



[good] Pupuni **[story/news]** Ngirramini

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**Keeping country
and culture strong**
Tiwi IPA on track >> P3



TIWI RANGERS >> P10



FERAL BUFFALO IN TIWI >> P11

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

IPA on track P3

Council members
& Tiwi language
puzzle..... P4

Festival & Song
Book P5

Condolence & Santos
decisions P6

Condolences P7

John Morris
Collection P8

Young Tiwi artists.... P9

Tiwi Rangers P10

Resources &
Environment P11

The Voice / Member
for Arafura P12

Grants &
Enterprise P13

Tiwi Land Council
staff P14-15

Grand Final P16

EDITORIAL

The Tiwi News is published by
Gibson Farmer Illortaminni for
the Tiwi Land Council

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David Hancock Photography

Message from the Tiwi Land Council Chair

**DEAR Tiwi community members,
welcome to the Tiwi News.**

First, I express my heartfelt
condolences to all those who have
recently lost loved ones.

Our thoughts and prayers are with
you during this difficult time.

The Tiwi Land Council is going
through a period of exciting change with
a number of new staff appointments.

Robert Graham as CEO and Matthew
Ellis as Manager of Operations are
leading our new senior management
team.

Both are well-known within our
community and beyond and I encourage
you all to welcome and support them.

Last year I attended the joint Land
Council executives' meeting in Kalkaringi,
along with Deputy Chair Stanley Tipiloura
and several members of the Executive.

Attendees included the Northern
Land Council, the Central Land Council
and the Anindilyakwa Land Council.

We discussed a number of
important issues, including NT mineral
development, water security, the
proposed NT Treaty, CDP, Closing the
Electoral Gap and the Aboriginal Land
Rights Review.

My teams' discussions focused on
identifying areas relevant to the Tiwi
Islands and Tiwi people.

My priorities are how we can benefit
Tiwi, our culture and add value for our
people and land and sea.

Tiwi woman Marion Scrymgour, the
Federal Minister for Lingiari, Senator



Pat Dodson, Chair of Joint Standing
Committee on Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander Affairs and the NT Chief
Minister, Natasha Fyles and her team
joined us to discuss a range of issues
including the Federal Government's
proposed referendum aimed at including
Indigenous Australians in the Constitution
ensuring we have a "Voice" in Parliament
on matters affecting our future.

The Tiwi Land Council will continue
to represent all the land owners of
the Tiwi Islands and we will work
constructively with our partners and
stakeholders.

I acknowledge the important work
being done by the Ranger groups
including the development of the
Indigenous Protected Area (IPA).

This will highlight the connections
between Tiwi people, country, law and
culture.

School is back and I encourage
parents to get their children to school.

A good education is the key to
developing future leaders and financial
independence.

On a personal note, I am looking
forward to the Tiwi grand final and
wishing all the teams a great football
season this year.

Thank-you for all for your continued
support.

Mana

Gibson Farmer Illortaminni
Chairman Tiwi Land Council

Message from the CEO

**DEAR Tiwi community I am honoured
to serve you as CEO of the Tiwi Land
Council.**

I know many of you, as I have worked
with and for the TLC several times, going
back to 2007.

I hope you enjoy reading your new
Tiwi News, now in a newspaper format.

Through the Tiwi News - which
we plan to publish four times a year
- we will keep you informed of our
accomplishments and challenges.

Please send us any feedback, as well
as any news articles or photographs you
would like considered for publication.

The Tiwi Land Council plays a vital
role in advocating the rights of Tiwi
people, based on Country, Land, Sea
and Culture.

We remain committed to working
closely with our partners in government,
industry and other stakeholders to ensure
you are included in discussions and
decisions that affect your communities.

We face challenges and we need you
all to help us meet them head-on.

Climate change is already having



an impact here with rising sea levels
washing away some of our coast.

Mangroves and sea grass are being
lost.

To help ensure projects on our
islands do not make things worse we
now employ two Environment Officers
and would like to expand the environment
team.

There are at least a dozen plants and

animal pests that threaten Tiwi Country.

The cane toad is one. Gamba Grass
is another - but there are many more.

Please read our story on quarantine
restrictions which tells you what you can
do to prevent the arrival of these pests.

I've got some terrific news.

Mr John Morris, who lived here for
many years, has donated a fantastic
collection of Tiwi carvings and paintings,
dating back to the 1960s.

Our anthropologists are cataloguing
the works which John wants to go back
to the Tiwi Islands.

Thank- you John for this generous
and valuable donation.

The Australian Government has
pledged to hold a referendum on a vote
to incorporate recognition of Aboriginal
people in the Constitution and to give
them a Voice in Parliament.

We'll keep you informed of
developments.

Thank-you for supporting the Tiwi
Land Council.

Robert Graham

Tiwi IPA on track to be dedicated this year

Keeping country and culture strong

CONSULTATIONS with Traditional Owners on a draft Tiwi Islands Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) Plan of Management have been completed.

Consultants Nic Gambold and Barbie McKaige now have all the information they need from Traditional Owners, Rangers and cultural advisers to write the draft Plan of Management.

The proposed Tiwi IPA highlights the strong connection between the Tiwi people, country, traditional law and culture, while meeting national and international standards for protected area management.

Tiwi people declaring an area of around 8,000 square kilometres, including Australia's second and fifth largest islands, Melville and Bathurst, means they will be able to manage their country for biodiversity conservation with financial support from the Australian Government.

It will also help the Tiwi protect the cultural values of their islands for future generations and result in significant health, education, economic and social benefits.

Over more than two years representatives of Traditional Owner groups, cultural advisers and Tiwi Rangers have participated in a Planning Committee to develop content for the draft plan.

The draft plan will be reviewed by the IPA Committee and Rangers in the next couple of months and then submitted to the Australian Government.

The proposed dedication of the



IPA, expected later this year, will open the way for funding to commence for land management, cultural development and activities.

The Tiwi IPA will then become part of the National Reserve System, which includes all of Australia's IPAs, national parks, and nature reserves.

It will be managed by the Tiwi Rangers and administered by Tiwi Resources on behalf of the Tiwi Land Council.

Gibson Farmer Illortaminni, Tiwi Land Council Chairman said: "Just

as Tiwi traditional owners understood and cared for our land when we used it for the traditions in the past, the new generations of Tiwi land managers need to understand and care for it now and into the future.

To keep our country healthy, our people healthy and our culture strong, we need to bring together our knowledge of the past with new ways of doing things today.

