



THE TIWI

NEWS for
Traditional
Owners



NEWS from your LAND Council

Good to know

The NT Government has declared the Top End banana freckle free. All restrictions have been lifted, and bananas can again be grown and transported across the NT.



Top End map

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Chairman's Words



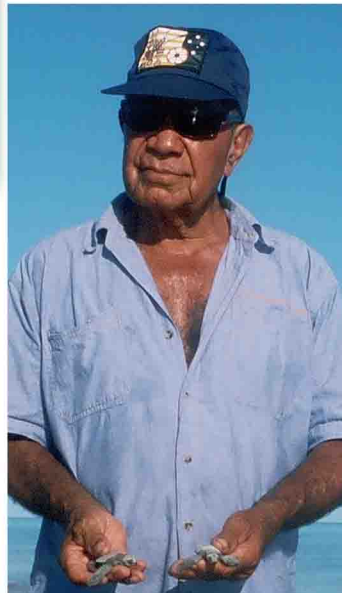
Welcome to our June/July edition of *The Tiwi*.

Again we pay our respects to family who have lost loved ones over the past couple of months.

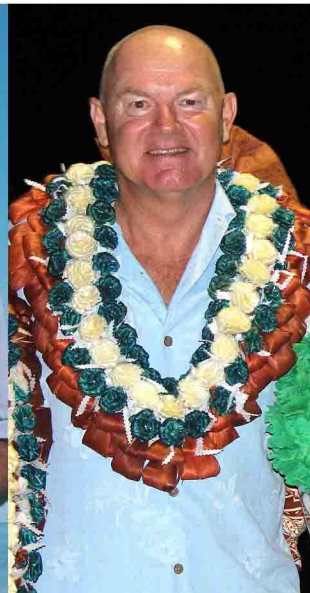
You will read in these pages about some special people who are moving to the next phase in their lives. June has been a time of farewells and celebrations for some great people who have retired after many years working for Tiwi people, and none greater than our own Jack Long, who retires after working for many years as out Marine Ranger at Pirlangimpi and having worked for many decades for all Tiwi people.

Solomone Radaniva retires as Family Group Home coordinator and councillor at the Tiwi College after eight years along with his wife Akinisi, having turned around the boarding side of the College from going through houseparents every term to today where houseparents are staying for many years.

Ian Smith also finishes up as principal of Tiwi College, having been the longest serving principal in independent schools in the Northern Territory and having turned the College around from low enrolments and attendance to something that is incredible and unheard of in indigenous education Australian wide.



Jack Long



Ian Smith



Solomone Radaniva

See page 2;
11 - 13



Tiwi Islands Fire Management Plan 2017
Included in your copy

Chairman's Words



We salute Jack, Solo and Smithy for your work with us and commitment and passion for all Tiwi people over many years.

I would also like to thank Derek Mayger who has been working as our legal adviser for the past three years and who finishes up in June. We wish Derek all the best for the future.

And while on celebrations, we welcomed Minister Scullion who helped us celebrate the signing of the Township Lease of Pirlangimpi and the handing over of the first Township Lease pay-

ment to the Mantiyupwui Traditional Owners of Wurrumiyanga, having paid back their \$5 million upfront payment in under ten years when it was expected to be fifteen years and some naysayers saying it would never be paid back. We congratulate the Munupi and Mantiyupwi Traditional Owners for their foresight and determination to make a better life for our people.

I hope everyone enjoys the bush holidays which are upon us with family and friends and spending quality time on country.

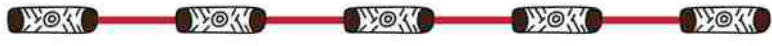
Mana,

*Gibson Farmer Illortaminni
Chairman Tiwi Land Council*



See page 3

Mantiyupwi Family and Wurrumiyanga community celebrates on 26th June 2017



Farewell to Anthony Puruntatameri



Anthony Puruntatameri

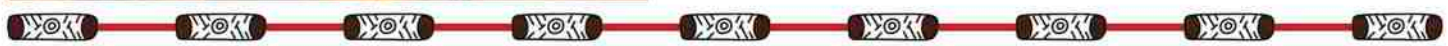


Anthony (Numra) Puruntatameri worked for Tiwi Plantations Corporation for over 6 years. He began work as part of our fire crew becoming very handy driving a tanker. He then moved onto the Harvest crew driving a chip truck.

