



THE TIWI

NEWS for
Traditional
Owners



Good to know

Our ownership of the Vernon Islands is agreed. Government are working to transfer the title to the Tiwi Land Trust.

Our Forests are graded in the top 1% of best managed Forests in Australia. Our Managers PMP maintain best practice international certification.

Our Junior Land Council is 50:50 girls and boys from Tiwi College who meet with the Land Council providing ideas and gaining leadership experience for our future.

This year so far 330 fishing permits have been issued. These payments go to the Landowners of the rivers where these visitors go fishing.



Chairman's word of welcome



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Our Land Council is now 34 years old. Years ago our stories were enough to speak about everything we did. Our writing was in our eyes and memories, and in the respect we have for each other. Now our delegates have decided we need to write more in words about the things we do. Times change. Our people are busy doing many other things these days. For years we have filmed CD's of ceremony and land management for our Landowners; but now we have decided to also write about what the Land Council does in a newspaper called THE TIWI that will

be published six times a year. These pages are about the work of our Land Council. Our delegates have thought and planned and worked for our future upon these islands over many years. This is the story of our work; what we think about; what we hope for; and how we plan to use our land and resources for the strength and future of our Tiwi people. Awana and welcome to THE TIWI – the landowner's newspaper.

Gibson Farmer Illortaminni.
Chairman.

With respect to the strength of our past Leaders whose vision established the Tiwi Land Council



Photo by Heide Smith

NEW Chairman

Chairman Elections and Results 2012

The Land Council Chairman holds office for three years. Land Council members appoint an independent Electoral Officer and Returning Officer to conduct these elections. Eleven candidates stood and members had to vote ten times

in an exhaustive ballot process to elect our Chairman. Mr. Gibson Illortaminni secured a convincing majority of votes to be elected Chairman. Our past Chairman, Mr. Robert Tipungwuti was elected Deputy.

Gibson Illortaminni

Born 23 June 1958 at Milikapiti on Melville Island, Mr. Illortaminni was educated at schools in Darwin and McKay in Queensland returning to the Islands to take up apprentice forester employment with the Commonwealth and later Territory Governments' then developing plantations on Melville Island during the 1970's.

Gibson is a senior elder of the Mantiyupwi people and was an early supporter of the formation of the Tiwi Land Council in 1978. He has represented their interests on the Land Council for the past decade. During that time Mr. Illortaminni has been a strong advocate for education and training, and the creation and security of Tiwi jobs for work on the Tiwi Islands. It is no coincidence that the Tiwi College, now with 82 students enrolled, occupies 400 ha of land owned by Gibson's family. More recently Mr. Illortaminni has successfully represented the interests of his people in land claims over the Vernon Islands.

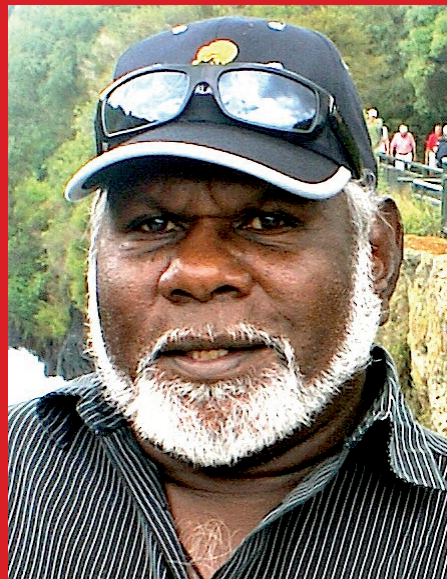
During the period of community local government Gibson was three times re-elected as President of the Milikapiti

Community Local Government Council. He was also a strong foundation member of the Tiwi Health Board. A family suicide in the late 1990's led to Gibbo's passionate dedication to discuss these deeply personal issues and to seek research and programs that could better assist Tiwi

people. He developed a national profile as an advocate for families affected by suicide. These years provided him a network of friendships and connections throughout Australia and New Zealand. He renewed some of these with Maori business leaders during visits to their forestry trusts in 2009.

