



[Tiwi] [News]
Pupuni Ngirramini

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LAND COUNCILS DECLARE SUPPORT FOR "YES" VOTE AT 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LANDMARK BARUNGA STATEMENT >> P3



TIWI FIRE AND CARBON PROJECT >> P5



BARUNGA FESTIVAL 2023

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EDITORIAL

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

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Message from the Tiwi Land Council Chair

Dear Tiwi community members,

As the Chair of the Tiwi Land Council, I wish to share with you all some important reflections and highlights from recent joint meetings of the Northern Territory's four land councils held during the 2023 Barunga Festival.

Members of our executive, our CEO Robert Graham and other staff members attended this historic meeting 35 years after the Barunga statement was presented to then Prime Minister Bob Hawke calling for a Treaty for the Aboriginal people of Australia.

Just as they did in 1988, the Tiwi Land Council, the Northern Land Council, the Central Land Council and the Anindilyakwa Land Council gathered at Barunga.

Discussions led to the issuing of a Declaration urging all Australians to vote "yes" in the upcoming referendum on a Voice to the Australian Parliament.

My personal view is that we, the Tiwi people, want to be at the table when decisions are made that affect our land, culture, and future.

I urge all Australians to join us in embracing this opportunity for positive change and vote "yes" to ensure our voices are heard and respected when important decisions are being made that affect us.



The Barunga meetings also reiterated the crucial role education plays in shaping the future of our people.

We unanimously recognised the need to empower our younger generation with knowledge and skills that will not only open doors to new opportunities but also enable them to carry our cultural heritage forward.

Education provides the foundation upon which our community's growth and prosperity are built. It equips us with the tools to navigate the complexities of the modern world while remaining firmly

rooted in our traditions.

Our conversations emphasized the importance of preserving and caring for our land and sea country.

Our ancestors have entrusted us with the responsibility of being custodians of our land and it is our duty to protect and nurture it for future generations.

By valuing our land and sea country we honour our culture, ensure sustainable livelihoods and maintain the rich biodiversity that sustains us.

I encourage you all to remain actively involved in our community's affairs.

Let us prioritize the preservation and promotion of our Tiwi culture, recognizing it as a source of strength, identity, and resilience.

Together we can harness the power of education, ensure sustainable stewardship of our land and sea country and build a brighter future for our Tiwi people.

I thank everyone who contributed to the success of the Barunga meetings.

Your participation and dedication inspire us all.

May we continue to unite, learn and grow as we navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Mana
Gibson Farmer Illortaminni
Chair, Tiwi Land Council

Message from the CEO

Best wishes everyone and welcome to the second edition of the Tiwi Land Council's new-look newspaper.

Please provide us your feedback. What do you think of our stepped-up efforts to keep you fully informed, or anything else for that matter?

You can tell us in person on the islands or use the complaints or Feedback box on the land council's web-page.

Recently the Commonwealth Government's audit body, the Australian National Audit Office (or ANAO), gave us their report into the Governance of the TLC.

You can find it on the ANAO website: <https://www.anao.gov.au/work/performance-audit/governance-the-tiwi-land-council>

We have also added the link to the TLC web site to make it easy for you to find.

Please read it.

It talks about quite a few things.

It has a lot of suggestions about how the land council can improve, better manage the resources we get and most importantly how we can better provide the services to Tiwi People that the Aboriginal Land Rights Act requires.

The land council has accepted all



the recommendations and has already started work on them.

The suggestions came as no surprise.

The land council had implemented a similar outside review in September 2021 so the ANAO's suggestions were nothing new.

Now that the Dry Season is here we are getting out and about the islands and will be regularly holding meetings in all communities.

From June 20th till the 29th the land council held Tiwi Clan meetings followed by the Northern Territory Electoral Commission arranging elections for each Clan to elect by secret ballot its Trustee. The outcome of these Trustee elections will be made public in due course. Having the Electoral Commission hold these elections is a new chapter of openness and fairness in the way the

Tiwi Land Council will operate moving forward.

You will see our two staff anthropologists (Helen and Matt) regularly visiting your community. Amongst other things they are updating the Register of Clan members.

Please meet and talk with them.

Please ask to look at your Clan's Register and make sure you are on it.

We want to get clan members out on-country as much as we can this Dry season.

You will also see our environment officers (Murray and Sarah) who continue the battle to keep unwanted plant and animal pests off the islands.

Right now, working with the Tiwi Rangers they are surveying the entire islands for foreign plants – their Weed Survey.

This is important.

If we don't know a pest is there, it can't be eradicated or controlled.

Again, say hi to them and maybe go along with them on some of their trips.

Enjoy the Dry Season on our beautiful islands.

Cheers
Robert Graham
CEO Tiwi Land Council

Full Land Council meeting – Wurrumiyanga, 30 May, 2023



Jikilaru Clan: (L to R) Valentine Intalui and Simon Munkara



Wulirankuwu Clan: (L to R) Romolo Tipiloura, Stanley Tipiloura, Jeffrey Puruntatameri (Miller)



Munupi Clan: (L to R) Kim Puruntatameri, Leslie Tungatulum, Patricia Puruntatameri, Dennis Tipakalippa



Marrikawuyanga Clan: (L to R) Adonis Wommatakimmi, David Austral, Damien Molaminni (Burak)



Wurankuwu Clan: (L to R) Brian Tipungwuti, Teddy Portaminni, Ron Poantimilui



Yimpinari Clan: (L to R) Andrew Bush, Austin Wonaeamirri, Dennis Dunn, John Wilson



Malawu Clan: (L to R) Sylverius Tipungwuti, Miriam Stassi, Richard Puruntatameri



Mantiyupwi Clan: (L to R) Wesley Kerinauia, Gibson Farmer Illortaminni, Bonaventure Timaepatua

Tiwi Fire and Carbon Project

Helping to look after country and culture for future generations



What is the project about?

- Burning country makes smoke which contains greenhouse gases. These gases contribute to making the Earth warmer. This is called global warming and it is changing the climate. It's getting hotter and sea levels are rising.

- Smoke from Tiwi fires adds to the problem - but Tiwi can help with global warming by reducing the amount of carbon or smoke that goes into the air. This is achieved by burning country in Kimirrakinari - early in the Dry Season. Kimirrakinari fires make less smoke. They also keep Tiwi country healthy.

- By burning early and not burning too much country Tiwi can earn CARBON CREDITS or ACCUs (Australian Carbon Credit Units). The government calls this 'Carbon Farming'.

- In 2016, the Tiwi Islands Savanna Burning for Greenhouse Gas Abatement Project was registered with the Australian Government's Emissions Reduction Fund and since 2018, the project has been earning Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs).

