

DAY TRIP TO BATHURST ISLAND (WARRUMIYANGA) – 24 JUNE 2016

THE TIWI REMEMBERS

A 75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOMBING OF DARWIN EVENT

By Bev Phelts

What a fabulous and just amazing event this was that the Tiwi people and Territory Remembers organisers hosted.

The organisers planned a special open day with support from the Tiwi Land Council., Tiwi Enterprises and the Catholic Diocese of Darwin to commemorate the significant contribution of indigenous Australians to the war effort during World War 11. The open day included the launch of a bronze statue of Matthias Ulungura who capture the first Japanese prisoner of war on Australian soil, the launch of the World War 11 exhibition at the Patakiyali Museum, and local cultural performances, art and craft and local entertainment.

The day started with about 100 people taking the 2.5 hour ferry ride to Wurrumiyanga. Dr Tom Lewis gave a talk on Matthias Ulungura and pointed to significant World War 11 wrecks that we passed. Sealink generously provided a morning tea on the way over. On arrival, we were welcomed by the locals who blessed us with a smoke dance.



Our arrival via ferry



Welcomed with the smoke dance



Audience watching the smoke dance



The main ceremony commenced at 11am with the master of ceremonies, former minister Mike Reed, and speeches were followed by Dr Tom Lewis and Gary Higgins, Minister for Arts & Museum & Francis Xavier Kurrupuwu, Member for Arafura. The plaque was unveiled by Adam Giles, Chief Minister and Minister for Arts and Museums, Gary Higgins.



The ceremony



Adam Giles, Chief Minister and a Norforce soldier



Don Milford, President of the Darwin RSL & Dr Tom Lewis, military historian



Francis Xavier Kurrupuwu, Member for Arafura speaking



The unveiling of the plaque. Minister Gary Higgins and Adam Giles, Chief Minister



Statue of Matthias Ulungura

The rest of the day was spent visiting St Theresa Catholic Church, the museum, supermarket, shopping at the art and design shop, partaking of a much needed coffee and cake at the café and enjoying the delicious BBQ lunch the community put for us. Big thanks to the organisers for such a wonderful day.

Out and About in Wurrumiyanga



Chief Minister with descendants of Matthias Ulungura,
Matthias & Barry Ulungura



Chief Minister with Bev Phelts & Steve O'Halloran



In the audience were Austin Asche, Wendy and Earl James



The Chief Minister with some of the Ulungura family

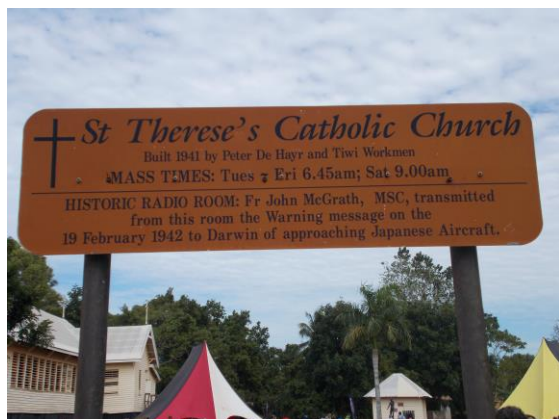


The girls working in the Frangipani Café



Yvonne Forrest

Out and About in Wurrumiyanga cont...



The rear of the St Therese Catholic church built in 1941



Inside the church



The church pulpit, Tiwi style



Entrance to the Patakijiyali Museum



Inside the Museum, Maude Ellis, Yvonne Forrest & Judy Beard

Out and About in Wurrumiyanga cont...



The old presbytery



Father McGrath's radio shed where he radioed Darwin to let the authorities know that Japanese planes were on their way



Norforce soldiers and Father McGrath's radio shed



Entrance to the Tiwi Design shop



Ron Strahan (Flagman) buying up a few Tiwi designs.

Out and About in Wurrumiyanga cont...



One of the many decorative poles



Inside the Tiwi Design shop



Roger Heapy & Linda Howard



Tom Bertenshaw, Judy Richardson & Trevor Horman



Newly erected sign by Territory Remembers