A Tiwi IPA will help us to continue to look after our country and our culture for all the generations to come."



The values developed by the IPA Planning Committee include:

- 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.
- Cultural Places Tiwi cultural places - sacred sites, spiritual places, hunting and camping areas, historic sites, and homelands – are intact, alive, protected, and cared for.
- Tiwi 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.
- All Tiwi plants and animals are healthy, protected, and abundant, especially the plants and animals we use for food and culture.
- Bush Tucker and Medicines Knowledge and use of Tiwi foods and medicines from land and sea is strong and being passed on.
- A Tiwi IPA with strong and committed Men, Women and Junior Rangers keeping land and sea country healthy and culture alive into the future.

What is an Indigenous Protected Area?

AN Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) is an area of land or sea cared for by traditional owners.

Traditional owners enter a voluntary agreement with the Australian Government to protect biodiversity (animals and plants) and to conserve the area's important cultural resources, such as sacred sites.

IPAs are a key part of the

National Reserve System of protected areas—including National Parks—that stretches across Australia.

IPAs now account for more than 50 percent of the total area of our National Reserve System.

There are now 82 dedicated IPAs, covering more than 87 million hectares of land and around five million hectares of sea country.

Most IPAs occur on land but some also extend into the sea.

The Tiwi IPA covers the land but the Tiwi Land Council is hoping that in future there will be a Tiwi Sea Country IPA.

The Australian Government is providing \$231 million over five years from 1 July 2023 to continue and improve the IPA program.

Building an IPA



Tiwi Land Council members details and clan groups



NAME	FAMILY NAME	COUNCIL POSITIONS	CLAN GROUP
Richard	Puruntatameri	Executive Member	Malawu
Dominic	Kantilla	Trustee	Malawu
Clancy	Puruntatameri	Member	Malawu
Gibson	Farmer Illortaminni	Chairman and Executive Member	Mantiyupwi
Wesley	Kerinaiaua	Executive Member	Mantiyupwi
Walter Jnr.	Kerinaiaua	Trustee	Mantiyupwi
Bonaventure	Timaepatua	Member	Mantiyupwi
Damien	Molaminni (Burak)	Trustee and Executive	Mirrikawuyanga
Adonis	Wommatakimmi	Member	Mirrikawuyanga
David	Austral	Member	Mirrikawuyanga
Kim	Wommatakimmi (Brooks)	Member	Mirrikawuyanga
Kim	Puruntatameri	Trustee and Executive	Munupi
Dennis	Tipakalippa	Member	Munupi
Leslie	Tungatulum	Member	Munupi
Patricia	Puruntatameri	Member	Munupi
Brian	Tipungwuti	Trustee and Executive	Ranku
Ron	Poantimilui	Member	Ranku
Teddy	Portatminni	Member	Ranku
Simon Peter	Munkara	Trustee and Executive	Tikalaru
John Louis	Munkara	Member	Tikalaru
Valentine	Intalui	Member	Tikalaru
Valentine	Puautjimi	Member	Tikalaru
Stanley	Tipiloura	Deputy Chair and Chair of Trustees	Wilirankuwu
Jeffrey	Puruntatameri (Miller)	Executive Member	Wulirankuwu
Romolo	Tipiloura	Member	Wulirankuwu
Vincent	Mungatopi	Member	Wulirankuwu
John	Wilson	Trustee and Executive	Yimpinari
Andrew	Bush	Member	Yimpinari
Austin	Wonaeamirri	Member	Yimpinari
Dennis	Dunn	Member	Yimpinari

Tiwi Bush Tucker

A	G	N	I	R	R	I	J	A	W	P	I	J	K
U	K	I	T	I	R	I	K	A	R	G	Y	U	U
P	I	A	R	L	A	M	I	N	G	A	A	L	R
N	N	A	N	J	I	Y	L	Y	K	N	G	A	U
Y	I	I	K	K	N	K	Y	U	U	P	N	P	M
I	J	M	I	N	T	A	I	W	R	I	I	A	P
K	N	K	A	N	A	J	R	U	L	R	R	T	U
A	U	A	N	G	K	I	R	R	A	A	R	A	K
W	W	A	R	A	N	I	U	L	M	N	A	K	A
I	U	A	W	R	N	A	J	I	A	G	W	A	W
L	T	W	U	J	I	R	R	I	M	A	K	W	Y
A	N	W	U	P	W	A	R	N	A	R	U	N	U
J	A	I	N	I	W	A	Y	N	I	P	J	K	T
J	M	W	Y	I	R	R	I	K	I	P	A	Y	I

YUWURLI
ARLAMINGA
YIRRIKIPAYI
KITIRIKA
WAKATAPA
JUKWARRINGA
JALIWAKI
KURUMPUKA
MINTA
JIPWAJIRRINGA
MANTUWUNJINI
WUPWARNA
WUJIRRIMA
PINYAWINI
KURLAMA
PIRANGA
RANI
JURRIYL

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/4018274/>

Yirriwinari Festival to kick-off the dry season

THE family friendly Yirriwinari Festival celebrating Tiwi Islands' life and culture will be held from Sunday April 30 to May 1 at the Pirlangimpi Oval.

Everyone is welcome to kick-off the Top End dry season by experiencing the passing down of traditional Tiwi culture through performances and workshops over two days.

Starting on the Sunday afternoon there will be bands and DJ's, including Current Vibe, and DJ the Man and plenty more performances until late into the night.

There will also be weaving, carving and painting as well as traditional dancing, and singing workshops and demonstrations.

Monday is a day of cooking and eating bushfoods before close of the festival at 2.30pm.

The event is alcohol-free.

The Yirriwinari Festival Committee consists of Senior Tiwi Elders Simply Tipuamantumirri, Carol Puruntatameri, Marius Pirrawayingi, Tony Pilakui and Osmond Pangiraminni.

Also on the Committee are NT Health staff Joel Ikupu and Natalie Sarsfield, Tiwi Islands Training and Employment Board (TITEB) CEO Maria Harvey, and Stefan Carrillo Artback NT's Remote Events Manager.

This event is supported by Artback NT, NT Health and TITEB (Tiwi Islands Training and Employment Board), as well as the Northern Territory Government.

For more information contact projects@artbacknt.com.au or call 08 8941 1444



Song Book Celebrates Tiwi Culture

A BOOK that celebrates the culture of the Tiwi Islands through song has been published.