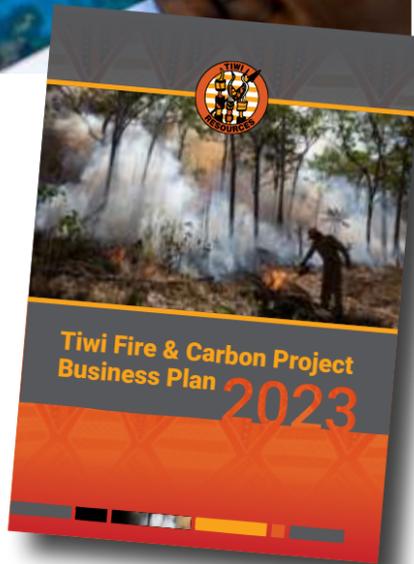
- Carbon Credits are valuable. Each year the government awards them to the Tiwi Fire and Carbon project. Tiwi Resources hold the Carbon Credits - then sells them when the price is right.

- Because there is a lot of land on the Tiwi Islands, good money can be made from carbon farming.

- Profits from Carbon Credit sales flow back to all Tiwi. The money funds projects that provide jobs and training, keep country healthy, strengthen culture and support youth programs - now and into the future.

Who looks after the project?

- Tiwi Resources, which is owned by the eight Tiwi landowning groups, manages the Tiwi Fire and Carbon Project.



- A Business Plan has been developed for the Tiwi Resources Board to manage the Tiwi Fire and Carbon as a 100% Tiwi owned business into the future.

- A Tiwi Fire and Carbon Project Prospectus - which is a summary about the Fire and Carbon Project - has been made for potential buyers of Tiwi Carbon Credits.

- The Rangers and the Tiwi Fire Officer carry out the burning each year. Prescribed burning by Rangers ends in July.

- "People need to get involved in the fire project; young people need to be part of the burning."

- Tiwi Traditional Owner 2022

What are the benefits for Tiwi?

- More training and job opportunities**
- Support to keep country healthy and protect plants and animals**
- Better feral animal and weed management**
- More opportunities for people to spend time on country**
- Support to strengthen culture e.g., Kurlama and cultural knowledge programs for kids**
- Projects for the whole community e.g., culture, childcare, aged care, and sports projects.**



"We set up that carbon program, if we burn that country wrong way, that money goes up in smoke!"

- Tiwi Traditional Owner 2022

Where does the money from selling Tiwi Carbon Credits go?



"Keep country clean and healthy - and still make money from carbon. That's what we want to do!"

- Tiwi Traditional Owner 2022

Bathurst Ward residents heading to the polls

Bathurst Island residents will head to the polls to vote in the Tiwi Island Regional Council Bathurst Ward by-election on 17 August.

The vote follows the resignation in April of Councillor Peter Kantilla.

The Tiwi Island Regional Council plays a crucial role in the island's governance and delivers essential services and facilities.

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission will conduct the election with nominations for candidates opening on 20 July and closing on 3 August.

Polling stations will be set up in the communities Wurankuwu and Wurrumiyanga to facilitate easy access for all eligible voters.

Mayor Pirrawayingi Puruntatameri thanked Peter Kantilla for his time as an elected member and encouraged others to step forward and nominate a candidate.

"As a Councillor, you will have the opportunity to improve our community's well-being, empowerment, and prosperity," he said.

See <https://ntec.nt.gov.au/>



NT Government promises clean, affordable and green power for Wurrumiyanga

A renewables future is one step closer for the Tiwi Islands with a design and construction tender for a pilot program in Wurrumiyanga awarded to renewable energy company Circular Solutions.

The Territory Government is investing \$8.6 million over four years towards its Renewable Remote Power Program - including \$6.1 million towards the Wurrumiyanga Solar Infill and Energy Storage Pilot Project.

Circular Solutions will replace some of the current diesel generated power supply with renewable technology, with works expected to be completed by April 2024, the government said in a press release.

Wurrumiyanga is already operating some solar technology and this investment will significantly increase the energy generated from solar, with the installation of additional solar PV panels and a new battery energy storage system, the government said.

The project will add 1.1 megawatts of additional solar PV and a Battery Energy Storage System of about 3 megawatt hours, it said.

It is expected that the percentage of renewable energy delivered to the community will increase to almost 50 per cent.

The government is also investing \$2 million over the next two years to advance the delivery of clean and reliable electricity to remote communities across the Territory.

This investment has so far resulted in a framework to deliver renewable energy systems to the 73 remote communities supplied by Indigenous Essential Services (IES), including opportunities for innovative technologies such as hydrogen.

Work is progressing on the detailed analysis of each IES community to map the optimal renewables development pathway, considering, among other things, the design and configuration of existing energy assets, electricity demand profiles and forecast growth.

This pilot is an important step towards the government achieving its target of 50 per cent renewables by 2030, which includes a 70 per cent target in all communities supplied by IES.

Renewable investments in remote power system services can lead to diesel cost savings and deliver substantial reductions in emissions as diesel is replaced, as well as generating local jobs.

Chief Minister Natasha Fyles said "energy and renewables play a key role in unlocking private investment and



Minister Uibo and Chief Minister Fyles look forward to applying the lessons from the Wurrumiyanga project to other Territory communities. PHOTO: NT government.

creating local jobs – and the Territory Labor Government is taking every opportunity."

"We will keep doing the hard work as we push towards our target of 50 per cent renewables by 2030 and zero emissions by 2050," she said.

"A renewables future is now one step closer for the Wurrumiyanga community and we look forward to the lessons

learnt from this project being extended to other remote Territory communities."

Minister for Renewables and Energy Selena Uibo said "Wurrumiyanga is an incredible place, both for its people and beautiful country...this renewable energy project will help to protect and preserve it and ensure future generations can continue to thrive with help from solar energy."

Acclaimed book on Tiwi art and design to be launched in August

***Tiwi Textiles: Design, Making and Process*, a book chronicling the story of the Tiwi Design centre on Bathurst Island, is scheduled to be launched at the Northern Territory Library in Darwin on August 9.**

The 360-page book, together with an exhibition of prints and textiles called *How it all began*, highlights the contemporary nature of Tiwi art and its part in a larger continuing Indigenous culture.

It brings together many voices, principally those from the Tiwi Islands and includes more than 200 images of Tiwi artists and artworks.

From the 1970s until now the Tiwi Design centre has been dedicated to the production of hand-printed fabrics featuring Indigenous designs.

Tiwi Textiles was written by tapestry artist and scholar Diana Wood Conroy, who arrived on the Tiwi Islands as an arts adviser in 1974.

It includes oral testimony from senior Tiwi artist Bede Tungutalum, whose work is displayed in galleries and museums across Australia, including the National Gallery of Australia and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney.

