



THE TIWI

NEWS for
Traditional
Owners



NEWS from your LAND Council

Good to know

Healthy banana plants are back at Milikapiti. See page 3



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Chairman's Words

Welcome to our April/May edition of *The Tiwi*. Again I pass on our condolences to family who have lost loved ones over the past weeks.

We are coming to the end to what has been a very wet, wet season, with a couple of cyclones threatening but not directly hitting us.

And of course we welcome the Dry Season with our Traditional Kulama ceremony which reminds us of new beginnings, leaving old arguments behind, remembering family that have left us and feeling happy that the good hunting season starts as well as the chance to spend quality time with our families and friends.

Congratulations to Muluwurri Magpies who made it back to back in the

Congratulations to our very own Robbie Collins who became the first Tiwi to win a Logie Award for Best New Talent. An amazing achievement which all of his Tiwi family and friends are extremely proud of. Just goes to show Tiwi people can achieve great things in life, even off the footy field!

TIFL Grand Final after a ripper game against a proud Tapalinga Superstars. After a great Tiwi Footy weekend last year, all reports were that this years Grand Final was even better! A big thanks to Chris Smith, the TIFL Board and Tiwi Islands Regional Council for putting on another great Tiwi weekend showcasing to the world what is good about our Tiwi Lives.

The Grand Final weekend started with the Patakijiyali Museum Opening of the Tiwi Sports Hall of Fame on the Friday. A big congratulations to Sr Anne, Fiona, Maggie and Gerarda for their amazing work putting this together with Sr Anne handing over the keys of the museum to Tiwi people being a highlight of the ceremony and being a real springboard to us Tiwi people to take control of our own lives.

*Gibson F. Illortaminni,
Chairman TLC*



Photo Snow.com.au

Rob Collins

Executive Management Committee

EMC's Notes



Tiwi Land Council Executive Management Committee

Awana!

The Tiwi Land Council Executive Management Committee hope that you and your family all had a happy and safe Easter.

As time is flying and we are coming into the dry season already! And we are looking forward to it - what a Wet Season we had, with weather records being broken all over the NT including that very cold day we had when that last Tropical Low for the season passed over us all.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all Tiwi communities for your cautious and sensible use of the roads in and around your community during the Wet Season. Also thank you to our police, medical staff and emergency response teams on the Islands for your attentive, professional monitoring and action of weather events we encountered this Wet.

The communication by the police was as usual a cut above. And a fond farewell to former OIC at Pirlangimpi – Ben Higgins. He will be missed and we wish him well in his new role.

In other news Tiwi Land Council held its first full meeting for this year at Wurrumiyanga. Thank you to all of those who attended, always good to see you. It was a great opportunity to answer any questions our members had and to brief you on topics like the Vernon Islands, forestry and other important matters that require decisions from the full land council membership.

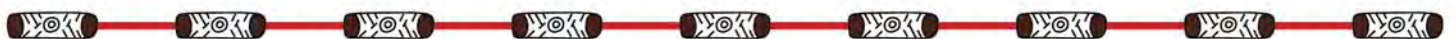
So, as we come into the dry season for 2017 enjoy the sunny weather! No doubt families will be heading out bush to go hunting, fishing, camping and feasting on that lovely bush yinkiti. Enjoy!



Executive Management Committee



Turning the wheel: Willie Rioli, Supervisor Tiwi Land Rangers sets Tiwi Seasons calendar to Dry



Banana Freckle update



Banana freckle disease was found in the NT for the first time in 2013 in banana plants near Darwin. It was found in Milikapiti in 2014. Banana freckle affects the leaves and fruit of banana plants, and while it is not harmful to humans, it affects the commercial

value of the fruit. In order to protect the banana industry, the NT and Australian Governments decided that the disease must be eradicated. There are four phases of the eradication program, and we have now reached the final stage.



Phase one ran from October 2014 to April 2015 and saw all banana plants destroyed in the area where banana freckle was found.

Phase two ran from May 2015 to April 2016. During this time no bananas were allowed to be planted in disease areas, and any regrowth of old plants was destroyed. The purpose of this stage was to make sure that any banana freckle fungus still in the ground had no banana trees to grow on, and would die.



Phase three ran from May 2016 to April 2017. On the 25th May banana plants were flown directly to Milikapiti from a disease free area. These plants acted as "sentinel" plants to see if there was any live fungus still in the soil. They have been checked regularly by Milikapiti Farm staff and Tiwi Rangers to see if the disease is still present.



