



THE TIWI

NEWS for
Traditional
Owners



CEO's Message

NEWS from your TIWI LAND Council

Topics

CEO's Message	1
Control coronavirus	4
Chairman's Words	5
Weed management update	6
Tiwi Enterprises - caring for community	8
Tiwi Forest update	10
Mosquito surveillance	12
Sea Country - IPA	14
Tiwi Resources	16



Andrew Tipungwuti
CEO Tiwi Land Council



Hello Everyone, welcome to 2022, and what a start it has already been.

I send my condolences out to families who have lost love ones over the festive season and start to the new year.

Good to know

Sea country may be added to the existing Tiwi Islands IPA



See page 14

I do acknowledge your challenges in putting families to RIP.

For your updates:
Sadly we have lost Leslie Pyne who most have got to know as our Anthropologist.

[Continue](#) page 2



Tiwi Land Council
Management
Committee
members

ANDREW
TIPUNGWUTI
CEO
Tiwi Land Council

SIMON
MUNKARA

RICHARD
PURUNTATAMERI

WESLEY
KERINAIUA

KIM
PURUNTATAMERI

STANLEY
TIPUNGWUTI
Deputy-Chairman
Tiwi Land Council

BRIAN
TIPUNGWUTI

DAMIEN
MOLAMINNI

JOHN
WILSON

JEFFREY
PURUNTATAMERI

GIBSON F.
ILLORTAMINNI
Chairman
Tiwi Land Council

CEO's Message



Leslie has become well respected by many for her work around sacred sites and registering areas of significance.

Leslie has applied for a similar role with Suncable and is now doing consultancy with many stakeholders for the cabling from Australia to Asia Pacific. We wish her the best and will no doubt meet up again.

Goodbye and see you again!

While we lose Leslie we welcome back Mark Muller to the Tiwi Islands.

Mark has spent many years on Tiwi and has worked closely with TIRC and Tiwi Enterprises. His last project was delivering the Pontoons now on Melville and Bathurst Island.

Mark has taken on the role of Office Manager / Coordinator of TLC.

He is looking forward to our challenges and can't wait to catch up with you all.

Mark can be contacted at our TLC office should you want to say g'day.

Welcome again!

As many of you know the TLC office at Picka has been my home for the last 2 and half years. Working and living at your workplace has had many challenges, but very necessary as a lot of things have gone walk about for a very long time. The office is now secure and has been functioning to our needs.

In late December we have had our first Management committee meeting of TLC.

It was, well received by our members and look forward to many more this year.



TIWI LAND COUNCIL HQ



Leslie Pyne



Leslie Pyne, Carol Puruntatameri, Eymard Tungatalum, Osmond Pangairraminni, James DeSantis, Sam Wells (NT Heritage Branch), Tony Pilakui - 2021 registering Punata {Fort Dundas}



Mark Muller

Office Manager /
Coordinator TLC



TIWI LAND COUNCIL OFFICE
116 REICHARDT ROAD WINNELLIE NT 0821

TIWI LAND COUNCIL OFFICE PICKATARAMOOR
MELVILLE ISLAND



CEO's Message continues page 3

CEO's Message



First meeting of Management Committee TLC at office in Pica end of 2021

Full Land Council meeting:

We ended our last meeting in Darwin on the 16th and were joined by colleagues from NTG, OTL, TITEB for Xmas lunch.



It was a great meeting, members contributing to the meeting with many decisions made.



Full Land Council meeting joined by colleagues from NT Government, Office of Township Leasing and Tiwi Training and Education Board

CEO's Message



Last Full Land Council meeting in 2021

Of recent events, we have looked at and met with those in the Cattle Industry, with hopes to have a proposal for our land council to consider.

Every project that has come forward to TLC must have a business plan and a feasibility study done prior to commencement.

Early this year we met with all stakeholders to discuss concerns around covid-19 coming into Tiwi Islands.

Gratefully it really hasn't been as bad as we have thought.

Everyone with past health issues who have caught covid-19 have been sent to Darwin for better health care and quarantine.

Our local LEMC - committees from all communities have been exceptional over this period. We thank them for their efforts.