Gibson joined Great Southern Plantations Limited in 2007 as a forestry worker and quickly became a respected Manager and Liaison Officer for that Company developing programs to assist entry of Tiwi forestry workers into the workforce. With the collapse of Great Southern in 2009, Mr. Illortaminni has led the determination of Tiwi landowners to establish

their own Tiwi Plantations Corporation in 2010 tasked with managing and bringing these plantations to harvest. Gibson Illortaminni has recently celebrated his 28th wedding anniversary with his wife Linda. They have two children and eleven grandchildren.



Gibson Illortaminni

Facts

Last month Gibbo celebrated 5 years of continuous work with Tiwi Forests.

The Chairman's first official engagement was to congratulate JILAMARA on the opening of their amazing new Gallery, Museum and workshops 15 March.

Gibbo welcomed our Land Council Science Committee to their third meeting at Picka 27 to 30 March. Professor Rob Saint, the Dean of Science, Melbourne Uni is Chairman of this Land Council Committee made up of six Tiwi members and six University leaders.



Chairman Election 2012

Tiwi Tourism Market

Day tourists to our Islands have dropped from 4000 a year to around 1000 a year over the past decade.

However, Fishing Tourists from major Corporations around the world have increased from around 20 a year to now well over a thousand. These tourists stay longer and spend more money to support good Tiwi business.

The Land Council has directed corporate funding to build up our Tourist Fishing business to accommodate these fishing tourists.

Tiwi Islands Adventures, owned by all Tiwi landowners, has been formed to purchase a very profitable Melville Is-

land Lodge business. It will also add Barra Base to expand this business. Re-design and construction of Barra Base will take place through 2012.

Eco tourism involving our Land and Sea Rangers will extend the tourism product able to be offered by Tiwi Islands Adventures.

Mike Baxter of Melville Island Lodge is the Managing Director of Tiwi Islands Adventures and is responsible for building up this Corporation for jobs and benefit to all our landowners.

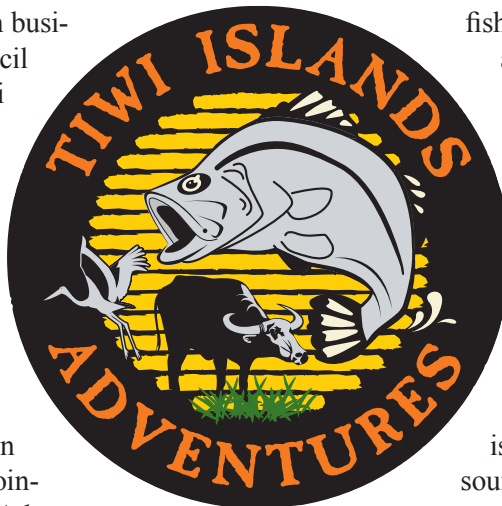


Tiwi Islands Adventures



In late March, the Chairman of the Land Council, Mr. Gibson Illortaminni, announced the formation of 'Tiwi Islands Adventures' a new tourism business supported by the Tiwi Land Council and owned by all Tiwi Landowners. Tiwi Islands Adventures has been established to provide a range of Tiwi tourism experiences, which include professionally guided barramundi fishing, wild-life safaris and bird watching. The new business recently purchased Melville Island Lodge and the Johnson River Camp from previous owners. It has also commenced rebuilding Barra Base, which will reopen for business in March 2013. Mike Baxter has been appointed Managing Director of Tiwi Islands Adventures with a Board of both Tiwi and non-Tiwi Directors that includes Mr. Andrew Tipungwuti as its Chairman. Mr. Tipungwuti said that, "Although the volume of day-tou-

rists to the Tiwi Islands has greatly reduced in recent times, the number of fishing and eco tourists who visit us from around the world has increased significantly over the past few years. They stay longer on the islands and spend more money to support good Tiwi business. Melville Island Lodge has set a very high standard for tourists visiting us and is widely regarded as being the best and most profitable fishing lodge in Australia. Our opportunity now is to successfully expand this business throughout our islands and, in reliance upon our own resources, make a meaningful contribution to our expanding Tiwi private economy and the job opportunities such ventures can create. We intend making Tiwi Islands Adventures a business that all Tiwi will be proud of".