Phase four runs from May 2017 onwards. Tiwi Land Rangers did the final inspection of sentinel plants on 3rd April, and sent the results to the NT Government. Rangers saw no sign of the disease, and if the NT Government agrees then they can say that it has finally been eradicated from Milikapiti.



Banana freckle disease

It has been a long road since 2014, but thanks to the residents of Milikapiti, Milikapiti Farm staff and Tiwi Land Rangers, we may finally be rid of this serious disease.

Healthy banana plants at Milikapiti Farm



Please help keep the Tiwi Islands pest and disease free

Late fire and feral cats bad news for Tiwi mammals



Brush-tailed Rabbit Rat

Ecologist Hugh Davies from the University of Melbourne has been working with Tiwi Land Rangers to assess the health of small mammal populations on Melville Island. They recently carried out surveys at almost 100 sites across the Island and compared the results to surveys from 15 years ago. Their findings have been published in the research journal *Diversity and Distributions*.



Hugh Davies, Jose Puruntatameri and Colin Kerinauia

“Overall we caught about 40% less animals than in the 2002 surveys. We also found that the two factors most strongly correlated with finding mammals in an area were a thick shrub layer and an absence of cats,” said Mr Davies.

Tiwi Land Ranger Supervisor Willie Rioli worked with Mr Davies on the surveys which used a variety of trapping methods including camera traps.

“The result showing less native animals isn’t good, and we are seeing more cats than before, but we are trying to play our part to save native wildlife as much as we can,” said Willie. “Fire management plays a big part, burning late in the season can do a lot of damage. We are trying to do burns early. It makes them patchy and leaves more habitat for the native wildlife, more food for them and more places to hide from cats.



We found a lot more animals in the places with thick vegetation, and a lot more cats in the open country. We’ve been burning country for thousands of years but now we have to think about cats roaming about. Cats are a tough thing on the Tiwi Islands and right around Australia.”

His final message,

“PLEASE DESEX YOUR CAT”.



Tiwi Land Rangers

Feral cat

Photo by Hugh Davis

This article is an extract from an article written by the National Environmental Science Programme’s Threatened Species Recovery Hub. The full article can be found at:

Tiwi Enterprises update

April 2017

This has been an exciting month for Tiwi Enterprises with progress on many fronts. The highlights include the following.



Tiwi Contractors Pty Ltd

A detailed story is on page 8 of this edition. This is an example of one successful Tiwi business starting another Tiwi business to improve employment opportunities for Tiwi who are willing to work. We now receive daily requests from community members for a meaningful job because our valued staff are seen to be receiving specialist training and they have the opportunity to use the training on the job.

Milikapiti Workshop

At long last we have been able to recruit an experienced mechanic to open up the Tiwi Enterprises workshop at Milikapiti. His name is Michael Hewton. He has had a lot of 4x4 experience as well as many years working in remote communities. Michael will be able to maintain community owned vehicles even though his number one duty is to maintain the Tuparipiya Bus fleet, which we hope to expand prior to the next wet season to avoid the loading restrictions we have all experienced this wet season. The opening of this new community facility is only possible because of access to accommodation from the Tiwi Islands Regional Council and the transfer of facilities by TITEB. This is an example of the community working together for the benefit of all residents. We hope to employ local trade assistants in the very new future as the demand for repairs increases.

Nguiu Garage

Unfortunately Colin Paarman has resigned after two solid years work and providing excellent training to our local staff. Based upon the improved skill levels of our Tiwi staff we have upgraded Jonathon Hunter to assistant manager and leading hand on the workshop floor. Congratulations Tuyu! In early April our new garage manager Chad Condran arrived to take charge of the Nguiu Garage. He appears to be enjoying being back in a community after extensive experience in other communities in both Queensland and the Northern Territory. It has not taken Chad long to find some of the local fishing spots. We welcome Chad to our team, and look forward to him continuing the good work we have become used to at the Nguiu Garage.



Tiwi Enterprises update

April 2017



SEALINK

Northern Territory



Travel Services

We now have the FLY TIWI booking agency in our Wurrumiyanga office to go along with our existing SEALINK and TUPARIPIYA Bus Service booking agencies. If people in Pirlangimpi and Milikapiti are using Master card or Visa to pay for their travel we can make the bookings with telephone calls to our office on 8978 3755 or by ringing the service operator directly.

