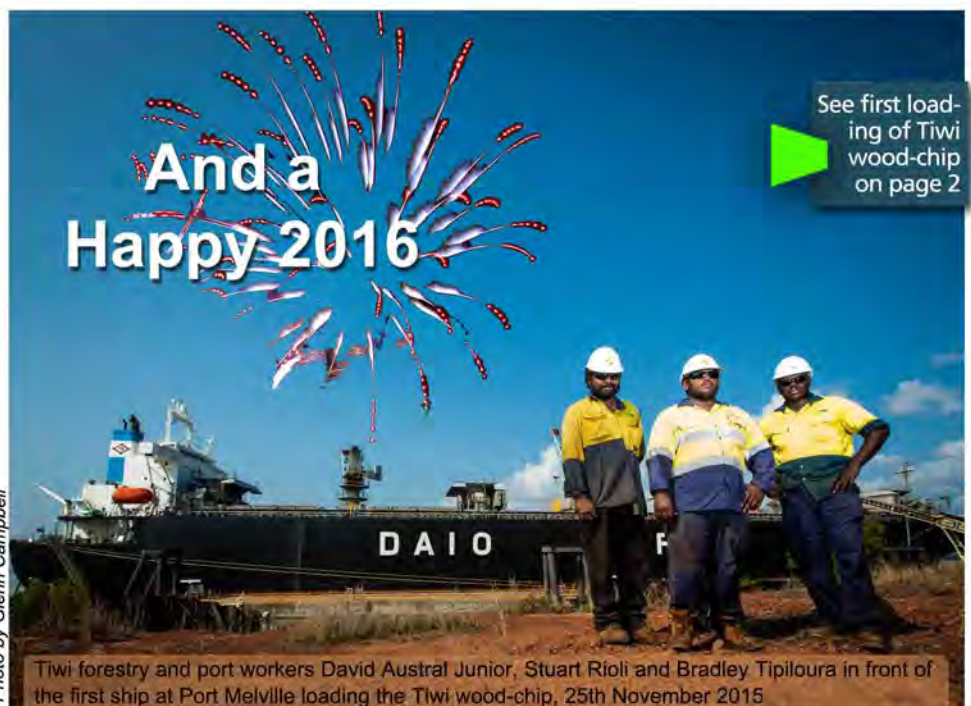
Your Land Council members would like to wish all of our family and friends a safe and happy Christmas and hope that your ship comes in too, in 2016.

*Gibson Farmer Illortaminni
Chairman Tiwi Land Council*



Topics

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Chairman's Words | 1 |
| Celebrating our first 'chip-ship' | 2 |
| 1st Wood-chip Shipment Briefing | 4 |
| EMC's Notes | 6 |
| Message from the NT Government | 7 |
| Tiwi Enterprises News | 8 |
| CSIRO work experience | 9 |
| Don't attract crocodiles | 9 |
| Message from Member for Arafura | 10 |
| Tiwi College - best year | 11 |
| See you in 2016 | 12 |



See first loading of Tiwi wood-chip on page 2

Photo by Glenn Campbell

Tiwi forestry and port workers David Austral Junior, Stuart Rioli and Bradley Tipiloura in front of the first ship at Port Melville loading the Tiwi wood-chip, 25th November 2015

Celebrating our first 'chip-ship'



"I had no doubt this day would happen and it happened. It is a great day for all of us. I can't be happier." Cyril Kalippa



"This is a dream 30 years ago. This is our dream and it became true at last. A lot of my other colleagues are not with us anymore. We strongly believed, we can produce such a dream and it happens. It will help Tiwi people create employment and sell the wood-chips around the world." Bernard Tipiloura



"We waited a very long time and what amanayi Cyril and the other elders did, is very good for us all Tiwi. And thank you for the Chief Minister assisting us, and all the investors. Very good to see the ship so close." Gibson Farmer Illortaminni



"Finally happens. Has been a long time coming, and look at this ship there." David Junior Guy



"It is a great sight to see, just to have the ship here to see. It is a long time coming and the wood-chips in the background is just a marvelous thing to see. And we hope it is ongoing for all Tiwi generations to enjoy and be a part of. 10 to 20 years ago we were hoping to secure the private investment to get this happening. Since the last 5, 6 years we engaged with Ezion Offshore Logistics from Singapore and they came on board with us and you can see the outcome of that and we work with a Japanese firm Mitsui and it's happening." Andrew Tipungwuti