Numra, bush name for Killa, is a very friendly guy, always up for a laugh and a chat. Numra's family are buried at the back of the airstrip, so he has great ties with this land and is a role model not only amongst the Tiwi People but all people on the island.

He was a very valuable part of our work crew and he will be missed amongst all here at Yapilika Forestry Centre.

Tiwi Plantations Corporation



Mantiyupwi Family celebrates



2007

Repayment of \$5 million in 10 years

2017

First 99 Year lease agreement signed



Walter Kerinauia and Minister Mal Brough signing Township Leasing agreement 2007, which included an upfront payment of \$5 million

First payment by the Australian Government for long-term rent of Aboriginal Homelands



On 26th June the Minister for Indigenous Affairs (Nigel Scullion) visited Wurrumiyanga to hand over the first cheque for land rent under the 99 Year lease agreement signed in 2007. The initial amount paid was \$616,759.02 and it is expected the 2018 payment will exceed \$750,000. These payments will be annual payments until the end of the 99 year agreement. The money is required to be invested with the profits from any investments being available for the Mantiyupwi Directors to allocate to the Mantiyupwi Family members.

The Mantiyupwi Directors invited the Wurrumiyanga community to a public meeting with the Minister and BBQ so that the whole community could witness and enjoy the Minister's visit. This is the first payment by the Australian Government for long-term rent of Aboriginal Homelands.

The foresight of previous leaders will ensure annual payments in the future years will increase by CPI (Consumer Price Index) each year. *Ray Allwright*



Pirlangimpi Township lease



Photos courtesy of the Office of Township Leasing

Munupi Corporation Limited (Munupi) warmly welcomes the decision of the Tiwi Land Council to ratify a Township Lease that has been approved by traditional Aboriginal owners for the community of Pirlangimpi, on Melville Island.



Munupi Chairperson Therese Puruntatameri said, “This decision marks the end of many years of hard work, discussions and negotiations and is an important milestone in the future of our clan group and community. However, we recognise that now begins the hard work to progress economic development and prepare a foundation to build wealth for our people.

We have been supported by the Tiwi Land Council throughout this journey, and so I wish to thank the TLC Chairman, Gibson Farmer Illortaminni, the TLC Executive and their team for the careful work which has taken place in order for this moment to arrive.

I also wish to warmly thank the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator Nigel Scullion, who has consistently encouraged us through this process and whose staff have worked with us closely to achieve this result.

At such a time, I take a moment to remember the old people of our clan group who are no longer with us, but who would be very proud of us making these tough decisions in an effort to take control of and assume responsibility for the future of our clan group and land.

We will encourage business development and job creation throughout the town lease area, as work and opportunity are key to the development of our clan members and community. We look forward to being responsible to the development of our community and for shaping our own destiny.

Munupi Corporation thanks the elders, the Tiwi Land Council and all those who have contributed to this historic outcome. Now the hard work truly begins”.

While this lease will firstly be held by the Executive Director of Township Leasing, it is our aim to, as quickly as possible, develop and build the required confidence in our own township lease corporation so that transfer of the lease from the EDTL to community control can occur sooner rather than later. At that time, we will be able to perform our functions as true land owners and take responsibility for Pirlangimpi and its future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Munupi family groups who have been on this long journey and made the decision to take this lease.

Signing 99 year lease for Pirlangimpi 26 June 2017



L to R: Kim Puruntatameri, Munupi Trustee; Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs; Stanley Tipiloura, Chairman of Trustees; Greg Roche, Executive Director Office of Township Leasing



L to R: Penny Weedon, Director Office of Township Leasing; Lawrence Costa, MLA; Dennis Tipakalippa, Munupi; Kim Puruntatameri, Munupi Trustee; Gibson F. Illortaminni, Chairman Tiwi Land Council

Executive Management Committee

EMC's Notes



Tiwi Land Council Executive Management Committee



Awana!

It's been a very busy start to the Dry Season for us here at the Land Council. Many of TLC's Executive Management Committee members have been representing the TLC and the Tiwi Islands by attending a variety of events & meetings from Alice Springs to Katherine to Melbourne!



Some of you would be familiar with the 'Room to Breathe' remote housing based project, which is moving along quickly. Gibson Farmer, Leslie Tungatulum and John Wilson have been attending these workshops in Darwin and know this project well if anyone wishes to discuss what it's about.



Brian Tipungwuti has been travelling to Darwin to sit on the Coastal & Marine Management Committee as well as the Indigenous Land Management Advisory Group in Darwin.