Murli La presents songs that hold cultural, genealogical, geographical and spiritual knowledge that have passed through thousands of years of Tiwi storytelling, ceremony and in the song-lines that circle the islands.

As custodians of the songs, the Ngarukuruwala Women's Group, in partnership with Dr Genevieve Campbell, have recorded more than 40 songs in language for the first time – each with an introduction and English translation.

The book is a joint project with the Indigenous Literary Foundation, a national charity working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander remote communities.

The book provides a one-of-kind map of the islands with areas marked in language, a snapshot into the richness of Tiwi culture.

The words of Dr Campbell, who first met the Ngarukuruwala Women's Group in 2007, are accompanied by photographs depicting the time she has spent with the women.

Over decades Dr Campbell has been closely involved in helping Tiwi song custodians preserve and maintain traditions of song and Tiwi language.

Yipala Yintanga, writing in a foreword in the book, said: "We are determined to preserve our culture and our language before it is too late."

"We want to get the young people interested in learning so they will keep songs alive," she said.

The beautifully designed book would make an ideal gift.

It is available through the Indigenous Literacy Foundation Shop for \$45.

www.indigenousliteracyfoundation.org.au/



Photos: Genevieve Campbell, courtesy of *Murli La* (Hardie Grant Explore)



Vale Dr G Yunupingu AM

IT is with heavy hearts that we at the Tiwi Land Council acknowledge the passing of Dr G Yunupingu AM, a highly respected leader of the Yolngu people in Northeast Arnhem Land. Dr Yunupingu’s passing leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come.

Dr G Yunupingu AM was born in 1948 near Nhulunbuy, in the Northern Territory of Australia. He was a proud leader of the Yolngu people and devoted his life to advocating for Indigenous rights. He was a traditional landowner, an artist, a musician, and a statesman who dedicated his life to preserving the

cultural heritage of his people. Mr Yunupingu was a passionate advocate for Indigenous land rights, both in Australia and internationally. He was a key figure in many historic negotiations dating back to the 1960’s working with his father and other Yolngu leaders on the historic bark petitions which hang in Parliament House in Canberra to this day. He was Chair of the Northern Land Council for 23 years and on the executive Council for 28 years. He spearheaded the historic painting of the Barunga statement presented to then Prime Minister Bob Hawke, in 1988,

who promised a Treaty for the Aboriginal people of Australia. That painting also hangs in Parliament House to this day. His many achievements include working on the negotiations that led to the landmark Native Title Act of 1993, which recognised the rights of Indigenous people to their traditional lands. This has led to positive outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Australians across the country. Most recently he was a member of the Senior Advisory Group established to help co-design the Indigenous voice to Parliament. Australian of the year in 1978,

awarded the Order of Australia (AM) in 1985, in 1998 he was added to the list of 100 “Australian Living National Treasures” selected by the National Trust of Australia and in 2015 he was honored by the University of Melbourne with an Honorary Doctorate of Laws. A proud and fearless leader for his people. Tiwi Land Council Chair Gibson Farmer Illortaminni expressed his condolences to Dr G Yunupingu’s family. His legacy will live on through the many lives he touched and the many causes he championed. He will be greatly missed, but his spirit will continue to guide us all.

Effects of the ‘Santos Decisions’ from Tiwi Land Council Principal Legal Officer Kaliopi Hourdas



A GREAT deal has been said about the importance of the win by traditional owners following the two Santos decisions of the Federal Court of Australia in 2022 (‘the Santos Decisions’) and rightly so given the legal consequences on Santos and other offshore petroleum companies. What however are the effects of the Santos Decisions on the Tiwi Land Council and Tiwi people?

To best understand the effects, it is important to understand the legislation that the Tiwi Land Council operates within, and to recognise the important differences between legal and practical issues. Following the decisions:

1. The practical issues relate to how the Tiwi Land Council might be able

to, or might not be able to, assist an offshore petroleum company in relation to the offshore petroleum company properly performing its consultation responsibilities under the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009* (Cth). There are many things to consider in relation to this. For example, whether a request for assistance from an offshore petroleum company is a request that the Tiwi Land Council should assist with, the availability of staff to do the work at the Tiwi Land Council and the responsibility that the Tiwi Land Council has to not share private information belonging to traditional owners.

2. The legal issues for the Tiwi Land

Council and Tiwi people are not as widespread as the practical issues. This fact can be understood when the following is considered:

- a. the boundaries of the areas for which the Tiwi Land Council was established.
- b. the Santos Decisions did not require the Federal Court of Australia to think about the meaning of the consultation responsibilities given to the Tiwi Land Council by the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth).
- c. unlike the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth), the *Offshore Petroleum*

and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009 (Cth) which offshore petroleum companies are required to comply with puts the responsibility to consult onto the offshore petroleum company.

Under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth), a function of the Tiwi Land Council is “to consult with traditional Aboriginal owners of, and other Aboriginals interested in, Aboriginal land in the area of the Land Council with respect to any proposal relating to the use that land”. Given this responsibility, the Santos Decisions do not add to or take away from the Tiwi Land Council’s existing legal responsibilities towards Tiwi people.



Vale Willie Rioli Senior OAM

WILLIE Rioli Senior, who passed away in July last year, has been remembered as a football legend and community leader who was a mentor and supervisor for the Tiwi Ranger Program.

Recognising his work through the rangers, Mr Rioli was posthumously awarded the 2022 Territory Natural Resource Management Lifetime Achievement Award at a gala dinner in November – a proud moment for his family, friends and the Tiwi ranger team.

A respected Munupi man, Mr Rioli was an inspiring role model for the Tiwi community, particularly young people, and made a huge contribution to the protection of the Tiwi Islands' environment and Indigenous culture.

As fire co-ordinator on the islands, Mr Rioli was an expert fire manager, and with his ranger team worked to keep country healthy, protect its biodiversity and reduce carbon emissions.

Mr Rioli played a leading role in the Tiwi Carbon Study – a Tiwi-CSIRO collaboration which informed the development of Australia's carbon storage savanna burning methodology.

He was the Bushfires NT Arnhem Region Council Chair from 2017-2022 and in 2018 became a director and founding member of the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network (ICIN) Steering Committee.

Ms Anna Boustead, ICIN Chief Executive Officer, said Mr Rioli has left an "incredible legacy as well as a giant hole in the heart of our network."