Bede Tungutalum established the Tiwi Design centre in 1969 with fellow designer Giovanni Tipungwuti.

The book traces the beginnings of the centre and its subsequent place in the Tiwi community and Australian Indigenous culture more broadly.

Tiwi Textiles features profiles of Tiwi artists, accounts of the development of new design processes, insights into Tiwi culture and language and personal reflections on the significance of the Tiwi Design centre.

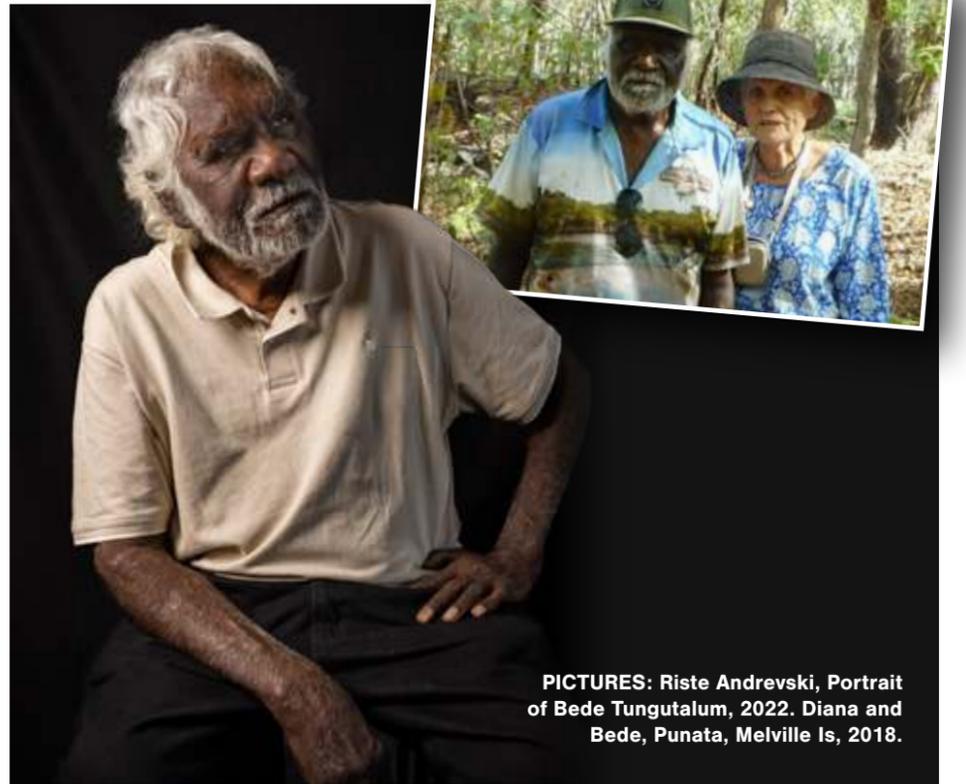
A review of the book in the Saturday Paper said Professor Wood Conroy, an attentive and conversant interlocutor for Tiwi artists, interweaves accounts of living and working as an arts adviser on the Tiwi Islands into a critical reference book on the history of Tiwi art.

The artwork of Diana Wood Conroy, who is Emeritus Professor at the University of Wollongong, is held in national and international collections.

Bede Tungutalum works in a wide range of mediums including carved and painted wooden sculpture, lino and textile prints, woodblocks, etchings and lithographs.

In 2020 he received the Special Recognition prize at the inaugural National Indigenous Fashion Awards, recognising 50 years in textiles.

"Tiwi Textiles is a unique historical document, a formidable vindication of the accomplishments of great



PICTURES: Riste Andrevski, Portrait of Bede Tungutalum, 2022. Diana and Bede, Punata, Melville Is, 2018.

Indigenous artists, and an account of a missing chapter in world art history," said Nicholas Thomas, Director, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge.

"The book is a wonderful chronicle of a vital and fertile period

for Tiwi practice in the emergence of contemporary Indigenous art...but it is also a charter for the future," he said.

Tiwi Textiles, supported by a grant from the Gordon Darling Foundation, is published by Sydney University Press (360 pages \$60 and e-book \$24.99).

Songs of the Tiwi

Through Chairman Gibson Illortaminni the Tiwi Land Council recently found an old cassette of Tiwi men singing. It was sold in shops around the country 40 years ago.

Many Tiwi will remember Ted Egan – he worked with Aboriginal people in the Territory for many years. When we heard that Ted had recorded these songs we went looking for him.

When recently interviewed Ted Egan said "I recorded the songs in 1976 in Sydney, where I ran the Aboriginal Artists Agency. The Tiwi were in Sydney heading for New Zealand and the South Pacific Festival at Rotorua. Tim Bowden from the ABC organised the actual recording, using very basic gear – probably just a Nagra! On the front cover of the album is Aloysius Puantuiura from the Jikilarwu clan on Bathurst Island. His very nice portrait photo was taken by Uwe Steinward.

Ted told us he had the original photo and gave it to Sister Ann for the Patikitjali Museum last year. Ted went on to say "I recall that Raphael

Apuatimi was there, Leo Tungutalum, and Phelan Kantilla. There were six men and six women in the group to New Zealand. At Sydney airport I had to carry – actually carry – each of the six women down the escalator -they simply refused to try to do it alone. Raised a big laugh. They would not let any of the Tiwi men carry them, but I was held to be OK!!! "

There are seven songs in total. These songs are available to download from the Tiwi Land Council web site by scanning the QR code.

The TLC has heard that today's song men still know these songs and would like to record them side by side with a view to helping cultural maintenance through the preservation of the old songs and singing styles - and making them available to the wider community. If you are interested in this, please discuss with our anthropologists Matt Brooks or Helen Haritos when you see them on the islands.

Now that is genuine Aussie Music.



Scan this QR code to listen to the music

Why the meetings? Land use agreements and Offshore Petroleum Companies



By **KALIOPI HOURDAS**
Tiwi Land Council Principal Legal Officer

Hello readers, especially Tiwi people.

I have already had the pleasure of working with the Tiwi Land Council ('Land Council') for more than two months. It has been a busy time and I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the staff of the Land Council, meeting the Land Council members, and visiting the Tiwi Islands.

Two areas of work that I have been involved in over the last two months are:

- Consulting with Tiwi people in relation to land use requests and preparing land use agreements.
- Participating in meetings involving offshore petroleum companies wanting to consult regarding their proposed activities.

It has been a privilege to observe how decisions are made by the Land Council members and clan groups.

Section 19 agreements

As you might have heard, Land Council staff will be speaking with Tiwi people more regularly and we will be more present in the community. One of the matters that Tiwi people will be hearing more from us about are applications to use and/or access Tiwi people's land.

