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



West Arnhem Regional Council's youth initiative, the West Arnhem Youth Leadership Summit, has been named a Category Winner in the 2025 National Awards for Local Government.

## **NATIONAL AWARD FOR YOUTH SUMMIT**

West Arnhem Regional Council is proud to announce that its leading youth initiative, the West Arnhem Youth Leadership Summit, has been named a Category Winner in the 2025 National Awards for Local Government.

Taking out the 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People's Recognition' category, the award was accepted by Mayor James Woods at the ceremony in Canberra on Thursday, 26 June.

"As Mayor, I couldn't be more proud or honoured to represent the powerful communities of West Arnhem Land," said Mayor Woods. "The next generation of

"The next generation of leaders have a promising future through incredible community-led opportunities like the Youth Leadership Summit. Through this project, we're already seeing youth-led change, as young people present their ideas

and priorities directly to community leaders and service providers."

The West Arnhem Youth Leadership Summit was developed to elevate the voices of young people across the region.

"The next
generation of
leaders have a
promising future
through incredible
community-led
opportunities like the
Youth Leadership
Summit.."

The Summit brings together students from across West Arnhem to explore leadership, identity, and action in their communities.

During the program,

participants identify the most pressing issues facing their communities and work corroboratively to propose solutions - offering valuable insights to local services and decision-makers.

acknowledges Council the invaluable support of the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), the Department of Education and Local West Arnhem schools, Amanda Marshall and her team at Youth Engagement for the Project content facilitation, design and community leaders. and most importantly, the young people themselves in making the West Arnhem Youth Leadership Summit a success.

Mayor Woods looks forward to sharing the award with the young leaders in Maningrida, Gunbalanya, Warruwi, Minjilang and Jabiru and with the dedicated team who brought the project to life.

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Maningrida and Jabiru hold official Territory Day fireworks displays.

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## WARRUWI SPACE UPGRADED

A popular meeting spot in the heart of Warruwi has just been upgraded!

Thanks to strong support from the Warruwi Local Authority, the shaded area beside the Warruwi Clinic now features a brand-new shade structure and three new sets of tables and chairs.

This welcoming space is perfect for community members to meet, relax, and enjoy the outdoors in comfort.

Works were completed by Stedman's Constructions – great job to all involved!





## 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION

Nominations open on Friday, 11 July for candidates in the 2025 Local Government Elections.

Territorians will elect mayors (where required) and councillors across 16 local councils.

Local government helps shape the places we live - making decisions about parks, roads, facilities, and more.

#### Who can nominate?

To be eligible to nominate as a candidate, you must be:

- an Australian citizen
- 18 years of age or older

- enrolled to vote in the local government area you are nominating for
- a resident within the local government area.

#### How to nominate?

Complete the nomination form and submit it via the NT Electoral Commission website.

#### **Key dates:**

- Nominations open: Friday 11 July 2025
- Nominations close: 12 noon, Thursday 31 July 2025

Nomination forms and candidate guides are available online.

For more information or to submit your nomination, visit: <a href="mailto:ntec.nt.gov.au">ntec.nt.gov.au</a>

## TERRITORY DAY EVENTS LIGHT UP THE SKIES

Jabiru community members and visitors came together to celebrate Territory Day with an official fireworks display by Jabiru Lake on Tuesday, 1 July

A highlight of the dry season calendar, the event drew a crowd of more than 250 people who enjoyed the spectacular fireworks and relaxed atmosphere.

West Arnhem Regional Council supported this event and also hosted a free community barbecue, adding to the spirit of the evening.





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.

West Arnhem Regional Council PO Box 721, JABIRU NT 0886

www.westarnhem.nt.gov.au

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

# TUNE INTO

Maningrida Radio 106.1 FM
Minjilang Radio 106.1 FM
Gunbalanya Radio 106.1 FM

Warruwi Radio 106.1 FM

Jabiru Radio

98.9 FM

TOP END ABORIGINAL BUSH BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION

# UPCOMING LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETINGS

Local Authorities across the West Arnhem region will hold their next round of meetings this month, offering an opportunity for community members to have their voices heard and help shape local decision-making.

"Local Authorities will hold their next round of meetings this month.."

These meetings play a vital role in ensuring residents from Maningrida, Minjilang, Warruwi and Gunbalanya can directly influence how Council services are delivered and how funding is allocated in their communities.

Community members and stakeholders are encouraged to attend and take part in the discussions.

Each Local Authority meets four times per year, allowing for regular input and updates.