"He was such a warm person, a constant source of support to me and everyone at ICIN...his positive and pragmatic spirit was infectious and he had an ability to expertly weave traditional knowledge and culture with western ways," she said.

"He was forever making time for others and very passionate about providing

opportunities for young people and future generations and, in particular, enabling these through the carbon industry, as well as through his other talent and passion, football."

The Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation's Taegan Calnan said Mr Rioli "was a passionate and enthusiastic driver of the project and leaves a great legacy of successful carbon abatement on the Tiwi Islands. He will be sorely missed by everybody who has been involved in the Tiwi Fire and Carbon Project, and in the carbon industry more broadly."

Under Mr Rioli's leadership the ranger group won the Biodiversity Category of the UN World Environment Day Awards in 2015.

In 2016, the Tiwi Carbon Study was a finalist in the Indigenous Leadership Category of the Banksia Sustainability Awards.

In 2008, Mr Rioli was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the development of the Tiwi Islands.

Mr Rioli was a director of Tiwi Resources and provided strong leadership and guidance in its business development.

The football world paid tribute to Mr Rioli who won the NTFL's highest award, the Nichols Medal, at just 16 and was drafted to Hawthorn in 1990.

He was a key member of the Rioli/Long football dynasty and played with his brother Maurice, the Richmond great, at the South Fremantle Football Club.

Mr Rioli played in multiple premierships with St Mary's and coached the Tiwi Island Bombers Football Club, and the Imalu Tigers to a premiership.

He also served as president of the Tiwi Islands Football League.

Hundreds of people attended Mr Rioli's funeral at St Mary's Star of the Sea Cathedral in Darwin and he was also commemorated at a burial at his home on the Tiwi Islands.



"He was forever making time for others and very passionate about providing opportunities for young people and future generations and, in particular, enabling these through the carbon industry, as well as through his other talent and passion, football."

- Ms Anna Boustead, ICIN Chief Executive Officer

Vale Lawrence Urban Costa (Tipakalippa)

TIWI communities were deeply saddened by the passing in December of the Member for Arafura, Lawrence Costa, who is remembered as a "big man with a big heart" who tirelessly served his people over many years.

Speakers at a State Funeral at Darwin's St Mary's Star of the Sea Cathedral paid tribute to Mr Costa as a strong leader of Tiwi islanders and the constituents of Maningrida and West Arnhem in his Arafura electorate.

They spoke of a passionate, thoughtful, caring and highly respected man with strong cultural beliefs for whom his family was his sanctuary.

Many Tiwi islanders also farewelled Mr Costa at a traditional burial ceremony at his home Pitjarmirra Outstation north of Melville Island on March 3.

In Darwin, Mr Costa's wife Ebony, gave a moving testament to the man she described as her "soulmate."



"My husband was an incredible person. Not only was he a great husband, he was an amazing father, grandfather, best friend, colleague, and so much more," she said.

"And in my thoughts and tears, I am reminded of just how much he

made an impact on all our lives...he was my soulmate, my inspiration, my best friend who walked beside me through everything we did.

"For someone so private, he surely gave and shared so much of himself.

"Lawrence supported and loved us all and was always there to help find the way through life's challenges – he will deeply be missed everyday, and I will be reminded of your love, your life and your deep legacy – from my heart to yours."

NT Chief Minister Natasha Fyles said Mr Costa loved his family more than anything.

"Lawrence wasn't in politics for himself...and unlike most in politics, he never really wanted to go for a ministerial position, because he knew it would take him away from his people," she said.

"Lawrence more than anything wanted to help his constituents, his people, the people he represented... the people of the Tiwi Islands and West

Arnhem Land, and by extension, the First Nations' people of the Northern Territory."

Federal MP Marian Scrymgour, a Tiwi Islander, described the passing of her close friend as "devastating."

She spoke of the immense grief that Mr Costa had carried with him in recent years over deaths of other family members, especially his father.

Pallbearers dressed in the black and gold colors of his beloved Richmond and Imalu Tigers carried his coffin into the St Mary's church.

Mr Costa was elected Labor's Member for Arafura at elections in 2016 and served in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly until his sudden passing on 17 December, aged 52.

Before he entered parliament, Mr Costa held leadership roles in local government councils and committees.

He also worked for the Department of Health helping young people across the Tiwi Islands.



The John Morris Collection



IN late 2022, John Morris donated a significant collection of Aboriginal Cultural Material to the Tiwi Land Council.

There are two components to the John Morris Collection; a wide-ranging selection of Tiwi artefact types – paintings, carvings, weapons, ceremonial ornaments, domestic utensils and musical instruments; and a smaller Port Keats region component of distinctive bark paintings, an array of woven baskets, dilly bag and mats.

There are isolated objects such as an historic wagon wheel from Copper Creek Daly River massacre site, and odd ethnographic objects from Maningrida

and elsewhere. Also, several boxes of documents relating to Morris' valuable Field Reports and reference material.

John Morris' relevant experience with the Tiwi people included:

