Fortnightly news in brief from Jabiru, Warruwi, Minjilang, Maningrida and Gunbalanya



wire@westarnhem.nt.gov.au 08 8979 9465 Published by West Arnhem Regional Council



Pictured is the last Sydney Swans visit to Maningrida. The team will be returning to Maningrida to host the Maningrida Footy Festival on November 15 - 17.

The Sydney Swans will host a football festival in the Top End this November with the aim of delivering an important health message about smoking.

First Nations peoples in the Northern Territory have among the highest rates of smoking in Australia, especially across the Jabiru -Tiwi region in West Arnhem Land, where the town of located. Maningrida is Maningrida is one of the most culturally diverse Aboriginal communities in Australia, with around 15 different languages spoken among the population.

The Sydney Swans first visited Maningrida two years ago in partnership with the Mala'la Aboriginal Health Service.

Through an extension of that collaboration, a contingent of Swans AFL and AFLW players and staff will return to Maningrida to host a football festival, encouraging the community to Kick the Habit as part of the Australian Government's Tackling Indigenous Smoking (TIS) program.

The TIS program supports healthy lifestyles through the promotion of smoke environments and discouraging the uptake of smoking and tobacco products.

On the field, the three-day Maningrida Footy Festival from November 15-17 will see men's, women's and youth teams compete in a round robin format, while off the field, participants will engage in TIS workshops, health checks and other health activities.

Sydney Swans Indigenous Manager Jarred Strategy Hodges said the project aims to use role models and community engagement to

impact meaningful change.

"Our aim is to use the power of sport to bring the community together to increase the exposure of First Nations young people and families to vital preventative smoke-free messaging,' Hodges said.

"We were fortunate to establish some relationships when we visited Maningrida two years ago and our staff and players learned so much from the experience, so this is our opportunity to give back.

"Importantly, this is not a one-off event, as we will deliver the Maningrida Footy Festival and the Kick the Habit campaign each year for at least the next three years. Our goal is to engage 500 participants and 1000 spectators by year three, and hopefully have a really positive impact on health outcomes in the community."

Continues, Page 6 >>

## INSIDE THIS EDITION

## UPDATE FROM MINJILANG CRECHE



The Minjilang crèche is evolving into an education, fun space supporting local families.

PAGE 4 >

#### KEY PROJECTS MOVING FORWARD



West Arnhem Regional Council held its October Ordinary Council Meeting on Wednesday, 23 October.

## 24 HOUR WASH-A-THON



## INCREASING ROAD SAFET



Road upgrades carried out across Maningrida, Warruwi, and Gunbalanya this dry season.

PAGE 9 >

## PRE-CYCLONE CLEAN UP DAYS

As we move into cyclone season there are things we can all do to prepare and keep yourself, your family and your home safe.

Council is holding pre-cyclone cleanups across all of our communities so all residents members can dispose of any hard rubbish that may become a risk in the cyclone season.

Place unwanted hard waste on the kerbside at the front of your house BEFORE the day and Council will collect it for you!

## UPCOMING CLEAN UP ACROSS THE REGION WILL BE:

11 November - Jabiru

- 11 15 November Maningrida
- 11 15 November Gunbalanya
- Tue 12 November Minjilang

#### **WHAT WE CAN COLLECT:**

Household items: furniture, white goods, timber

E-waste: TVs, computers Scrap metals: Bedframes, toys

#### WHAT WE CAN'T COLLECT:

Green waste, tyres, batteries, commercial waste, oils or chemicals

A few helpful tips from NT

Police, Fire & Emergency Services:

- Trim tree tops and branches well clear of your home
- Clear your property of loose material that could blow about and possibly cause injury or damage during extreme winds
- In case of a storm surge/tidal warning, or other flooding, know your nearest safe high ground and the safest access route to it
- Prepare an emergency kit that can sustain every member of the household for at least 72 hours.



# WIRE

West Arnhem Regional Council acknowledges the First Nations Custodians; and the many Language and Family groups who are Managers and Care-takers to each of their Traditional homelands and Waters across the West Arnhem Regions Wards. West Arnhem Regional Council pay their respects and acknowledge Elders, past present and rising.