#### **July Meeting Dates:**

- 14 July: Maningrida Local Authority
- 15 July: Warruwi Local Authority
- 16 July: Gunbalanya Local Authority
- 17 July: Minjilang Local Authority

Meeting agendas and minutes are available on our website.

To find out more or to get involved, visit: www.westarnhem.nt.gov.au

## LIGHTING UP MANINGRIDA



Several areas around Maningrida are now safer and brighter following the installation of new solar lights!

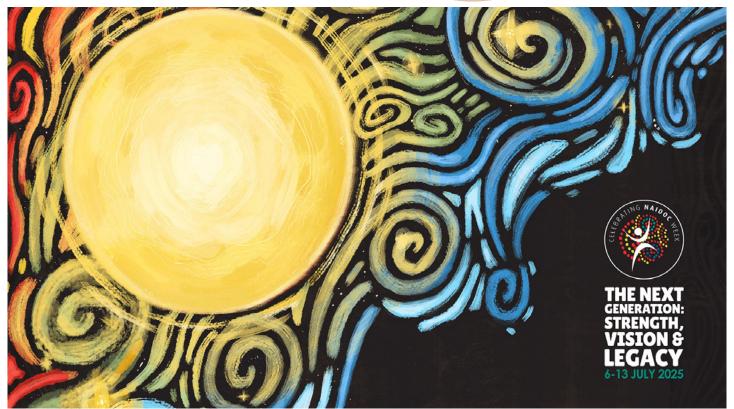
Funded by the Maningrida Local Authority, the 10 light locations were also chosen by Local Authority members, who identified spots that needed better lighting across the community.

Lights have been installed at the entrance to Bottom Camp, Childcare entrance and near the drain at New Subdivision.

A big thank you to the Maningrida Local Authority for supporting this important project, with a total investment of \$66,000 towards the supply and installation.

These upgrades make a real difference for safety and visibility for community members.





## WHAT'S ON



National NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year (Sunday to Sunday), to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

## **WEEKLY**

#### Monday

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

### **Tuesdays**

Bombers football training: Brockman Oval, 5:30pm Jabiru Firey's Fitness Training: Magela Oval, 5:30pm Aqua Fitness: Jabiru Swimming Pool, 6.15pm

#### Wednesdays

Skins Golf: Jabiru Golf Club, 4.45pm Jabiru Creative Group: Town Plaza, 6.00pm

#### **Thursdays**

Story Time: Jabiru Library, 11.00am Jabiru Bombers Football training: Brockman Oval, 5pm Jabiru Firey's Fitness Training: Magela Oval, 5.30pm

#### **Fridays**

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

#### **Sundays**

Jabiru Firey's Fitness Training 5.30pm

## JULY

6-13 NAIDOC Week

Fri 11 Local Government Election Nominations open

Mon 14 WARC Maningrida Local Authority Meeting

Tue 15 WARC Warruwi Local Authority Meeting

Wed 16 WARC Gunbalanya Local Authority Meeting

Thu 17 WARC Minjilang Local Authority Meeting

Fri 18 WARC Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee meeting

Thu 31 Local Government Election Nominations close

# IMPROVING ACCESS FOR AGED CARE RESIDENTS IN GUNBALANYA

West Arnhem Regional Council recently completed the final paving works at several Aged Care clients' homes in Gunbalanya. The new paving paths have been installed to enhance accessibility to these homes, particularly during the challenging wet season.

These paths offer a safer and more reliable

surface, significantly benefiting residents who use wheelchairs.

Most of the paving was completed before the wet season began, with the remaining two homes now finished.

A big thank you to the Gunbalanya Local Authority for supporting this important work for the community.





## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Did you know Council can help Community members move abandoned cars to the Landfill?

If you have an abandoned car on your property that you would like removed, pop into the Council Office and fill out a form!



## JOINING FORCES TO DELIVER HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Arnhem Regional Council's Youth, Sport and Recreation team partnered with Red Dust to deliver a dynamic school holiday program that brought the community together through sport, creativity and culture. The program total of 442 reached a participants, marking significant increase in engagement and demonstrating the growing community interest inclusive and meaningful activities during the school break.

Weekly sessions focused on promoting social connection, physical activity, and cultural engagement, with a creative mix of activities including basketball, dodgeball, music workshops, cultural trips, and wellbeing beach walks. Despite working with limited and previously overused resources, the team effectively improvised to provide quality programs that were fun, accessible, and inclusive.