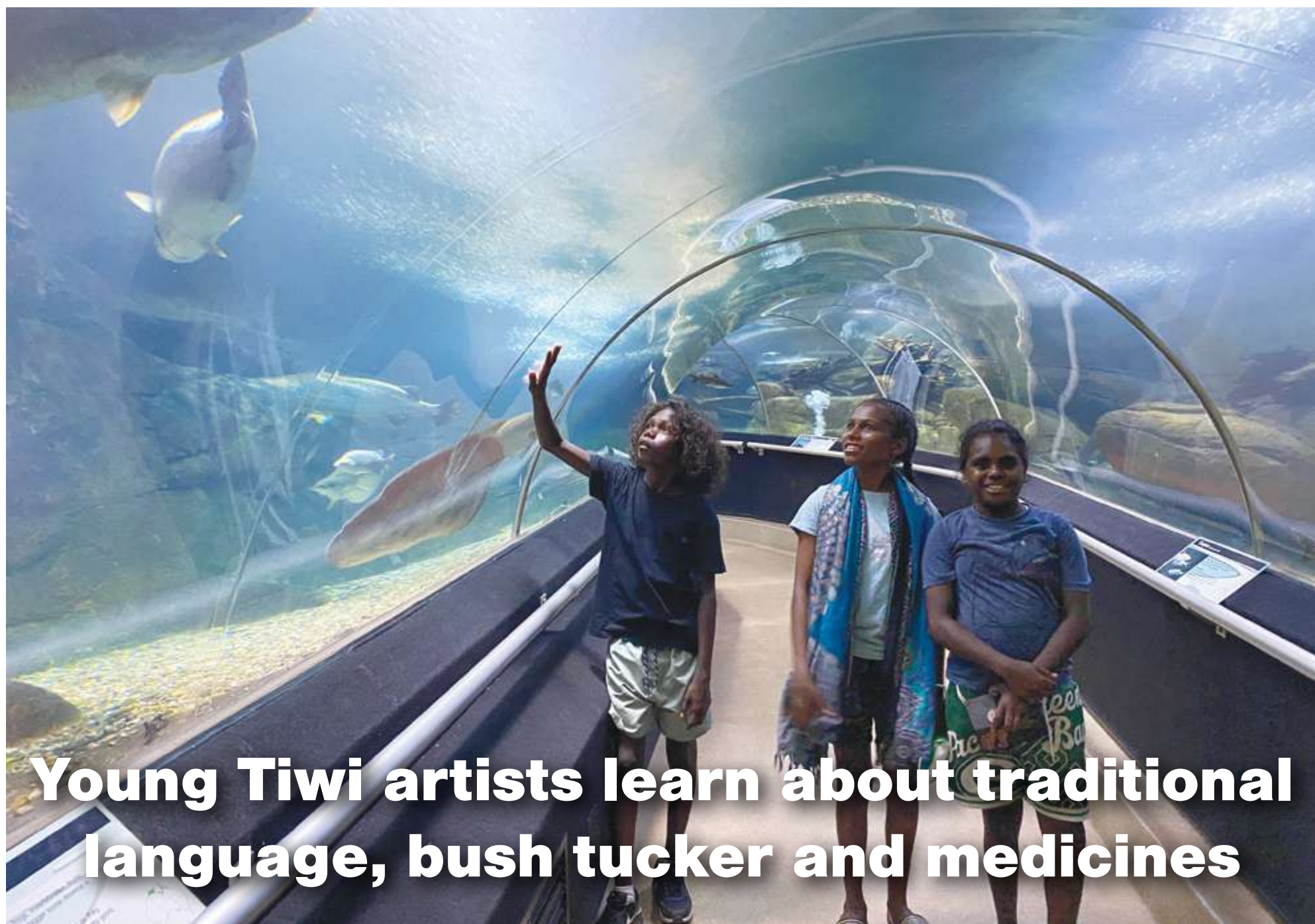
- Working in an administrative position at Bathurst Island Mission, Nguiu, from 1960 to 1965. His duties were purchasing Tiwi artifacts for resale and encouraging the construction of fish traps by several groups of men. He visited Milikapiti (Snake Bay), Pirlingimpi (Garden Point) and Pikataramoor (Pickertaramoor) at various times.
- In the late 1960s his work with Mantiupwi people and other residents of Paru village on Melville Island, included rebuilding the village of approximately 70 to 80 people and encouraging residents to develop small economic projects such as a bakery, small gardens, and a fish trap.
- In the late 1960s when employed by the Welfare Branch, he resumed contact with the Tiwi. He acted as superintendent of Milikapiti and visited various Tiwi communities as District Welfare Officer (later District Advisor).

A database was created to document the collection and produce a Report. Access on the web hasn't

been discussed yet. The plan is to bring together representatives from Patakijiyali Museum at Wurrumiyanga; Jilamara Arts at Milikapiti; Kanamkek-Yile Ngala Museum in Wadeye; Museum and Art Gallery of the NT; Land Councils; and NT Archives to decide on the fate of the collection.

There are two secret sacred objects. A Bullroarer painting on bark from Port Keats Mission, and a Hairbelt from the Kuwama/Malak Malak group. Unfortunately, it was unavoidable that the objects were sighted by me whilst unpacking!





TIWI elders are deeply concerned about the loss of Tiwi language and culture. They worry that traditional knowledge about bush tucker and bush medicines is being lost and the Tiwi names for plants and animals forgotten.

To help address this, an art competition to help teach students about Tiwi wildlife was held by the Indigenous Protection Areas (IP) Committee in Tiwi schools.

Students drew their favourite animals and the winners - Cataleya McLennan, Sheldon Kantilla, Derek Wilson, Lizzie Daniels, Tanya Cook, Mia Thompson, Wyndell Tyrell Puruntatameri, Latoya Darcy Pilakui and Tony Kerinaia - were

rewarded with a visit to the Territory Wildlife Park in December.

Tiwi Rangers Derek Puruntatameri, Stanley Tipungwuti and Colin Kerinaia along with IPA Committee members, Richard Tungatalum and Jane Puautjimi and guardians John McLennan and Cassandra Daniels took students from Milikapiti, Pularumpi, MCPS and Xavier on the excursion.

Mr Tungatalum said “we need to maintain our language, our culture, got to do it together. Make it stronger for our kids, our future generations. Need to put it in the curriculum, those plants and animals, need to learn about them, help them to become rangers.”



Tiwi students and guardians, rangers, IPA Committee members, and Tiwi Resources staff at the Territory Wildlife Park.



Busy program for Tiwi Rangers

TIWI Rangers have been working on a range of projects including Olive Ridley turtle tracking at Iluma Beach, drone surveys and a medical plant collection pilot project with Menzies School of Health Research and Integra Healthcare.

Rangers also do monthly boat patrols and undertake biosecurity surveillance work for the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

The rangers support visiting researchers from a number of different institutions. Recently they have assisted research scientists from Charles Darwin University with a mammal monitoring project near Jessie Creek and Western Sydney University research scientists with collecting stingless bees.

Rangers have done some big rubbish collections at several areas including Paru boat ramp. They collected 12 bags of rubbish from there alone. Rangers have also placed some bins out for everyone to use at Paru.

Please do not throw your rubbish on the ground, put it in a bin.



Rangers leading fire management plan

The Tiwi Rangers have led the development and implementation of a fire management plan that reduces greenhouse gas emissions on the islands.

In 2016, the Tiwi Islands Savanna Burning for Greenhouse Gas Abatement Project was registered with the Australian Government's Emissions Reduction Fund.

Since 2018 the project has been earning Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs).

"There was no such thing as carbon credits, people light fires whenever they wanted to. Now we need to watch that fire. We set up that carbon program, if we burn that country, that money goes

up in smoke." said John Wilson – Senior Yimpinari elder and Tiwi Land Council Trustee and Executive member.