"To Cyril, to you and to all your former leaders, who had this vision – Congratulations. To the men and women of the Tiwi may you continue to be strong people, strong in culture and strong in law. Fight for yourselves. There has been much adversary to try to stop this, it's you, who made it happen, I helped, good luck and may the shipments keep coming." Chief Minister Adam Giles



Celebrating our first 'chip-ship'



On 25th of November 2015 we celebrated at Port Melville the loading of our Tiwi wood-chip onto the Daio Papyrus, the first ship transporting our harvest off our islands.



Photo by Alister Emslie

Conveyers transport the wood-chip onto the ship



Our flags on the Daio Papyrus



The Daio Papyrus anchoring at Port Melville



Photo by Glenn Campbell



1st Wood-chip Shipment Briefing

December 2015

- This was an historic occasion for Tiwi. Tiwi are and have been for a long time determined to create a commercial economy and provide jobs for their people and income for their communities. The Tiwi islands forestry project and the associated port, Port Melville, are the key to this vision.
- The 1st wood-chip ship carrier, Daio Papyrus, arrived at Port Melville on the morning of Monday 23 November.
- The ship was loaded with 31,000 green metric tonnes of Tiwi wood-chip. The actual quantity was determined by the moisture content and compaction of the woodchip.
- Most of the first shipments of wood-chip is expected to come from plantations on Munupi land.
- The wood-chip is being sold at Port Melville wharf to Mitsui who will on sell the woodchip to customers in Japan.
- Tiwi wood-chip will be used in the production of high-quality paper such as that used for photocopying and printing.
- Tiwi leaders negotiated and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Mitsui on 10th February 2014. They negotiated and signed a five-year Sales and Purchase Agreement of wood-chip with Mitsui on 30 March 2015.
- A 2nd consignment of Tiwi woodchip is expected to be dispatched in January 2016.
- Further shipments are planned for every 2 months.
- Approximately half the equipment for harvesting and loading was purchased through a grant from the Australian Government Aboriginal Benefits Account.
- The remaining equipment was purchased through a commercial loan from Commonwealth Bank Australia.



The wood-chip ship "Daio Paper" anchoring at Port Melville wharf



Loading Tiwi wood-chip at Port Melville wharf



Tiwi leaders and Mitsui signing Memorandum of Understanding 2014



Harvesting and producing wood-chip on location in the plantations

1st Wood-chip Shipment Briefing

December 2015

- Working capital funding for the harvest and loading of the first 2 vessels was obtained through a commercial loan from the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation and an overdraft facility from the Commonwealth Bank.
- Export of Tiwi wood-chips from Port Melville has been approved by the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and his Department under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.
- Tiwi wood-chip is Certified Controlled Wood under the Forest Stewardship Council certification criteria.
- The Northern Territory Government has provided substantial assistance to bring the plantations to the point of harvest, and with progressive upgrading of roads.
- There are nearly 30,000 hectares of Acacia mangium plantations owned by Tiwi Traditional Owners.
- Tiwi have funded the management of plantations themselves since Great Southern went into liquidation.
- Tiwi Landowner groups, Tiwi Resources and Tiwi Enterprises also provided significant financial support to the project.
- The plantations will be replanted annually to provide an ongoing source of material for harvesting and income in future years.
- It is expected that the export of Tiwi wood-chip will provide between \$140 million and \$150 million in export income to Australia and the Northern Territory over the next 5 years.
- It is expected that the Tiwi islands forestry project will provide in the order of 60 to 80 jobs for Tiwi people and will bring substantial income for Tiwi communities.

Victor Puruntatameri



Victor is really giving it a red hot crack. We are very pleased to see a Tiwi driving the skidder and feller buncher. It is a very important job with significant pressure to perform. We would like to see more Tiwi stepping up to the plate. The next step is to see Victor in the role each day - permanently.