The collaboration with Red Dust added tremendous value, bringing in culturally rich and health-focused events such as:

• Community cooking and

- barbecue days
- Strong Young Women self-care day
- Community engagement band night
- Welcome to Country and cultural storytelling
- Music and film-making workshops

Each event aimed to create safe, supportive spaces for young people to connect, express themselves, and build confidence, all while strengthening community ties.

"The kids are loving it, there's something new each week, and it's great to see them connecting, learning, and having fun," said one community member.

"Creating awareness for strong young women within the community," said another community member.

This program has shown that with collaboration, creativity, and community spirit, impactful outcomes are possible. Council and Red Dust look forward to building on this momentum for future programs that continue to support youth wellbeing and cultural connection in our region.











## TRAINEESHIP PILOT PROGRAM

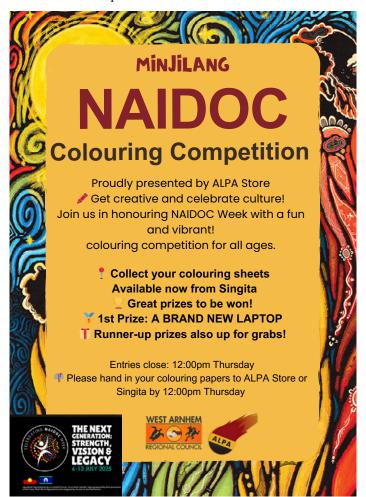


The West Arnhem Regional Council is excited be one of the first organisations in the NT to join the Local Government Traineeship Pilot Program, a collaboration between LGANT, GTNT Group, Industry Skills Advisory Council NT, and the NT Government.

Amarni Harris, Retail and Post Officer in Jabiru, has been enrolled into this program to complete a Certificate III in Business focused on Local Government, receiving extra mentoring, peer networking opportunities, and exposure to the essential operations of council life.

Katharine Murray, WARC CEO, says "this also goes in line with Council's strategic plan by providing local residents with opportunities learn and obtain professional qualifications in administration".

Local government is often the largest employer in remote and regional areas, this program is a practical and powerful way to build its workforce, grow local capability and create future council leaders from within local communities.





## NOMINATE

### FOR THE 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Nominations Open: Friday, 11 July ntec.nt.gov.au

## WORK IN & EXPERIENCE ARNHEM LAND & KAKADU

#### Gunbalanva

Community Safety Officer - \$60k - Permanent – Part time 27.5 hours, No Accommodation provided - Open until filled

Community Care Officer - \$60k - Permanent - Part time 20 hours, No Accommodation provided - Open until filled

Community Care Cook - \$32.20 per hour - Permanent - 20 hours per week, No Accommodation provided - Open until filled

Community Safety Senior Officer - \$71k - Permanent - Part time 25 Hours, No Accommodation provided - Open until filled

Centrelink Assistant – \$60k - Permanent – Part time 30 hours - No Accommodation provided - Open until filled

Mechanic - \$98k - Permanent - Full time - Subsidised Accommodation available - Closes 16 July 2025

Early Childhood Educator Assistant - \$60k - \$71 - Permanent -Full Time - No Accommodation provided - Open until filled

Tenancy Coordinator - \$82k - Permanent - Full time - Subsidised Accommodation available - Closes 23 July 2025

Pool Officer - \$60k - Permanent - Part time 25 hours - Subsidised Accommodation available - Open until filled

Customer Services Officer - \$66k - Permanent - Full time - No Accommodation provided - Open until filled

Youth, Sport and Recreation Assistant - \$85k - Permanent - Part time 25 hours - No Accommodation provided - Open until filled

Childcare Senior Officer - \$76k - Permanent - Full time -Subsidised Accommodation available - Open until filled

Broadcasting Officer - \$71k - Permanent - Part time 12.5 hours -No Accommodation provided - Open until filled

Centrelink Officer - \$66k - Permanent - Part time 7.6 hours - No Accommodation provided - Open until filled

#### For more information:

Please phone 08 8979 9404 or

email vacancy@westarnhen.nt.gov.au

Indigenous people are encouraged to apply



# REMOVING SCRAP METAL FROM LANDFILL

In May, Jabiru welcomed Sell & Parker to assist with removing scrap metal from the community. During their visit, they successfully crushed and removed more than 292.88 tonnes of scrap metal from the site.

West Arnhem Regional Council looks forward to welcoming the team back soon to continue this important work in Maningrida, Gunbalanya, and Jabiru.