**FOR BOOKINGS
CALL OUR WURRUMIYANGA OFFICE
Ph: 8978 3755**

Hire Cars

The Tiwi Enterprises Directors have had to call a temporary halt to hiring vehicles to Tiwi customers because of the continued extensive damage being done to the vehicles by clients not complying with the rules, and then not being willing or able to pay for the damage caused by their action. Examples are a driver with a Blood reading of *195 at midnight after driving into a power pole, and another letting an unlicensed driver use a vehicle and who then drove the vehicle into a fence. We will be taking legal action in an attempt to recover the cost of the damages to various vehicles. All eight twin cabs have been destroyed by Tiwi Drivers who have broken the hire rules.

Barge Freight Shed

Our third round of staff skills training has taken place with certificates issued to several new Tiwi Enterprises starters as forklift drivers and some with MR truck licences. We were able to have five TIRC staff trained as forklift drivers and Piliy-amyirra store staff trained both as forklift drivers and MR truck licences. We expect this skills training of Tiwi workers will be an ongoing service we can share with other community organisations. All our staff have to be licensed prior to them being permitted to operate any Tiwi Enterprises equipment as part of our WORK HEALTH program.

Ray Allwright, Tiwi Enterprises



Mantiyupwi Family update



99 Year Lease

It is great to report that the Tiwi Land Council has been able to amend the rental payment details for the 99 Year lease of Wurrumiyanga from once a year to twice a year to the Mantiyupwi family Trust. This amendment will mean that the first land rental payment to any Aboriginal group in Australia should occur this month as the Mantiyupwi Family Trust has fully repaid the cash advance it received on signing the lease in 2007. It is expected that at least \$750,000 will be received each year. There is a legal requirement that all lease receipts are to be invested by the Mantiyupwi Family Trust for the ongoing benefit of all of the Mantiyupwi Family.

The directors will also be focussing on the repayment of loans received from both Wulirankuwu and Djurupuwu, who have showed strong belief and commitment in Mantiyupwi's development projects, which have brought benefit to the Wurrumiyanga community as a whole. This is a very significant achievement for the whole community, particularly since Ranku and Milikapiti have also signed similar leases with Commonwealth of Australia and will also reach this point in the years ahead.



Photo: Mantiyupwi Family with Sen. Nigel Scullion, Minister Indigenous Affairs and Greg Roche, Executive Director Office of Township Leasing

Old Clinic

The sub-lease of the old clinic and four flats was recently obtained by the Mantiyupwi Family Trust and the directors have asked for development proposals to be prepared for the Directors detailed consideration. A building engineer has already inspected the old clinic area which has not been in use for many years. The engineers report has indicated that 60% of the building is usable in any renovation which would save several hundred thousands of dollars in development cost. The four flats will be inspected by an engineer in the near future and it is expected the engineer will recommend a major renovation of the four flats.

Mantiyupwi Motel

Major maintenance has been carried out on the buildings that were rented to Red Cross and the rooms are now used as motel rooms. With the building work now in progress within the community the demand for workers accommodation has been very high. Lately all 50 rooms have been rented out to various clients. We are receiving many congratulations from motel clients for the quality of the motel facilities and the excellent work of our Tiwi Staff in servicing the motel rooms.

Barge Freight Shed

Unfortunately the NT Government has not yet completed the paper work for the Office of Township Leasing to issue a sub-lease. Thus Mantiyupwi is currently reimbursed any operating cost for the two regular barge services.



Tiwi Contractors Pty Ltd



Tiwi Contractors Pty Ltd is a new joint venture company that has been established between Tiwi Enterprises Pty Ltd and DT Hobbs Pty Ltd. This venture builds on the existing MOU between the 2 businesses. The venture is aimed at ensuring work in the construction industry is awarded to Tiwi owned organisations, and will provide employment and training opportunities for Tiwi workers. The Tiwi Directors are Barry Puruntatameri and Andrew Bush. The new company is 51% owned by Tiwi Enterprises, which is 100% owned by all Tiwi families.

To get the new company working three Tiwi Enterprises development tasks are to be undertaken by the new company. Funding for three projects has already been finalised by Tiwi Enterprises. The projects are as follows:

- Development of the Wulirankuwu Motel at Milikapiti.
- Establishment of a residence for the manager of the Tuparipiya Bus Service at Milikapiti.
- Construction of Training facilities at the Milikapiti farm.