*Glen Samsa,
Plantation Management Partners*



“I used to work in the forestry before – helped planting. And so I came back up here. It means a lot to me. It is real good. We got the harvest going now. Hopefully more Tiwis come out working, if they want to, it is here. If they want to have a good job. There are not so many jobs in the community, so come out here.

Nothing is really difficult out here, it’s all good, I stay at the camp for about 2 weeks and have a week off, is all good.

I worked from 2005 to 2008 and then I left for a bit and came back this year. This job came up and I thought I’d go back to forestry.

I’d like to see more Tiwis getting involved in this. It is good to have something to do.” *Victor Puruntatameri*



Executive Management Committee

EMC's Notes



Tiwi Land Council Executive Management Committee

37 Years in the making!

It started with a vision, a vision belonging to a group of Tiwi elders.

A group of traditional Tiwi men that belonged to a newly formed Tiwi Land Council back in 1978, independent of mainland Land Councils.

Your Tiwi Land Council leaders had a vision of an independent future for the Tiwi Islands. They all agreed that there must be jobs on the islands for Tiwi people. Jobs, jobs, jobs and economic development to bring even more jobs in the decades to come, to give people opportunities right on their doorstep! Jobs, jobs, jobs for those who want to commit - to provide for their children and their children's children – free from welfare should they wish to take the opportunities available.

From this vision, the forestry industry on the islands was realised. The trees needed time to grow and that they did. Tiwi people are patient people and we waited. We waited until the trees were ready. We waited until the Port was ready so that we could sell the woodchip to eager buyers.

Here we are today – the end of 2015 has arrived and our patience has been worth it. Unfortunately so many of the Tiwi Land Council Leaders of the past are gone and cannot be with us today in person to see their vision materialising. But we know they are all here in spirit.

Standing here with us admiring and in awe of the 'Daio Papyrus' ship taking on board around 30,000 tonnes of woodchip from the Tiwi Plantations Corporation – a company owned 100% by Tiwi, for Tiwi. With Tiwi jobs for those who would like to commit to work within the forestry industry.

The ship will carry the chip all the way from Port Melville to Japan. To load all the wood chip it will take almost a week of continual conveyor belt action. Anyone who has visited the Port will be pretty amazed by the scale of what is happening.

The ball is rolling now and we will expect one ship to dock at Port Melville once every two months – so we will keep harvesting through the Wet Season and for years to come. We will replant the trees so that the forestry project can continue on for your children's children, keeping the opportunities flowing for TIWI!

The Managers of the Tiwi Land Council would like to thank everyone involved in working together with us and making this vision a reality today.

From little things big things grow!

Executive Management Committee

Tiwi Plantations continue to make history

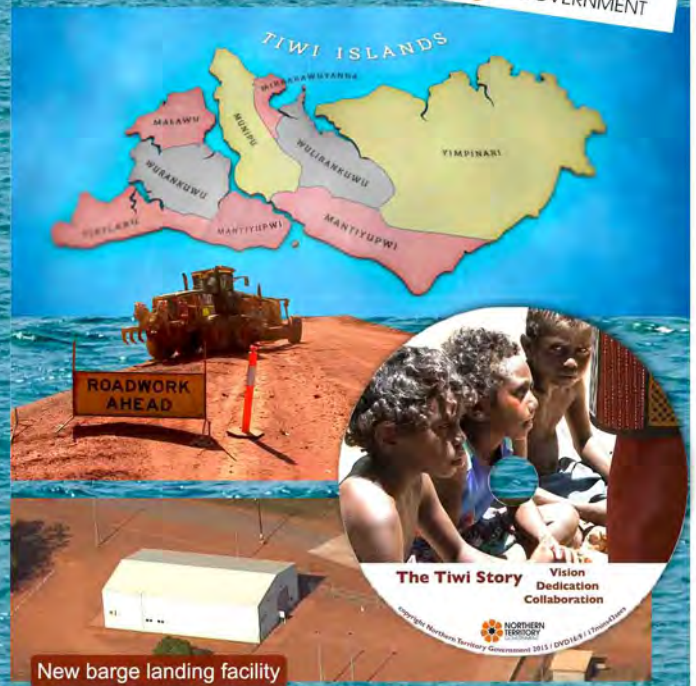


Message from the NT Government



It has been an exciting year on the Tiwi Islands, as we continue to work with you to drive economic development and create Tiwi jobs, on Tiwi land. A lot has been achieved in just under 12 months. On Bathurst, there is a new barge landing facility, a new business centre, new street signs for tourists, funding to upgrade the Patakiliyali Museum and other tourism attractions, and plans to build a bronze statue of war hero Matthias Ullungura. On Melville, there will be a new bus service up and running early next year, and work has already started on sealing parts of Pickertaramoor Road.