But earning carbon credits is only part of the story for Tiwi people - the substantial Tiwi cultural values relating to fire needs to be maintained as do the Islands' exceptional biodiversity values, which are of national significance and remain an integral part of Tiwi culture.

Last year a meeting was held in Wurrumiyanga to discuss moving the Tiwi Fire and Carbon Project from an ILSC/INPEX supported project to a 100 percent Tiwi owned business by the end of 2023.

A committee, representing each of the eight Tiwi landowner groups, was



established to oversee transition of the project to a stand-alone enterprise.

This process is being facilitated by consultants Nic Gambold, Barbie McKaige and Jarrad Holmes.

Two workshops covering climate

change, fire management to-date, carbon farming concepts, including the generation of carbon credits and managing income have been completed and a Business Plan and marketing Prospectus are currently in production.

Talking about Buffalo on the Tiwis

CONSULTATIONS with Traditional Owners about managing feral buffalo on the islands will commence in the next couple of months.

Tiwi Resources has received funding from the NT Aboriginal Ranger Grants Program to develop a Tiwi Buffalo Management Plan. Workshops will start this dry season with the Tiwi Land Council and the Tiwi Resources Board. After that each of the clans with buffalo on their country – Munupi, Marrikawuyanga, Wulirankuwu, Mantiyupwi, and Yimpinari – will be consulted.

Water buffalo were introduced from Timor to Melville Island in 1826 for

milk, meat, and heavy labour. However, large, uncontrolled herds are a big problem for Tiwi country. Buffalo wallows, trails, and trampling damages the soil and saltwater can now get into freshwater places, killing wetland plants. Important bush tucker animals such as magpie geese, ducks, and turtles cannot live in salty water. Buffalo also muddy up freshwater springs and waterways, making the water bad for people to drink.

The 18 Traditional Owners on the Tiwi Islands IPA Planning Committee - representing all eight landowning groups - have already ranked buffalo as a 'Top Threat' to healthy country and cultural values in the Tiwi

IPA Plan of Management.

Buffalo also carry serious cattle diseases including Lumpy Skin Disease, Foot-and-Mouth Disease, Bovine Brucellosis and Bovine Tuberculosis. Lumpy Skin Disease and Foot-and-Mouth Disease diseases are not yet in Australia but are currently in Indonesia and there is strong concern Lumpy Skin Disease could make it to the Tiwis, and then the mainland, by flies and mosquitoes carried on the wind. Bovine Brucellosis and Bovine Tuberculosis have been eradicated in Australia but could be accidentally reintroduced. These diseases pose a huge threat to Australia's livestock industries.



Feral buffalo wallows cause soil erosion and damage wetland areas important for hunting and collecting bush tucker.

Action needed to combat feral cats on the islands



THE 2023 National Feral Cat Symposium held in Perth in February received a report detailing the problem of feral cats on the Tiwi Islands.

Tiwi Land Ranger Clinton Rioli and Charles Darwin University researcher Georgie Neave reported that there are more feral cats out bush on Melville Island than there are on Bathurst Island.

They told the conference attended by many organisations, including ranger groups, land councils, not-for-profit conservation groups, government agencies and universities, that feral cats like country that is unhealthy and disturbed by frequent hot fires, buffalo and horses.

Cats are more likely to hunt more native animals in this open country, taking advantage of trails created by buffalo and horses, they said.

The symposium heard that to protect the Tiwi Islands' native species it is important to keep country healthy through early dry season burning to prevent big hot fires and to manage buffalo and horses.

Islanders are urged to keep pet cats inside and have them desexed.

Tiwi rangers have been given funded from Territory National Resource Management (TNRM) to use to Felixer Grooming Traps on Melville Island this year.

More information on these traps will be available at clan group meetings in April/May and in the next Tiwi News.

Feral cats threaten many native animals across Australia, including more than 100 listed threatened species.

Tiwi Island Quarantine

The natural resources of the Tiwi Islands are our most valuable asset. They not only form the basis of our traditional activities, but also are the base of economic aspirations. The introduction of feral animals, weeds and other pests and diseases place the plants and animals of the Tiwi Islands at great risk.

The Tiwi Islands are free from some of the common pests in Darwin – cane toads and Gamba Grass. Travel to our nearest neighbours has the potential to introduce these pests to the Tiwi Islands.

Common ways pests can travel to the islands are:

Clothing:

- Weed seeds on clothes
- Soil on boots and shoes

Luggage

Ants in boxes, cases and food

Soil, weeds and seeds in cases or boxes

Water that has toad eggs or tadpoles

Ants, eggs, tadpoles or fungus in pot plants

Freight

Parasites in dog and cat crates, or on the animals

Soil, rubbish, seeds or plant materials on vehicle and machinery

Water in freight or machinery

Weed seeds in construction materials such as sand, gravel and rock.

What is being done?

The Tiwi Islands have a quarantine policy, which has the requirement for freight and luggage to be cleaned and inspected prior to travel.

TLC staff are speaking with the barge and airlines to understand the movement of people, animal and freight, as well as conducting inspections of vehicles and machinery. Items that do not meet the



quarantine requirements will be turned back and not allowed to travel.

What can you do?

Do not bring back pot plants, animals, dirty vehicles or machinery to the Tiwi Islands.

For items that will travel, make sure you clean and thoroughly inspect your clothes, luggage and any vehicles you are bringing back to the Tiwi Islands.

Contact the TLC to organise an inspection of vehicles and machinery in Darwin well before it is due to travel on barge to prevent rejection.

Report any signs of Gamba Grass or cane toads to the Rangers or TLC office.



Information sessions on “Voice” to be held on Tiwi Islands

TIWI Island Council Chair Gibson Farmer Illortaminni is a member of the important First Nations Referendum Engagement Group on the Voice which met in Adelaide on March 16.

Later this year Australians will have their say in a referendum to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Constitution through an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. The referendum is a vote to say yes or no to this.

Planning is underway to hold information sessions on the Voice on

the Tiwi Islands before the referendum is held.

The Voice, if approved, would be an independent, representative advisory body for First Nations peoples.

It would provide a permanent means to advise the Australian Parliament and Government on the views of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on matters that affect them. It could also answer questions from them.

On 23 March Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced the constitutional amendment and referendum question that were agreed to by the government

and Referendum Working Group.

These will soon be introduced into Parliament.

The Voice representatives would be chosen by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people based on the wishes of local communities.

It would have its own resources to allow it to research, develop and make representations.

The constitutional amendment and referendum question reflect the advice of the First Nations Referendum Working Group.