Thank you to Munupi clan group and Land-owners to facilitate, the Isolation of the infected community members in Wurrumiyanga in engaging Tiwi Enterprises, our thanks also go out to the health workers, Police, OTL, TITEB, TIRC, Food Stores, Clubs Managers, Catholic Care, Tiwi Enterprises, and everyone lending a hand to assist in whatever way they could. All your assistance is greatly appreciated.

I like to thank the TLC members and staff too!!!

Last but not least – Thank you to the community members for doing the right thing.

To control this Coronavirus, and if you have symptoms, we ask you to:

Isolate

Wear a mask

Keep your distance from people - 1.5 metres

And always wash your hands

We are facing different challenges everyday so I ask you to be patient and work with us.

Only together and supporting each other we can make a difference.

Keep safe and look after your family

Until our next edition

Muna



Andrew Tipungwuti,
CEO TLC

Chairman's Words



Welcome to this first edition of our Tiwi news for 2022. We begin a New Year with courage, determination and gratitude for our families, our land, and for the growing security and good health of our people. For many it has been a difficult year past. Our condolences to family, friends and community members who have lost loved ones. They are remembered as part of our continuing lives. They cannot be forgotten.

The 2021 year included my own re-election as Chairman of the Land Council for a fourth 3 year term. We still have goals and targets and things that must be satisfied each year. Canberra things and Territory things, but mostly they are people things; our people. The Land Council is here for Tiwi people living on Tiwi land. They remain the first and foremost consideration of my Executive, our Members and Staff. My own work will never be complete, but slowly we are improving the lives of our people year by year.

Farewell to our TLC Anthropologist with best wishes for your future and many thanks for your excellent work for our Tiwi people.



My hopes are that this new 2022 will be a great year. A year of getting better in our relationships with each other, in overcoming sickness and sadness, in thinking about what each of us can do to make Tiwi lives better.

Hope we can!
That's what will make my best year.

Mana.
Gibson F. Illortaminni, Chairman TLC



Past and present Tiwi Leaders

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



Tiwi Islands Weed Management Update



Gamba Grass

Over the past 18 months, several small outbreaks of the invasive weed Gamba Grass have been detected and positively identified on the Tiwi Islands. There are now 25 known historical sites where Gamba grass has been detected on the islands. Although this is concerning, it has been very pleasing to see a far greater awareness of Gamba grass resulting in many reports from concerned community members who are helping us to keep an eye out for weeds.

Gamba grass has become one of the greatest threats to the Top End environment due to the intense fires that are produced when it burns. Gamba grass fires burn much hotter than native grass fires and can kill large trees and the animals which can normally only survive cooler fires.

The Tiwi Land Council with the support of the Tiwi Rangers recently conducted a survey of all 25 known Gamba grass sites across the islands. The results were very pleasing with only a handful of seedlings identified and hand pulled at sites that were first treated last season. The majority of sites were clear of Gamba grass which shows that early detection and management can eradicate Gamba.

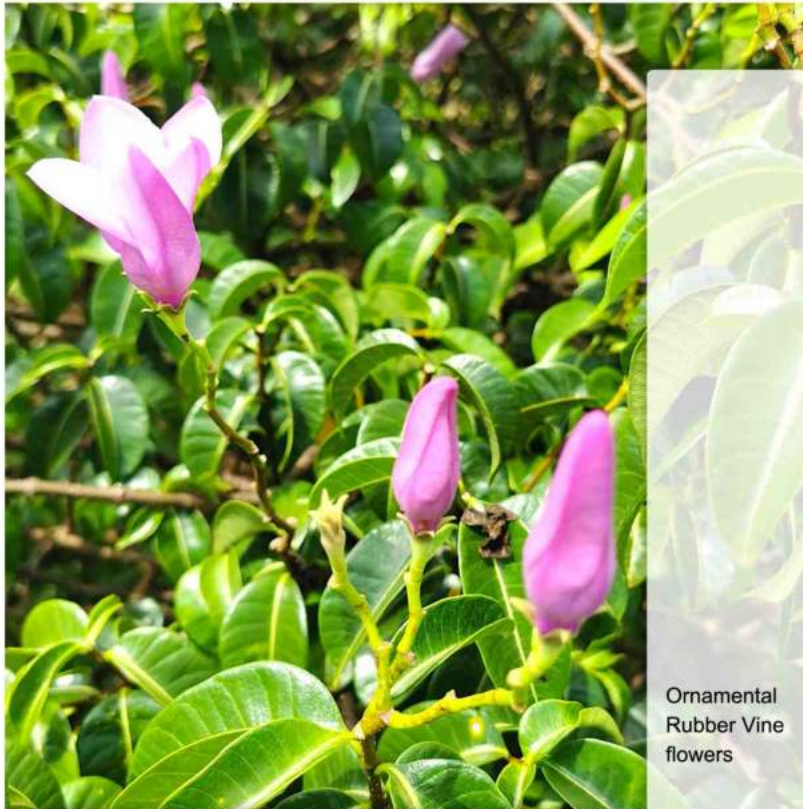
The threat of Gamba grass coming to the islands will be ongoing while there is widespread Gamba grass on the mainland. The seeds are very small and can be easily transported accidentally. We still have a long way to go to eradicate Gamba grass from the Tiwi Islands but with the whole community working together and keeping an eye out on their country, we can keep the islands safe.