Also in early June, Chairman Gibson Farmer and David Guy attended the NLC meeting in Katherine across a few days. At that meeting the NLC endorsed the transfer of the Vernon Islands to Tiwi people. It is/will become part of the Mantiyupwi land owning group. We'd like to thank all those at the NLC who assisted in this long process of making this happen.



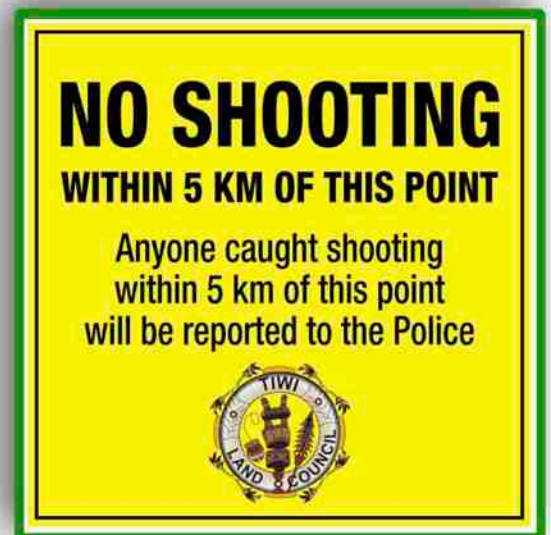
And, Tiwi Land Council's Chairman Gibson Farmer, Executive Manager Leslie Tungatulum and CEO Brian Clancy attended a two-day Biannual strategic forum in Alice Springs, with the other three NT Land Councils and Federal Government to discuss various issues.



We'd like to take this opportunity as well to congratulate Munupi TO's on their new Township lease at Pirlangimpi – it's taken lots of negotiating and a lot of hard work by many people over a long period to get to the official signing on the 26th of June!

As you can see, these are busy times for us here at the TLC. Our team are performing on your behalf - representing the Tiwi Islands in a lot of different ways.

Have a fantastic Bush Holiday everyone!



And one more important thing: Last Dry Season there were a few reports of people with firearms hunting buffalo a little too close to populated areas like Pickataramoor & Tiwi College. For safety reasons, you will soon see these signs around the place. To help prevent any accidents, they will be put in place to remind people to be really careful when using firearms in certain parts of the islands.



Executive Management Committee

Cats



Feral cats are a huge problem in Australia, with about 18 million in number and increasing every year. Feral cats eat birds, insects, reptiles, and animals such as possums, bandicoots and even small wallabies. Recent work on the Tiwi Islands has shown that feral cats are having a very bad impact on Tiwi animals, and that more and more families are keeping pet cats. One cat with her kittens can end up producing 571 cats in one year.



Feral cats can also carry infectious diseases such as toxoplasmosis and sarcosporidiosis, which can be passed on to native animals and humans. If rabies were to be accidentally introduced into Australia, there is a high risk that feral cats would be carriers of the disease.



Willie Rioli and Colin Kerinaiaua with kittens for de-sexing ('the operation')

Cats are difficult to control - they are shy, do not take baits readily, move around mostly at night and are difficult to shoot.



So what can we do?

Recent research has shown that late, hot fires make it easier for cats to hunt, so one thing we can do is:

- **burn earlier.**

Another thing we can do is try to stop cats from going bush and becoming feral. This can be done by:

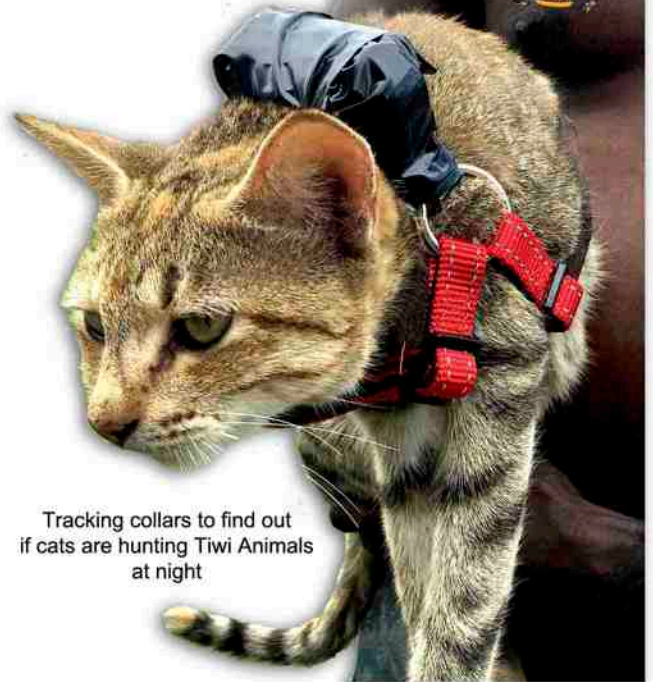
- **discouraging people from keeping cats as pets**
- **making sure community owned cats - girls and boys - have the operation so they can't have kittens**
- **keeping cats inside at night so they don't hunt Tiwi animals**
- **not bringing new cats to the Islands**
- **controlling rats and mice by putting baits in the ceilings.**