We have also worked with Tiwi Enterprises to produce a DVD, called 'The Tiwi Story', highlighting the community's vision for the future.



New barge landing facility

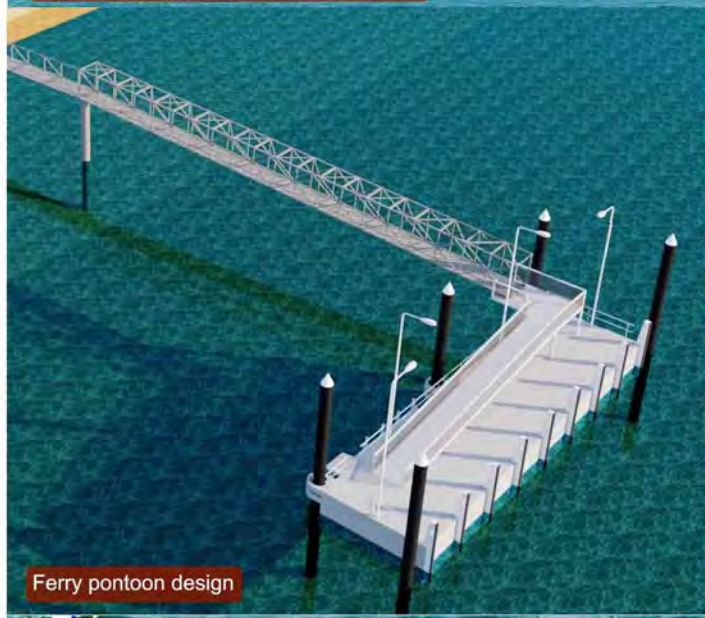


Chief Minister Adam Giles, TLC Chairman Gibson F. Illortaminni, Chairman Port Melville Pty. Ltd. Andrew Tipungwuti

And then, of course, there is the forestry project. On 25 November, Chief Minister Adam Giles joined your community to celebrate the first shipment of Tiwi wood-chip. It was an historic day, and a chance to recognise all the hard work that has gone into this project. The first ship has now sailed, and is expected to return every few months, delivering thousands of tonnes of woodchip to Japan and injecting millions into the community.

But this is just the beginning, with much more in store for 2016. We have been working closely with Tiwi Enterprises and the Tiwi Land Council to secure funding for two ferry pontoons and a welcome centre on Bathurst and Melville islands. Funding applications have been lodged and, if they are successful, construction should be able to start next Dry Season. We will be over on the island early next year to consult further about the project, and welcome any community feedback.

The NT Government's Business Development Officer, Murray MacAllister, will be back in Wurrumiyanga for regular monthly visits from mid-January 2016. The Land Development Corporation will also continue its work promoting private investment, and has been talking with Traditional Owners about what land may be suitable for development. We look forward to continuing all of this great work, and expect next year to be just as successful as the last.



Ferry pontoon design

Tiwi Enterprises News



2015 has been another big year for Tiwi Enterprises, with our key achievements including:

- Vehicle hire fleet now has 15 cars, including 4 that are owned by Tiwi families.
- The construction of 2 staff houses. The builder is Dave Hobbs and there are 4 Tiwi workers on his team.
- Our maintenance team continue to carry out a variety of jobs that include the ongoing yard maintenance for individuals.
- The Nguuu Garage continues to look after our own fleet as well as community vehicles. A big congratulations to Spencer Martin, who has been awarded the TIO MTA Indigenous Apprentice of the Year award.
- Development of the new Tiwi Bus Service is continuing. The buses have been ordered and the service is expected to commence in early 2016. If you are interested in working as a bus driver, please contact Ray or Mark.



- Continuing to maintain and manage Mantiyupwi assets including the Mantiyupwi Motel, which currently has 24 self-contained single rooms available to visitors.