Gamba grass can be identified by the soft fine hairs on the stems and leaves that feel like velvet when touched



Shane Austral with a hand pulled seedling that had germinated this wet season

Tiwi Islands Weed Management Update

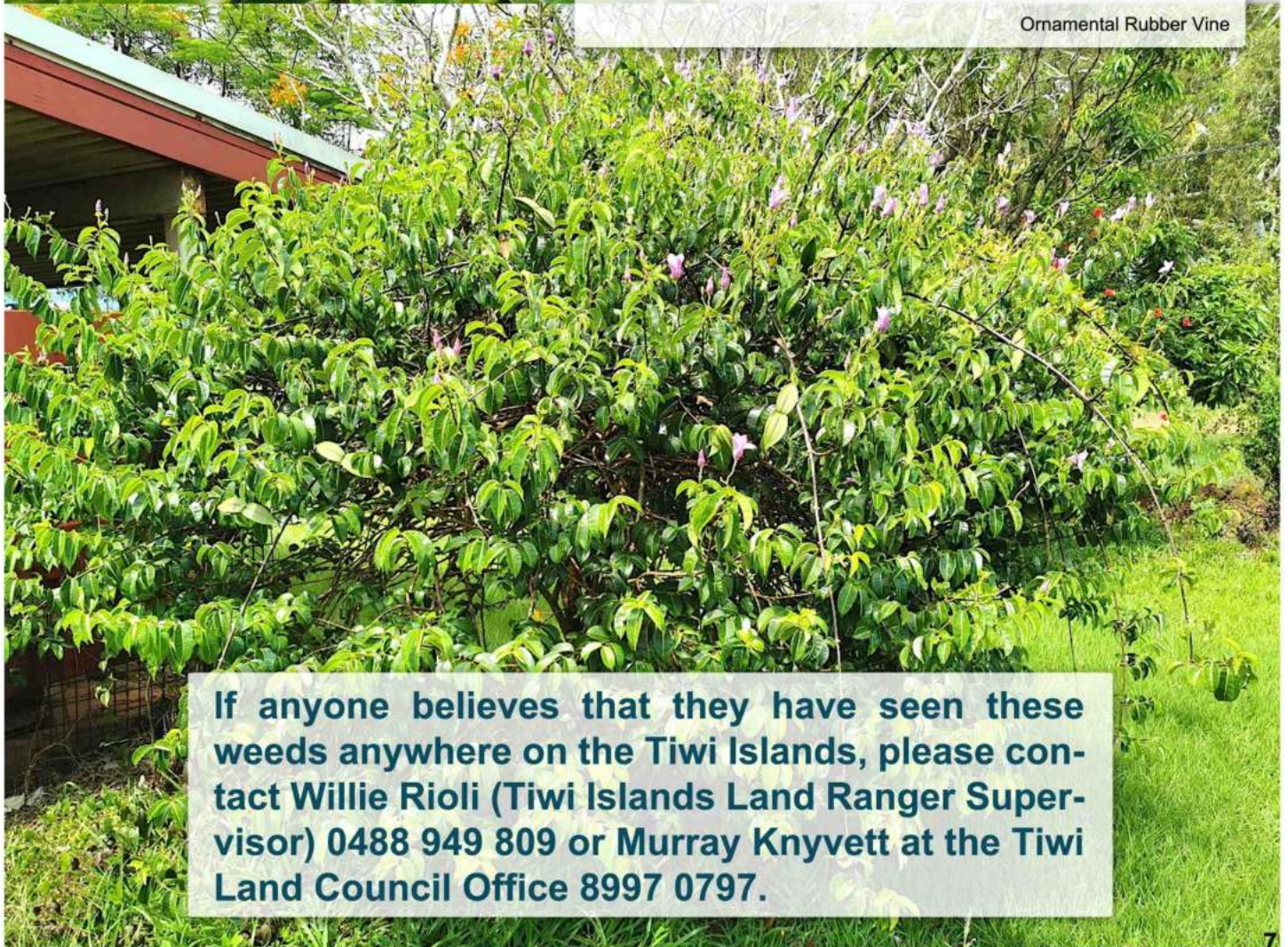


Ornamental Rubber Vine flowers

Ornamental Rubber Vine

Ornamental Rubber Vine was detected in Wurrumiyanga and Paru early in 2021 and is classified as a Class A (to be eradicated) weed on the Tiwi Islands. A recent survey of Wurrumiyanga identified Rubber Vine in 10 different locations with another significant outbreak at Paru. Rubber Vine is likely to have been brought to the islands many years ago as a garden plant due to its attractive purple flowers but it is showing signs of spreading into native vegetation including mangroves. The Tiwi Land Council are working with the Office of Township Leasing to support community stakeholders to treat and remove Rubber Vine from their properties.

Ornamental Rubber Vine



If anyone believes that they have seen these weeds anywhere on the Tiwi Islands, please contact Willie Rioli (Tiwi Islands Land Ranger Supervisor) 0488 949 809 or Murray Knyvett at the Tiwi Land Council Office 8997 0797.

Tiwi Enterprises Team - Caring for Community



Words cannot explain the display of comradeship witnessed in all communities. The Police and Clinic Staff backed by all the function groups stepped up and delivered their absolute best. It truly was and remains to be outstanding.

As a part of the Emergency Response Plan Tiwi Enterprises played the role of managing the Mantiyupwi Motel as an Isolation / Quarantine Centre. Pre-preparation allowed us to have all the cleaning equipment and PPE in stock ready for the inevitable.

We received the message on the 20th January that the first case of Covid had hit our community in Wurrumiyanga. The fear of the unknown gave a rather sickly feeling inside.

The call to prepare the Isolation Centre was delivered and we took our first case in on the 21st Jan. From that date for a couple of weeks we housed both positive cases and close contacts in order to assist in managing the spread and house those who were in need.