My colleagues and I are committed to ensuring the Land Council complies with its obligations to consult before land use agreements are entered into.

A new land use request form has been developed to help applicants know what information Land Council staff require from them. The form is to be used by any person or entity requesting to use land on the Tiwi Islands. The form is available on the Land Council's website, or a copy can be requested by phoning the Land Council's office.

In addition to the new land use request form, the internal process for assessing land use requests has been updated to make the process more transparent for applicants. Once an application is received it will undergo an initial assessment to first check that all necessary information and documents has been included with the application. From there, the Land Council's Resources and Environmental Officers and Anthropologists will undertake their assessments so that appropriate and meaningful consultation with the relevant Tiwi people can take place.

Under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth) the



Land Council must not direct the Land Trust to enter into a land use agreement with any applicant unless the Land Council is satisfied that:

- The traditional Aboriginal owners of that land understand the nature and purpose of the proposed giving of an interest in their land and, as a group, consent to it.
- Any Aboriginal community or group that may be affected by the proposed giving of an interest in the land has been consulted and has had adequate opportunity to express its view to the Land Council.

Generally, consultation will be conducted by meeting with the Land Council members and separately meeting with the clan group members. Information will be presented at both meetings regarding:

- What the applicant wants to use the land for.
- What type of legal interest the applicant would have in the land (for example, lease or licence).
- Any environmental impacts that have been identified.
- Any cultural impacts that have been identified.
- Any risk to sacred sites or sacred objects.
- The expected benefit for the community should the land use application be approved.

If the traditional Aboriginal owners of the land which the land use request relates to do not consent to the proposed use of the land, the Land Council will advise the applicant that the request has been refused and that will be the end of process for that application. No land use request can be approved unless the traditional Aboriginal owners of the land (the land which the land use request relates to) consent to the application.

Offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas activities, and Tiwi people

Tiwi people should expect that companies like INPEX, Santos, and Shell will continue to want to have meetings

with Tiwi people regarding planned activities. They will call these meetings "consultations".

The reason why these companies want to meet with Tiwi people is because the legislation (*Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009* (Cth)) tells these companies that they must prepare an environmental plan for a project and that in the course of preparing an environmental plan (or a revision of an environmental plan) they must consult with a relevant person. A relevant person includes:

- "a person or organisation whose functions, interests or activities may be affected by the activities to be carried out under the environment plan, or the revision of the environment plan".
- "any other person or organisation that [the company] considers relevant."

The purpose of consultation under the Regulations is to ensure that relevant persons that might be affected by activities are consulted and their input is considered in the development of the environment plan for the activities that will be conducted. Although the consent of the relevant person is not required, these companies are required to obtain approval of their environmental plan and to do that the regulator (NOPSEMA) must be reasonably satisfied that the company carried out consultation in accordance with the Regulations and that the measures (if any) that the company has adopted, or proposes to adopt, because of the consultations are appropriate.

The Full Court of the Federal Court of Australia has told these companies that they must meaningfully consult with the owners of the land and a traditional owner group of "Sea Country".

In addition to companies seeking to consult regarding upcoming activities, companies with existing environmental plans might look to revise their environmental plans. It does not matter that the proposed activities will not be carried out on Tiwi land. What matters is that the activities to be carried out under the environmental plan (or the revision

of an environmental plan) might affect the functions, interests or activities of Tiwi people. An example of this is if an oil spill might affect Tiwi land and/or Sea Country.

The Land Council may be a relevant organisation that these companies need to consult with given the Land Council's functions that may be affected by the proposed activities in the environmental plan (or the revision of an environmental plan). Further, the Land Council may also provide guidance in relation to how Tiwi people should be consulted.

As part of the consultation process these companies must:

- Give sufficient information to the relevant person they are consulting with to allow the relevant person to make an informed assessment of the possible consequences of the activity on their functions, interests or activities. For example, a clan group making an informed assessment about how an oil spill might affect their food sources.
- Allow a reasonable period for the consultation.
- Inform the relevant person that the relevant person may request that information given to the company during the consultation not be published (for example, because the information is culturally sensitive).

Any relevant person (for example traditional owners and/or a clan group and/or the Land Council members) being consulted by these companies can seek more information from the company regarding the activities the company wants to undertake on country, or which might affect their country. Information provided by these companies must be accurate and truthful.

The Land Council will, as and when required, continue to participate in consultation meetings with these companies and communicate its views in relation to proposed activities consistent with its functions under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth).



Rangers training to be good communicators

Kimirrakinari – Season of Fire on the Tiwis

Tiwi Rangers Burning Update

Since April, Rangers have been working hard in the heat and dust implementing the Tiwi fire management plan. They've flown 3500 kilometres in helicopters delivering incendiaries to light fires in remote areas and driven around 2000 kilometres across the islands doing roadside burning.

So far, it's been a difficult year for rangers to manage fire. It's been much harder to break up country with small, controlled burns and, because of the dry windy conditions, fires have been taking off and not going out at night.

Once the burning program is finished in June, Rangers will embark on an education campaign in all communities asking people for their help in preventing fires being lit after July. They will talk to students and community members about how looking after country with the right fires will help keep more carbon stored on Tiwi land, earn money for Tiwi people, and keep the country healthy for future generations.



There are lots of great stories about Tiwi country and culture that Rangers want to share but standing up and presenting at meetings and workshops or talking to the media can be nerve-racking - for anyone.

To help Tiwi Rangers feel more confident and relaxed about speaking up in public a two-day Communication Skills training workshop was held in March at Wurrumiyanga by Econnect Communication.

Rangers chose the stories they

wanted to talk about and learnt how to prepare and deliver presentations for a range of different audiences and forums.

Videos are a great way to tell stories and rangers enjoyed learning production and editing skills.

They also practiced interview techniques with each other – and then critiqued the results.

Comments from course participants included:

“Enjoyed it, found it really useful, this is our first time doing this.”

“I loved everything, especially how to make a talk, can't wait to use it. Don't have to wing it anymore, now I'm more prepared, it's much better.”

“I feel like I've made a big improvement, I can talk now.”

“Build my confidence up, now it will be much better for me. We were shy, then we were confident.”

I enjoyed all of it, it was a good learning curve.”

‘Our Tiwi mob can talk directly with the government’

By MARION SCRYMGOUR

It was an emotional moment speaking in the Australian Parliament on a June freezing winter's day in Canberra about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

As a Tiwi woman talking about our community, I felt a long way from home.

But passing the wording for the referendum was another historic highpoint in a very long process that included consultations with thousands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait people and reaching agreement around the Uluru Statement from The Heart.

At its core, The Voice to Parliament idea is about recognising First Nations people as the traditional owners of Australia, and providing that recognition by putting us into the constitution – the story book of our country.

