



[Good] [Tiwi News] **Pupuni Ngirramini**

October 2023 | tiwilandcouncil.com



COMPLETION OF IPA >> P4



**NAIDOC
CELEBRATIONS
>> P6-7**



**THE VOICE - 84%
OF TIWI ISLANDERS
VOTE YES >> P9**

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EDITORIAL

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Message from the Tiwi Land Council Chair

As we embrace Pumwanyingari the season of thunder, I am excited to share some updates and news with our Tiwi community.

In the wake of the recent Australian referendum calling for a voice for Indigenous Australians, I want to take a moment to reflect on the outcome and its implications for our community. While the majority of Australia voted against this important initiative, it is heartening to note that in communities with a majority of Aboriginal peoples, the resounding 'Yes' vote has sent a powerful message of unity and determination. This outcome underscores the pressing need for us to find a way forward, one that ensures our voices are not only heard but respected when crucial decisions are being made by the government, decisions that directly impact our lives, lands, and culture.

The 'No' vote may be disheartening, but it should not deter our collective resolve. Instead, it highlights the ongoing work that lies ahead of us. In the face of these referendum results, it is crucial that we come together to explore alternative avenues to secure our rights and improve our representation at all levels of government. We must engage with policymakers, both at the local and national levels, to ensure that our unique perspectives, concerns, and aspirations are acknowledged and integrated

into the decision-making processes that impact our lives. Our journey for justice and equality continues, and I am confident that together, we can forge a path toward a brighter, more inclusive future for all Indigenous Australians.

One of the notable additions to our expanding team at the land council is the appointment of a new Biosecurity Officer. The importance of preserving and protecting our unique and delicate ecosystem cannot be overstated, and this new role will play a pivotal part in securing the health and sustainability of our environment with the focus on keeping invasive species like Gamba grass and cane toads off the islands.

In line with our commitment to preserving our culture and heritage, I am pleased to inform you about the formation of a new Cultural Forum. This Forum will focus on the aspirations and desires of the Tiwi people with respect to language, music, art, ceremony, and repatriation. Our cultural heritage is the cornerstone of our identity, and this Forum will work closely with our community to ensure that our traditions are maintained, respected, and celebrated. We encourage active participation and ideas from our community members in shaping the direction of this Forum.

The Land Council has successfully allocated the \$13.3 million dollars

NT Stimulus Package Funding to Tiwi businesses and organizations for economic development. This significant investment reflects our dedication to fostering economic prosperity within the Tiwi community. We aim to support local businesses and organizations, creating opportunities for growth and contributing to the self-sufficiency and sustainability of the Tiwi people. The focus is on empowering Tiwi businesses and building a strong economic foundation.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Tiwi Land Council team, our members, and our valued stakeholders for their unwavering support and dedication. Together, we have made significant strides toward a brighter and more prosperous future for the Tiwi people. In closing, I want to emphasize that the Tiwi Land Council is more committed than ever to serving the interests of the Tiwi community. We look forward to the challenges and opportunities that the coming year may bring, as we continue to work together to advance our shared vision.



Mana
**Gibson Farmer
Illortaminni**
Chair

Message from the CEO

I have great pleasure in talking to you all through the latest edition of the Tiwi News. It has been a busy time since the last edition. I can report significant progress in various areas, guided by the collective vision and determination of our dedicated team.

We now have the ANAO Review of the TLC with its 13 recommendations to us. We have agreed to do them all. This shows our Land Council's strong commitment to principles of transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement. I'll take a moment to explain further. The ANAO's most recent report (August 2023) is very clear that Territory Land Council's need to work in several special areas. For the TLC the first and most important is in keeping the trust of Tiwi People. Aboriginal people must have confidence in their Land Council. Land Councils were set up to represent Aboriginal people's interests - to represent them and to advocate for them and their land. The ANAO talk of the need for open, transparent governance with the selection of Land Council members by well publicized fair election events. The TLC is 100% on side with this and we have now made a strong start

with the Trustee elections that were explained and advertised in advance and conducted by an independent and professional authority (the N.T. Electoral Commission). Readers, you can be confident that this is now the way Land Council will work. We intend to follow the ANAO's further recommendation that our work must be constantly reviewed and improved. PLEASE use our webpage to give us your feedback, comments, advice and, YES, criticism and complaints. Or simply approach staff when you see or meet with us.

The ANAO also recommended better working between groups and agencies for the benefit of Aboriginal people. Over the past year we have worked towards this and aim to continue to do so and to do it better.

Most exciting of all right now is our recruitment drive to fill previously unfilled staff and to obtain funding for additional positions. We have been very successful and look forward to providing better services with our expanded teams. In particular you will notice additional anthropological and resource management staff on the islands. We have funding for a new office on the islands and local Tiwi staff to work there. Our growing team is a testament to this

Land Council's commitment to building capacity and ensuring that we have the right talent in place to meet the evolving needs of the Land Council. In particular we aim to be more active in weed / feral animal management and control in order to protect the islands' unique and so far intact flora and fauna (many of which are totem, hunting or food species). The TLC now has a strong team.

In addition to this improving of our workforce, we have witnessed a remarkable improvement in Community, Land Council and staff morale. The dedication of our team, combined with the positive changes so far implemented based on the ANAO recommendations, have created an environment where innovation and collaboration can now flourish. This improved morale directly translates into a more efficient and effective organization; one better equipped to fulfil its required Aboriginal Land Rights Act duties and responsibilities.



Sincerely,
Robert Graham
CEO Tiwi Land Council

“Makes me feel good.”

Rangers open up about caring for country on World Ranger Day



It can be hard work and the hot, sweaty conditions can be tough but Tiwi rangers turn up every day ready for a new challenge with the support of the Ranger Operations Coordinator Luke Ford and Ranger Program Manager Catherine Whitehead.

The rangers efforts were recognised on 31 July World Rangers' Day for their commitment to caring for their land and sea country and their understanding of the need to keep country healthy for future generations.

Throughout Kumunupunari, Tiyari and Jamutakari rangers protect native plants and animals, control invasive weeds and feral animals, undertake burning for the Tiwi Fire and Carbon project, reduce dangerous wildfires, protect cultural sites, provide community support, inspire young Tiwi and support research projects, among many other tasks.