The Wire is the only regular source of news and information in the Kakadu and West Arnhem Land region. More than 500 copies are distributed fortnightly to Jabiru, Warruwi, Minjilang, Maningrida and Gunbalanya.

Our electronic edition goes out to more than 500 individual email addresses across West Arnhem Land and the Top End.

The Wire accepts advertising from businesses and government organisations. Placement of ads is subject to editorial and Council policy.

Our competitive rates start from as little as \$72 (including GST). Call 08 8979 9465 today or email wire@westarnhem.nt.gov.au to discuss how we can help you spread your messages around West Arnhem Land.

#### **ADVERTISING DEADLINES**

Bookings: 5pm Monday prior to publication

Artwork: 5pm Tuesday prior to publication

The Wire is published fortnightly on Fridays.

The Wire is published by West Arnhem Regional Council. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those held by the Council or Councillors.

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Council

www.westarnhem.nt.gov.au

Call (08) 8979 9465 or email wire@westarnhem.nt.gov.au

## **NOMINATE FOR 2025 FIRST CIRCLES PROGRAM**

Nominations now open for the 2025 First Circles Leadership Program.

"Build your leadership skills, get involved in decision making and make a difference.."

Calling on emerging leaders from remote communities across the Territory. Build your leadership skills, get involved in decision making and make a difference in your community.

The First Circles Leadership Program is an NT Government flagship program aimed to help identify, mentor and support Aboriginal emerging leaders from remote communities across the Northern Territory.

The program brings new voices, and quiet voices, to the conversation to ensure Aboriginal people from remote areas can confidently speak to, negotiate and influence the government about matters affecting their lives, their families and communities.

## CELEBRATING ABORIGINAL CULTURE (AUSTRALIA DAY) GRANTS NOW OPEN

The Northern Territory Government is proud to sponsor a range of events, activities and projects across the NT to recognise Australia Day from an Aboriginal perspective.

Funding through the Celebrating Aboriginal Culture (Australia Day) grants program is available to Aboriginal people and community groups, particularly in regional and remote areas.

Grants of up to \$5,000 can be used to celebrate and recognise Aboriginal culture, language, history, and achievements as part of Australia Day 2025 celebrations.

Applications are open now, and eligible events and activities can be held from 18 January to 2 March 2025.

The Celebrating Aboriginal Culture (Australia Day) grant runs in addition to the Australia Day Council Small Community Grant Program, which helps support how Aboriginal people and communities want to celebrate and recognise the day.

Successful applicants will be notified during December 2024.

Outage emergency works wall community water outage attempting to restore services a s soon as possible.

## TUNE INTO TEABBA RADIO

Maningrida Radio

106.1 FM

Minjilang Radio

106.1 FM

Gunbalanya Radio Warruwi Radio 106.1 FM 106.1 FM

Jabiru Radio

98.9 FM



TEASBA

TOP END ABORIGINAL BUSH BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION



## Maningrida

# FESTIVAL

Save the date **November 15-17**Maningrida Oval Sydney Swans AFL
& AFLW players, football carnival
featuring local teams, music,
sausage sizzle. We're looking for
teams to participate in the carnival.

To register your interest contact Graham Hayes (AFL NT) 0499 111 962









## WHAT'S ON



West Arnhem Regional Council is holding pre-cyclone clean ups across all West Arnhem Communities. See dates below.

## **WEEKLY**

### Monday

Underwater Hockey: Jabiru Pool, 5pm Fire Station Training: Jabiru Fire Station, 6pm

#### **Tuesdays**

Jabiru Playgroup: see the Facebook page, 9:30am Bombers football training: Brockman Oval, 5:30pm Jabiru Firey's Fitness Training: Magela Oval, 5:30pm Aqua Fitness: Jabiru Swimming Pool, 6.15pm Jabiru Art & Craft Group: private residence (enquire directly) 7.30pm