It will mean our Tiwi mob can directly

talk to the Government about issues that affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

As our old people will know, there has been various Aboriginal representative bodies over the years.

These have been taken away from us by a number of Governments.

At the stroke of a pen, ATSIC, our voice, was abolished by a government in a previous era. Putting an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice into the Australian constitution means our voice can never be taken away.

It is, finally, an opportunity for us to walk into the future on equal terms, where the history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders is recognised and our rights to speak for our country is respected.

For too long we have lived with policies other people thought would be good for us. And so often that's failed us



– and the wider Australian community - because there was not an understanding of the causes of the problems, Aboriginal values and practices.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament will be an advisory body only.

It will not be a service provider.

But it will give us a chance to make

detailed assessments, comments and put forward our solutions on important policy that determine our everyday lives and where we want to go in the future.

The people making up the Voice will also be chosen by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

The many diverse communities will be represented. There will be gender balance.

Young people will be included.

And The Voice will be independent, transparent, and accountable.

Tiwi Islanders have always been fiercely independent, and our culture remains strong.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament will be a very important step in helping us continue that tradition.

Marian Scrymgour MP is the Member for Lingiari in the Federal Parliament.

Recording clan connections and Family trees



By **MATT BROOKS**
Anthropologist

Now the dry season has started I've been trying to spend more time out on the islands and will continue to be around the communities.

I've been talking to some of you and will continue to talk to you about checking on cultural areas of significance (in which are appropriate to share with anthropologists), getting out bush and continuing the process of assisting the Land Council to play their role in the protection of sacred sites.

I've been talking to some people from AAPA (Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority) and they have expressed encouragement for Tiwi to continue gaining sacred site protection by registering sites you can share with AAPA. If you wish to register any places



with AAPA I can assist in that so please don't hesitate to ask any questions.

Helen Haritos and I have taken on the work to update the register before the upcoming Land Council election and to be out here across your communities to give everyone a chance to register

themselves and their children. A part of this process is updating family trees, if you wish to sit down and update your family tree, please approach me. Recording clan connections and family trees is the sort of work that was vital in the Vernon Islands land claim and will

continue to entrench Tiwi connection to country in government law.

Land Council has the resources to get out bush, so if you are wanting to get out on country feel free to contact me at: Anthropologist@tiwilandcouncil.com or 0447810493

New staff appointments



Paul Stephson
Chief Accountant

I grew up in Toowoomba Queensland and spent most of my early working life in Brisbane. I came to Darwin in 2011 to work for the Marthakal Homeland Council on Galiwinku. I enjoyed the Territory lifestyle and the friendly social nature of Territorians.

I have over 20 years experience in providing professional services across a broad range of financial areas including compliance, business process, budget, audit and financial reporting. I have held senior financial positions within the aboriginal community controlled health services sector, health research, community homeland councils and local government. I have been a member of CPA Australia and I enjoy enhancing organisations to improve financial governance and sustainability.

I have worked as a financial analyst

for the Brisbane City Council and the Logan City Council. I have also enjoyed working for large community councils such as the Badu Island Council and the Marthakal Homelands Council.

I like to spend all my spare time with my two children that I adore and going to all the local markets, festivals and events. I enjoy fishing and completing minor projects on my home.



Mandy Konatic
People and Development Manager

I was born and raised in Darwin and am the youngest of 8 children born to Immigrant parents. My cultural heritage is East Timorese / Chinese and I speak 'Hakkanese' (a Chinese dialect), fluently.

My parents fled East Timor at the wake of the 1975 Civil War with Indonesia, which threatened both their hometown and livelihood. They travelled by boat with 7 kids, with their first port being Bathurst Island; later relocating to Darwin where my father found employment with Darwin City Council (now called City of Darwin) where he maintained the parks and grounds. My mother was a stay-at-home mum, working tirelessly to look after the home-front. We have 5 generations here in the NT and I am 3rd generation.

I have 13+ years HR and recruitment experience and have worked in a

number of different sectors including; tertiary education, Indigenous NFP organisations (community services and aged care), local / federal government and resources (gas and construction).

I am passionate about all things relating to 'people' within the workplace context; always thriving to improve workplace culture, in-house policy and process; a strong advocate for diversity and mental health and ensuring overall best practice is applied throughout the full employee cycle.

In early April of this year, I joined Tiwi Land Council as the HR Manager and, feel privileged to be a part of the team. I look forward to contributing to positive outcomes for the organisation and hope to meet the wider team, in the near future.

Tiwi Partners Quarantine Inspections

Tiwi Partners have been busy in recent weeks preparing equipment and materials to be transported to Melville Island for stage two of the Paru road upgrade. The movement of earthmoving equipment, vehicles and materials from Darwin provides potential opportunities for invasive species such as Gamba grass and Cane toads to hitch a ride to the islands. The Tiwi Partners team have worked closely with the TLC Resources and Environmental Officers to ensure that all freight has been thoroughly cleaned and inspected prior to being loaded onto barges. This cooperative approach will significantly reduce the risk to Tiwi country from this major road project.



Gamba Grass found at Milikapiti

During the weed survey on Melville Island, a Gamba Grass plant was found at the Milikapiti Barge Landing. The plant had been eaten by horse or buffalo but still made seeds which could have spread into the bush.

This is the first Gamba Grass plant found in Milikapiti and the third on Melville Island. The plant and seeds were collected and destroyed. A reminder to check all incoming freight, machines and cars for dirt and seeds – contact Murray or Sarah to have your gear inspected in Darwin to make sure it is clean.

From the weed survey, one other plant has been found at Wurrumiyanga, and has been sprayed by the rangers

Gamba Grass can look like Lemon Grass, have a chew on the stems to see – if it tastes like lemon, its lemon grass and ok, if no lemon taste, it could be Gamba Grass! Contact the Rangers, Murray 0409640549 or Sarah 0437637718 at the Land Council office.

Gamba grass images sourced: https://denr.nt.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/404281/Gamba-grass-ID-sheet-2017.pdf

HABIT



Tussocks can grow to 4m high and up to 70cm in diameter.

SEED HEAD



Flower heads occur on tall stems above the leaves. The seed head consists of up to six groups of branches.

STEMS & BRANCHES



Gamba grass stems are robust and covered in soft hair. The shallow root system can spread up to 1m from the tussock.

LEAVES



Leaves are up to 60cm long with a distinctive white midrib and covered with soft hairs.

SEEDS



The fluffy seeds are contained in a V-shaped seed head.

Ngawurra Iuwajirri Ngirramini

Tiwi Islands Science Reference Committee

The Ngawurra Iuwajirri Ngirramini was established by the Tiwi Land Council and the Faculty of Science of the University of Melbourne in 2011.