“The main thing I like about being a ranger is going out on country, getting away from communities, seeing all those places I haven't seen since I was a little kid,” said Derek Puruntatameri.

“Burning is a really important part of our job. It's good to burn early, with that early burning program we make areas where those animals can escape fire, we're looking after our animals for future generations,” he said.

Marbine Austral said “there's heaps that I like about being a Tiwi ranger. One is looking after country, country needs people.

Makes me feel good actually. Looking after country is like cleansing the country. It's like cleansing my body as



well, helps me heal. If country is healed, you're healed.”

James Desantis said: “I love being on country, looking after the ocean and the land, spreading news about the work we do and what we've found with the community and the younger generation.”

Nikita Puruntatameri said “I love going out on sea patrols, doing coastal surveillance, and looking for ghost nets. I want to do more.”

Indigenous rangers are at the frontline of nature protection Australia-wide and their work is highly valued for achieving both environmental and employment outcomes, alongside wider social, cultural, and economic benefits.

An independent evaluation of the Indigenous Rangers and Indigenous Protected Areas programs in 2016 found that rangers' confidence and skills increased through their training and work on country.

They felt more pride, self-worth, health, and wellbeing, and had closer connections to family, culture, and country.

Ranger groups also reported a wide range of community benefits because of the programs, including safer communities, strengthened language and culture, an ability to find meaningful employment, increased respect for women, and more role models for younger people.

This year's World Ranger Day theme was '30 by 30' based on a worldwide initiative for governments to conserve at least 30 per cent of the planet in protected areas by 2030.

The Tiwi Islands will be helping Australia achieve its '30 by 30' target through the addition of 718,626 hectares of country to National Reserve System once the Tiwi IPA is dedicated.

Want to know more about the



Images © Annette Ruzicka/Country Needs People

Tiwi Rangers? Contact Catherine Whitehead - Ranger Program Manager
catherinewhitehead@tiwiresources.com.au

Completion of IPA Plan of Management opens the way for agreement with Commonwealth

The image features a large, scenic aerial photograph of a coastal area. In the foreground, there is a calm body of water with a sandy beach curving along its edge. Beyond the beach is a lush green field, and further back is a dense, dark green forest that stretches towards the horizon. In the bottom right corner, there is a circular inset containing a portrait of an Indigenous man. He has a grey beard and is wearing an orange baseball cap with a logo on it. The background of the inset shows some trees and a body of water.

John Wilson, IPA Senior Cultural

Dedication will occur before the end of the year and a launch is scheduled for next May at Wurrumiyanga, which is

The next step would be to establish a marine extension to include traditional sea country surrounding the islands.



John Wilson and Jane Puautjimi
Images © Annette Ruzicka

TIWI IPA VALUES	TIWI GOALS
1. Tiwi Culture and People	Strong men and women and families maintaining and strengthening Tiwi culture, caring for country, respecting Elders, raising strong kids that know their country, language, totems, stories, dreamings, sacred sites and ceremony.
2. Cultural Places	Tiwi cultural places - sacred sites, spiritual places, hunting and camping areas, historic sites, and homelands - are intact, alive, protected, and cared for.
3. Tiwi Country	Country is respected, hunting and fishing is good, it's easy to access important food gathering places, and there are no feral animals or weeds.
4. Plants and Animals	All Tiwi plants and animals are healthy, protected, and abundant, especially the plants and animals we use for food and culture.
5. Bush Tucker and Medicines	Knowledge and use of Tiwi foods and medicines from land and sea is strong and being passed on.
6. Rangers and the IPA	A Tiwi IPA with strong and committed Men, Women and Junior Rangers keeping land and sea country healthy and culture alive into the future.

Tiwi Islands IPA Organisational Chart



Rangers targeting feral cats on Melville Island with new technique



Tiwi Rangers Lachlan Munkara and Kuminjayi Austral with Felixer trap



Tiwi rangers are working with ecologists to trial feral cat control methods on Wulirankuwu and Mantiyupwi clan land on Melville Island.

Feral cats are a big problem on the Tiwi Islands because they kill many wildlife including mammals, birds and reptiles.

Methods to target them include:

- Spotlight shooting with a thermal scope.
- Cage trapping with different lures and baits including cat urine, cat scat, fresh buffalo meat and even cat toys.

- Felixer Grooming Traps – a new invention that uses lasers and a camera to identify feral cats from native animals as they walk past.

Once a cat has been identified by the Felixer it sprays a poison gel (1080 poison) onto the fur of the cat.

The cat then licks itself to remove the poison gel and dies.

Rangers warn that if you see a Felixer Grooming Trap out bush please leave it alone. There are warning signs near every Felixer.

Felixers are not set near communities, camping, swimming and fishing spots.

Felixers will not spray poison gel at people or cars as they are made to target cats only.

They will also not spray poison at non-target species like possums, bandicoots and adult dingoes.

To be safe, if you see a Felixer sign please keep your dog inside the car or on a lead and do not let them walk past a Felixer.

So far five feral cats have been caught in cages with another three cats shot during spotlighting.

Four feral cats also have had GPS collars put on to learn how big their

home ranges are and where they like to go and what they use to shelter in the environment.

This will help inform future cat management on the islands.

What can you do to help?

If you see a cat out bush, shoot it.

If you have a pet cat get it desexed and keep it inside your house.

Rangers urge everyone on the islands to work together to control feral cats and protect our native animals and bush tucker.

Please do not bring pet cats to the Tiwi Islands.

Toad detection heightens concerns

A quarantine inspection on 30 June detected a cane toad in a load of freight that was destined for the Tiwi Islands.

Tiwi Partners have been working closely with the Tiwi Land Council Resources and Environmental Officers to ensure that freight and equipment for the Paru road upgrade is clean and free of soil, seeds, toads or ants.

The toad was detected in a load of pipe and formwork that was secured to a semi-trailer.

Following the detection, the trailer was completely unloaded and all items thoroughly cleaned and reloaded.

This detection clearly demonstrates the importance of strong quarantine policies and a high level of compliance and cooperation from Tiwi Partners.

The Tiwi Land Council has recently recruited a full time Quarantine and Biosecurity Officer.

The position will be based in Darwin to inspect freight destined for the Tiwi Islands.

