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



Minjilang came alive throughout July 2025 with a dynamic and collaborative school holiday program bringing together local organisations and community members.

## **BRANT SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS**

Minjilang came throughout July 2025 with a dynamic and collaborative school holiday program, bringing together local organisations and community members to deliver a series of fun, inclusive, and culturally meaningful events.

Led by West Arnhem Regional Council (WARC) in partnership with the Clinic, Community Development (CDP), Program ALPA Store, and other dedicated supporters, local the program focused on youth engagement, community leadership, and cultural pride.

Highlights from the program included:

- Multiple disco nights, including a special girls'/ women's-only event aimed at building confidence and promoting empowerment;
- celebration disco for the AFL Under 16s boys, recognising their

participation in the regional competition in Gunbalanya;

- A Territory Day Movie Night, drawing families and friends together under the stars;
- -NAIDOCWeek celebrations, honouring the strength, culture and achievements of First Nations people.

"Collaborative school holiday program, bringing together local organisations and community members."

Events were hosted across key community hubs including the WARC building, Minjilang Oval, and the Basketball Court - ensuring activities were accessible and welcoming for everyone.

The program was designed

- Strengthen community connections;
- Foster collaboration between stakeholders;
- Empower young people and women;
- Celebrate culture and tradition:
- Provide safe, engaging activities for all ages during school holidays.

West Arnhem Regional Council thanks all the partners and volunteers who made the program possible - especially the Sport & Recreation Team, Clinic, CDP, ALPA Store, and the many community members who gave their time and energy.

Together, Minjilang continues to show what's possible when a community works as one.

More Photos, Page 10 >>

# INSIDE THIS EDITION

#### RADIO TRAINING IN GUNBALANYA



Radio broadcasting is going well in Gunbalanya with hands-on radio training with the TEABBA team.

#### TALENT SHINES AT FOOTY COMP



Players from Gunbalanya, Jabiru, Maningrida, Warruwi and Minjilang unite for Footy Carnival.

#### NAIDOC WEEK CELEBRATIONS



Minjilang residents and stakeholders embrace the spirit of NAIDOC Week.

PAGE 7 >

#### TERRITORY DAY CELEBRATIONS



Maningrida and Jabiru hold official Territory Day fireworks displays.

PAGE 4 >

# SORRY BUSINESS PROTOCOLS

In West Arnhem Land, the cultural practice known as Sorry Business is guided by intricate protocols that assign specific responsibilities to designated individuals within the community. Central to this tradition are the "working men and women," who bear the cultural weight of the proceedings.

For instance, when the deceased hails from the Ngarrangarratjku subsection, it is the Martkumartku individuals who assume these responsibilities.

Currently, William and Jason, both members of the Martkumartku subsection and part of the Works Team in Warruwi, are diligently fulfilling their roles during this delicate process.

Council Services Manager Geraldine Narul highlights the importance of diversity in the team, stating that recruiting staff from both subsections not only fosters balance but also enhances flexibility during cultural activities, as participation is often dictated by subsection affiliation.

The duties of the working men begin upon the arrival of the deceased; they serve as pallbearers and take on roles such as driving the deceased to the Sorry Camp



and gathering firewood including the burial process.

In the picture, William and Jason are seen carefully preparing the burial site, ensuring that the process is conducted with the utmost sensitivity and respect for the family of the deceased.



# 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>

Our Territory, Your Vote.



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 TEABBA RADIO

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



# TALENT SHINES AT WEST ARNHEM FOOTY CARNIVAL

Earlier this month, the spirit of footy brought together young players from Gunbalanya, Jabiru, Maningrida, Warruwi and Minjilang for the West Arnhem Under 16s Footy Carnival - a high-energy event that celebrated talent, teamwork, and regional pride.

Held as a direct outcome of the West Arnhem Youth Leadership Summit, the two-day carnival was more than just a sporting competition. As one of several AFL talent events across the Northern Territory, the carnival offered players a chance to impress AFLNT staff and potentially earn a place in the upcoming Michael Long Cup in Darwin this August.

About 60 youth represented their communities with great enthusiasm, teamwork, leadership and sportsmanship. There were some great games and players in front of supporters that enjoyed the spectacle on the upgraded oval with lights. It was great to see Gunbalanya community get involved as goal umpires, coaches, water boys etc.

The carnival also created space for young people to connect, build friendships, and show what's possible through sport.

After a massive weekend of action-packed games, Gunbalanya took home the winning trophy and plenty of pride.

Gunbalanya's own Demesiaus Garlngarr was also named the overall MVP for the carnival. He was selected by Cazalys NT Talent Academy head coach Dale Eames, Demesiaus impressed with his speed, skill, creativity, and fearless approach to the contest.

It was 'reward for effort' for the training they put into their footy. It was also great to see the power of footy re-engaging some youth that have been suffering from substance abuse, at risk of entering criminal justice system and just disengaged from community.

Supported by the Australian Sports Commission and the National Indigenous Australians Agency, and delivered in partnership with West Arnhem Regional Council, Adjumarllarl Aboriginal Corporation, AFL Northern Territory and TeamHealth, the event highlighted the power of collaboration in creating opportunities for youth in West Arnhem communities.



Demesiaus Garlngarr of Gunbalanya was named overall MVP for the carnival.