Spencer Martin with awards



Spencer Martin at work at Tiwi Enterprises Nguuu Garage



Ambrose Munkara, Charles Tipungwuti and Lena Puruntatameri

On Wednesday 2nd of December 2015, several of our staff – Lena Puruntatameri, Ambrose Munkara, Charles Tipungwuti and Deb Moore – attended a careers expo held at Xavier CEC. They shared with the students their experiences working with Tiwi Enterprises, the types of jobs they do and the opportunities that exist with Tiwi Enterprises.



Ambrose Munkara and Charles Tipungwuti



Spencer Martin with family and colleagues in front of NT Parliament House



The staff and directors of Tiwi Enterprises would like to wish everyone a safe and happy festive season.

CSIRO work experience for Tiwi College student



In November, Tiwi College student, Jessica Stassi, completed a week's work experience with CSIRO in Darwin.

Jessica got a chance to learn about the biodiversity component of the Tiwi Carbon Study first hand. She worked in the invertebrate biodiversity lab sorting pitfall traps from Melville Island and learnt how to identify different Tiwi ants.

She also worked on a range of other projects, including measuring Karntirrikani (Cypress Pine) for a project on water availability and tree growth.



Jessica Stassi and CSIRO's Jodie Hayward using an infiltrometer to measure how much water soaks into Top End soils (rather than running off) during the first storms of the wet season.

Barbara McKaige, CSIRO



Croc sign up soon

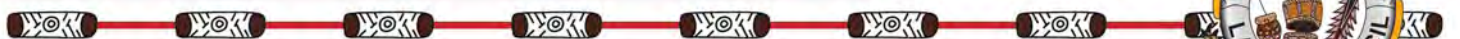


NO DUMPING OF FOOD WASTE INCLUDING BUFFALO AND FISH TAKE IT TO THE TIP!

Dumping animal body parts is an offence under the Summary Offences Act.



Signs will soon be going up at all barge landings on the Tiwi Islands asking people not to dump food waste. Buffalo, pig, fish, turtle, dugong and goose carcasses attract crocodiles. So please, if you have been hunting take your scraps to the tip.



Thank you to everyone who applied for the Assistant Marine Ranger positions.

We are still taking applications for the MILIKAPITI position, and will interview for both positions early in 2016.

POSITIONS VACANT

Assistant Tiwi Marine Ranger

For information contact Kate Hadden on 8944 8416

Written expressions of interest must be given to Brian Clancy or Kate Hadden

Interviews will be held once expressions of interest have been received

Police check will be required for all applicants

Message from Member for Arafura



Francis Xavier Kurrupuwu, MLA
Member for Arafura
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PO Box 40724
Casuarina NT 0811
Shop 7
Moil Shopping Centre

What a year for the Tiwi Islands. Only last month the first shipment of wood-chips was loaded onto a ship bound for Japan. The community celebrated the activity at the Port, united in the Tiwi vision that this day marked an important step in creating strong economic and social growth for Tiwi people.

Throughout 2015, there have been many other achievements, small and large, from Tiwi people across various sectors, including tourism, agriculture, sport and culture. I congratulate the Tiwi family trusts that have worked hard to grow tourism, create jobs, support culture and develop their own professional skills as Directors and Trustees.

Community have come together on many occasion this year to address important Tiwi issues, such as school attendance, family violence and community health. The White Ribbon Day marches across the island recently demonstrated the commitment people have in making our community a better place for our kids.

Across my electorate this year, I have worked hard with my government colleagues, traditional owners, community members and stakeholders to achieve many positive things.

Highlights for me include the announcement of the building and upgrade of morgues to ensure our passed ones will be treated with dignity and care. Better telecommunications, a new office in the Tiwi's, seeing first-hand the economic activity across the Territory and my participation in the celebration of people and culture from Kakadu, Waruwi, and Maningrida to the Tiwi's has made for a busy, yet happy year.

I have enjoyed visiting and working with the schools across the islands this year and hosted a few of them at Parliament House! Congratulations especially on the success of our Year 12 students and we look forward to continuing to support you in the next stages of your life.

