More New Tiwi Apprentices for the Tiwi Islands

Two Essential Services Operator apprentices have been recruited, one at Nguiu and the other at Milikapiti. The job of the ESO is a very important one in remote communities. The work involves monitoring and maintaining the community power generation and distribution plants, sewerage systems and water supplies.

Claver Warlamerapui is one of our new apprentices. Claver has been waiting patiently for this opportunity, and he is keen to learn the skills required to competently carry out the duties required of the position. Claver is supervised by Bob Coppin. Bob is also a long term resident of Milikapiti and he has held similar positions in other coastal remote communities. Claver is also a member of the Milikapiti Community Board of Management.

Both of the essential services apprentices and their supervisors have been to Darwin and have actively participated in ESO programs that have been provided by the Power and Water Authority. Skills and ideas learnt at these and other training programs are then implemented back in their community.

The Nguiu ESO apprentice is Emmanuel (Manny) Kerinauia. Manny is quite competent in many aspects of the essential services operations at Nguiu and performs many tasks unassisted. Manny is supervised by Graeme Fegan. Graeme is a long term resident of the Nguiu community and he has consistently been involved in the training and supervision of Tiwi people to work beside him in this important industry.

The first shipment of 7,000 tonnes of Tiwi Timber has left the Tiwi Islands for China. See story on page 4

Quote of the Month

“A diamond is a chunk of coal that performed well under pressure”

Anon
Tiwi Land Council Environment News

Northern Territory Coastcare Awards

The Tiwi Land Council has won the Northern Territory Coastcare Award for 2004, the first time the Award has been run in the NT. Senior Marine Ranger Jack Long flew to Canberra this month to receive the Award at the National Landcare Awards ceremony.

The Coastcare Award is for ‘excellence in activities that have contributed to the significant improvement of the local coastal and/or marine environments’. The judges assessed that the Land Council had made significant achievements in all areas, which included:

- Contributing to the improved sustainability of the NT coast.
- Fostering a sense of stewardship within the community.
- Targeting the causes rather than the symptoms of environmental problems.
- Contributing to the development and application of best practice.
- Contributing to the development of partnerships.

The judges also praised the Tiwi Land Council’s efforts by stating that “the Tiwi communities’ enthusiasm for activities such as dugong and marine turtle management, weed management and soil erosion control are excellent”.

The Award recognises the long-term commitment of Land Council delegates, who have worked for many years on coastal issues. It also recognises the activities of the Tiwi Marine Rangers, who have worked on a range of different projects from turtle management to coastal patrols. The judges were also able to assess the many projects that have been carried out to protect the Tiwi coastline, including coastal cliff monitoring, weed control and the construction of walkways and boat ramps.

One aspect of the Award was the development of partnerships, and the Land Council would like to acknowledge the people and organisations that have provided assistance over the years. These include Andy Lauder from Coastcare NT, Scott Whiting from WWF, and the NT Fisheries Group.

Kate Hadden and Marine Ranger Jack Long at Parliament House in Canberra

Andrew Tipungwuti, one of the Tiwi Marine Rangers, watching the first load of Tiwi timber leaving Port Melville.
Tiwi Training Centre Computer Laboratory

Sharon Kerinaiua and baby Timothy John are progressing extremely well in their apprenticeship in Certificate III in Business.

Sharon can go to the training centre when convenient and work at her own pace with new simple to use interactive computer technology. The computer takes her through step by step how to use different computer systems including word processing, spreadsheets and the internet just to name a few.

Sharon is one of the 19 Tiwi Business apprentices being trained by the Tiwi Islands Training and Employment Board. Two full time TITEB lecturers visit the Islands every two weeks and this new technology enables the apprentices to practice and reinforce their skills in between visits. Currently Sharon and other members of the group are designing and developing their own software package that will be used by the Tiwi Islands Local Government to track current dog populations in the 4 communities.

Norm Buchan, CEO of TITEB said “that a picture really is worth a thousand words and this picture says it all. This is a dream come true for TITEB and the Tiwis and this is really what training is all about. We have been so fortunate to secure funding from the NT Department of Employment Education and Training, Australian National Training Authority, Department of Transport and Regional Services and the Aboriginal Benefits Account who jointly funded this facility”.

Pre-apprenticeship Forestry Program at Milikapiti.

TITEB has arranged a six week pre–apprenticeship forestry program which commenced at Milikapiti on the 20th September. The ten Tiwis from Milikapiti who are attending the program will receive award wages to participate in the program. The program consists of a mixture of on and off the job training and students will be able to complete four units of competence form the Certificate III in Forest and Forest Products. Graduates of the program will be offered 3 year full time apprenticeships with Sylvatech and will be placed on the Sylvatech payroll. Wage subsidies are being provided by ITEC, the job network agency, and the NT Department of Employment Education and Training has funded the training. Kelvin Stewart has been employed as a mentor and he will work full time with the students and the existing seven Tiwi Forestry apprentices.
Tiwi Times

Timber Shipments Commence

A significant goal was achieved on the 11th September when the first 7,000 tonnes of Tiwi timber left Port Melville for China.

A number of dignitaries were on hand to witness this important milestone, including Senator Amanda Vanstone, Senator Trish Crossin, Hon Warren Snowden and Ms Marion Scrymgour MLA.

This impressive group of supporters of the Tiwi Forestry Project was joined in celebrating the historic departure by Sylvatech Managing Director, Peter Ryan, and representatives of the Tiwi Land Council, including founding chairman Cyril Kalippa, current chairman Frederick Mungatopi, managers and members of the Tiwi community.

The first shipment was the beginning of a planned 5 year, one million tonne export marketing program which will realise substantial income for the TFP and the Tiwi.

During the year around 17,000 tonnes of hardwood saw logs were harvested and transported to Port Melville. There is now a 35,000 tonne stockpile at the port ready for export to customers in China, Vietnam and Indonesia.

As funds from Port Melville and timber exports begin to flow the Tiwi Land Council will play an important role in managing the income so it provides benefits for all Tiwi.

Health Service Bulletin

CARS

Health cars are for patient transport only. There is only room for the patient and an escort if required. Please do not humbug the drivers for lifts as it is impacting on the clinic staff’s ability to provide a good health service.

It is law that everyone, including children must wear a seatbelt. It is against the law for people to ride in the back of the ute.

No food or drinks (apart from water) to be brought into the cars and there is absolutely no smoking in the cars.

THE OLD NGUIU NURSES UNITS

We are cleaning up the three units next to the clinic in preparation for use by visiting staff. Once this has been finished people will be living in these units.

Over the last few months the units have been broken into a number of times, most recently it has disrupted work on the units. Anyone caught entering these properties without permission is breaking the law and will be prosecuted.

Tiwi Islands Training & Employment Board

Lot 2162 Armidale Street
Stuart Park NT 0820
Phone: 89415988
Fax: 89410778
Email: tiwitimes@titeb.com
Website address: www.octa4.net.au/titeb/

Circulating throughout Melville and Bathurst Islands which include the Communities of Pirlangimpi, Milikapiti, Nguiu & Wurankuwu

Articles For The Tiwi Times

If you have any articles which you would like to go into the October Tiwi Times please email them to us at tiwitimes@titeb.com

We try our hardest to get your Tiwi Times out by the end of each month and it would be appreciated if you could have your articles to us by the 25th October.