



For immediate release:

Milikapiti Festival – A Celebration for Tiwi, by Tiwi – 6 September 2025

The Tiwi Islands will come alive on Saturday 6 September 2025 with the Milikapiti Festival – a one-day celebration of Tiwi culture, sport, music, and community pride, produced by proud Tiwi woman Libby Collins with Artback NT.

Running from 1:00pm to 10:00pm, the Milikapiti Festival marks the first time since the 2023 Yirriwinari Festival in Pirlingimpi that Artback NT has collaborated with Tiwi community to deliver a cultural event.

Creative Producer Libby Collins says:

“As a Tiwi woman, I’m so proud to be able to bring this festival to Milikapiti and work with our people on the ground to make it happen. It’s a celebration of our people, which is so special.”

“We’ll kick off with a Welcome and Opening Ceremony from 1:00pm and will have activities for all the mob throughout the day with performances on the mainstage by an all-Tiwi line up.”

Getting there & staying over

Please note this festival is for people who live in Milikapiti and across the Tiwi Islands. Local attendees will have access to bus services, with a schedule to be released closer to the day, as well as extra inter-island ferry services to help with travel between Bathurst and Melville Island on Saturday and Sunday (details closer to festival).

If visiting attendees to the festival are staying the night they will need to organise accommodation for the night.

Food & safety

A community BBQ for lunch and dinner will be provided at the festival.

The Milikapiti Festival is a family-friendly, alcohol-free event, with activities and entertainment suitable for all ages. On-site security will be available throughout the day.

The Milikapiti Festival is supported by: The Australian Government through Creative Australia, National Indigenous Australians Agency and Indigenous Languages and Arts Program, and the Northern Territory Government through Arts NT and Northern Territory Major Events Company.

“It’s very special to be able to work with Artback NT to deliver a festival in Milikapiti, creating a space for Tiwi people to see themselves reflected in the music, the games, the food, and the laughter, and to know that their culture is strong and thriving.”, says Libby Collins

1pm - 10pm, Saturday 6th September, 2025 Milikapiti Rec Hall, Melville Island, Tiwi Islands, Northern Territory

Artwork by
Tictac Mo

Libby Collins is currently a Producer with GARUWA. She has a strong national profile, working in production, marketing, communications and community engagement across the country for more than a decade.

1pm - 10pm, Saturday 6th September, 2025 Milikapiti Rec Hall, Melville Island, Tiwi Islands, Northern Territory

Artwork
Tictac M

The Milikapiti Festival is a day where Tiwi community comes together to celebrate our music, our people, our language, our sport, and our stories. From the flurry of activity during the day to the songs on the main stage playing out over the community into the night, and the stories shared at activity stalls, this festival is about connection and pride. Held at Milikapiti Oval, the festival runs from 1pm to 10pm and features, activities for all ages, and a chance to meet and share with Elders, family and friends. It is a family-friendly, alcohol-free event made by Tiwi people, for Tiwi people. Buses, extra inter-island barge services will be available.