Continue page 9



Freddy and Ansel leading the way
with commercial cleaning

Tiwi Enterprises Team - Caring for Community



Donning station for each cleaner



Correct donning and doffing processes



The Laundry facility delivered on the requirements of a commercial clean



The communication from the Police and Clinic direct with us in these times where regular, clear and concise. All the function groups put their hands up and played their role to a point it was overwhelming how people pull together.

The Rapid Response Team accommodated in our 8 Man Camp and NUAs meal delivery service was superb to both the RRT team and Isolated people. Thanks to Charles, Territory Families, for providing ongoing welfare care and in leading the group.

We are now housing local business groups to assist with organisations separating positive and negative staff. This is a means of just keeping businesses running. We have the specific Covid 19 chemicals and PPE in stock to carry out commercial cleans in offices if or when required.

There is no requirement for the Isolation Centre moving forward but we hope we created comfort for many in a time of need. There has been many key learnings from an event like this and the main one Tiwi Enterprises will take from this is that we as a group have grown a stronger appreciation of the quality people in the community that have wonderful intentions.



The battle is certainly not over as the Police and Clinic continue to care for our community. Tiwi Enterprises want to express how grateful and fortunate we all are to have such great people in this community and hope everyone out there is doing well. Please take care.

*Warm regards
the Tiwi Enterprises Team*

Tiwi Plantation Corporation Update



As you would be aware the last two years have been challenging for Tiwi Plantation Corporation. The Covid-19 pandemic has meant that TPC exported no woodchip in the last year but continued to ship pine logs. The good news now is that TPC is now emerging from this situation and is set to recommence regular woodchip shipments this dry season.