This new company is looking to have long term employment for Tiwi Workers with the opportunity for Tiwi staff to be trained in various roles within the building industry. It is expected work in all Tiwi communities will occur from time to time. We are interested in providing other Tiwi organisations with fixed prices and completion times on any project they are planning. It is understood that in the near future many major building projects are in the pipeline for the Tiwi Islands, based upon recent press announcements from the NT Government.



Tiwi Contractors Directors and Management Team

Climate Change workshop at Wurrumiyanga



John Wilson, Tiwi Land Council

On the 4th April the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility held a workshop at Wurrumiyanga about climate change. The purpose of the workshop was to talk about what rising sea levels could look like on the Tiwi Islands, and what we might be able to do about it.

After introductions we all went down to the boat shed to measure where the high tides might come up to in the years 2030, 2050, 2070 and 2090. This exercise made us think about future planning, and ask questions like: Where should new buildings go? Where should we not put new buildings? Which direction should the community grow? And what planning decisions now are best for our grandchildren?

There was a lot of information shared, and a lot of interest from the people who came along. It was decided that organisations across the Tiwi Islands should form a group that meets a few times a year to look at how we manage future sea level rises. So far the organisations who agreed to be part of that group are TLC, TIRC, Tiwi Rangers, community representatives, OTL and the NT Government's community planning department.

If your organisation would like to be part of the group please contact the TLC Manager for Land and Resources Kate Hadden on 8944 8416. We will try for a meeting in May or June.

Kate Hadden, Tiwi Land Council



Awana Mamunta of Tiwi College



Stuart Ward Principal of Tiwi College with his mentor and previous Principal Ian Smith

Introducing the new Principal

My name is Stuart Ward, I came from Melbourne to the Tiwi Islands in 2015 as the Senior Young Men's Teacher. As of this term I am honoured to have been given the opportunity by the TEB to serve as Principal of Tiwi College. I have had the pleasure of meeting many Tiwi people already through my involvement in sports coaching with the Senior Young Men, as well as my involvement with Muluwurri Magpies. I look forward to meeting more of you in the future as I continue to work to help make a brighter future for the young Tiwi people. This term I am lucky to have an experienced and supportive leadership team behind me with our previous Principal Ian Smith as my mentor, Assistant Principals Ailsa MacFie and Sila Pati and new Family Group Home Coordinator Isoa Waqairagata.

This term's highlights

Academy

In the beginning of Term 2 the Academies will team up with the Red Dust team: Wayne Glenn – Musician, Steve Lane - Musician, Nicolas Hirons - Red Dust role model, Will Minson - AFL Footballer and Cathy Matthews – Athlete. The Music Program will merge with our Athletics carnival. This will provide an opportunity for our students to show both their athletic prowess and musical abilities. The Academies are also busy planning the Strong Culture Program's end of term Culture Camp. The focus of this camp is on Tiwi, kinship/tribes, language & songs.

Academic

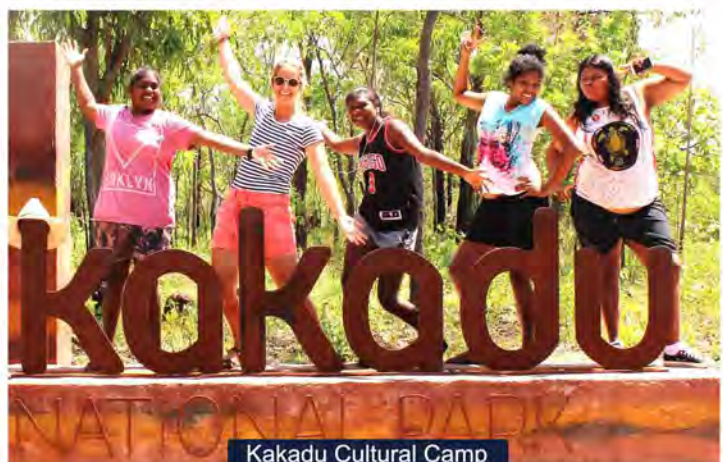
The Academic calendar brings the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) for our year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students. The Senior Young Men will be taking part in the Construction program and First Aid Training. The Middle School Boys are eagerly awaiting the annual Scotch College Trip midway through the term. The relationship the school shares with the Scotch community is very special and one that grows stronger each year. The Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF) will be visiting the school on the back of the Senior Girls' most recent Scholastic published book 'Shallow in the Deep End' where they worked alongside author Jared Thomas.