Cats



The Tiwi Land Council recently received some money from the Federal Government to do education and awareness at Wurrumiyanga about pet cats. Tiwi Land Rangers have been working with staff from AMRRIC (Remote Vets) and researchers from the University of New England on the project. They have been talking to people about cats and whether they should or should not be allowed on the Tiwi Islands, as well as visiting MCPS and doing activities with students. They also put collars on cats so they could track where they went at night-time and see if they were hunting Tiwi animals. Part of the project was to offer free de-sexing to stop new kittens being born, and 28 cats had the operation on the first vet visit. There will be a second vet visit in early July for anyone who wants their cat to have the operation.



Tracking collars to find out if cats are hunting Tiwi Animals at night



MCPS student helping vet Stephen Cutter and researcher Brooke Kennedy tattoo a cat's ear to show it has been de-sexed



The team would like to thank all of the Wurrumiyanga residents for the cooperation they showed during the work. The Tiwi Land Council would like to thank the team for all their hard work, both on the Islands and back in the office.

In the meantime, we should all do what we can to keep the Tiwi Islands cat free.

*Kate Hadden
Tiwi Land Council*



Night camera



The Team - vet Stephen Cutter, Wendy Brown, Caitlin Maher, Colin Kerinauia, Willie Rioli, Brooke Kennedy, Courtney Falls absent from photo



Colin Kerinauia and Caitlin Maher set cameras to find out, if cats are hunting outside the community at night-time.



Matt Wright and Jake Winston

Can I start by saying, since my appointment as deputy CEO it has been pretty full on. The position such as this has been very challenging, but with the support from my family our council/staff, my role now has become a lot settled and I look forward to better assisting our people in years to come.

Now that the wet season is over, I hope that most of you find some time to get families out bush for the holidays, as I know the kids will enjoy cooler months around the camp fire..

As we go forward the TLC has been facilitating Tiwi business like our own forestry and Port with further opportunities of investment, so we have more jobs and training for Tiwi to apply for. We would like more Tiwi people to be involved with our projects and encourage those of you interested to take up the positions as they are advertised.

Over the past few months, sadly we have had a lot of people passing on and I send my condolences to those of you all affected.

Further more, I would like to send a special thanks to Matt Wright - Outback Wrangler for giving up his time to spend with Little Jake Winston of Paru outstation, who sadly lost his mum recently.