Kim Puruntatameri, TPC Chairman, can advise that five shipments have been contracted for this year, with the first shipment scheduled for late May. Further shipments will occur up until Christmas and crews are busy at Yapilika harvesting now. A further four shipments have been contracted for 2023 with a new customer in China. This customer makes cardboard for packaging, and with the increase in online shopping during Covid, continues to need woodchip fibre to meet this ongoing demand.



Pine logs at Port Melville



These forward contracts will ensure TPC is able to emerge from the Covid downturn and continue to grow over coming years. The TPC Board is proud to say TPC has weathered the global financial storm and can now plan for a bright future.

Tiwi Plantation Corporation Update



The CRC forestry research project called

Maximising northern tropical forestry – linking communities and cutting edge technology

is continuing well and was officially launched in September last year at the Developing the North Conference. Many forestry industry publications picked up the story on the research project and it was broadcast across Australia.

The research work is continuing with the Charles Darwin University looking at opportunities for workforce development and the University of Melbourne working on improving tree genetics, management strategies and the timber products that are sold.

The research team is looking forward to returning during 2022 to work with the Tiwi Plantations Corporation staff from April this year.



Tiwi Plantation Corporation Team at Yapilka, Melville Island

Wurrumiyanga Mosquito Surveillance



Staff from **Medical Entomology**, Centre for Disease Control NT Health, and from the Northern Australian Quarantine Strategy (NAQS), visited Wurrumiyanga on the 14th to 16th December 2021. The purpose of the visit was to initiate the mosquito borne disease surveillance trapping to monitor for the presence/absence of the exotic Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV).

Tiwi Resources Land and Sea Rangers provided site escort for the three days, and participated in training to carry out trapping activities. Two Sentinel Mosquito Arbovirus Capture Kit (SMACK) traps were set, one adjacent to the sewage ponds, and one in the forest adjacent to the small swamp at the northern edge of Wurrumiyanga.

The **SMACK traps** use **Carbon Dioxide** to lure the mosquitoes inside. Once in the trap, the mosquitoes feed on special cards soaked in honey. The cards preserve virus that the mosquitoes leave on them when they feed. The SMACK traps at Wurrumiyanga will be left out in the field until the end of April/May, and will be serviced fortnightly by the rangers. The cards will be sent to the Berrimah Veterinary Laboratory in Darwin for virus testing.



Preparing the Honey coated FTA card used in the SMACK traps



Completed SMACK trap, nearby to sewage ponds

Setting the SMACK trap in the field



Continue page 13

Wurrumiyanga Mosquito Surveillance



Mosquitoes identified on a cold table.

Carbon dioxide baited Encephalitis Virus Surveillance (EVS) traps were also set around Wurrumiyanga and outside of town near Tarntippi. The traps were set in the afternoon, and collected the following morning, with eight traps set over two nights. The traps containing live adult mosquitoes were sent back to the Medical Entomology laboratory in Darwin for identification. JE virus isolation work will be carried out at the Berrimah Veterinary Laboratory. Further EVS mosquito trapping is planned for January and February 2022.

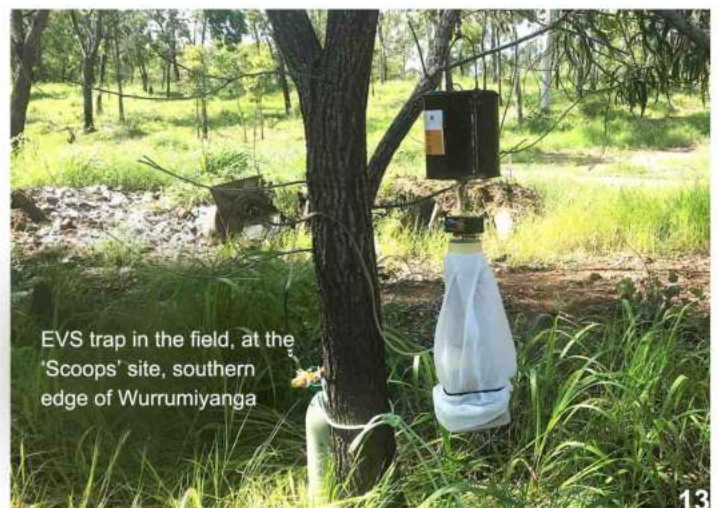
The JE virus can cause severe symptoms, and can be fatal in up to 10-30% of cases, and cause permanent disability in up to 50% of cases. The multi-departmental JEV investigation, which also includes sentinel chicken surveillance (carried out by NAQS), should provide information as to whether JE is present on Bathurst Island this wet season, particularly around Wurrumiyanga.