### Wednesdays

Skins Golf: Jabiru Golf Club, 4.45pm

#### **Thursdays**

Story Time: Jabiru Library, 11.00am
Jabiru Bombers Football training: Brockman Oval, 5pm
Jabiru Firey's Fitness Training: Magela Oval, 5.30pm
Aqua Fitness: Jabiru Swimming Pool, 6.15pm
Jackpot Joker Draw, Jabiru Golf Club 7.30pm

#### **Fridays**

Jabiru Golf Club raffles & Members Draw, 7pm Pool competition: Jabiru Golf Club, 7pm

#### **Sundays**

Jabiru Firey's Fitness Training 5.30pm

## **OCTOBER**

Thu 31 Halloween

## **NOVEMBER**

11 - 15 Gunbalanya Pre-Cyclone Clean Up

Mon 11 Jabiru Pre-Cyclone Clean Up

11 - 15 Maningrida Pre-Cyclone Clean Up

15 - 17 Sydney Swans visit Maningrida

Tue 12 Minjilang Pre-Cyclone Clean Up

## CREATING A FUN, EDUCATIONAL SPACE

The crèche at Minjilang is open and West Arnhem Regional Council is very excited as it evolves into an educational, fun, safe and nurturing space for the little people of Minjilang to enjoy. The crèche now has three part time staff employed and the Childcare Senior officer.

Childcare Senior Officer Jodie Lannoy said, "creating an inclusive, welcoming and at times a little crazy work environment for us all to enjoy is really important and I think we have achieved this as well."

"We have been fluctuating between 2-6 children per day and we are very optimistic that we will continue to grow but also very realistic that this will take time."

Days at the creche are full of music, outdoor play, reading books, cooking, doing puzzles, craft, painting, unstructured play time and group activities. They provide a nutritionally balanced menu for the children that changes on a weekly basis and it has been lovely to watch as the children explore and enjoy new foods.

The Minjilang crèche reopened in June following extensive roof and interior repairs. The crèche is an important part of the Minjilang Community which supports local families.





## APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR ABORIGINAL TOURISM GRANT PROGRAM

A new round of the Aboriginal Tourism Grant Program has opened to support NT-based majority-owned Aboriginal businesses and organisations.

It will enable them to develop their product and experiences to encourage visitors to travel and stay in the Territory for longer.

Minister for Tourism and Hospitality, Marie-Clare Boothby, said the Territory's tourism industry was a huge economic contributor, keeping Territorians in jobs and creating work opportunities for small to medium businesses.

"We are working hard to rebuild the economy, and we know that tourism is one of the Territory's biggest economic contributors," Ms Boothby said.

contributors," Ms Boothby said.

"Investing in Aboriginal tourism through grant programs enables local operators to develop cultural products that will attract more visitors and help our tourism businesses thrive.

"The Aboriginal Tourism Grant program will ultimately see more cultural tourism experiences available to visitors and importantly deliver positive economic and social outcomes for Aboriginal communities."

Aboriginal tourism injects about \$383 million into the NT economy annually, with many domestic and international visitors seeking authentic Aboriginal cultural tourism experiences.

To date, the program has supported 60 Aboriginal businesses with grants totalling over \$2.97 million.

The Round 8 of the Aboriginal Tourism Grant Program funding pool consists of \$1 million.

A minimum of \$30,000 up to a maximum \$100,000 is available to eligible applicants.

Applications can be made via grantsnt.

Applications close on Friday 7 March 2025, or earlier, if funding for the program is fully subscribed.

For further information, contact Tourism NT's Aboriginal Tourism team at Aboriginal.tourismnt@nt.gov.au or telephone 08 8999 7420.

## **BUILDING SAFER ROADS IN WEST ARNHEM**

Community safety is priority! Our team at West Arnhem Regional Council has been hard at work carrying out extensive road upgrades across Maningrida, Warruwi, and Gunbalanya this dry season.

Here are the highlights for Maningrida – our biggest Community in West Arnhem:

- Maningrida Airport Road: pothole repairs, edge breaks, shoulder works, resealing and line marking
  - Maningrida top camp road: pothole

repairs, edge breaks, shoulder works and resealing works

"Ensuring safer roads for our Communities - what a brilliant outcome!"

