



## SPC Darwin Tour 2014



# 2014 St Patrick's College Darwin Tour – Day 6.

**Friday, April 11.**

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With a 6am wake-up, the boys were up and at 'em early, keen to get over to the Tiwi Islands to experience a different way of life and better understand another cultural gem of the top end.

Everyone was excited as we discussed what we would see, the people we'd meet and the game we'd play with the possibility of 100 Tiwi Island children coming to play.

To our delight the large barge we boarded for the journey to the islands seated nearly 200 people, was comfortable, air-conditioned and had cold drinks which we all took full advantage of for the duration of the two and a half hour trip.



Luckily, none of the boys got sea-sick while most took the opportunity to catch up on a couple of hours of extra sleep.

When we arrived we were welcomed by dirt roads, barely any grass, wild dogs pillaging through rubbish a swarm of flies. But we were also welcomed by the Tiwi Islands people who lined the bank and all greeted us with open arms and all said:  
"Welcome to the Tiwi Islands, enjoy

**Will Austin, Shane McAuliffe, Daniel Rioli and Darcy Preston on the barge on the way across to the Tiwi Islands.**



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It was a real heart-warming feeling to see these underprivileged people opening their land to us and being so welcoming to people they had never met before.

We made our way to a local art gallery where some of the indigenous paintings were being made by some very talented artists. They were creating their own paint from local rocks and producing such beautiful art work. It was a huge eye-opener to see how something so brilliant can come from nothing.

We were very fortunate to also see Daniel Rioli, one of our SPC boys who hails from the Tiwi Islands, get to reunite with his aunties, uncle, cousins and nephews. We all gained a large amount of respect for him, his islands and his people.



**It was great to hand out the donated shoes and clothes and also meet the locals including members of Daniel Rioli's family.**

We then moved to another part of the town with children running on to the street to kick the footballs and play with us as we walked.

We came to a small park where a number of children were playing, with their parents gambling not too far away. This was a real eye-opener and the boys all loved talking to, and kicking the footy with the local kids who were showing some real handiwork with the ball.

Taking them to the local footy oval, the boys gave the children boots that the St Patrick's community had donated. We also gave them socks, singlets and other clothes that we felt would be beneficial for the children.

We then took to the field for a scratch match with over 30-a-side. It was a genuine experience to see the joy that football can bring to less fortunate kids, not only in the Tiwi Islands, but all across Australia.



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It was the faces of the children when they were given the shoes and clothes and when they got a kick playing footy, that will really resonate in all the boys and be a constant reminder of how fortunate we really are.

After the match we headed back to the barge to return to Darwin.

Having tea again by the beautiful Darwin bay and watching the sunset, all the boys were able to reflect on how our lives are of such an advantage and that we should never take things for granted.



The SPC Touring Party with the Tiwi Island locals.