Please be aware that personal protection is the only sure measure to prevent exposure to this and other mosquito borne diseases. Therefore, it is highly recommended to use personal mosquito repellents when outdoors during the evening and night, along with protective clothing such as long pants and long-sleeved shirts. Please ensure insect screens are in good condition, and ensure those who cannot protect themselves are not exposed to mosquitoes at night. This advice applies to communities across the Tiwi Islands, as we are now in the peak risk period for endemic mosquito borne diseases in the Top End of the NT, such as Ross River virus and Murray Valley encephalitis.

Many thanks to Willie Rioli, Shane Austral, James Desantis, Colin Kerinaia, Derek Puruntatameri, Clinton Rioli and Adam Tipiloura for participating in the mosquito surveillance program.



Tiwi Resources Rangers setting a CO2 baited EVS mosquito trap.



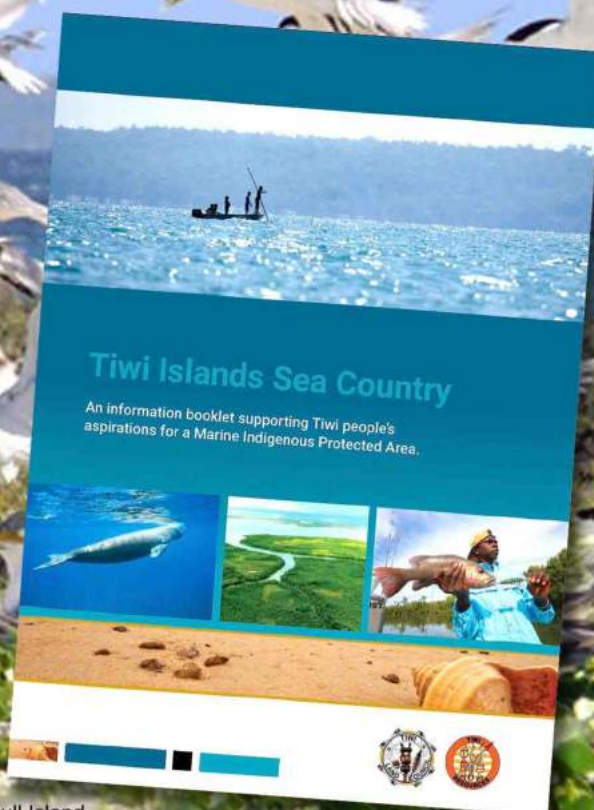
EVS trap in the field, at the 'Scoops' site, southern edge of Wurrumiyanga

Sea country - may be added to the IPA!



Sea country may be added to the existing Tiwi Islands IPA if a funding application is successful. Last June the Australian Government announced a competitive Sea Country IPA grant round as part of the \$100 million Ocean Leadership package. In December Tiwi Resources, with support from the Tiwi Land Council and Tamarind Planning, prepared a prospectus (information booklet) and completed a funding application for a Sea Country extension to the Tiwi Islands IPA. The prospectus is a compilation of key information about the proposed IPA. It highlights the exceptional natural and cultural values of Tiwi Sea Country as well as the outstanding opportunity for protecting Tiwi assets with integrated land and sea country IPAs.

Continue page 15



Sea country - may be added to the IPA!



As a proud Saltwater People, Tiwi have a long maritime history and a sea-based culture extending over many thousands of years. Tiwi want to build on these foundations by establishing a Marine IPA, growing their maritime capacity, and further validating their role as Sea Country managers. The current planning for Stage 1 of the Tiwi IPA (land areas) has highlighted the strong connections between murrakapuni (land) and winga (sea). Winga is deeply embedded in Tiwi culture including songs, dances, designs, and ceremonies. Cultural features,

including Dreamings and sacred sites come from or are found in the sea. Yet Tiwi face many significant threats in maintaining the health of their sea country. Climate change is a key concern, but poorly regulated fisheries, unwanted visitation, pelagic debris, pollution from shipping and shipping facilities, run-off from land-based activities and introduced marine pests are all risks. A new Sea Country IPA would help protect Tiwi cultural heritage and ensure the sustainability of marine resources. An announcement from the Government is expected to be made in the next few months.