The committee advises the Tiwi Land Council on matters that have a scientific and/or research basis and builds research collaborations between the Tiwi and the University of Melbourne.

Do you have a science or research question? Are you wanting to connect with researchers? If so, speak with the Chairman or Sarah Ryan at the TLC office on 0437 637 718.

Researchers require permission to come to Tiwi and the TLC enters into agreements to protect Tiwi interests and any knowledge sharing. If you have questions about current projects or researchers please contact Sarah Ryan.





Airport Temporary dump closed

New strategy to tackle waste

Tiwi Islands Regional Council has been developing a new waste management strategy for the last six months.

Changes will include how landfills are managed, progressing towards waste segregation and working towards a community recycling program.

Over years waste management has never been a high priority across the NT.

Now the council is moving to deal with a large amount of legacy waste.

The council is:

- Planning and developing a design for the landfill at Wurrumiyanga to allow waste to be segregated and have recyclable items moved off island.
- Working to find a suitable site for a recycle centre for cans and plastics.

- Expanding funding opportunities so council can purchase the required plant equipment to manage three landfill sites.

- Upgrading the road to the Wurrumiyanga waste site so that there is all year access.

- Promoting community engagement as waste is everybody's responsibility.

The council would like the community to help by using the bins available at the shops and at the recreational sites.

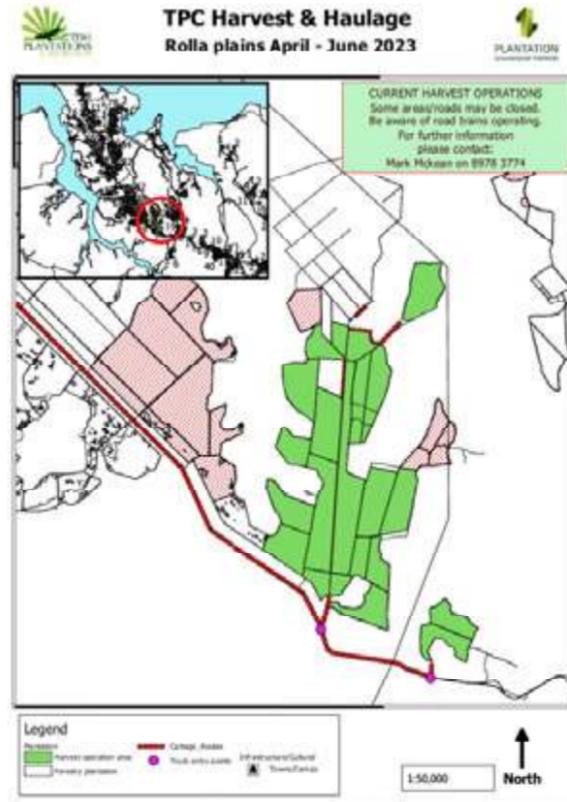
The temporary airport waste site is now closed and there is no more dumping allowed at the site. All rubbish needs to be taken to the Wurrumiyanga waste disposal depot

Chip trucks hauling from Rolla Plains to Port Melville via the Pirlangimpi Road.

Dust Hazard

IF YOU CAN'T SEE BECAUSE OF THE DUST PLEASE DO NOT PASS THE TRUCKS

If you have a radio contact the truck on UHF Channel 18



PLEASE DRIVE WITH YOUR LIGHTS ON AT ALL TIMES.

Tiwi family names

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

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/5545647/>

Yintinila - masculine noun. youngest son.

Malakaninga - masculine noun. teenage boy, youth, young man.

Arikulani - masculine noun. big, senior, adult, grown up, important (male).

Arikulanga - big, senior, adult, important female, big feminine thing.

Arringata - newborn, very young baby.

Parlini - masculine noun. old (masculine), old man, male ancestor.

Piyini - masculine noun. widower.

Minkilatuwi - plural noun. babies, toddlers.

Piyinga - feminine noun. widow.

Mamanta - plural noun. Friends

Aringaminga - feminine noun. eldest daughter.

Wawuralawi - plural noun. young women, older teenage girls.

Awirriyawi - mother of baby boy.

Minkilati - masculine noun. baby boy, toddler.

Yintingala - feminine noun. youngest daughter.

Aringamini - masculine noun. eldest son.

Wurarripi - plural noun. family, people having lots of children.

The Turtuni framework

Senior leaders have been talking to a research group about 'the Turtuni framework' as an engagement tool for supporting Tiwi governance.

This work is facilitated by Tiwi community based researcher Mavis Kerinaia in collaboration with colleagues from Charles Darwin University, Deakin University, and The University of Melbourne.

The Turtuni framework is derived from traditional Tiwi ceremony as well as the Milimika governance models created by late senior Tiwi women, primary schoolteachers, Terizita Kilipayuwu and Leah Kerinaia. Mavis has built on this concept and created a visual representation with Fiona Kernina.

The painting shows a Tiwi protocol of caring for country and the importance of cultural values for biodiversity and sustainable development on Murrakupuni and Winga.

The Turtuni framework can be a

guide for collaborative research and planning that brings Murrakupuni and Winga and Tiwi knowledge to the forefront of discussions. For instance, it can be used when Tiwi people are working with researchers to encourage collaborative partnerships where Tiwi knowledge and science is valued and respected along side Western knowledge and Science.

The Turtuni framework has been developed through consultations with 39 Tiwi individuals and representatives from 10 Tiwi organisations, and continues to develop through conversations with Tiwi people.

Based on these consultations, and close work with cultural mentors, the research team has drafted a 'welcome statement' to be used in meetings and a template Memorandum of Understanding for Tiwi people and other organisations to work together.

The Turtuni story has also been



used as an entry point to participatory mapping of important Tiwi places and in the Tiwi Resources Ngapakurupa ngini Ngapaningimarrri online knowledge centre.

Mavis and colleagues look forward to opportunities to speak with more Tiwi people about the Turtuni framework and present to Tiwi local service providers.



More opportunities at Bima Wear, the Tiwi's iconic brand

Bima Wear, the iconic Tiwi brand established in 1969, has opportunities for young women to learn how to sew, screen print and help with administration.

Operating on Bathurst Island, Bima Wear is best known for producing bright colours and bold Tiwi designs of fabrics, women's and men's clothing, homewares and gifts.

In an update, the independent not-for-profit organisation says "We have been very busy making clothes to order for funerals and events.

We thank everyone for their patience and consideration when placing orders as we are just a small team and need at least two weeks notice to complete your orders.

In exciting news we will soon have a new manager based at Wurrumiyanga.

Nicola Skill will join us in August, bringing lots of experience in sewing, designing and business management.

We hope you will all help us in making Nicola feel very welcome when she moves up from Melbourne.

