



Summer 2017  
**CAMP  
EBIIL**

*By Ann Singeo*



## *“Our Forest- Our Watershed”*

Rise and shine! But, then again most of the kids- all 72, are too excited to have slept through the night as they anticipate their first day in Camp Ebiil. Day one begins with hustles between the kitchen and the shower as the campers race to ready themselves and to board the buses taking them on to see Ngaraard as they have never seen before. Guided by historian, Andrew Shiro- they travel the paths of the ancient following the stories of “Surech & Tulei” a love tragedy. From the ridge of Ngerulik where the lovers would meet, to the grave where her head lay buried and back up again to the original Babeldaob trail, “Rael Kedam,” where a stone pictograph of Surech womanhood lay on the roadside. Here the students get a chance to trek the Japanese trail as well while they measure the forest intactness and study endemic species of Palau plants. Down the road the Ngaraard PAN Rangers and Ms. Beouch take the kids on the trail of Ngerchokl as the story unfolds as it’s told while travelling the historical path that takes the campers to the ruins of

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- June 14-18 Counselors Training week
- June 18-25 Experience Camp Begins
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*72 Participants to  
Camp Ebiil 2017!*

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## Surech/ Tulei ... t r a g e d y

## Tucheliaur W a r r i o r

Photos by Tublai  
Left; Surech Pictograph  
Right, Grave for Tucheliaur

### *“Di ngii lomekcharm er ngii- me bol sebechel nguu Ngial” Andrew Shiro*

A second set of a story takes the campers across the stone path of Ngebuked to where Tucheliaur body lays in a peculiar grave that’s looks extremely long. The warrior who would save his people from the oppression of past Ngial’s rule. In his grave “he sits upright facing Ngial with his spears laying in front of him and a son to his right.” A son he burnt to death to overcome excruciating pain as part of his psyche preparation to take Ngial. His spears make his grave extremely long and its position elongated across the stone grave platform to the foot of the rest of the buried. As we travel through time with the stories told- the forests and ancient village comes alive around us, while the scenery and atmosphere takes us back to a time of strong will and heroism that provides foundation to who we are as Palauans.



At the end of the day, campers work in groups to share, present, and post what they’ve learned during the day. Followed by chores, shower and DINNER TIME!

*“I return to Ebiil for the FUN, making new friends, and for the FOOD!!” Jeter Jenkins-16yrs*



## WESTCARE & Ebiil

*...a partnership  
for youth  
service*

### *“Giving our Youth skills to deal with growing pains”*

On a daily basis the campers get to learn new life skills that teaches them how to manage safe and smart relationships that cultivates for successful youth resilient to challenges faced as they grow and develop into young adults. Fuana, Tublai and Sengai work diligently to ensure that the learning sessions are FUN and full of good energy!

Lessons include, anger management, healthy relationships, boundaries, core values, synergy. A load of big topics even some of us adults could probably use! But if you think it's all dry and technical, you could not be more wrong! It is all fun and games- the curriculum has been designed to provide experiential learning using role plays and games that gives opportunity to immediately utilize skills amongst participants.



Many of the participants exclaim excitement in use of their new skills while at camp to solve problems between friends and fellow campers that would have otherwise taken a not so positive approach or even outcome. This includes meeting and making new friendship that will expand a child's social boundaries beyond just their neighborhood or school.



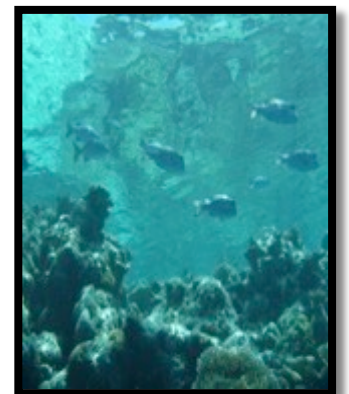
## Endangered Species & Protected Areas

*“Understanding species status is necessary for restoring their population...”*

Using story telling children are taught their relationship to the natural environment. From here they can begin to think for themselves and what happens to them when nature is overexploited or damaged by men. “People will care- if they understand.” Somewhere this statement has been proven true by social scientist studying human’s interaction and sense of protection towards nature. Children learn on this day to monitor Turtle and Palau Megapode nests, their status, and how to help protect the species and their habitat in order to restore their declining populations. Additionally they snorkel Ebiil protected area to witness the array of life and colors of a reef that has successfully been protected. To this the children exclaim their joy in witnessing Giant clams, Humphead Wrasse and



Parrotfish, and the amazing colors of Ebiil! You can hear the squeals of excitement as the children witness underwater life like they’ve never seen before.





“Boys learn  
Fishery science &  
Sports Fishing”



## “Words of the Lagoon/ Taro fields”

Traditional gender based institutions



Tekoi el  
Cheliuis

Tekoi el  
Chei

When boys are asked what made them choose Camp Ebiil, this question is always met with, **“I want to learn how to fish!”** Yup! Learning how to fish remains an important part of a boys’ life. Might as well teach them conservation principles that will make them an effective fishermen- one that can sustain his fisheries.

This year fishermen from Koror and Ngarchelong worked together to teach new and traditional technologies of fishery together with sustainable practices of “catch & release” sports fishing, size limit, and only taking enough. As always, the boys get stoked on the day for fishing! At the end of the day they come back with stories the “big one that got away,” and which fishermen was most inspiring, and the tools most thrilling to use! You can hear conversations advancing where they begin to name fish species and habitats, including how they released that protected specie and ones too small to take. Start them young on the right path and hopefully shape their fishing practices one day...