After the referendum, if the vote

is yes, there will be a process with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, the Parliament, and the broader public to settle the Voice design.

Legislation to establish the Voice would then go through standard parliamentary processes to ensure adequate scrutiny by elected representatives in both houses of Parliament.

The referendum is part of the Government's commitment to implementing the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full.

The Question:

Australians will be asked at this year's referendum:

“A Proposed Law: to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

Do you approve this proposed alteration?”

If the vote is Yes:

In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as the First Peoples of Australia:

1. There shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice;
2. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to the Parliament and the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
3. The Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws with respect to matters relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, including its composition, functions, powers and procedures.

A message from Manuel Brown MLA Member for Arafura



AFTER the tragic passing of Mr Lawrence Costa MLA a by-election was triggered. Labor's Manuel Brown secured 66% of first preference votes and has been sworn in as the new member for Arafura. Mr Brown extends his best wishes to his opponent the CLP candidate Leslie Tungatalum.

From the Takaringuwi tribe Mr Brown identifies as a Yimpinari person from the north side of Melville Island. Growing up he spent time living in Milikapiti. Andrew Bush is his full uncle and he has family

connections with the Bush, Black, Brown and Cook families.

Manuel has been working and living in Maningrida for the last seven years with his wife Jessica and their children Kendyn, Bella, Heath and Rachel. He has been working in various roles with the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, Malala Health and Northern Land Council in the areas of community development, alcohol and other drugs and youth services including youth diversion. Manuel also previously held the role of the Arafura Electorate Liaison

Officer working with Mr Costa travelling the electorate, building strong networks, identifying issues and advocating for the community. He has known the Costa family for over 20 years and learned a great deal from the former member.

Manuel plans to make sure the people of the Tiwi Islands have a strong voice in the Government. Manuel is keen to assist with the needs of the electorate. His electorate phone number is (08) 8999 6950 or email: electorate.arafura@nt.gov.au

Upgrade of Paru Road will allow all-year access

NINE kilometres of Paru Road on Melville Island will be upgraded to allow for all-year access.

Local Aboriginal Business Enterprise, Tiwi Partners Pty Ltd, has been awarded a \$28 million contract to carry out the work, including sealing the road from the Baru barge landing to the Threeways intersection.

The barge access road will be sealed.

A bridge will also be constructed over the Paru Creek crossing with a realignment of the road to remove the sharp bend.

Tiwi Partners anticipates employing 64 workers on the project, including 23 Indigenous workers and four apprentices, two of them Indigenous.

The Northern Territory Government announced the work is expected to begin in April 2023.

It is part of a \$75 million commitment by the NT and Australian governments to upgrade Paru Road, Pickertaramoor Access Road and Pirlangimpi Access Road on Melville Island over a number of years.

Paru Road will remain accessible while the work is being carried out.

Eva Lawler, the NT Government's Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, said sealing Paru Road and the barge access will improve road safety and provide flood immunity for travelers.

"It will also facilitate better access between the communities on Melville and Bathurst Islands, the Tiwi Islands ferry service, businesses and facilities, making it a better place to live, work and visit," she said.



Tiwi Tiger prawn farming project update

THE proposed location for the prawn farm has been narrowed down to two locations.

This follows a successful field trip in September, led by Ranku/Portaminni family members and attended by CSIRO, Tiwi Resources, and the Tiwi Land Council.

The next step will involve the final selection of the farm location based on comparative economic and environmental considerations.

In addition, Ranku/Portaminni family members have visited CSIRO's demonstration in Berry Springs on a couple of occasions to assist with prawn sampling and to gain real experience in prawn farm operations.





Helen Maria Haritos
Regional Anthropologist

I am Helen Maria Haritos! A second-generation Territorian with a long association with Tiwi people through my father “Nundi” George Haritos employing Tiwi men on his croc hunting and barramundi fishing boats in 1940s and 1950s and visiting the islands on Betty Joan in early 1960s.

I studied Archaeology, Anthropology and History at the Charles Darwin University. I worked as an archaeologist on the Woodside Trans Territory Pipeline from Wadeye to the Goyder River. I was employed by the Northern

Land Council for ten years as a regional anthropologist in the Darwin, Daly River, and Port Keats region, then four years as a senior anthropologist, Land Claims.

It is a privilege to get to know and work with Tiwi people, through working with the John Morris Collection of Tiwi material culture. Also looking forward to getting out on country to camp with Tiwi to record their cultural knowledge and sites.



Helen Daiyi
Policy Officer

My name is Helen Daiyi, and through my Father, I am a Mak Mak Marranungu woman from the Finnis River.

My Tiwi identity is through my maternal grandmother, the late Clare Scrymgour (Molaminni).

Her country was Marrikawuyanga ‘Shark Bay’ on Melville Island, and she also belonged to the Tarnikini (Flying Fox) tribe.

I have been employed with the Tiwi Land Council since October 2022, as the TLC Policy Officer.

My goal is to contribute to strengthening the internal organisational structures of the TLC whilst empowering Tiwi people to protect, maintain and reap the full benefits of their land and seas.



Matt Brooks
Anthropologist

I joined the Tiwi Land Council as an Anthropologist in mid-January this year. I plan to focus on understanding what Tiwi find important regarding hunting, culture and country and to assist in implementing protection and maintenance of cultural sites and areas of importance.

My role includes supporting landowning groups to make informed decisions about development proposals including mining and ensure traditional owners have a seat at the table in these discussions.

I’m planning to learn and assist in the many ways that Tiwi people want to preserve, record, and pass down knowledge.



Josephine Martens
Finance Manager

Josephine commenced employment with the Tiwi Land Council January 2017, and has over 30 years’ experience in Bookkeeping, BAS & Audit Preparation on the Tiwi Islands.

This includes previously being employed and contracted by Chartered Accounting firms in Darwin to provide external bookkeeping to Wurankuwu Aboriginal Corporation and Outstations, Nguui Community Government Council, Nguui Ullintjinni Association, Tiwi Islands Local Government, Bima Wear Association Incorporation, and Milikapti Sports &

Social Club Incorporated.

Josephine enjoys dealing with the needs of the Land Council and councillors while providing a high level of governance and financial oversight.



Alan James OAM
Media and Communications Officer

I was born in Katherine, NT, and raised in Darwin. I have broad experience in the small business, corporate, NGO, Government and Indigenous affairs sectors.