Cricket legend Matthew Hayden
Guest of TIA



Scott Mathews, Senior Guide and
Guest Reba Boger



Buffalo

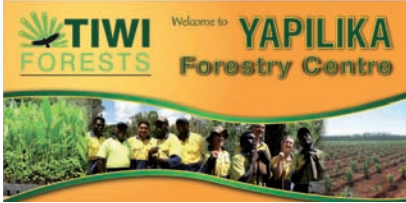


Melville Island Lodge

Tiwi Forests



The Tiwi Plantations Corporation continues to manage the Tiwi forests on behalf of Tiwi Traditional Landowners. The plantations are managed through Plantation Management Partners who once again achieved ISO 14001 Certification.



ISO 14001 Certification means that the plantations are being managed to the highest international standards.

Tiwi are now half of the workforce at Yapilika. Tiwi Plantations Corporation and Plantation Management Partners are keen to recruit more Tiwi to the workforce.

Good to know

Tiwi jobs depend upon Tiwi owned assets. We own \$200 million of plantations; all of it paid for by private money negotiated by the Land Council. Good to look after these assets. PLEASE STOP BAD PEOPLE BURNING OUR FORESTS and hiding stuff among our trees.

In particular a paid Work Experience program is being developed with Tiwi College for students at the College to start this dry season.

The Managers wish to recruit Tiwi Ladies to start in the plant nursery this dry season.

A new eucalypt species is being trialled for future plantings. The first plantings at the end of 2009 are now 10 metres high at two years of age. We need to trial more plantings of this eucalypt at various sites around Melville Island to ensure that this early success will continue. Success means that the trees can withstand cyclone damage, and that these trees will bring more profits to Tiwi in future years.

The new eucalypt will be trialled in some of the Acacia areas that were flattened by cyclone Carlos early last year.

In the meantime, discussions are underway with a Japanese company to purchase our Tiwi woodchips from our first 3,000 ha harvest. It is expected that the agreement will be finalised within the next six months.

We are still planning that this harvest will start in 2013/14. Cyclone Carlos damaged a few thousand hectares of Acacia plantations. Fortunately the Land Council insured the plantations and the insurance payout has allowed the forestry operations to continue, including the trials of new eucalypt species, and the further protection of landowner assets. TPC and Tiwi Land Council are also jointly sponsoring a major study for electricity and water supply for all communities.



Port Melville



Investors, Ezion Offshore Logistics Hub (Tiwi) Pty Ltd remain committed to the development of our Port for shipping out our 400,000 tonnes of chip each year starting in 2013.



Thiess/Marine Civil Port Melville design

With the recent announcement of the Inpex development, and the proposal to develop a Marine Supply Base at Darwin,

the Port Melville project is now also assessing extending the use to how it can best service the oil and gas industry in northern Australia and support other locations like Darwin.

An internationally renowned engineering company has been commissioned to report on how Port Melville could develop to support the various developments proposed for the oil and gas industry in northern Australia. Port Melville has considerable advantages by way of its deep-water anchorage, proximity to major shipping lanes, availability of cyclone refuge for shipping and major stand down areas on adjacent land.

This report will provide detail for better Tiwi decisions for the maritime industry in which the Tiwi workforce will play a significant part. In terms of jobs and income for Tiwi, the Port may become the largest Tiwi industry in years to come.



Island Grids for Communications and Electricity

Our expanding industry and services are now demanding better telecommunications and more certain electricity supplies. The Land Council has been planning these developments over the past year.

We have surveyors working in March and April to cost an electricity grid that means the Townships, Communities, College, Forest Centre, Mine sites would be linked to one Electricity Generation centre.

At the moment Electricity is generated by many small inefficient diesel generators.