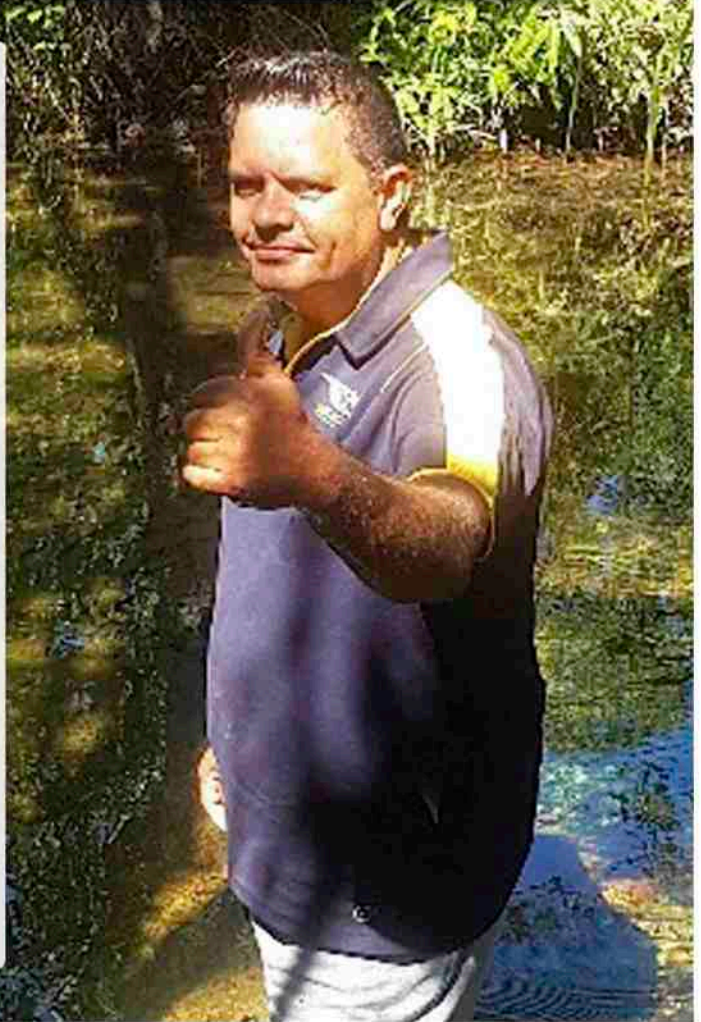
Jake has taken the loss of his mum very hard and found the tv shows Outback Wrangler amusing. So I made a call to Matt to visit Jake, and since then the pair has become friends. Matt has taken Jake on a wrangler buffalo muster over Mantiyupwi country, which has been great - a highlight for Jake. Once again a big thanks to Matt.

I look forward to working with everyone so that we can create a brighter Tiwi future.

Best wishes to you all.

Mana

*Andrew Tipungwuti
Deputy CEO
Tiwi Land Council*



Science Reference Committee



The 9th meeting of the Tiwi Land Council/University of Melbourne Science Reference Committee was held at the University of Melbourne on the 27th April this year.

As usual there was great and lively discussion about research projects ranging from health and DNA to climate change and fire. Researchers who had already done work on the Tiwi Islands provided reports to the Committee, and their projects included collecting and storing Tiwi data for Tiwi use, how different burning affects small mammals and tree growth, and updates on health research carried out over many years.

We said goodbye to Janet Hergt who had chaired the Committee over the past few years, and hello to Peter Vesk taking over the role. Janet was a great Chair, and Peter has big shoes to fill.



Gibson F. Ilortaminni, Chairman TLC and Peter Vesk, Chair SRC

Upcoming projects agreed by the Committee included setting up a Tiwi Climate Change Group to meet and discuss responses to issues like sea level rise and community planning, researching how turtle eggs might respond to higher sea levels, studies on fish stocks in Tiwi creeks and rivers, and supporting Tiwi ownership and management of Tiwi information. All of these projects will be run by Tiwi, but supported by the best of the best scientists from the University.



An exciting talk was given by Murrup Barak, which is the University of Melbourne's Institute for Indigenous Development. The Institute works with Indigenous students to make sure they have the support they need to study away from home. We will provide more information about this assistance in future issues of 'The Tiwi'. It would be great if, at future meetings of the SRC, a Tiwi scientist is sitting on the university side of the table!

*Kate Hadden
Tiwi Land Council*



On Patrol



Tiwi Marine Rangers have been out on patrol by boat and vehicle, keeping an eye out for anything unusual or illegal happening on the land and sea.

Milikapiti Rangers Cecil Black and Bronson Mungatopi have done several road patrols over the last couple of months to Jessie River, Goose Creek, Condor Point and Cape Gambier. They also did a joint vessel patrol with NT Fisheries Police between Milikapiti and Jessie River. As part of their Fisheries Compliance training, they interviewed some recreational fishermen to make sure they were doing the right thing.

Pirlangimpi Ranger James Desantis has also been busy patrolling creeks along the Apsley Strait, and the north and west coasts of Melville Island. He's also been working with NT Fisheries maintaining the oyster trial at Garden Point, and regularly checking up on the nesting progress of terns on Seagull Island.

Both Milikapiti and Pirlangimpi Marine Rangers have worked jointly with Tiwi Land Rangers doing marine debris surveys, and aquatic bio-security inspections to make sure no pests and diseases come onto the Islands by sea. You can help them this Bush Holidays by taking all of your rubbish home from camping. Don't leave it around for the Rangers to pick up. Rubbish left on beaches can kill turtles and birds and other marine animals.