In Gunbalanya, the upgrades included:

• Back Road: reconstruction, resealing

and line marking

• 5kms of shoulder maintenance and works line marking All these upgrades are done just in time for the wet season, ensuring safer roads for our Communities - what a brilliant outcome!

A big thank you to the Territory's Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics and Roads to Recovery for their support in making this happen.









## **Maningrida Pre-Cyclone** Clean Up

14-18 October, 11-15 November & 9-13 December

Place unwanted hard waste at the front of your house BEFORE the day and Council will collect it for

**✓** WHAT WE CAN COLLECT:

Household items: furniture, white goods, timber E-waste: TVs, computers Scrap metals: Bedframes, toys



Green waste, commercial waste, oils or chemicals



Any enquiries, please see the Council Office.



#### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ICN 2458**

Tuesday 12th November 2024 11.00am Gundjeihmi Office 5 Gregory Place, Jabiru

#### AGENDA

- Confirmation of minutes of the General Meeting held on
- Presentation of reports
  - · General report

  - Directors' report
     Audited Financial report FY 2022-2023
- Annointment of an Auditor
- Checking the Register of Members
- Questions regarding the management of the Corporation

Please contact the GAC Office on (08) 0879 2200 to register your interest

appointments in writing at least two days prior to the AGM.

## CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINATIONS OPEN

West Arnhem Regional Council (WARC) has opened nominations for the 2025 Citizen of the Year Awards across the West Arnhem region, and we need your help to give our Community's best the recognition they deserve.

We're looking for someone who makes a difference in our Communities including Jabiru, Gunbalanya, Maningrida, Warruwi and Minjilang.

The 'Citizen of the Year' awards are community-led awards which acknowledge a number of community members who need a pat on the back - and more - for the incredible work that they do.

This is someone who contributes to our Community and inspires those around them.

They could be quiet achievers, community members or unknown heroes.

It is a pleasure for WARC



2024 winners Rachel Hampton, Bridgette Carrigan and Deirdre O'Sullivan accepting the award on behalf of the Kakadu Triathlon.

to be able to facilitate these awards every year to celebrate and say 'thank you' to the incredible people who help make the region a great place to live.

We are reaching out to

organisations and local residents to nominate.

The Awards rely on members of the public to nominate, so we encourage you to consider putting someone forward in your networks for the 2025 Awards.

Your nominee could be recognised in one of our three categories:

- Čitizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year (16 to 30 years)
- Community Event of the Year

Nominations forms are available at:

- The Council website
- Email wire@westarnhem. nt.gov.au for a copy

Nominations close December 2024.

For more information or to nominate, please call 89799465 or email wire@westarnhem. nt.gov.au

Congratulations to last year's award winners from Jabiru:

- Citizen of the Year Rachel Hampton
- Young Citizen of the Year -Bridgette Carrigan
- Community Event of the Year Kakadu Triathlon

## MANINGRIDA FOOTY FESTIVAL

#### << From Front Page

Executive Health Manager of the Mala'la Aboriginal Health Service, Lesley Woolf, said sport is a powerful way to provide positive role models and deliver impactful messaging.

"We are excited to have the Swans back in Maningrida. They are a positive influence on the community, and we are looking forward to a great weekend of football," she said.

The Maningrida Footy Festival and Kick the Habit campaign are being delivered in partnership with the Tackling Indigenous Smoking program and the Mala'la Aboriginal Health Service.





**NOMINATIONS OPEN** 

"I chose to do the First Circles Leadership Program to gain knowledge about Governance and how it all works. Also to further develop the skills I need to be a strong leader, not only for my sons but to those who look up to me." Sally

First Circles Leadership Program provides an opportunity for emerging Aboriginal leaders from remote communities across the Territory to build strong leadership skills. This is a chance for members to speak directly with the NT Government at the highest level about issues that impact their community.

The program is designed to enable members to become active participants in decision making.

#### To find out more

Contact The Office of Aboriginal Affairs on: 08 8999 8579 or email: oaa@nt.gov.au

Nominations close: 31 October 2024

aboriginalaffairs.nt.gov.au



## **COUNCIL MOVES FORWARD WITH KEY PROJECTS**

West Arnhem Regional Council (WARC) held its October Ordinary Council Meeting via video conference on Wednesday, 23 October.