Lastly, thank you for the continued support of the Tiwi Land Council, friends, colleagues and family. 2016 will be a challenging year in politics but I look forward to continuing to represent, support and advocate for Tiwi people. I wish you all a blessed and safe holiday period.

Francis Xavier Kurrupuwu
Member for Arafura



New signs in Wurrumiyanga
CM Adam Giles, Wesley Kerinauia, MLA Francis Kurrupuwu



Welcome funding for upgrading the Patakiliyali Museum, which was developed over decades by Sister Anne and the community.

Tiwi College - 2015 best year



Awana,

I'm very pleased to announce to all families on the Tiwi Islands that 2015, in so many ways, was our best year at Tiwi College.

We aim each year to have an attendance rate of 80%.

I'm pleased to report that the average attendance every term this year was 80% or higher. This is the first time in the history of Tiwi College, this has occurred.

We all know that the more students come – the more they learn.

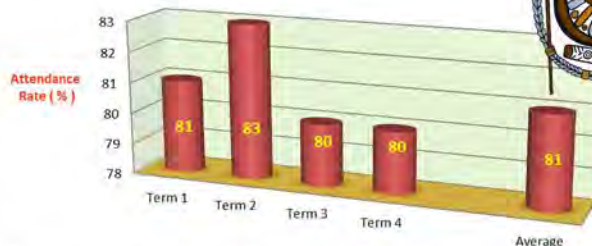
All staff have raised standards expected of students – and the students have responded well.

Our Academic Program now matches any similar school in Australia. Parents should feel very comfortable knowing that they do not need to send their children away from the Tiwi Islands to get a good education. I say this sincerely and as a parent myself.

Our Family Group Home program is one which provides much love and care for students every day. On top of this their Lifeskills Program teaches students how to improve themselves as people and very importantly, provide for others.

Our Tiwi Academy now is running better than it ever has been. We have taken ownership of this and are providing great opportunities for students to set goals, reflect on them and participate in fantastic sporting events and Incentive Trips. Through sport, the Tiwi Academy is helping improve the attitudes and behaviours of our students.

Thanks to Matthew Hayden & Guy Reynolds, the farm project is now employing students to work one day a week. Congratulations to Phelan Kantilla, Alex Guy and Hayden Henry-Whiting on their work this year. 2016 will see a new group of apprentices on the farm.



On Thursday 3rd December, we held our Graduation Ceremony. This is when we celebrate the achievements of our students and highlight those students who are leaving us and getting a job. We would like to congratulate Richard Dzorlorm who, under the watchful eye of Ms Ailsa has completed his Stage 2 certificate. He has completed a full academic year 12. He is the first student in the history of Tiwi College to do so. Richard is looking at entering the Police Force in 2016.

Hayden Henry-Whiting also finished his studies here at Tiwi College. Our mantra is to assist students find employment and we are pleased to announce that he is well on his way to being employed at Port Melville after a successful work placement there earlier in the year.

I look forward to 2016 and think it can be even better than 2015! We look forward to enrolling new students who we now know will flourish here at Peaceful Picka. Should any parent be wanting to enrol their son or daughter, please let any of our Tiwi Staff know and we will look at any available spaces for them.

On behalf of our Picka Family I wish all of our students and families a safe and Merry Christmas. May 2016 be happy and prosperous for you all.

Mana

Ian Smith, Principal

We would like to congratulate the following students on their achievements this year:

- TEB Student of the Year Jessica Stassi
- Principal's Award Stanley Tipungwuti
- School Dux Award Richard Dzorlorm
- FGH Boarder of the Year Warrick McGorm
- Girl's Academy Student of the Year Maudie Minniecon
- Boy's Academy Student of the Year John McLennan
(Middle School)
Hayden Henry-Whiting
(Senior School)



Tiwi Business Centre recognised

The Tiwi Islands Business Centre was recognised at this year's Chief Minister's Awards for Excellence in the Public Sector.

The centre was nominated under the Developing the North and/or Remote Economies categories, and representatives from the NT Government and Tiwi Land Council attended the awards at the Darwin Convention Centre.

Although they did not win the category, it was great to see the project recognised.