All scrap metal collected is sent for recycling - old car bodies are shredded, melted down, and repurposed into useful items, including parts for new vehicles.

If you have a car body you would like removed by Council, please get in contact with your Council office to arrange collection.





## HITTING MILESTONES AT CRECHE

It has been a lovely month at the Minjilang Creche, run by West Arnhem Regional Council.

children The attending creche have been reaching developmental milestones, first like taking steps, independently feeding themselves, holding paint brushes and connecting with paper! It is always a privilege to encourage and celebrate with our little people when these achievements happen.

The Creche also has new T-shirts and hats for the children. We are all very happy with design and also



the quality of the material.

Now that the weather is a little cooler, we are using the back deck a lot with lots of chalk drawing, painting and water play, we have also been having morning tea on the front deck which is a bit cooler in the morning.







## VOTE

IN THE 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Voting is compulsory

#### WHEN?

Voting is open from Monday 11 August to Saturday 23 August.

#### WHERE?

Find your closest voting centre at ntec.nt.gov.au



## ROAD SAFETY UPGRADES **IN GUNBALANYA**

**Further** efforts to improve road safety in Gunbalanya have been made with the installation of additional speed bumps and a new children's crossing.

These important safety measures have been installed on the road in front of the Council Office and Youth Centre to help protect community our members, especially young people.

The works were proudly funded by the Gunbalanya Local Authority and carried out by West Arnhem Regional Council.

Every step taken helps make our roads safer for everyone. Thank you to the Local Authority for supporting



important community projects such as this.







myagedcare



## Help at home for older people.

If you're finding it harder to do the things you used to, you might need a bit of help at home. You and your family can get help to:

Access services to support you with: Find information in one spot:

- Rides around your community (to see family, food shopping, doctor's appointr and other places)
- · Help inside and outside your home ike vacuuming, preparing meals, cleaning gutters nd mowing the lawn)
- Help with changes to your home (like adding hand rails or rai

- Help and support for elders in your community
- Who can get help
- The cost
- People and groups specially trained to help in your community

Connect with myagedcare on www.myagedcare.gov.au or call 1800 200 422

Contact Service Centre: Lee on 08 8979 9454

## **UPCOMING 2025 VET VISITS**

Regional Arnhem Council, in partnership with The University of Melbourne, is proud to continue delivering animal management the program across the region.

This long-running and valued program brings essential veterinary services to all West Arnhem communities, supporting both animal and community welfare health.

Strongly backed by our Local Authorities, ongoing animal management program is a great example of collaboration in action.

The 2025 dates are:

Jabiru/Manaburduma:

10 July, 26-30 August, 18 September

Gunbalanya: 8-11 July, 15-19 September

Warruwi: 14-18 July, 15-19 September

Minjilang: 12-15 May, 22-24

September

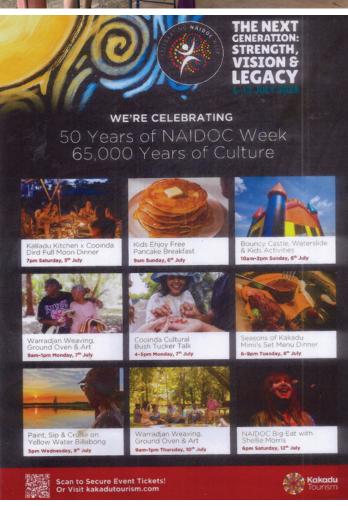
Maningrida: 28 April-9 May, 14-18 July, 10-23 August, 8-12

September

Community members are encouraged to take advantage of these visits.

For more information or to book your animal in to see the vet, please contact your local Council Office.





## MICHELLE MARTIN TELLS STORY IN ENGLISH AND IN KUNE

My name is Michelle Martin. My skin is *Kamanj* and my clan is *Balngarra*. I live at *Buluhkaduru* when I'm not in Darwin or Maningrida.

My language is my father's - *Rembarrnga*, and my mother's language is *Kunwinjku*. I also speak *Kune*, Kriol and English.

I am now 62 years old. I was born in Katherine Hospital around 1963, and I grew up at Mainoru Station. When I was still small, around 1969 (seven years old), any angry *Balanda* (non-indigenous person) came and told us, "This is not your land. You people go away!"

So that was it - we left Mainoru. My father, mother, brothers, sisters and I set off and walked on foot, without a motorcar. We followed the road north to *Bigetti* (Bulman Waterhole), where we built a paperbark house to stay in. At *Bigetti* (Bigedi) there were many people living, and they spoke *Rembarrnga*.