I managed the band Yothu Yindi for 25 years from its beginning until the lead singer passed away in 2013.

In the 1980’s I organised concerts in the old Nguui town hall with the Darwin band Swamp Jockeys and some may remember in 1993 Yothu Yindi and Slim Dusty visited as part of the Raypirri tour.

In my role as media and communications officer I look forward to making a positive contribution to the Tiwi Land Council and the people of the Tiwi Islands.



Kristine Matienzo
Grants Officer

Kristine commenced employment on 7 June 2021 and has met with the clan groups and Tiwi Organisations on the Tiwi Islands and identified the most appropriate funding stream for projects that benefit the Tiwi people.

Her role is to provide assistance and advice on grant applications for funding through the Commonwealth, Northern Territory and Philanthropic funding bodies.

The Grants Officer is also the Aboriginal Benefit Account Support Officer for the Tiwi Islands.

The number of grant submissions and successful grant applications from organisations from the Tiwi Islands increased with the guidance of the Tiwi Land Council Grants Officer.

If you need assistance with your Grant applications, please do not hesitate to contact Kristine on 08 8997 0714, mobile 0459 985193 or email: grants@tlc.com



Kaliopi Hourdas
Principal Legal Officer

My name is Kaliopi Hourdas and I recently commenced employment with the Land Council as its Principal Legal Officer. It is such a privilege to have the opportunity to apply my 15 years of legal experience to the benefit of the Tiwi Land Council.

I was born and raised in Darwin, and I always enjoy listening to my Greek parents talk about the bond that developed between Darwin's Greek community and the local indigenous people in the 1960s through to the 1980s.

I look forward to meeting the people of the Tiwi Islands and contributing to the work done by the Land Council.

My motivation is to use my skills to achieve results which benefit Tiwi people. My commitment is to contribute to the future of the Land Council by working productively and ensuring my work reflects the legal obligations of the Land Council and the principles of good governance.



Matt Ellis
Chief Operating Officer

I grew up down south, on the Murray River in a small town called Mannum. In 2011 I visited the Tiwi Islands, camping and fishing around Melville Island. It was a life changing experience.

I was amazed by the pristine environment, the wildlife, the people and the fish! In 2016 I accepted a role as Policy Adviser with the NTG and advised Ministers on many portfolios including - Infrastructure, Logistics, Planning, Remote Housing, Homelands, Aboriginal Affairs, Treaty and Local Decision Making. I have worked closely with the

Tiwi Land Council, local MLA the late Lawrence Costa, Tiwi Islands Regional Council and many other stakeholders to promote local projects and initiatives.

I am enthusiastic about preserving Tiwi culture and protecting the Tiwi Islands' unique environment, while also promoting Tiwi endeavours. It is an honour to be invited to join the TLC team as Chief Operating Officer and I am thankful for this opportunity. I won't let you down.



Murray Knyvett
Resources and Environmental Officer

I first came to the Northern Territory in 1999, taking a position in Rangeland Management at the Katherine Research Station. I immediately felt at home in the laid back lifestyle and endless outdoor activities that were available in the NT. From Katherine, I moved to Daly River community as the Landcare Coordinator and first ever ranger coordinator for the Malak Malak rangers. After three and a half years at Daly River, I moved to Nhulunbuy where I was employed for 15 years with YBE, a locally owned Indigenous mining services contractor. In 2019,

I relocated my family to Darwin and commenced working for the Tiwi Land Council to assist Tiwi with mining and environmental matters. The Tiwi people immediately made me feel welcome and I feel very privileged to be able to spend time on their beautiful country. Although the Tiwi Islands face many environmental threats, I feel strongly that we can work together to protect this amazing island environment and culture for many generations to come.



Sarah Ryan
Resource and Environment Officer

Sarah has worked on the Tiwi Islands since 2015, when she started working for Tiwi Plantations.

Her work covered fire, weeds, and threatened species surveys across Melville Island and quality control and vessel inspections at Port Melville.

Sarah worked for TPC as the Sustainability Manager until 2021, when she returned to Darwin. Sarah is passionate about the Tiwi environment and culture, as it is a beautiful place where the environment and land is important to the people. Sarah is

excited to be working for the TLC and Tiwi people again in an environmental role, working towards keeping country healthy while supporting land use and opportunities.



Sonja Hoffman
Executive Assistant
and Logistics Officer

A Gangulu woman, born and raised in the central Queensland town of Rockhampton Sonja moved to Darwin nearly 23 years ago.

After starting with the Tiwi Land Council as the Administration and Reception Officer, Sonja has recently moved to the Executive Assistant and Logistics Officer position.

She will work closely with and take directions from the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Operating Officer acting as the point of contact between the Executives, internal and external

colleagues and stakeholders. Her duties include organising the logistics for the Tiwi Land Council and executive meetings and managing the permit system for the Tiwi Islands.



Tyeanne Heenan-Tinoco
Receptionist

My name is Tyeanne Heenan-Tinoco, and my mother, is Elisabeth Heenan whom was born in Darwin but was raised in Wurrumiyanga and Milikapiti.

My father Nuno Tinoco was born in Timor and arrived in Darwin in 1977 as a refugee together with his grandparents and siblings.

I was born and raised in Darwin my whole life, I enjoy playing football and Netball as well as going goose shooting and pig hunting with my Dad.

Having the opportunity to learn more

about my mothers culture and heritage makes me incredibly happy to be working for the Tiwi Land Council.



Tiwi Islands grand final set for August 6

PLANES, ferries and boats will be packed.

There will be television cameras and excitement to match that of the mobs behind the goals on grand final day at the MCG.

The biggest tourism day of the year on the Tiwi Islands has been set – Sunday August 6.

For the first time this year's Tiwi Island Grand Final and Art Fair will be played smack in the middle of our Dry-Season.

The day kicks off at 2pm with a women's match, followed by the titanic battle to contest the premiership.

And there will be plenty of fun activities for the kids during the day, as well as the Art Fair.

Last year the grand final between Imalu Tigers of Pirlangimpi and Muluwurri Magpies of Milikapiti attracted a crowd of more than 3,000.

The Magpies were champions for the fourth time in their history.

Previously the grand final had been held in March during the wet season.

Every year thousands of footy fans across Australia tune into the grand final, marveling at how a population of about 2,500 has produced such a top array of footballers, from families such as Rioli's, Tipungwuti's and Longs.

Visitors can get tickets through Sealink and charter airlines.



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