The meeting covered key updates from various departments, including finance, technical services, and waste management.

"Enhancing Community infrastructure and services to build stronger Communities.."

With the wet season just around the corner, WARC staff are busy completing current projects and planning future works across the region before heavy rains make roads impassable.

During the meeting, Councillors acknowledged the significant number of ongoing and near-complete projects, and expressed gratitude for the staff's hard work.

Infrastructure Projects:

- Warruwi Community Hall: Reroofing is underway, and an additional storage container with roofing and roller doors has been installed.
- Maningrida's Malala Road: Drainage works are scheduled to commence soon.

Local Authority-Funded

Projects:

- Gunbalanya Shelters: Nearing completion.
- Gunbalanya Aged Care: Pavers will be installed at various clients' homes to improve mobility during the wet season.
- Maningrida Outdoor Gym: 95% complete, providing the community with a new fitness facility.
- New Year's Eve Fireworks in Maningrida: Planning is already underway.
- Gunbalanya Drinking Fountain: A new coldwater drinking fountain has been installed outside the Gunbalanya Council Office for public use.

Recreation Facility Upgrades:

- Jabiru's Brockman Oval: New grandstands were installed in time for the Jabiru Bombers' first home game last weekend.
- Gunbalanya Oval: Contractors are set to begin soil improvement, surfacing, and line-marking works in early November.
- Maningrida Oval: Additional grandstands will be fully installed ahead of the Sydney Swans visit in November, funded by the Local Authority.

With these projects in motion, WARC continues its commitment to enhancing Community infrastructure and services to build stronger Communities.



Warruwi Community Hall reroof is underway.



The Maningrida Community can enjoy the new outdoor gym equipment.



## Gunbalanya Pre-Cyclone Clean Up

## 7-11 October & 11-15 November

Place unwanted hard waste at the front of your house BEFORE the day and Council will collect it for you!

**✓** WHAT WE CAN COLLECT:

Household items: furniture, white goods, timber

**E-waste**: TVs, computers **Scrap metals**: Bedframes, toys

**X** WHAT WE CAN'T COLLECT:

Green waste, commercial waste, oils or chemicals



Any enquiries, please see the Council Office.



The Maningrida Oval grandstands and changerooms are significant projects which will bring huge benefits to the Community.



WEST ARNHEM

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

Nominate someone who makes a real difference in your Community in the 2025 Citizen of the Year Awards.

## **Award Categories:**

Citizen of the Year
Young Citizen of the Year (16-30 yrs)
Community Event of the Year



#### **NOMINATE NOW:**

At www.westarnhem.nt.gov.au Pick up a form at any WARC Office Email: info@westarnhem.nt.gov.au

NOMINATIONS CLOSE: 2 December 2024

## **CONTACT**:

EMAIL: info@westarnhem.nt.gov.au

PHONE: (08) 8979 9465



## **24 HOUR WASH-A-THON IN GUNBALANYA**

The Aboriginal Investment Group partnership with Adjumarllarl Aboriginal Corporation, will be hosting a 24-hour wash-a-thon at the new Remote Laundry in the West Arnhem community of Gunbalanya. The Wash-A-Thon will be a festival of health and wellbeing, with a full program including: • Sports festival: Basketball & AFL (Cyril Rioli is stopping by) and Colour Fun Run 24-hour BBQ: Meat supplied Gunbalanya Meats (local Indigenous-owned abattoir) Free haircuts; The 'Look Good' Feel program 'Healthy Skin/Healthy Heart' workshops (Heart Foundation) · Cooking sessions (Healthy Eating led by our Program), As part of the festival, mattresses and linen will be provided to houses where it has been identified that children don't have a bed to sleep on. Set inside a 20-foot shipping container, the easy-to-operate laundry launched in late August in the community.

With four industrial-sized washers and dryers, the Remote Laundry provides a free laundry service to the Gunbalanya community while creating employment opportunities for locals.