This officer will also be assisting the Tiwi Land Council to strengthen quarantine and biosecurity procedures as well as engaging with key stakeholders to raise awareness.

E-DNA testing will also be conducted on a weekly basis in water bodies near barge landings.

This new technology will be used to confirm that toads are not present by detecting DNA from a small water sample.

If anyone suspects that they have seen a toad on the Tiwi Islands, please try to catch it, place it in a plastic bag and freeze it.

Please report immediately to Murray 0409 640 549 or Sarah 0437 637 718 from the TLC or contact one of the Tiwi Rangers.



NAIDOC CELEBRATIONS

Monday 10 July



IN WURRUMIYANGA





Campaign to save historic church rekindles story of “Peter the hare”

A campaign has been launched to raise funds to save the historic Catholic Mission Church on Bathurst Island, a beautiful timber monument built more than 80 years ago.

The building is in great need of repair.

The campaign has rekindled the story of Peter de Hayr, a gifted tradesman who in the words of Brother John Pye “might be classified as Bathurst Island’s greatest benefactor.”

When Bishop Francis Xavier Gsell,

msc, founder of the mission in 1911, heard that a man called Peter de Hayr was coming as a volunteer from Queensland to help out he thought he heard that “Peter the hare” was coming.

He was said to have declared “that is the man we want.”

Peter arrived on the island in 1934 aged 64 and his achievements over the next 24 years were many, including building the church in 1941 with the help of loyal Tiwi workers.

Back in the early 1940s when Peter

built the church people on the island were hunters and gatherers and here he was, cutting down timber, not for warmth or fire but to take the logs to a small mill where the church beams were prepared.

There were no finishing touches except for curved timber used to give added beauty to the ceiling.

Peter realised that white ants could be a problem so he used ironwood that remains today.

Organisers are campaigning on the theme that Peter de Hayr (aka Peter the

hare) “has done us proud...let’s do it for him.”

They are appealing to the generosity of friends, tourists and visitors to help save the important historic monument.

gofundme: Help save the Tiwi Islands historic Church.

Reference: Catholic Missions Old Church Funding

Account: 26-547-3778

BSB: 085-933

ABN: 30 797 398 790

Bringing bounce to the islands ahead of basketball competition

Tiwi Islands Regional Council has partnered with Basketball NT (BNT) to bring basketball to the islands.

We love our Aussie rules’ footy but there is growing interest in the Basketball scene and the Tiwi Islands Regional Council wants to provide Tiwi communities with an opportunity to get in on the action.

The NBL1’s star Indigenous player Fabian Johnson attended the first Aussie Hoops Clinic at schools in Milikapiti, Pirlangimpi and Wurrumiyanga across the week beginning 18 September.

The clinic was run by Basketball NT and the Regional Council’s sport and recreation crew.

The clinic helped Tiwi kids and youths get a better

understanding of the sport and learn some skills to get them in the game.

The friendly and experienced BNT team were able to tailor each clinic to suit the needs and wants of each individual community and school cohort.

Tiwi Islands Regional Council sport and recreation officers worked with BNT to facilitate the clinics and learn more about the game themselves.

Fabian Johnson, a young Jaru man with family in Kununurra and Alice Springs, plays guard for the Adelaide Southern Tigers in the NBL1 competition.

He brought a star factor to the clinics, sharing his passion for basketball and some of his experiences with Tiwi kids and

the wider community.

TIRC will continue to partner with BNT with a view to facilitating competition basketball on the islands from 2024.

The BNT Competition Basketball Program is based on a community sports model, with community volunteers and participants at its centre.

Their program focuses on developing the knowledge and skills of community, not just for players, but for coaches, umpires and scorers as well, so a community can take the reins and stay in the game.

A second clinic is scheduled for November.

The initiative is led by Tiwi Islands Regional Council with funding from the NT Department of Tourism, Sport and Culture.



Tiwi voters among the first to vote in referendum

Although the nation voted “No” in the recent referendum Aboriginal communities in the NT overwhelmingly voted “Yes”. In the top end 84% of Twi Islanders, 92% of people living in Wadeye and 87% of people at Maningrida overwhelmingly voted YES for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

Voting opened at Wurrumiyanga, Bathurst Island, on 26 September.

Polling was witnessed by the media.

Marion Scrymgour, the Member for the Federal seat of Lingiari, who has strong cultural and family ties to the Tiwi Islands, campaigned strongly for a “Yes” vote and shared her views with locals.

Ms Scrymgour said in an on-line posting that it was time to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Constitution.

She said the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart, which led to the referendum, extends an invitation to all Australians to collaborate with First Nations’ people in building a better future by establishing a First Nations’ Voice to Parliament that is protected by the Constitution, as well as establishing a Makarrata Commission that will facilitate treaty-making and truth-telling.

Facilitating voting in remote areas such as the Tiwi Islands was a massive logistical undertaking by the Australian Electoral Commission’s (AEC) Remote Voter Service, which is made up of hundreds of workers in 60 teams.

They travelled to isolated communities in boats, planes, barges and helicopters.

Bernard Tipiloura, an elder who lives in Wurrumiyanga, told the ABC he voted “Yes” on the ballot paper because he wanted to see change.

“I strongly believe people talk for us in Canberra,” said the 2023 NT Senior Australian of the Year.

The main polling day was named as 14 October.



NT Electoral Commission holds Trustee elections

Eight new trustees have been elected including two women

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission conducted elections from 20 June to 29 June 2023 for the position of Trustee nominee for each of eight Tiwi clans.

Eight clan meetings were held. At each meeting nominations were accepted, and if required, an election was held.

As a result of that process, and the Ministers decision, eight clan members were appointed as Trustees of the Tiwi Land Council. This included four new trustees and for the first time two women trustees.

Recently the Commonwealth Government's audit body, the Australian National Audit Office (or ANAO), gave the Land Council their report into the Governance of the TLC. It has a lot of suggestions about how the land council can improve, better manage the resources it gets and most importantly how we can better provide the services to Tiwi People that the Aboriginal Land Rights Act requires. One of these recommendations was transparent elections leading to the decision to engage the electoral commission to conduct them.