It has been a long time since we had a manager based in Wurrumiyanga and we are excited to see Bima Wear grow under the guidance of an experienced designer and business manager.

With the help of TITEB (Tiwi Islands Training and Employment Board) we will be looking for young women to join us at Bima Wear, to learn how to sew, screen print and help with administration.



Nicola Skill



School group at Bima Wear



The Bima Wear Ladies



Girls at Confirmation wearing Bima Wear skirts

We would like to see some new designs and techniques introduced that will appeal to younger people as this will help Bima Wear be more successful and sustainable into the future.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in working at Bima Wear please let us or TITEB know after Bush Holidays.

All of us at Bima Wear say a big thanks to everyone at TITEB for their support in getting us to this important stage.

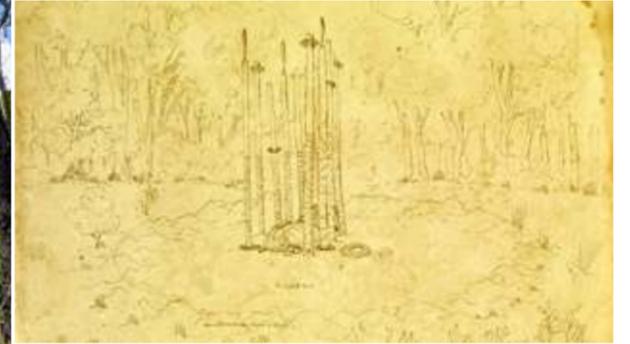
We also want to say a very special thank you to our friend Sister Val for all her help and support over the last year.

We couldn't have done this without her."





Move to put Fort Dundas on National Heritage List as place of “outstanding importance”



The Tiwi Land Council is working with experts to have the Tiwi Islands' Fort Dundas added to the National Heritage List which cites places of outstanding importance to Australia.

The NT Heritage Branch will this dry season visit the ruins site with Tiwi custodians and Tiwi Land Council anthropologists to record the significance of the place, take photographs and write a report for the Heritage Council.

If you have a story about Fort Dundas or have found any interesting objects at the site anthropologists Matt Brooks and Helen Haritos want to hear from you (Ben: anthropologist@tiwilandcouncil.com, 0447 810 493,

Helen: helen.haritos@tiwilandcouncil.com 0473 099 558).

David Steinberg, the Northern Territory's Senior Heritage Officer, is also involved in the project.

Here is what author Derek Pugh wrote about the history of Fort Dundas:

"In September 1824, His Majesty's Ship Tamar eased her thirty-three-metre hull slowly through the water of Aspley Strait. Captain James Gordon Bremer was charged with establishing a military fort on the Tiwi Islands that would grow into a thriving trade port to rival Singapore.

On his three ships he carried a party of Royal Marines, soldiers,

volunteer convicts, and everything a new settlement would need.

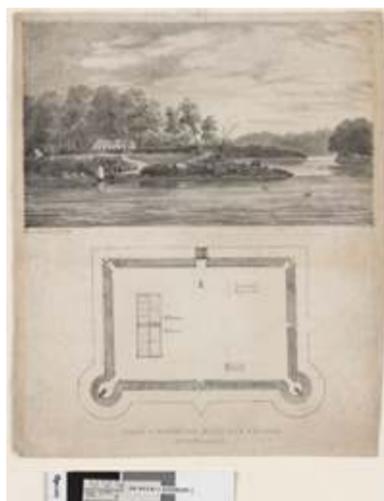
The fleet anchored together in calm water off Luxmore Head and sent small parties in the ship's boats and by foot on shore to look for water. They found it in a billabong at Pirlangimpi they called Garden Point, and within days the convicts and stores were unloaded on a point across the bay, and work begun on what was the first British settlement in New Holland north of the Tropic of Capricorn.

Fort Dundas was founded with high optimism, but the settlement only lasted a little over four years. It failed because of opposition from the Indigenous Tiwi

tribe, a lack of knowledge among the English about how to survive in the local climate, and the lonely tyranny of distance. No one, ever, came to trade.

But the ruins of the fort, the low walls of its accompanying buildings, and the graves of those who never left, remain in the forest.

On a broad scale, the ruins are a testament to the 19th century attempts by the British Empire to control the whole continent of Australia. Locally however, and importantly for the Tiwi, they tell the story of a rare successful 'campaign' that ousted British invaders from their traditional lands."



Adventurous architect designed a wonderful place for Tiwi islanders

Sydney architect Peter Myers passed away in April knowing that the Keeping Place Wurrumiyanga that he designed in the 1970s was put on the 2022 NT Heritage Listing after a lengthy effort by John and Joy Naden.

Known evocatively as the “Tiwi Sistine Chapel” the design was an adventurous architectural concept with its high curved ceiling suggestive of a traditional bark shelter.

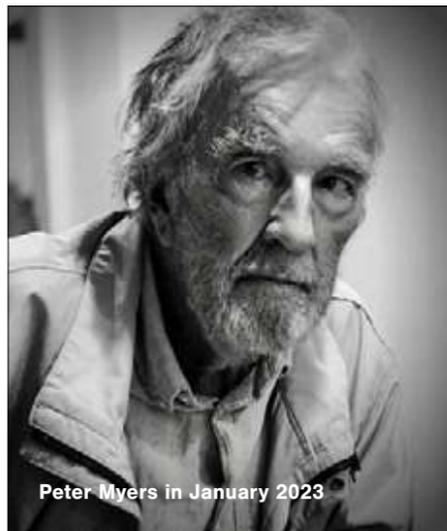
Originally built to store and display heritage items of Tiwi culture, the Keeping Place opened in 1979 but closed again six months later leaving a roof, external walls on two sides and a concrete floor.

It opened again after five years.

The steel framework was made at the Vickers Cockatoo Island dockyard in Sydney in the late 1970s.

A group of Tiwi went south and with Peter Myers they saw the framework being fabricated.

The Tiwi presented a sculptural figure to Vickers Cockatoo and the Naval personnel were so thrilled that they



Peter Myers in January 2023

returned the gesture with a miniature bronze cannon.

Peter Myers wanted the 10x2 metre plywood ceiling panels to resemble sheets of bark so he sought help from Ronald Douglas Chalmers, an English structural engineer.

The idea was for the plywood panels to be slightly undulating like a sheet of bark.

These eight ceiling panels were painted from October 1985 to December 1986, (from west to east) by Keirin Mukwakinni, George Norm Pangaraminni, Edward Portaminni, Teresina and Eulalie Munkara, Sabo Tipiloura, Alfie Puruntatameri and wife Josie, Alphonso Puautjimi and Marie Josette Orsto.

Ngaruwanajirri began in 1994 at the Keeping Place.