Kate Hadden, Tiwi Land Council



James Desantis with Land Rangers Colin Kerinauia, Willie Rioli and Willie Rpberts



Picking up marine debris on Seagull Island



Colin takes a GPS reading on marine debris



Colin and James on patrol

Jack Long retirement

Tiwi Marine Ranger



L to R: Brian Clancy, CEO TLC, Robert Tipungwuti, former Chairman and members of Tiwi Land Council congratulate and thank Jack Long

After nearly twenty years working as our Marine Ranger at Pir-langimpi and decades more working for and with all Tiwi people, we celebrated the retirement of Jack Long at the Full TLC meeting in June.

It is difficult to find a greater man than Jack Long. A humble, hard working family man that included his adopted brother, Walter Kerinauia and family, Jack has always provided Tiwi people with a never ending supply of fish, turtle, dugong, magpie geese, buffalo and mangrove worms!

Whilst our people, have, for centuries relied upon the great waters that surround our Islands', only rarely do they attract respect from the bravest among us able to understand their moods and currents. Our Senior Marine Ranger is one of them whose work has also nurtured the skills and respect of others. Respect for the sea. Respect for vessels under his command. Respect for his Tiwi Kerinauia family who, along with us all, have been grateful for his work.

Jack, we have valued your hours on patrol; your help to those of us in peril at sea, and the strength of your knowledge founded upon your respect for others and for the Islands we call home. You may have come to us from the desert, but your life has been lived among us and is Tiwi in every way. You are at home.

Enjoy your retirement Jack; it has been hard earned and richly deserved.

Tiwi Land Council



Jack Long



Farewell to Smithy and Anne



Ian Smith and his wife art teacher Anne McMaster

Ian Smith came to us as principal of Tiwi College in 2011 when the Tiwi Education Board took full control of the College operations.

The TEB successfully targeted Smithy to become principal due largely to his history and passion of working with Tiwi people, having worked as a teacher at Xavier CEC in 2001/2

The role of principal of Tiwi College is not the usual job description. The College is remote, with its own power generation, water, sewage, housing, roads, vehicles needed to bring students in and out of communities, airstrip..... As principal, Smithy was responsible and had to manage all of that and more on a daily basis and 24/7. That he was able to do this and run a school at the same time for over six years is testament to his commitment, organisational ability and professionalism.

The decision to employ Smithy as principal has proven to be a master stroke. There were many challenges when he came to the College. Enrolment had been very low and attendance rates were disastrous, placing the College in a financially precarious position. We had major student behaviour issues, poor educational outcomes, low staff morale and high staff turnover. 2011 was tough. Making the required changes took time and an incredible amount of patience and effort but Smithy persisted.

In 2012, we could see the tide turning and from 2013 to today something very special happened. Enrolment is now around 80 students and growing, attendance rates are hovering around the 80% mark which, in remote secondary indigenous education, is unheard of Australia wide, we had our first cohort of five year 12 senior female students complete their NT Certificate in 2016, our senior boys are actively part of our SEDA program.



Farewell celebration at Picka

This list goes on, we are achieving incredible student retention rates, over 90% staff retention rates, year in, year out. The 'Culture' of the Tiwi College has grown strength and resilience. Behaviour issues have been managed by the implementation of our Restorative Justice programs. Long term Partnerships have been created with Matthew Hayden, Guy Reynolds and Macquarie Bank, Red Dust, KPMG, Scotch College, Northern Territory and Federal Governments. Over \$8 million worth of infrastructure improvements to the College though grants and other means have come in over these last few years to the point where the college is financially heathy and sustainable. The list seriously does go on and on.

And the Leader of these changes, successful funding applications, implementation of these programs and relationships and this incredible turnaround was Ian Smith. There is no question in my mind that Smithy needs to well and truly take the lion's share of credit for the success of the Tiwi College. He built the team around him to tackle the tough issues and it is the Tiwi people who are reaping the rewards of his continued passion and belief in the Tiwi vision of a successful, rewarding and happy future for their children and children's children.

Smithy can be proud of the work that he has done over many years with us and we wish him every success into the future.

Brian Clancy, CEO Tiwi Land Council

Farewell to Solo and Akinisi



In the early years of Solo's tenure, the school was very much in its embryonic stage and there was a high turn-over of staff and students. This added to the difficulty of the school establishing an identity and culture to which students and staff alike could embrace.