Brian Tipungwuti - Ranku



Damien Molaminni (Burak) - Marrikawuyanga



Jeffrey Puruntatameri (Miller) - Wulirankuwu



Karina Coombes - Munupi



Mary Dunn - Yimpinari



Richard Puruntatameri - Malawu



Simon Munkara - Jikilarruwu



Wesley Kerinaiaua - Mantiyupwi

Tiwi Futures Expo showcases pathways for students

The biggest message that emerged from the Tiwi Futures Expo 2023 is that great things can happen with the islands' communities working together.

Participants agreed the second expo that exposes students to careers they may not have imagined was a huge success.

The event showcased the employment, training and opportunities that are available on the Tiwi Islands and to explain pathways to making the best of these opportunities.

The focus was on school children from all Tiwi islands schools.

The Nguui Club generously provided its venue free of charge and the Tiwi Islands Regional Council and AFLNT provided the use of the oval.

The organisations dedicated considerable time, effort, staffing and other resources.

More than 60 entities were involved in the event this year, including those who donated goods and prizes, provided assistance and attended on the day to share their knowledge, resources and opportunities.

All Tiwi Islands Schools attended as did a considerable number of adults and



families who were interested in engaging with stallholders to explore positive opportunities that are available to them.

In remote communities, where resources can be limited, we need to be able to rely on each other and support each other and we did that.

It was definitely a group effort and TITEB thanks all involved for your support.



Workshop focuses on women's health

More than 100 women attended a Wellness Day event on 6 September at the Wurrumiyanga Women's Centre to mark this year for Women's Health Week.

The focus this year was on nutrition, diabetes and emotional wellbeing.

There were 10 pop-up stalls and workshops which were all well attended.

The Wangatunga Strong Women played music and sang while ladies learnt how to weave and make bush medicine.

There were several health service representatives at the event who spoke about everything from the importance of eating well, to use of bush medicine to the importance of regular checkups.

Guest presenters included Teresa Hytatt and Mikaela Hopkins who spoke about diabetes and Alyssa Finn, a psychologist, who ran a pop-up nail bar.



Bathurst Farm opens the way for business opportunities

Tiwi Islands Training and Employment Board (TITEB) held its Bathurst Farm Opening and RTO Graduation Ceremony on Bathurst on 31 August.

TITEB inherited the farm as part of the CDEP to RJCP transition in 2013.

The Mantiypwi have generously leased the farm to TITEB to enable farming, rural and training activities and to facilitate prospective business opportunities.

In 2013-14 Norm Buchan, the original TITEB CEO, tried to get accommodation and other infrastructure on the farm but could not get the approvals.

In 2017 the current CEO Maria Harvey met with the Centre for Appropriate Technology through their Bush Light Project and a sustainable project was drawn up that would not impact the surrounding environment.

Together with NBC Consulting and Bush Light, TITEB was able to get Power and Water and other building approvals to proceed with their accommodation project.

In 2018 TITEB applied for ABA funding to build accommodation and fencing at the site but were unsuccessful.



They applied again in 2020 and this time they had success.

Due to wet seasons, the pandemic and other general logistical challenges, the accommodation was only built in mid-2022.

The fencing is almost completed.

Farming, the headstone project, caring for country and training sites will be of great benefit to the Tiwi communities.

Meanwhile, with more than 100 learners recognised for their achievements, the RTO Graduation Ceremony marked a pivotal moment in TITEB's journey.



After a five-year hiatus, the revival of TITEB's Graduation was embraced as a celebration of knowledge and growth.

TITEB's Training Centre is dedicated to enhancing literacy, numeracy, and work entry skills, forming a solid foundation for future employment or

further studies.

Collaborating with partners including CDU, Batchelor, Creswick Timber and Trainsafe Australia they ensure that their training aligns with the industry needs of local employers.

TITEB is proud of these achievements.

Thank you for being a part of the TITEB community, where education and empowerment come together to shape a brighter future for Tiwi.

Legal Opinion – Tiwi Land Council Elections



By **KALIOPI HOURDAS**

Tiwi Land Council Principal Legal Officer

Hello again readers, especially Tiwi people.

It is with a feeling of gratefulness and optimism that I contribute to this edition of Pupuni Ngirramini. I feel grateful to have the opportunity to speak to you again (especially about the topics below) and optimistic about what can be achieved by the Tiwi Land Council ('Council') in the months ahead.

As many of you would know, there is a key voting process that Tiwi people will be asked to participate in over the next few short months:

- Council member nominations and elections

This upcoming event has occupied a good amount of my thinking time over the past few weeks and what I have realised is it has three (3) key things in common for Tiwi people regardless, of any opinions on the matter:

- Choice
- Opportunity
- Representation

Choice, opportunity, and representation. Three gifts of democracy that should not be taken for granted.

The Voice

Leaving aside the fact that the 'no' vote was successful at a national level at the recent referendum, I note that 84% of Tiwi people voted "Yes" which tells us that a Voice to Parliament is something most Tiwi people agree on its importance

- Having a choice
- Having the opportunity to participate
- Being represented.

A lot has been said by 'no' supporters and 'yes' supporters regarding the effect the Voice would have on the representation of Aboriginal people. Representation of any group is important in any room, especially where the decisions will have a direct impact on the group. Where there is a lack of representation, there is a loss of opportunity to communicate a point of view. Without understanding a person's or group's point of view, decisions are made blindly.

I am not an expert on Indigenous



affairs, and I cannot say with any credibility that I know what first nations people need in Australia. However, I have noticed during the weeks leading up to the referendum that I was surrounded by a lot of non-Indigenous Australians who think they know what first nations people "need" or "deserve" in Australia. I can only imagine how frustrating opinions like this are to first nations people and particularly Tiwi people who deal with the daily difficulties that come from living in a remote location.

A lack of wider representation amongst decision makers leads to blind decision making, a lack of wider representation of Tiwi people on the Land Council carries the risk that the Council does not sufficiently represent Tiwi people, and Tiwi people become distanced from the Land Council. This could have several negative consequences on the success of Tiwi people and the advancement of the Tiwi Islands, such as reduced opportunities for economic development and reduced opportunities to actively protect culture and heritage.

Tiwi Land Council members

Tiwi people will soon be asked to record their choice at a vote to nominate, and possibly elect, new members for the Tiwi Land Council. Council member elections will be conducted in the coming months and most likely before the middle of January 2024.