Future plans to build a dancing and seating area for visitors and an area of trees have not eventuated, despite sketch plans being drawn up.

Peter Meyers told Joy Naden when she visited him in Sydney in January this year he still hoped stage two will proceed.

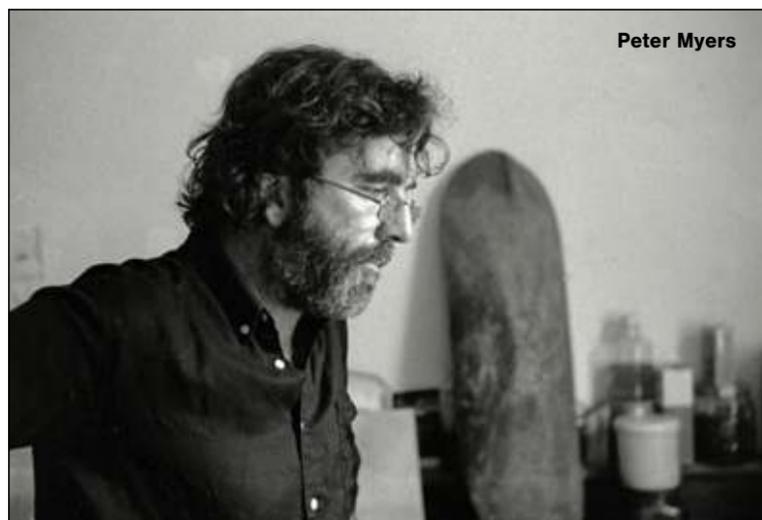
He said he was so happy with the 2022 NT Heritage Listing.

The Keeping Place is a wonderful place to work with a great group of artists who delight in the many wonderful features designed by Peter Myers.

Peter Myers died on April 24, a sad loss for his family, friends and Ngaruwanajirri.



George Norm Pangaraminni at work high up in the ceiling



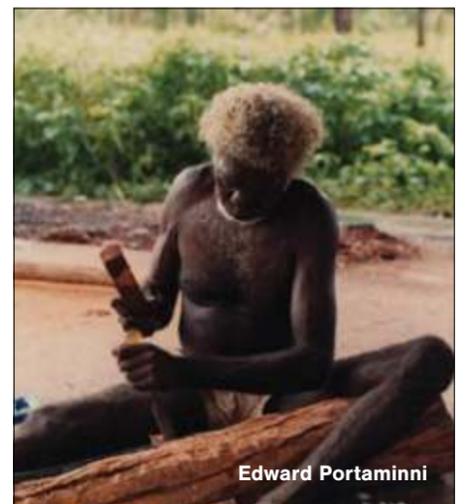
Peter Myers



The Keeping Place today



The Keeping Place at Forrestry around the late 70s and early 80s



Edward Portaminni

Tiwi Bombers Women's Premier League Side



PICTURE: AFLNT Media, Celina Whan

Tiwi football honored during Indigenous rounds

The AFL has recognized the unique strength of football on the Tiwi Islands during the annual rounds of matches in May that celebrate Indigenous culture and contributions to Australian football.

Throughout the Sir Douglas Nicholls Rounds Sherrin was not printed on the balls used in games.

In a great honor for Tiwi Islanders the balls instead bore the name "Yiloga" – the name for football on the islands.

"It's a proud, proud moment, it means a lot to see the name written on an AFL football...it's pretty special for the Tiwi Islands," Tiwi-born Richmond star Daniel Rioli said ahead of the "Dreamtime at the G" match on 20 May.

Essendon star Anthony McDonald-Tipungwuti said the change took the Tiwi Islands to the centre of a packed MCG.

"It's great to showcase the Indigenous culture and share it with your team mates, the footy club and the whole of Australia," he said.

Tiwi artist Jennifer "Lulu" Coombes designed the footballs for the round.

"I feel really proud to showcase our Tiwi culture and art," she said.

"I didn't know that in 140 years the Sherrin name has never been changed so the ball to have Yiloga on it is pretty deadly," she said.

Ms Coombes, who is known as "Aunty," has designed AFL armbands,



rings and footprints symbolizing Indigenous culture.

She has also designed uniforms for AFL NT and Darwin club St Mary's, as well as designs for basketballs and rugby balls.

Ms Coombes grew up around footy on Melville Island before playing for St Marys.

The Tiwi Islands are recognized nationally for having made an indelible mark on Australian rules football.

AFL footballers from the islands include Maurice Rioli Snr (Richmond), Michael Long (Essendon), Ronnie Burns (Geelong/Adelaide), Dean Rioli (Essendon), Cyril Rioli (Hawthorn), Austin Wonaeamirri (Melbourne), Allen Christensen (Geelong/Brisbane) and Anthony McDonald-Tipungwuti (Essendon).

The Sir Douglas Nicholls round takes place over rounds 10 and 11 of the AFL season.

Tiwi AFL legend urges First Nations people to unite ahead of Voice referendum

Tiwi football legend Michael Long has called on First Nations Australians to unite in voting "yes" to a voice to parliament as he prepares to repeat an historic walk from Melbourne to Canberra.

Mr Long, 53, announced he had decided to back the "yes" vote during a speech at the MCG ahead of the annual "Dreamtime at the G" game between Essendon and Richmond on 20 May.

"Without a voice there is no vision for Indigenous Australia," Mr Long told the crowd.

"Two decades ago I walked to ask the prime minister a simple question: where was the love for my people," he said.

"Today I urge all Australians to show their love for Aboriginal people by lacing up their shoes and joining us."

Mr Long called for Indigenous clans across the country to unite.

"We've got to show this nation what a great nation it is," he said.

Mr Long said in the coming months he would make the 650 kilometre walk to Canberra to drum up support for a "yes" vote at the referendum scheduled to be held later in the year.

In 2004 the AFL Hall of Fame member set off on the same route while calling for a meeting with then prime

minister John Howard.

Mr Howard agreed to meet him after the "Long Walk" made national headlines and became an inspiration for commemorating the "Stolen Generation" - the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were forcibly removed from their families and communities by successive governments.

Mr Long's parents were removed from their parents at a young age and taken to Melville Island.

After growing up on the Tiwi Islands, Mr Long became both an AFL star and a leading advocate for Indigenous rights, speaking out often against racism in sport.

He played in two premiership sides with Essendon, including being awarded the Norm Smith Medal in 1993.

Fellow Tiwi islander Maurice Rioli presented him the medal on that day.

Mr Long heads the Michael Long Learning and Leadership Centre in Darwin which aims to nurture Indigenous talent and improves lives in Aboriginal communities.

He is also a board member of the Michael Long Foundation.

In 2021 Mr Long was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for "service to Australian rules football and the Indigenous community."



Tiwi Islands grand final Sunday 6 August