A Transmission Grid would take electricity to all places from a larger generator in one place. It could be a diesel generator at one place or a gas turbine from gas we bring onshore. The Grid would make sure everyone benefits from secure and better supply of electricity.

The Land Council has also been planning the same with Telstra for fibre optic cabling to links for communications by phone and computers.

The fibre optic grid will improve communications right across the Islands.

Tiwi Islands Fire Management

For the past four years Tiwi Land Rangers have been working with CSIRO to measure fire and carbon.

They have worked out how much carbon is burnt every year.



Carbon can be saved if the way the islands are burnt is changed. This carbon can be sold for income.

Groups have chosen representatives to be on a Fire Committee to talk about how we can burn the islands differently to save carbon.



Funding has been sought to form a Tiwi Islands Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, which will be used to do planned burning for saving carbon.

Environmental Management



Tiwi Land Rangers have been working with Government to produce a plan for managing freshwater resources.

Tiwi Land and Marine

on gear coming in on barges, and fruit fly traps have been set up at Milikapiti Farm.

Land and Marine Rangers have set pig traps on Melville Island to try to catch feral pigs.

Land Rangers have done surveys for Power and Water and Telstra to make sure developments don't go near cultural sites or threatened plants and animals.



This time of the year a lot of effort is being put into weed control across Bathurst and Melville Islands.

Rangers continue to receive training in Conservation and Land Management.

Land Rangers have been helping Cadet Rangers at Tiwi College, who are also studying Conservation and Land Management.

Quarantine checks are being carried out at Wurrumiyanga

Tiwi College – “Respect”



2012 has begun extremely well, with our school at capacity for most of the term. Our strong student attendance numbers are very pleasing.



We want as many young Tiwi coming to Tiwi College – run by Tiwi, for Tiwi.

We welcome our new academic staff Ailsa MacFie (senior girls) and Stephanie Redgment (Primary school). We have 4 new Family Group Home Parents; Timocci & Viola, Veia and Fillipe & Aliti Soqali. We also welcome Dianne Moore, Laelia Dunn and Mark Smith to assist in our classrooms. Phil and Judy Harmer also join us with maintenance and office duties. On a sad note JR Pilakui resigned late in our term. We thank him sincerely for his contributions to the college. We look forward to all working together as a team at Tiwi College.



Our foci continue to be on improving literacy and numeracy and channelling young Tiwi into Tiwi Enterprises. Family Group Homes have de-

veloped activity & life skills programs for keeping students' active after school. All students are helping building and maintain vegetable gardens for their house.

After Shrove Tuesday and our big pancake feast, Ash Wednesday saw our first visit from Sister Anne from Bathurst Island. She will be teaching every week and this term, guiding students for their reconciliation.

The opening of the new Jilamara Art gallery and Museum at Milikapiti presented an opportunity for our students to show their catering skills by preparing and serving food for 350 guests. Under the Morris Corporation funding, Tiwi College students are continuing to be educated in hands on approach with Hospitality & Catering Plenty of Buffalo burgers, kangaroo fillet stir fry, barramundi and salads were prepared. Senior boys have developed wonderful canvas paintings in their evening homework classes. These art works have been asked to be permanently displayed in the head office of Matilda Zircon in Perth, Western Australia.

Looking ahead – early next term we have the opening of our state of the art new library. It will have a balanced blend of a variety of books & magazines; but also ipads, laptops, smartboard and dvds.



Township Leasing

Tiwi got secure title to all Tiwi land in 1978. Thirty years later, finally, Government itself respected that title and asked for a lease to Townships needed to supply services and to have houses and infrastructure. Leases acknowledge Tiwi ownership. Respect comes with an upfront payment and then ongoing lease payments to Landowners. Landowners respect in return comes from their use of this money for better Tiwi lives for all Tiwi families.

The DVD “Township Leasing on the Tiwi Islands” was produced by the Office of Township Leasing (Australian Government). It shows the first steps and success of Township Leasing decided by Mantiyupwi Landowners back in 2007. Wurrumiyanga created history as the first aboriginal community to use township leasing as a tool for development.