The Tiwi Land Council has now committed to open elections for members. Tiwi people will hear more about revising the current Method of Choice in the coming weeks as consultation on the islands has already commenced for a modernized method. All Tiwi people will have choices to make and an opportunity to contribute to the

future of the Land Council.

Since coming to the Land Council, I have learnt that for several reasons women have always been underrepresented within the membership of the Council. I have been curious about why this is and keen to find out the cause of the underrepresentation given that, from what I have had the privilege to observe on the islands, Tiwi women appear to outnumber Tiwi men, and, like many cultures are a great source of knowledge and ideas. Of course, I could not help myself and I started to ask questions as to why there are so few women on the Council. Some of the reasons I have been given by various people are:

1. There are cultural reasons that make it difficult to have women and men speaking to each other on Council.
2. Historically, due to cultural reasons, women did not have transport to be able to attend meetings.
3. The method of choice restricts women's participation on Council.

Acknowledging that it is not my role and not appropriate for me to question the accuracy of the first two reasons, I turned my attention to the wording of the Council's current method of choice to try to work out how it is that it restricts women's participation on the Council. After going through the current method of choice in detail, I realised the method of choice cannot be the reason why so few women have been members of the Council.

The method of choice does not preclude women from being members of the Council (this is no surprise given there are currently a few women on

the Council). Further, because of the requirements of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth) ('the ALRA'), no method of choice of a land council restrict the participation of women on council. So, what does the ALRA say about representation of Tiwi people on Council? As we move to Council member nominations, it is important that Tiwi people understand who can be on Council.

The ALRA states, that Council members shall be:

- Aboriginals living in the area of the Council, or whose names are set out in the register of traditional Aboriginal owners as being traditional Aboriginal owners of Aboriginal land in the area of the Council.
- Chosen by Aboriginals living in the area of the Land Council in accordance with such method or methods of choice and holding office on such terms and conditions as is or are approved by the Minister from time to time.
- Not subject to a disqualifying event as defined at subsection 29(5) of the Act.

Tiwi people might consider the following when nominating a person (whether themselves or someone else) for Council:

- Council members must be at least 18 years of age at the time that they first hold office as a Land Council member.
- Council members will have a good knowledge of the land owning group, its land area and land rights matters.
- The person's character and reputation within the community.
- Any prior criminal charges and/or criminal record.
- Prior experience on boards and/or work experience in a role that required an understanding of good governance and accountability.
- Prior experience and conduct as a Council member or Land Trust member.
- Whether the nominated person agrees to accept the nomination.

I wish all Tiwi people eligible to nominate for council and to vote, all the very best for the upcoming member elections.

Best wishes,
Kali

New staff appointments



Maria Juan
Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

I am seasoned financial leader with a diverse background in external audit, internal accounting processes, and financial management, spanning for over 20 years. With expertise in managing teams and optimising systems, I bring a comprehensive skill set to the role.

With a background in external audit with Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu and Ernst and Young, I have a deep understanding of financial controls, compliance, and risk management.

Prior to joining TLC, I was the Finance Manager at the Northern Land Council. My earlier roles include Finance Manager at World Animal Protection (Sydney), and Senior Accountant at the Ngaanyatjarra Council Group (Alice Springs).

Throughout my career, I have consistently achieved significant milestones, including

policy improvement, streamlining financial reporting and operating procedures, and implementing new accounting software. My combination of external audit experience and financial management skills positions me as a well-rounded CFO.

With a strong focus and a collaborative leadership style, I can bring confidence, expertise, and valuable contributions to TLC.



Nicole Ng
Anthropologist

I am originally from Melbourne but, have been living in the NT for the past 12 years.

My parents are of mainly Chinese descent and immigrated to Australia in the 1960's for education and work.

I studied Anthropology and Philosophy at Monash University and, shortly after came up to Darwin to work at the Northern Land Council, where I worked for 5 years as a Regional Anthropologist in the Katherine area.

I am excited to be on board with Tiwi Land Council and to learn about the Islands and sea country.

I am keen to understand more about the importance of local hunting, language, and culture to the Tiwi people.

I hope to contribute by supporting traditional landowners and other

stakeholder groups with decisions about the management of their lands, as well as assisting to preserve and document ways of passing down knowledge and sacred sites.



Isabelle Favre
Anthropologist

I was born in the French Alps.

I studied in Paris and moved to Thailand for two years in my twenties to work on a PhD in Anthropology.

I moved to Australia in 1998 and for the past 18 years, have been working for Australian National Audit Office (ANAO), based in Canberra.

I have two children, both boys, aged 19 and 25.

Some of you may remember meeting me in mid-2022 when I came to Bathurst and Melville to conduct the audit of the Governance of the Tiwi Land Council, for the ANAO.

It was a most interesting and memorable time for me.

I was impressed by the friendliness of the people I met and by how they made my

colleagues and I feel welcome and, also became very interested in Tiwi culture and art.

I then saw the position of Anthropologist with Council and applied for it and won.

I am looking forward to meeting you again and working with you all.



Tiana Bremner-Kostrzewa
Quarantine and Biosecurity Officer

I moved to Darwin in 1999 to study and get work experience as a national parks' ranger.

I had planned to stay, just a year but, ended up completing a Cert III, IV and Diploma in Lands, Parks & Wildlife Management, and an Environmental Science degree.

Whilst studying I picked up contract work, first at the Entomology Branch at the Department of Primary Industries and then with the Australian Quarantine & Inspection Services (AQIS).

As my experience grew, so did my passion for working to protect the environment.

I worked in similar roles with the Australian Border Force and Special Mission (Aerial surveillance) before returning to environmental work as the Community Campaigner with NT Outback working on raising awareness of Gamba Grass reduction and eradication.

I then decided it was time for a fresh start so, moved to Tasmania to take up the role of Senior Detector Dog Handler with Biosecurity Tasmania.

After three years away, I decided it was time to return to the Territory to be closer to family.

I have spent more than half my life here in Darwin and excited to be back to continue my work in protecting our beautiful country.