Later we left and followed the river upstream where there is a road that goes to the old Bulman Station, which we used to call *Konjdjimbi*. Today they call the area *Gulingulin*. It's country where *Rembarrnga*, *Ngalkbon* was once spoken, all the *Dakkal* clan - it's their country. The Murrays, Martins, Campions, Lindsays, Forbses, lots of us families grew up there together.

Mr and Mrs Watson were the first European people to come to Bulman. They were very, very kind people; they helped us in many ways. When they saw all us arriving, walking along the road, they came to meet us. Mrs Watson gave us food, tea, biscuits to eat. After that Mr Watson asked us, "would you like to work for me?" My father said, "Yes, that would be good." My father was happy, because he was making money.

At that time, around 1970-1971, they brought food from Maningrida. *Wamud* David Yirrindili and Mr John Hunter worked on this. *Wamud* (his skin name) brought the food to Bulman with a big truck. Mr Watson had built a small shop



speak Kune, Kriol and English. Buluh Kaduru from above. (photo: Homelands School Company).



Mainoru Station in the old days. (photo by Pat Lawley-Brown, Lawley-Brown Collection, Library and Archives NT).

name *Ngarridjdjan*. I call her *Mula* (my mother's big sister).

Ngarridjdjan saw many children playing, then she got the elders together under a bark shelter. She asked them "Would you like them to make a school here?" "Yes, good" they said, "so the children will learn how to read and write English".

Then they began organising the school. They brought a caravan and put it there. Two teachers came from New Zealand, Mr and Mrs Wells. They were very kind, and taught us how to read and write English.

Then in 1979 I went to Kormilda College. At that time I was 15 years old. I stayed there one year, then quit school. I didn't want to go back to school, because my family had promised me in marriage to Charlie Brian, *Kodjok* skin name, of the *Bunungku* clan. He came from *Buluhkaduru* to Bulman to get me with his motorcar and take me back to live there with him.

We didn't have a school at *Buluhkaduru*, but we had lots of children growing up there. So In 1982 *Kodjok* Charlie decided to speak to the elders about making a school. Just like at Bulman, many elders were happy about making a new school, because they wanted the children to learn

went to Batchelor College and in 1991 I completed Stage One of my assistant teacher course.

I started Stage Two but didn't finish because my little boy became ill and passed away. I was depressed, it really



Pictured: Michelle Martin

affected me because I missed him so terribly. I just didn't want to do any more teacher training.

Many years have passed, and now I have many grandchildren. I do language work because I want our children to speak *Kune* language well, so they will know their culture.

That's it! I have told my story.



## **Jabiru Childcare Centre**

Currently taking enrolments for 2025!

Our program is based on the national Early Years Learning Framework, which focuses on the children's interests, strengths and individual needs. Our educators work closely with the children to develop a play-based program which is enriching and encourages collaboration with peers, while building on their strengths and emerging skills

Monday to Friday 7.30am – 5.00pm

Contact Us: 0417 927 890 or JabiruChildcare@westarnhem.nt.gov.au

Centrelink Customer Reference Number: (CRN): 406957335SI

Enter your child onto the wait list: https://parent-portal.kidsoft.com.au/create-account/JabiruChildcare





The West Arnhem Wire | 21 June - 4 July 2025



## WHAT'S ON



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MONDAY 7/7/25	TUESDAY 8/7/25	WEDNESDAY 9/7/25	THURSDAY 10/7/25	FRIDAY 11/7/25
MORNING ACTIVITY	MORNING ACTIVITY	AFTERNOON ACTIVITY	NAIDOC Day EVENT TBC	Closed
11am-2pm	11am-2pm with Injalak Arts	2pm-4pm Swimming pool		West
outh Centre Drop in with NAIDOC painting comp		-		Arnhem
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Conducted by University of Melbourne

## 2025 VET VISIT DATES

This is a FREE health & animal management program for all Community members!

## **SCHEDULED DATES:**

Minjilang: 12-15 May, 22-24 September

Maningrida: 28 April-9 May, 14-18 July, 10-23 August, 8-12 Sept Jabiru/Town Camp: 10 July, 26-30 August, 18 September

Gunbalanya: 7-11 July & 15-19 September

Warruwi: 14-18 July & 15-19 September

\* Please note, dates can change at short notice



Free treatments/procedures, including: Health checks, de-sexing, parasite control (tick/mange injections, flea treatment, tick