Permit System for visitors on the Tiwi Islands

The Tiwi Islands are privately owned.

Like other landowners in Australia, Tiwi Island people value their legal rights to grant or refuse permission to people wishing to enter their land.

Unlike many Australians, Tiwi rights and respect for private land are fundamental to all Tiwi culture and traditions. "If you want to get geese from Puntjalnu, ask Puti who is the Boss; or Giant Clam from Maranga, you must ask the leaders, Umbrella, the Big Man." (1958) "T arrived and found four blackened saplings connected by string. Nobody must pass. He did and was banished from that land forever." (1995).

Respect begins by asking permission.

Following High Court findings (2008) Tiwi land also includes sea (water and resources within the mouth of the streams, creeks and estuaries).

Our Landowners have strict requirements for all visitors, including media representatives and non Tiwi residents on the Islands. The Land Council also has to report about permits and visitors to the Commonwealth Parliament every year.

The permit system is designed to strengthen the Permission Principle at the cultural heart of Tiwi land management and also to help protect the privacy of Tiwi landowners, encourage Tiwi Island people to be involved in projects on their land, safeguard the natural environment and Tiwi resources, and to promote visitor safety.

IN ORDER TO VISIT THE TIWI ISLANDS YOU REQUIRE A PERMIT.

Permits are granted to people who have been invited for business or private purposes.

To obtain a permit we have a simple system where you complete the relevant online application form.

The application requires you to outline who your host (individual or organisation) will be, the purpose of your visit and the length and location of your stay.

In some cases a permit fee will apply. These fees are for visits by people taking a Tiwi benefit (fishing; hunting; filming for commercial gain). Most permits have no fee.



PERMIT TYPE - Access (no fishing or hunting)	
Visiting within community boundary	no charge
Visiting with access beyond community boundary	fee applies
Resident within community boundary	no charge
Resident with access beyond community boundary	fee applies
Media representatives	
PERMIT TYPE - Resources	
Fishing Permit	fee applies
Hunting Permit	fee applies

If your application is successful, you will be issued a permit with conditions tailored to your request.

The permit will not allow you to enter the Tiwi Islands for any purpose other than stated on the permit.

Please remember, Tiwi traditions are founded upon respect. Your application enhances the protection of Tiwi cultural and intellectual property rights, including Tiwi cultural knowledge.

Please apply on our website: www.tiwilandcouncil.com

[Click here to apply for a permit](#)

Something Extra

At Munupi Arts' last committee meeting, the members decided to make a gift of a painting to the Land Council in thanks for Landowner and Land Council support for Munupi Artists and the work of the Art Centre.



Justin Puruntatameri had his solo show at the beginning of March in Perth. It was a sell out show and the majority of works sold on the opening night!

Congratulations to Justin and to Managers Rachel Burke and

Terry Larkin for their wonderful work. And many thanks to all the great Munupi artists for the beautiful gift.



Justin Puruntatameri

Justin Puruntatameri: "I decided to begin making these paintings because my father painted these designs – and I am old now, in my turn, and we must remember: keep memory alive."

Last year Ngaruwanajirri also gave the Land Council one of Alfonso's magic Tiwi Barge paintings. Alfonso's father, Alphonso Puautjimi, was a Land Council member back in 1988 when Barge Express stopped services to Snake Bay. He, and other landowners, instructed the Land Council to make sure of a continuing Barge Service for our Milikapiti people. Tiwi Barge Services was formed. Our Tiwi Barge painting from the amazing Ngaruwanajirri workshops has a special place and meaning for us all.



Painting Alfonso Puautjimi



From our Archive

Some from 80 years ago



Land Council Operational
Headquarters Pickataramoor
Phone: (08) 8919 4305

www.tiwilandcouncil.com

All correspondence to:
The Chairman, PO Box 38545
Winnellie NT 0821



The Tiwi Land Council is the Statutory Authority of Owners of the Tiwi Islands

Proud supporter of the Tiwi Bombers - NTFI Premiers