Tiwi Land Council is Hiring Tiwi

TRAINEE TO WORK WITH ANTHROPOLOGY TEAM

(1 vacancy available)

POSITION OVERVIEW:

This is a new Trainee position based on the Tiwi Islands. The Trainee will assist and provide support to the Anthropology Team whilst learning and gaining valuable on-the-job experience in cultural heritage. This position would suit an enthusiastic and self-motivated person who has recently finished some years of high school (Year 12 equivalent preferable but not essential) with and interest in Cultural Heritage and who may aspire to pursue further study, including in Anthropology. If you have basic computer skills, are physically fit and enjoy working outdoors and able to interact and communicate well with others, we encourage you to apply.

RESOURCE & ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINEE

Trainee (1 vacancy available)

POSITION OVERVIEW:

This is a new Trainee position based on the Tiwi Islands. The Resource & Environmental Trainee will assist and provide support to the Resource & Environmental Team whilst learning and gaining valuable on-the job experience in the field of environmental studies. This position would suit an enthusiastic and self-motivated person who has recently finished some high school (Year 12 equivalent, preferable) with an interest in caring for Country and aspirations to pursue further study in Environmental Science, or similar. If you have basic computer skills, are physically fit and enjoy working outdoors and able to interact and communicate well with others, we encourage you to apply.

CULTURAL FIELD OFFICERS

(3 vacancies available)

Position Overview:

This is a new position based on the Tiwi Islands.

The Cultural Field Officer will be primarily responsible for the provision of support to TLC staff & consultants working on a variety of project related tasks.

This position would suit an enthusiastic and self-motivated person who is able to multi-task, use initiative and solve problems and can communicate well with others. Basic computer skills, will be required.

NEXT STEPS

We encourage you to find out more about these vacancies, prior to submitting an application and you can do so, by making contact with Councils' People & Development Manager on 8997 0716 or via email to hmr@tiwilandcouncil.com

To apply please visit Seek at www.seek.com.au/job/70595259

Or contact: Mandy Konatic
People & Development Manager
Email: mandy.konatic@tiwilandcouncil.com

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- All positions are based on the Tiwi Islands.
- Possession of a current Northern Territory Drivers Licence will be required, prior to commencement.
- Evidence or willingness to obtain a Working with Children (Ochre) Card, will be required.
- Evidence of Aboriginality may be requested prior to engagement with the Council.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE:

Vacancies will be kept open until suitable applicants are found.

Tiwi Land Council

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Austral
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Mungatopi
Bush
Portaminni

Stassi
Timaepatua
Coombes
Intalui
Dunn
Tungatalum

Tipungwuti
Molaminni
Munkara
Puaatjimi
Wilson
Rioli

CAUTION

Crocodile sighted near Wurrumiyanga Fish Trap



Photo by Matt Ellis



Community rallies



By GREG HOLLIS,
Tiwi College Principal

Our fete has always been a highlight of our school calendar but this year was particularly special.

We have been through some tough times and probably faced more than our fair share of challenges but there has always been hope in the hearts of our community members and a faith that we would always emerge stronger and better

for the experience.

The Tiwi community has rallied behind us to support the College and here today among our friends, families and partners the atmosphere of pride is almost palpable.

It is humbling to be able to lead such an organization, to have such support and to know that we share a common vision passed down from the founding fathers.

The College was purpose-built to serve the educational needs of the future

leaders and citizens of the Tiwi Islands and the support shown here today is a clear indication that our role is as valid now as it has ever been.

On behalf of the Tiwi Education Board I would like to convey our sincere thanks for sharing both the highs and lows of our journey and reassure everyone that we are very much back on track and doing what we do best – delivering quality education in a caring and nurturing environment.



Behind Tiwi College



“The College was purpose-built to serve the educational needs of the future leaders and citizens of the Tiwi Islands and the support shown here today is a clear indication that our role is as valid now as it has ever been.



Tiwi College praised for efforts during tragic helicopter crash

“Bond of kindness will never be washed away.”

By GREG HOLLIS,
Tiwi College Principal

The tragic Osprey helicopter accident that occurred near the college on 27 August sent shockwaves through our whole community.

It left us moved and saddened and despite feeling our efforts may have been a little bit inadequate I can assure everyone that they definitely were not.

Without anyone needing to ask we did whatever we could to support, assist and comfort those in need and the gratitude and appreciation expressed from everyone involved has in the words of the US Marine Commander created a “bond

of kindness that will never be washed away.”

Here at Tiwi College we have recently been discussing the concept of “social capital” and how all our actions affect our personal and collective social capital.

In this last term our social capital of the whole Tiwi community has escalated exponentially and in so doing it has provided a gauge and reminder of why a successful Tiwi College is such an important and valuable asset.

The College’s founding fathers would be extremely proud of the legacy they created and the way our community honors and respects that legacy in everything we do.



Ghost nets keep killing until they are removed from the ocean

Tiwi Ranger Supervisor James Desantis calls ghost nets “killing machines” and says they keep killing marine life until they’re taken out of the ocean.

A “ghost net” is a fishing net that’s been lost or abandoned in the ocean, even when they are no longer actively being used by fishermen.

The nets can remain in the ocean for years, if not decades, and they continue to catch fish, birds, marine mammals, and other creatures as they float through the water.

Some are kilometres long and can weigh several tonnes.

They can become entangled on coral reefs or in the mangroves, or wash up on beaches.

Most modern nets are made of nylon or other plastic compounds that can last for centuries.

Over time, ghost nets can break down into smaller pieces called microplastics, adding to the problem of marine plastic pollution.

These microplastics can be ingested by marine animals, potentially entering the food chain and posing risks to human health.

The Tiwi Rangers monitor their coastal and marine areas of the Tiwi Islands for the presence of ghost nets by doing regular boat patrols and beach patrols.

When they come across any ghost nets, they work to remove them from the ocean or beach to prevent further harm to marine life.

They collect data on the types of nets found and their locations and report this to NT Fisheries.

This information is valuable for understanding the problem and informing management strategies.

Sometimes the nets are too large for the Rangers to remove on their own.

Please report any ghost nets you see to the Tiwi Rangers.

Take a GPS point of the location if you can, and a photo.