Girls on the other hand get to experience taro fields as the women’s ecosphere. A place that is more than just taro fields, but one where women’s knowledge is transpired through the rules of cultivating the earth with the water passing through, the herbs carefully placed to safeguard taro’s health and future needs for medicinal plants by the women.



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the what would have been a “magical stream” that returns youth to the aging or ill whenever needed. Ms Beouch and the Rangers would continue to teach what a watershed system looks like, it’s threat, and how as individuals and communities we can work together to ensure its protection and health for our livelihood.

Continue from previous page- Taro field

After completing instructions with the women trainers, the girls would get muddy toiling, fertilizing with organic matter, planting, sheeting, harvesting, preparing for cooking, and then... FUN times! Mud spa, swimming in the streams, collecting herbs for bathing, listening to stories told by the elder women... This is the most enjoyed part of the camp where the girls would request for additional days in the taro fields!

There is something magical about the taro field that has generationally summoned women to go back to the fields to find their sense of womanhood and identity. It has a therapeutic effect that provides space for understanding and acceptance as we mature into our roles and responsibilities at home and into society.



### Evening Activities FUN-GAMES-PREP

Evenings are always full of fun games and preparation for the next day field activities. Above picture shows Suzie Glac our ecology trainer teaching endangered species. Picture show campers demonstrating their drill for showing respect by giving undivided attention to the speaker. *“Support the sign,”* as they say it! The drills have been developed to help manage large groups while maintaining positive and encouraging learning environment.



## Plants as Indicators of Fishery

Palauan's interconnectedness to their natural environment provides space for "notice and response" relationship between men and the forest. Where plants blooming, fruiting, and leaf shedding is correlated with certain fishery. This is how they also maintained self-regulated harvesting. Seafood would only be harvested at a certain time- giving room for the ocean to revive and heal itself.

On this day the girls would hike to the ridges and forest with Vanray Tadao to learn of plants associated with fisheries and identify which fishery to participate in. The boys would do likewise with fishermen Tino Kloulechad to observe a particular alga locally named "*Chesemel a Ucheltmel*", meaning, the beard of Ucheltmel, an indicator of sea urchin fishery (photo; bottom- yellow alga).



The girls on the other hand identified a ridge plant species with local name "*Matakui*," to be in full bloom indicating "*Ngduul*" or mangrove clam fishery to be in season and did exactly that! This fishery is done within the mangrove forest and there are traditional fishing grounds regularly visited by women. The younger campers went to gather "*Chesechol*," while the older ones gathered "*Ngduul*."



Photos  
Top; Chesechol  
Bottom; Ngduul

# N G E R B E L A S

## Here We Come!!



Long awaited is the overnight trip to Ngerbelas, Kayangel, to learn star navigation and sea birds. Kayangel is an excellent place for learning both subjects as there are no mountains or highland in the view and is a known habitat for sea birds of all kinds.

Then again, the kids go bonkers anytime the camp overnights at an island! In the evening, the kids would look up to the grand sky to learn of way-finding using star constellations, a lesson adopted from Mr. Sesario Sewralur over the years of teaching at Camp Ebiil. The kids are in awe of the numbers of constellations and their positions to the North, South, rising in the East, setting in the West, and the visible planet like Jupiter. As we have learned from Sesario, his generational navigation knowledge is said to be a combination of Palau's navigation knowledge of the sea and the Marshalls star navigation chart. And that it is our responsibility to ensure that this knowledge is revived and practiced. Campers also get a chance to observe some of the bird lessons from Ms. Heather Ketebengang from PCS, like the male and female calling of Palau Megapode, the Noddies,

Frigates, Terns, Boobies and many other birds habituating the islands of Kayangel.



***“We are sitting under the bush watching the Megapode feeding- and it’s not scared!”***  
Robert Gordon, 11 yrs. old.

The kids are most excited to be so close to the birds without them flying away! This is how children can begin to understand that some special habitats require a higher level of protection in order to ensure that the species are safe and not relocating or sometimes even disappearing. It is wonderful that Palau still has special places such as Ngerbelas and Ngeriungs where children and adults can go to witness such natural wonders.





# DESIIIL...

Desiil means that the group must celebrate their event and say goodbye to each other until they meet again. Many of the parents would disclose how their children are expanding their circle of friends with the long lasting friendship made during camp. Some would even thank the staff manning the camp as they meet them in public spaces, how their kids have really matured in many ways in terms of responsibilities to themselves, others, their family, and especially the environment since they started participating in Camp Ebiil- *"music to our ears,"* at Ebiil. We love this type of feedback that shows how the children participants of the camp are learning more ways than one, how to be responsible at all levels of society at very young ages. Thank you parents and all the sponsors/ donors, and supporters of Camp Ebiil for making this event happen every year.



Ebiil Society

August 2017

## Thank you to all the parents, sponsors, donors, and supporters of Camp Ebiil...

### Ebiil Society Camp Ebiil

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Koror State Government- PAN office  
Kayangel State Government- PAN office  
Ministry of Health- Medical Supplies  
Palau Conservation Society- Boat  
PICRC- Training/ Interns  
Lazarus Meyar and Family- Ngerbelas  
Rubak ra Summer House- Training/ Fish  
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Day Dream- Life Jackets

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