To his credit, he took on the challenge as Family Group Home Coordinator in 2010 and assisted the Leadership Team to identify Family Group Home parents that, like he, had the resolve and commitment to work at Tiwi College for a term longer than the average, which at the time, was 6-12 months! Testimony to his ability to assess people and their potential, staff that were employed on his recommendation are still here at Tiwi College, after beginning their tenure in 2011 and 2012.

The boarding precinct of Tiwi College was of major concern prior to Solo's tenure as FGH Coordinator. By 2012 it was very apparent that this had become an engaging and calming aspect of our school for the young Tiwi in our care. Under his guidance and wisdom, FGH parents had a clear plan for providing quality care and Lifeskills education for the young Tiwi. Staff committed themselves for 5 year tenures. Boarding for students quickly turned to being a "home away from home", with a settled environment in which to live on campus.

Akinisi resigned from her role in December 2016. During her time here, she committed herself completely to her role as a "Family Group Home Parent" of teenage boys.

Akinisi is an extremely quiet and softly spoken lady, thus creating the right environment for the young Tiwi in her care, came through her actions. No matter what the circumstances, Akinisi persevered with her guidance and care, until her boarding environment became a Home.

At Tiwi College, we have some wonderful buildings and classrooms however it is the relationships between people that makes our school community a great one. Akinisi personifies the epitome of the relationships based culture to which we all constantly aspire. She has had many young Tiwi men in her care and without a doubt all of them have fallen in respectful love with her and her ways. She should feel proud of the Lifeskills passed onto these young men, who will now have the best possible chance to go on to be loving husbands and fathers.



Solomone Radaniva and Akinisi Domolala

As a couple, they will be sorely missed at Pickataramoor. They have brought much wisdom and guidance to us all. They have role modelled a loving & caring relationship through testing times and have had a calming influence on the students of Tiwi College since 2009. They should leave feeling much pride of the legacy they have provided to this community as a whole.

On behalf of the Tiwi people, we wish them well on their next exciting journey of their lives. We hope it is filled with happiness. *Tiwi College*



Anne McMaster, Ian Smith, Akinisi Domolala, Jennifer and Brian Clancy at farewell celebration at Pickataramoor



Since the last edition of *The Tiwi* our willing workers at Milikapiti have completed the Training Facilities at the Milikapiti farm and the residence for the Tuparipya Bus Service manager. It is expected the official opening of the training facilities will take place in July with our valued local member, Lawrence Costa, doing the official opening.

In addition we have successfully completed our first eight “Room to Breathe” projects at Milikapiti on time and within budget. Room To Breathe is an NT Government program to build additional living spaces onto existing houses, and is aimed at improving remote housing and creating local jobs.

It is hoped that these eight jobs will be seen as the first of many “Room to Breathe” jobs on the Tiwi Islands for Tiwi workers. I am pleased to be able report that we have achieved a 55% Indigenous employment rate with these projects. Our six local workers have done quality work in their own community.

Our first major project at Wurrumiyanga has started with the purchasing of materials to build a Morgue. At this time we expect the building to be completed by the end of August 2017. This project is being funded by the NT Government. The employment of additional local building workers at Wurrumiyanga will commence in the near future as the construction of the Morgue will be closely followed by the construction of five additional homes for NT Housing in Forestry.

Discussions are in progress for several projects for various Tiwi owned facilities to follow on the work currently scheduled. All indications are pointing to a very successful first year for Tiwi Contractors P/L which has Tiwi Enterprises as its major partner.



Magpie Goose hunting



Magpie Geese are an important and healthy food resource for Tiwi people. Traditional Owners from Goose Creek want to manage their area so that goose numbers stay high, and the birds stay fat and healthy. It is important to look after these populations so that tomorrow's children and grandchildren can enjoy the same food as people today.

Traditional Owners of Goose Creek have respectfully asked that Goose Hunting in their area is only carried out during certain times of the year. Closing areas off to hunting is needed to keep goose numbers high, and to allow adult birds to breed and produce more young. Seasonal closures across the NT have been shown by scientists to keep populations healthy for the future.

This year the Goose Creek geese hunting season will open in August, and stay open until January 2018. Please do not take geese before August, and after January next year.

Traditional Owners of Goose Creek

It's Burning Time!