Gamba grass found at Wurrumiyanga

A Gamba grass plant was identified and removed from the roadside in Forestry. This plant had not been detected in previous surveys as it had been mowed or burnt, preventing it from flowering earlier in the year. This highlights the importance of keeping a look out at all times of the year and reporting any suspicious looking weeds to the TLC or Tiwi Rangers.



Aggressive fire ants pose risk as residents urged to be vigilant

They probably hitched a ride to the Tiwi islands about 80 years ago.

Like in many other areas of the Northern Territory, tropical fire ants (*Solenopsis geminata*) are an unwelcome guest.

All Tiwi residents are urged to be on alert for the ants, which have a vicious sting.

Since 2003 the CSIRO has been working with the Tiwi Land Council, rangers and the Tiwi Plantations Corporation to eradicate tropical fire ants from the islands.

The work has won world-wide praise.

One of the latest outbreaks has been in Milikapiti where rangers are working to eradicate nests.

Pot plants brought to the Tiwis from Darwin pose a high risk of re-introducing fire ants to wider communities, experts warn.

The ants could easily slip through if strict quarantine policies and prevention measures are not in place, they warn.

Closely related to red fire ants, which are a significant problem in Queensland, tropical fire ants (also known as ginger ants) produce a burning sensation that gives them their name and can result in red itchy lumps lasting several days.

They can also cause anaphylactic shock in people allergic to wasps, ants or bees. Like everything else, the ants have to eat.

And while they’ll eat just about



anything, they have a particular fondness for sap and honeydew and have a mutually beneficial relationship with some sap-sucking insects.

They protect the sap-producing insects from parasites and predators and also eliminate diseased or unhealthy individuals, allowing the insects to grow and flourish.

This can aggravate the problem caused by the insects in the first place and reduce plant productivity.

It can also lead to outbreaks of disease and further attack from pests.

Tropical fire ants also readily sting people tending or harvesting crops. Getting rid of them is difficult but can be done.

Some of the world’s largest pest ant eradications have occurred here on the Tiwi Islands.

They have been wiped out over hundreds of kilometres.

But experts say it is important for

island residents to report seeing any ants immediately.

What distinguishes fire ants from other ant species?

Fire ants can be identified by a few distinguishing features.

They are:

- copper brown in colour with a darker abdomen
- quite small at 2 – 6 mm
- found in a variety of sizes within the one nest.

When checking suspicious ant nests gently poke the nest with a long stick and observe the ants that come out.

Be careful not to get too close, as fire ants are aggressive.

They swarm when disturbed.

If you discover a fire ant nest please report to Murray 0409 640 549 or Sarah 0437 637 718 from the Tiwi Land Council or contact one of the Tiwi Rangers.

Tiwi organizations allocated \$13.3 million from Canberra's Indigenous economic stimulus package

A total of \$13.3 million has been allocated to Tiwi organizations from the Australian Government's \$100 million Northern Territory Indigenous Economic Stimulus Package.

The package was developed in partnership with the four Northern Territory Land Councils to provide support for Indigenous businesses, jobs and economic development in the Northern Territory.

After being announced by the then Minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt in 2020, \$13.3

million had been allocated and granted to Tiwi organizations by June this year.

Applications were assessed through a robust and comprehensive methodology and based on the principles set by the Minister to ensure the viability of projects, including strategic review.

A major consideration was that the eight land owning groups of the Tiwi Islands would benefit equally in project returns.

Here are details of the 22 projects that have been approved across the Tiwi Islands:



The Accountable Authority, Chairman Gibson Farmer Illortaminni - signing the Grant Agreements to allocate the last remaining funds from the TLC NT Indigenous Economic Stimulus Package.



Tiwi Enterprises purchase of Sea Darwin

NO.	CLAN GROUP/ENTITY	PROJECT	FUNDING AMOUNT (EX GST)	STATUS
1.	Wulirankuwu Pty Ltd (ACN 155 740 757 atf the Wulirankuwu Trust	Tiwi Islands Adventures	\$1,900,000.00	Completed
2.	Tiwi Enterprises Ltd ACN 634 465 339	Crocodile Egg Hatchery	\$1,500,000.00	Ongoing
3.	All clan groups	Covid-19 housing containers	\$1,392,872.00	Completed
4.	Yimpinari Aboriginal Corporation (ICN 8215) ABN 79 886 254 482	Eco Tourism - EOI	\$30,000.00	Ongoing
5.	All clan groups	Cattle project: feasibility study	\$12,500.00	Completed
6.	Tarntipi Homelands Aboriginal Corporation (ICN 8084) ABN 89 960 856 358	Camp upgrade and bush food project	\$166,953.00	Completed
7.	Mantiupwi Pty Ltd (ACN 129 310 710) atf the Mantiupwi Trust also known as 'The Trustee for Mantiupwi Family Trust' and 'Mantiupwi Family Trust'(ABN 26 652 290 749)	Oyster Farm Project	\$120,909.00	Ongoing
8.	Mantiupwi Pty Ltd (ACN 129 310 710) atf the Mantiupwi Trust also known as 'The Trustee for Mantiupwi Family Trust' and 'Mantiupwi Family Trust'(ABN 26 652 290 749)	Pumulayu Children and Family Centre (PCFC)	\$500,000.00	Ongoing
9.	Portaminni Pty Ltd (ACN 155 991 478) atf 'The Trustee for Portamini Trust' (ABN 40 386 268 436)	Telstra Cell Installation	\$98,000.00	Ongoing
10.	Mantiupwi Pty Ltd (ACN 129 310 710) atf the Mantiupwi Trust also known as 'The Trustee for Mantiupwi Family Trust' and 'Mantiupwi Family Trust' (ABN 26 652 290 749)	Staff housing	\$1,340,000.00	Ongoing
11.	Mantiupwi Pty Ltd (ACN 129 310 710) atf the Mantiupwi Trust also known as 'The Trustee for Mantiupwi Family Trust' and 'Mantiupwi Family Trust' (ABN 26 652 290 749)	Paru desalination water system	\$216,000.00	Ongoing
12.	Wulirankuwu Pty Ltd (ACN 155 740 757 atf the Wulirankuwu Trust	60-Man Camp at Three Ways Feasibility Study	\$30,000.00	Ongoing
13.	Tiwi Resources Pty Ltd ACN 054 667 051 as trustee for the Tiwi Resources Trust	Bush Medicine & Bush Foods Project – purchase of vehicles, securing staff accommodation, and employing and training staff	\$625,200.00	To commence
14.	Portaminni Pty Ltd (ACN 155 991 478) atf 'The Trustee for Portamini Trust' (ABN 40 386 268 436)	Prawn farm – purchase of assets to expand operations	\$999,000.00	To commence
15.	Tiwi Resources Pty Ltd ACN 054 667 051 as trustee for the Tiwi Resources Trust	Engaging consultant to provide marketing/product branding in relation to Tiwi products	\$41,000.00	To commence
16.	Wulirankuwu Pty Ltd (ACN 155 740 757 atf the Wulirankuwu Trust	Improving the visitor experience: purchase of vehicles	\$215,000.00	To commence
17.	Mantiupwi Pty Ltd (ACN 129 310 710) atf the Mantiupwi Trust also known as 'The Trustee for Mantiupwi Family Trust' and 'Mantiupwi Family Trust' (ABN 26 652 290 749)	Mantiupwi Motel extensions	\$1,832,149.00	To commence
18.	Yimpinari Aboriginal Corporation (ICN 8215) ABN 79 886 254 482	Telstra Cell Installation at JRC and Condor Point	\$210,000.00	in progress
19.	Mamanta Pty Ltd (ACN 165 173 384)	Vehicle and Infrastructure acquisition	\$182,000.00	in progress
20.	Tiwi Enterprises Ltd ACN 634 465 339	Purchase of Sea Darwin	\$1,500,000.00	In progress
21.	Mantiupwi Pty Ltd (ACN 129 310 710) atf the Mantiupwi Trust also known as 'The Trustee for Mantiupwi Family Trust' and 'Mantiupwi Family Trust' (ABN 26 652 290 749)	PCFC Vehicle Support	\$155,000.00	To commence
22.	Nguiu Ullintjinni Association Inc ABN 82 294 304 805	Contribution to proposed alterations to NUA store	\$233,417.00	50% Completed
TOTAL			\$13,300,000	