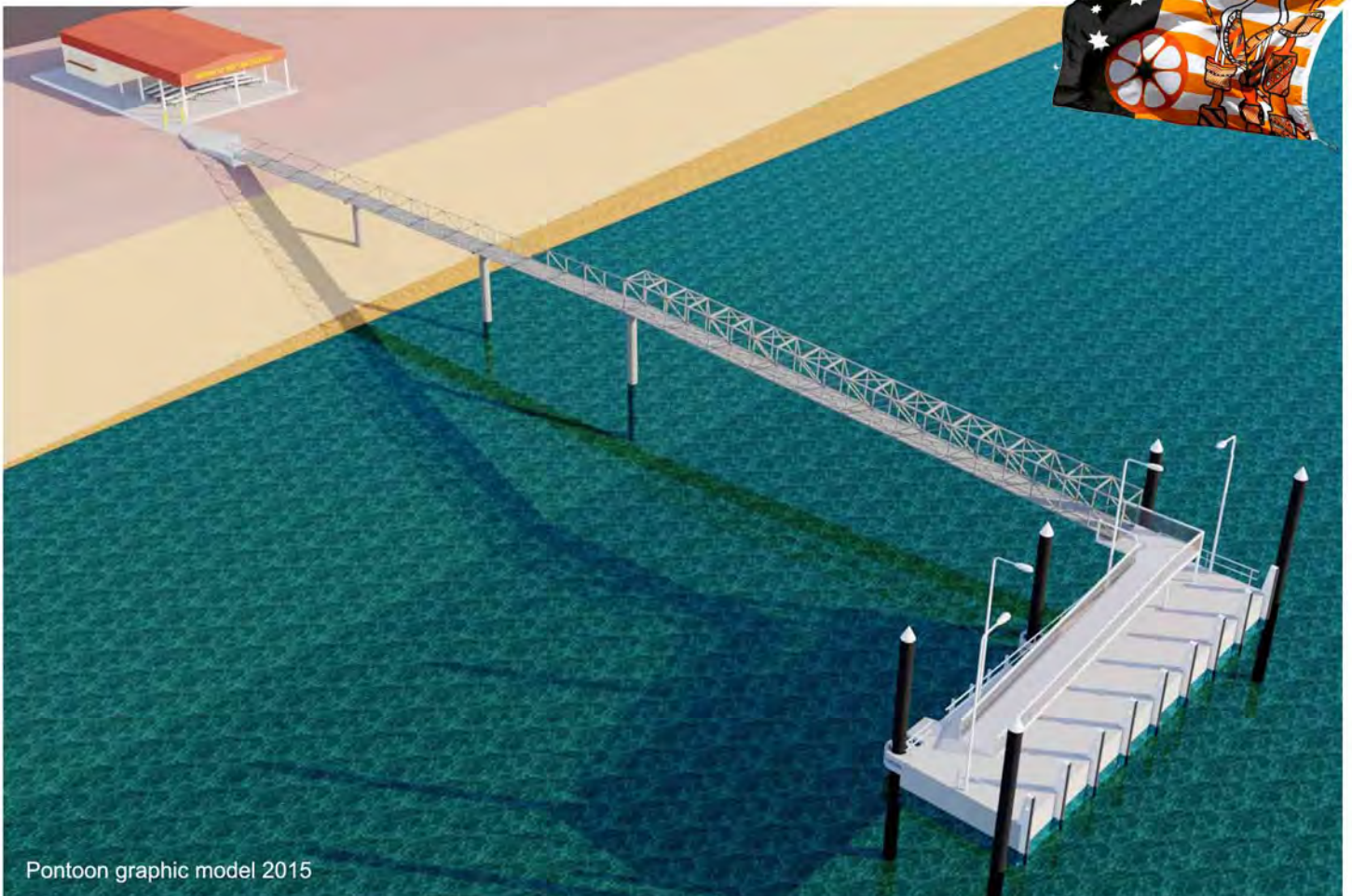


At Chief Minister's Awards for Excellence in the Public Sector: Leslie Tungatulum TLC, Luana Cormac, Director Economic Policy Projects, Wesley Kerinaiaua TLC, John Wislon TLC, Murray MacAllister, Business Development Officer



See you in 2016

Ferry pontoons and a welcome centre planned on Bathurst and Melville Island



Pontoon graphic model 2015