She’ll use her education
to help educate others

IT’S taken more than a
century, but Casimira
Tipiloura has done it. She’s
become the first student in
over 100 years of education
on the Tiwi Islands to finish
high school with an ATAR
ranking allowing her to go on to
tertiary education.

Not only that, but the 17-year-old is
also the first person from her rather large
family – there’s lots of Tipilouras in the
Tiwis – to finish high school.

It’s something the quietly spoken
young woman from Wurrumiyanga
(formerly Nguiu) on Bathurst Island is just
a little bit proud of.

“Education is important. It’s how to get
ahead,” she told the Koori Mail.

In fact education is so important to
Casimira that she’s planning to become a
teacher herself, and help other people in
her community and other Aboriginal
centres around the Northern Territory.

On course

To that end, she’s going to Batchelor
Institute, south of Darwin, next year to
complete a certificate course in education.

Then the plan is to complete an
education degree at Charles Darwin
University, return as a teacher to the Tiwis,
and perhaps teach in other Indigenous
communities.

“I love children and I want to come
back to my community and continue to
give the kids here the education that I
received while helping them maintain their
culture,” she said.

“Then I’ll look at working on other
communities.”

As you might imagine, Casimira’s road
to tertiary education was challenging. The
oldest in a large family, she has plenty of
commitments taking her time.

And it didn’t help that she was the only
Year 12 student at Xavier Catholic College
on Bathurst Island last year.

“It got a bit lonely, but I had lots of
people helping and supporting me,” she
said. “In the end, it’s all worth it.”

Casimira Tipiloura
with Aboriginal actor
Luke Carroll on the
Tiwi Islands.