Wurrumiyanga Well Being Centre

“Stay strong, stay healthy”

The Wurrumiyanga Well Being Centre will soon be officially opening its doors and everyone is invited to attend. A formal ceremony with yinkitti and Tiwi dancing is planned for 10:00am on Wednesday, August 26th. Come and celebrate staying strong and staying healthy!

The idea for developing the Well Being Centre in Nguiu began when Traditional Owners negotiated the Community Benefits Package for Nguiu in conjunction with signing the 99 Year lease with the Australian Government in 2007.

The package included $1 million of federal funding from Dept. of Health and Aging (DoHA) to be used to improve health in Nguiu. The Tiwi Health Advisory Committee and Traditional Owners have worked together with the Northern Territory Government’s Dept. of Health and Families and Dept. of Primary Industries to decide on the best way to use the funding.

The Nguiu Well Being Centre will work differently from the Clinic, but you will recognise many of the faces. It is a place for you to go to learn more about what you can do to help yourselves, your families and your community be healthy. It will be about learning, teaching, sharing experiences and working together with other Tiwi and the Centre staff to help everyone be strong.

The programs that will be run out of the Well Being Centre include environmental, sexual, mental and public health services. There is an undercover outdoor area for health promotion and early intervention education. There will be a lot of chances to get involved so watch for notices at the Clinic and talk to the staff there if you have any questions or ideas, they will be happy to help you.

See you at the opening on August 26th to celebrate wellbeing, staying strong and staying healthy!

July 2009

TITEB Open Day

The Tiwi Islands Training and Employment Board held an open day at the Wurrumiyanga training campus on the 20th of July. About 300 people attended the day. The open day was attended by representatives from DEEWR, FaHCSIA, ITEC Employment, the new Job Network Provider on the Islands, TIO and the TITEB Directors. The Hon Alison Anderson MLA attended the open day and commented on the quality of the braised wallaby.

The highlight of the day was a cooking demonstration by Steve Sunk, the Walkabout Chef, from Charles Darwin University. Steve taught Tiwi staff how to cook healthy, nutritious meals for under $4.00 a serving using only food purchased from the local store, a $10.00 rice cooker and a $30.00 electric frying pan. The cooking demonstration was considered as an innovative way to enhance our money business activities by showing the community how to prepare cheap healthy meals while at the same time making their money go further.

A variety of meals were cooked including fried rice, curried chicken, chilli con carne, spicy beef and vegetables and braised wallaby. TITEB staff also cooked up a BBQ for the community and everyone had a great meal.

The staff who took part will now hold similar cooking demonstrations at future open days.

July 2009

“Stay strong, stay healthy”

“Aristotle”
Rodney Moreen Paints his Future

Rodney Moreen spent his July Bush holidays a bit differently from most Tiwi school students. The 18 year old undertook two weeks on-site training with Territory Alliance in his home community of Milikapiti.

“You get up early in the morning and work until 11.30,” Rodney said.

“I’m learning how to build houses, to paint and other things too. I’m scrubbing and using drills and equipment and all that.”

The St Mary’s mid-fielder, who enjoys painting the most, is also making money for when he goes back to school after the break.

He’s the eldest child in his family and he has two sisters and one brother.

“My family are proud of me,” he says.

“Rodney’s always keen and shows a lot of initiative,” says Michael Zampa, Territory Alliance Site Manager on Melville Island.

“We’re getting lots of young men coming up and asking for applications for employment with Territory Alliance. They see their mates working with us in their uniforms and want to have a go themselves.”

This is in part thanks to Patrick Grant, Joseph Henry and Andrew Moreen. The three Tiwi men have just been employed full-time after six weeks’ casual work with the Alliance.

They have trained in risk assessment and safety and rotate around the sites working with carpenters and Andrew.

Their next training will be chemical awareness in preparation for termite treatment and preparing for their heavy vehicle licences.

As for Rodney, his ambition when he leaves Year 12 is to work with the Territory Alliance construction team.

And his advice to other young Tiwi?

“You should work, earn money and learn,” says Rodney.

Housing Work Underway On Tiwi Islands

Minister for Housing Rob Knight today inspected upgrade work taking place on the Tiwi Islands as part of the $672 million Australian and Northern Territory Government Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP).

Mr Knight said $53.8 million is being invested on the Tiwi Islands to undertake work at Milikapiti, Pirlangimpi and Nguiu.

“The Territory Government and Australian Governments are committed to working with Indigenous Territorians to deliver housing that will last,” Mr Knight said.

“Twenty-nine new houses will be built on the Tiwi Islands and extensions are taking place to 25 houses. 155 houses will also be refurbished and upgraded.

“Indigenous employment and workforce development is a fundamental aspect of SIHIP and a minimum target of 20% Indigenous employment has been set for the Tiwi Islands.

“Decent housing is the key to closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage, reducing overcrowding and increasing employment opportunities.

“While I was at Milikapiti I met some of the six local Indigenous men who are working to bring homes back on-line for locals to move into.

“Work is well underway on the homes which are being upgraded and work on new homes is expected to begin in coming weeks.

“At the moment, seven homes are being upgraded and work is focusing on good installation and using quality products.

“In the past, the absence of secure, long term tenure across the Territory has meant inferior repairs and maintenance, which exacerbated by overcrowding, has meant houses become unliveable well before they should.

“We have to get this right. We will not repeat the failings of the past.”

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