Since opening, the laundry has



First wash at the new laundry in Gunbalanya.

spun over 300 cycles and employs five locals. Aboriginal Investment Group CEO, Liz Morgan-Brett says the project's success has been phenomenal. "The beauty of AIG's Remote Laundries Project is in its simplicity.

The laundry provides free washing and drying for the community to reduce

the prevalence of scabies and other skin infections and improve health and wellbeing," Ms Morgan-Brett said. "During the wash-a-thon, the Remote Laundry will run for the full 24 hours, and we're keen to see how many loads of washing we can get through in that time. If this pilot program goes well, we'll roll it out across our other Remote Laundries locations." AIG now operates five laundries in the NT:

"The Remote Laundry will run for the full 24 hours, and we're keen to see how many loads of washing we can get through in that time.."

Darwin, Milyakburra, Angurugu, Barunga and Gunbalanya, with Borroloola, Nauiyu and Umbakumba next in line. The Remote Laundries Project is supported by NT PHN, National Heart Foundation of Australia, Flinders University, Solar Living Homes, Katherine Laundry and Gremlin Electronics.



# Minjilang Pre-Cyclone Clean Up

### Tues, 8 October & Tues, 12 November

Place unwanted hard waste at the front of your house BEFORE the day and Council will collect it for you!

✓ WHAT WE CAN COLLECT:

Household items: furniture, white goods, timber
E-waste: TVs, computers
Scrap metals: Bedframes, toys

**X** WHAT WE CAN'T COLLECT:

Green waste, commercial waste, oils or chemicals



Any enquiries, please see the Council Office.









## AUTRALIA DAY NT REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The annual Australia Day NT Conference held on Friday, 18 October proved to be more than just a gathering of community leaders—it was a masterclass in how local innovation can transform communities.

Amongst the attendees were Indigenous Elders, Council employees, artists, and entrepreneurs, all bringing their unique perspectives on building stronger Territory communities.

Representing West Arnhem Regional Council were Grants Coordinator Bryony Stracey and Manager Business Development Leanne Johansson.

This year's conference cut through the usual formalities to focus on what matters: real solutions to real challenges. From grassroots safety initiatives to digital innovation, from arts festivals to youth employment, each session revealed practical ways that Territory communities are evolving while honouring their cultural foundations.

The day's conversations centred on three key themes: cultural preservation in a digital age, community-led solutions to local challenges, and making programs truly accessible to all.

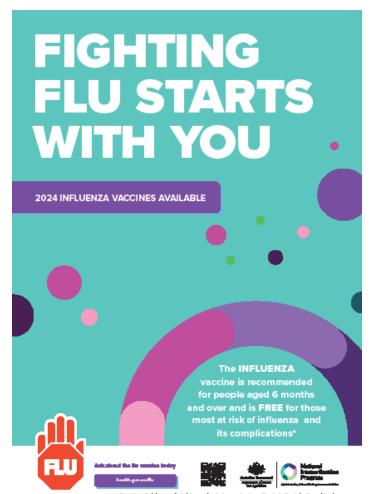


The annual Australia Day NT Conference was held in Darwin on Friday, 18 October.

There were some exciting presenters on the agenda including:

- Mark Smith from Music NT
- Jo Nixon from the The Beanie Festival in Alice Springs
- Dante St James shared insights about storytelling through social media
- Inclusion NT revealed how true inclusion transforms communities
- Youthworx NT
- Samantha McCue from The Clear Writing Coach
  - Youth Rising
- Peter Susanto, the 2024 NT Young Australian of the Year

West Arnhem Regional Council wishes to thank the Australia Day Council NT for holding this annual regional conference.





# Jabiru Pre-Cyclone Clean Up

## Mon, 14 October & Mon, 11 November

Place unwanted hard waste on the kerbside at the front of your house BEFORE the day and Council will collect it for you!

#### ✓ WHAT WE CAN COLLECT:

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**E-waste**: TVs, computers **Scrap metals**: Bedframes, toys

#### **X** WHAT WE CAN'T COLLECT:

Green waste, tyres, batteries, commercial waste, oils or chemicals



Any enquiries, please contact the Jabiru Council Office on 8979 9444 or info@westarnhem.nt.gov.au