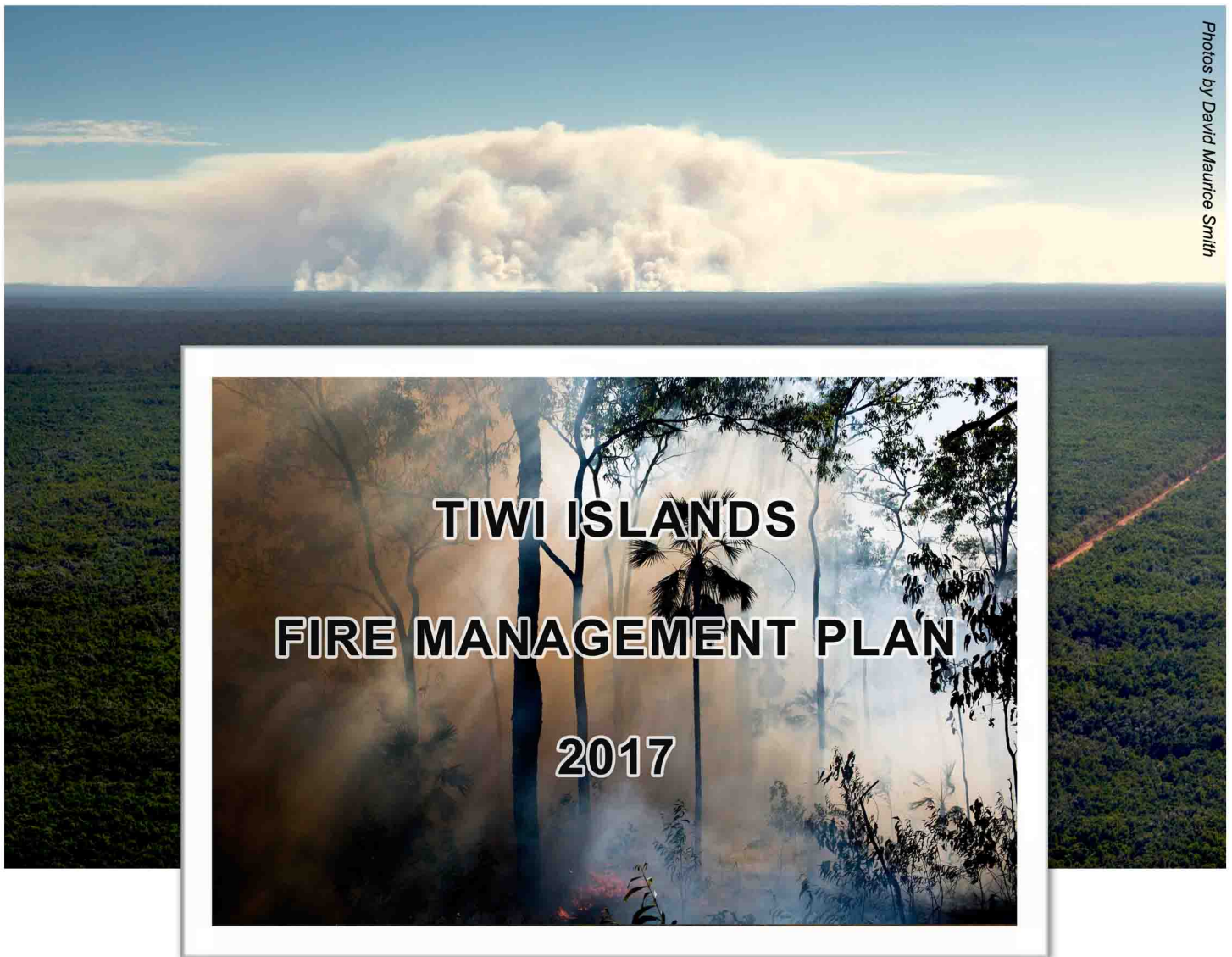
Kimirrakinari – ends in July

Traditional Owners have been meeting through the Tiwi Islands Fire Committee to plan for the 2017 fire season. Scientists have shown us that if country is burnt early in the dry season instead of late, it protects Tiwi plants and animals, and saves carbon going into the air.

This means getting out and burning country earlier, and putting in firebreaks so that late fires don't run. It also helps to protect our forest industry by keeping hot fires out of the plantations.

A big pat on the back to everyone for the 2016 fire season. Last year most of the burning was done early, and there were fewer fires overall across the Islands. If we can keep this up going forward the environment on the Tiwi Islands will be healthier and happier!

Kate Hadden, TLC



Photos by David Maurice Smith

Have a look at the 2017 Tiwi Fire Plan in this edition of The Tiwi, and remember **THINK ABOUT YOUR BURNING**



Kimirrakinari – ends in July