Long Bums



Green Turtle



Rangers collecting rubbish on Seagull Island.



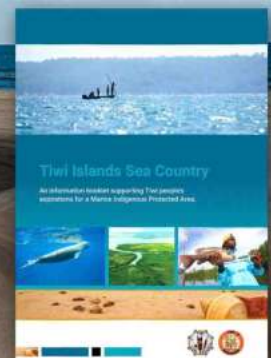
Banana Fiddler Crab



Mangrove Jack

The prospectus - *Tiwi Islands Sea Country: An information booklet supporting Tiwi people's aspirations for a Marine Indigenous Protected Area* – is available on the Tiwi Land Council website (see Publications and Resources) or contact the Tiwi Resources office for a hard copy.

Nic Gambold & Barbara McKaige



Tiwi Resources



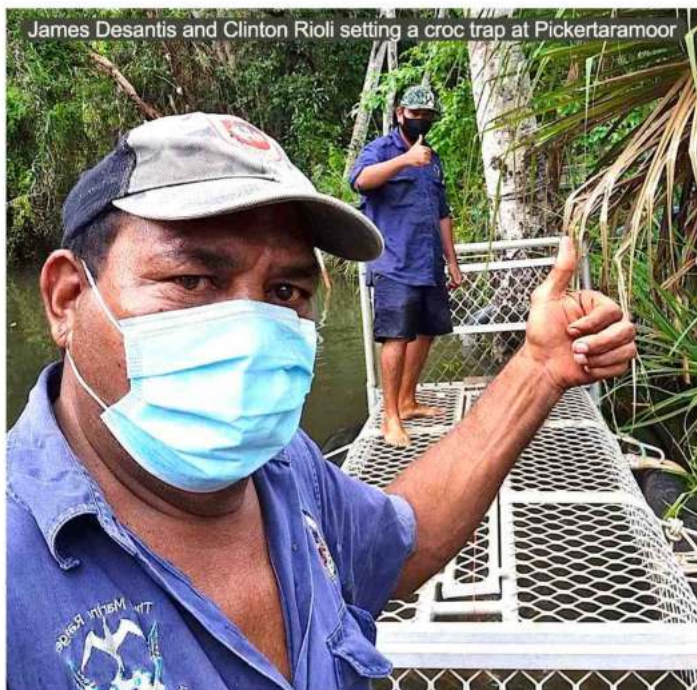
2021 was a huge year for Tiwi Resources, concluding with a very busy Directors meeting held in December, which was also attended by the Tiwi Rangers. We had updates from various stakeholders about the following projects:

- Potential Prawn Farm project - Tansyn Noble, Simon Irwin and Cass Hunter (CSIRO)
- Medicinal Plants project – Greg Leach (Menzies)
- Savannah Burning Carbon project – Ann Grattidge (ILSC)
- IPA Consultation project – Barbie McKaige
- Federal Biosecurity activities – Gayle Herron (North Aust Quarantine)

Shar Molloy & Jason Flower
(Environment Centre NT) pre-
sented to the Malawu Clan at
the Mantiyupwi Motel



Barbie McKaige presenting
an IPA Consultation update
to the Tiwi Resources
Director's & Rangers Meeting



James Desantis and Clinton Rioli setting a croc trap at Pickertaramoor

Tiwi Rangers

Dom, Willie, James and the team have been busy across a number of fronts, and continue to play an important role in the management of our natural resources. We are very excited to have secured funding for this program through a NIAA grant until June 2028. Together with the funding we have from the Indigenous Land & Sea Corporation (ILSC), we have a strong foundation for building an even stronger program into the future. Through the ILSC funding we will be developing our capacity to manage the Savannah Burning Carbon Project independently into the future. The current IPA Consultation Project also adds to the strength of our environmental goals moving forward.



Mosquito trapping

Adam Tipiloura, Colin Kerinauia, Shane Austral and Derek Puruntatameri

Clan Meetings

Tiwi Resources continue to facilitate Clan meetings to assist with TOs to stay on top of the issues impacting on them, and ensuring they have a chance to have input into decision-making. In 2021 these meetings included consultations with Rio Tinto about mining exploration, and with both Santos and the Environment Centre NT about the Barossa Pipeline Project. The consultations with Santos and Environment Centre NT will continue into this year once the COVID-19 situation allows.