Tuyu Buffaloes snatch victory in thrilling Tiwi Grand Final watched by enthralled crowd

What a thriller!

For the first time the Tiwi grand final was moved to Sunday 6 August in the middle of the dry season, and the game enthralled the crowd, many of whom packed aircraft and ferries to make the journey to our famous annual contest.

The Tuyu Buffaloes emerged victorious over the Pumarali Thunder and Lightning to seize the coveted trophy after a hard-fought game, sealing the win in the final moments by seven points (70 to 63), after trailing by five points at the last break.

It was a highly emotional encounter.

Four-time TIFL premiership player Michael Lorenzo was the hero of the day, kicking the match winning goal.

He dedicated the win to his family.

The showdown is one of the most important highlights on the annual calendar for the islands where football is almost a religion, playing a huge role in the development of our children (and producing some of the AFL's top stars).

Incoming AFL boss Andrew Dillon was among the on-lookers, saying there was no way he was going to miss the match.

"Really exciting, great footy, nice and open, no stoppages and lots of excitement in the crowd," he said.

It was the first premiership flag for the Buffaloes in nine years.



TIW FOOTBALL GRAND FINAL



Photos by Alan James – Media & Communications, Tiwi Land Council, and Celina Whan

Buffaloes victorious



Photos by Celina Whan

Favorite son “Tippa” returns to Tiwi Bombers

He has been lauded as of the most exciting footballers ever to play for AFL club Essendon.

Now Anthony McDonald-Tipungwuti, a cult hero and favorite of Essendon's fans, is returning to the Top End to play for Tiwi Bombers for the 2023-24 season.

Tiwi president Lindsay Whiting told the NT News the club and community are “incredibly excited” to welcome “Tippa” back to the club.

McDonald-Tipungwuti played his 133rd and last AFL game when he ran out against Collingwood in the final home and away game for 2023, after making a comeback this year from retirement.

Essendon's coach Brad Scott said the 30-year-old forward enjoyed a rare connection with fans.

“I said to the playing group that of all the great champions who have come through the Essendon Football Club, it's actually hard to think of someone who has made such an impression,” Scott said.

Born in the Tiwi Islands, McDonald-Tipungwuti moved to Melbourne aged 17.

The goalsneak played for Gippsland

Power in the U18 competition and played reserves for the Essendon before the club rookie listed him in late 2015.

McDonald-Tipungwuti made his AFL debut in 2016 and was Essendon's leading goalkicker in 2020.

He retired in May last year before changing his mind in November to make a comeback for the 2023 season.

McDonald-Tipungwuti will bring enormous experience to the Tiwi Bombers, who he last played with in the club's 2011-12 premiership side.

Over an incredible career with Essendon he finished in the top 10 for the club's Crichton Medal every year of his career with a high of fifth in the 2018 season.

“Anthony's return will add valuable experience and leadership for our very young group,” the Tiwi Bombers said on its Facebook page.

“The story of his resilience perseverance will be great learnings for your players in both our men and women football programs.”

Whiting said “Tippa” will be an inspiration for the whole Tiwi community.



“His story coming from the Tiwi College, that's something everyone can relate to, where a lot of kids from Tiwi don't get to come to Darwin, unless they are going to hospital,” he said.

“So for him to go away and do what he did and now the younger ones get to feel him and touch him and know he's real and it's possible for them to achieve these goals as well.”

Mr Whiting said: “We don't want to put pressure on him...we don't want him to feel like he's a savior, but he's hopefully

part of a solution.”

Even before the announcement, the club had turned to one of the Territory's most decorated football families to boost its flagging fortunes.

Patrick Bowden is the 2023-24 new senior coach.

The former Western Bulldogs and Richmond utility will lead the charge to lift the Tiwis off the bottom of the ladder.

Bowden has a wealth of senior coaching experience in both South Australia and Western Australia.

He has worked with the Clontarf Aboriginal College and the Melbourne Indigenous Transition School.

Patrick is the younger brother of the former AFL star Joel Bowden who played 265 games for Richmond.

Joel is a MP in the Territory Labor Government.

Another brother, Sean, who also played for Richmond, is Chairman of the AFLNT.

Their late father Michael Bowden OAM played in the Richard 1969 premiership side and was a revered figure in the NT's footballing world.