Dancing at Cultural Camp



Senior Young Men taking part in level 2 First Aid course



Kakadu Cultural Camp

Awana Mamunta of Tiwi College



Hayden Reynolds

The Hayden Reynolds Tiwi College project continues to grow each year and major sponsors from the Macquarie Group will be visiting the school. As part of the project a number of students are being offered opportunities as apprentices both in the garden and broader community, with some staff acting as mentors for them. Anthony Guy and Jess Stassi have joined the Hayden Reynolds Tiwi College 'Junior Guide/Ranger Program' where visitors to the Melville Island lodge can elect to have a Tiwi junior guide with them while they explore and fish the Tiwi Islands. The opportunities our apprentices are getting is giving them invaluable skills and knowledge that will have them 'work ready' when it's time to leave the college.



Guy Reynolds and Matthew Hayden accepting a table built and painted by the Senior Young Men



Family Group Homes

The Family Group Homes are all coming together for their major event for the year, the School Fete. All members of the Tiwi Islands communities are invited to attend this event on 15th June. The students will be preparing food and drink, arts and crafts, fun activities and more to help make this day something you don't want to miss. Students will be donating a portion of their fundraising to a charity of their choice and using the remainder to make improvements to their Family Group Homes.



Pupuni Cafe at the Fete

School Leavers

Tiwi College would like to say a special congratulations to recent graduates Annis Guy (Tiwi Islands Regional Council, Road Gang), Bobette Joran (Tiwi College), Jess Stassi (Tiwi College), Kimberly Cunningham (Ranger), Ella Moreen (Tiwi Islands Regional Council, Sport and Recreation) and Shane Austral (Yapilika Forestry Centre) who have all left school and gone into employment.



Anthony Guy Tiwi College student and Junior Guide for Melville Island Lodge

The entire 'Picka Family' are all looking forward to an exciting year ahead here at 'Peaceful Picka'.



Stuart Ward
Principal Tiwi College

TIFL Grand Final 2017



Gibson F. Ilortaminni Chairman TLC, Lawrence Costa MLA, Member for Arafura, Connell Tipiloura and NT Chief Minister Michael Gunner

The **TIFL Grand Final** is the premier event of the year for the Tiwi Islands – upwards of a 1000 people attend from all around Australia and over a 1000 locals, the art galleries have their biggest day for the year and the ferry and airport carry eager tourists to our beautiful islands for the day.

This year we had the Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association doing a live call on radio and Indigenous Community TV from Alice Springs filmed the day for televising later. Special guests included Charlie King from ABC, Lawrence Costa, MLA, Member for Arafura, Marion Scrymgour, CEO, Tiwi Islands Regional Council, Ted Whitten, Vernon Lee, Chief Minister, Michael Gunner and the Minister of Sport and Tourism, Lauren Moss.



To start the Grand Final the Strong Women sang their Tiwi Footy Song and then sang the national anthem in language. Both teams came onto the ground with the coaches, officials and umpires for a statement of their commitment to the No More Campaign, with Charlie King delivering a speech about the importance of reducing family violence.

The Grand Final this year was played out between Muluwurri Magpies, returning for a chance at back to back premierships under the coaching of Scotty Daniels, and Tapalinga Superstars, coached by Connell Tipiloura, who had coached Muluwurri to their premiership in the previous season. Connell was hoping to make his own back to back premierships with two different clubs.

For the first half of the game, Muluwurri and Tapalinga appeared to be evenly matched and the scores were close.

At half time the TIFL awards were presented: Ted Whitten medal - Best and Fairest equal winners Harley Puruntameri (Ranku) and Clement Kerinaiaua (Tuyu), Edmund Johnson Award for best defender - Clement Kerinaiaua (Tuyu), the David Kantilla Leading Goalkicker – J B Kelanamatama (Pumaralli 45 goals) and the Mitchell Lee Award for the Rising Star equal winners Pio Pauatjimi (Walama) and Quinten Ross (Imalu).

In the second half of the game it became apparent that Muluwurri's training and tight on field structure was paying off in the goal square, while Tapalinga's game and structure started to fall apart.

After four 50 metre penalties given to Muluwurri which resulted in four goals, the Magpies came home, winning their back to back premiership.

The final score was Muluwurri 8.9.57 d. Tapalinga 6.11.47. The Brother Pye Award for best on ground at the grand final was given to Rodney Moreen (Muluwurri)

All in all it was a great day and TIFL would like to thank all those who contributed to making the Tiwi Islands Football League Grand Final such a great event.

Chris Smith, TIRC