Photos credit: AFLNT Media











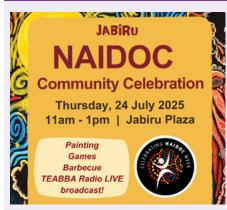






The West Arnhem Wire | 5 - 18 July 2025

# WHAT'S ON



Jabiru will hold its 2025 NAIDOC Community Celebration on Thursday, 24 July in the Town Plaza. Activities will be held from 11am. All welcome. More information: page 5.

#### **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

Wed 23 Jabiru Hoops 4 Health event
Thu 24 Jabiru NAIDOC Community celebration

29-30 WARC Ordinary Council Meeting

Thu 31 Local Government Election Nominations close

#### **AUGUST**

Mon 4 National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

**Sat 9** International Day of the World's Indigenous People

# LIGHTING UP MANINGRIDA FOR TERRITORY DAY 2025

NT Major Events with the support of West Arnhem Regional Council hosted a fireworks display to celebrate Territory Day on the football oval on 1 July 2025. Many Community members and families turned out to watch the display and celebrate Territory Day.

Big thanks to the WARC works crew, administration and sport and recreation staff for assisting with the fireworks display.

Most staff and Community members all had the same message - "This was brilliant, we need more things like this in our Community for our children."







# **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!



# NAIDOC WEEK PLANS UNDERWAY IN JABIRU

The Jabiru community is coming together in full force to prepare for this year's NAIDOC Week celebration, which will take place on Thursday, 24 July 2025 in the Jabiru Town Plaza.

"NAIDOC Week event will have a strong focus on culture, connection, and community pride.."

Planning is well underway, with teams working across catering, cultural programming, youth activities, performances and partnerships to deliver a meaningful and vibrant day starting at 11am.

The NAIDOC Week event will have a strong focus on culture, connection, and community pride – bringing together families, schools, Elders, youth, and service providers to honour the



TEABBA Radio braodcasting live at the 2024 NAIDOC Week event in labin.

history, resilience, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The event will feature a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony (coordinated with the Mirarr Traditional Owners), live

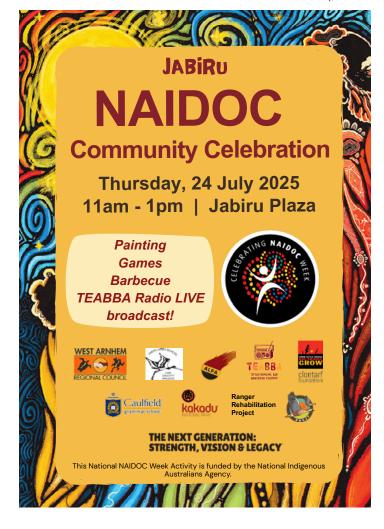
radio from TEABBA, youth games run by local volunteers, a weaving workshop, BBQ catering supported by GACJT and ALPA, and creative stations including a painting workshop by local artist David Cameron, colouring-in, and face painting for the kids.

Elders will be seated comfortably in shaded areas with refreshments provided.

The event is a collaboration between West Arnhem Regional Council (WARC), ALPA, GACJT, Clontarf, TEABBA, Jabiru Area School, Caulfield Grammar School, Mirarr Traditional Owners, and other community partners.

The school will bring students down for a mid-morning start, and volunteers from Caulfield Grammar School will help with set-up and activities.

WARC Wellbeing Services Coordinator Hans Wesche said, "This will be my first NAIDOC Week in my new role, and it's a real honour to be part of such a significant celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. As a Pacific Islander, I feel a deep sense of cultural connection - the emphasis on community, tradition and resilience really resonates with me. It's exciting to stand alongside our community in Jabiru and be part of something so meaningful.'





# VOTE IN THE 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

In August, Territorians will vote to elect councillors for 16 of the Territory's 18 councils. These local leaders make decisions about everyday things like parks, roads, pools, and footpaths.

#### Who must vote?

If you live in a council area, are enrolled, and are 18 or older by election day (Saturday 23 August 2025), you must vote. Voting is compulsory.

#### Ways to vote:

- **Postal voting**: Apply now. Ballots start mailing from Monday 4 August.
- **Early voting**: Starts Monday 11 August at centres across the NT.
- **Mobile voting**: Available in remote areas and some institutions.
- Election day: Vote on Saturday 23 August, from 8am to 6pm. Remember not all voting centres issue ballot papers for every council. For more information please visit the Northern Territory Electoral Commission website ntec.nt.gov.au

Our Territory, Your Vote.

# GUNBALANYA HEALTH CENTRE NOW COMMUNITY CONTROLLED

The Finocchiaro CLP Government continues to work closely with Aboriginal leaders to empower remote communities with health care services in Gunbalanya and the wider West Arnhem region now delivered by the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service, Red Lily Health Board.

Minister for Health Steve Edgington said the handover of Gunbalanya Health Centre is an exciting step forward for the community of Gunbalanya and for West Arnhem.

"Our government is focused on strengthening services to Aboriginal people in remote areas, and we look forward to seeing Red Lily Health Board manage Gunbalanya. A lot of work has gone into the transition," he said.

"The handover will give local residents a greater opportunity to influence the type and cultural appropriateness of health services offered.

"It is part of our commitment to improve service delivery and outcomes through better coordination and integration of services, supporting the delivery of healthcare and improved health outcomes."

"With greater opportunities to influence health care services.."

Chair of the Red Lily Health Board, Marcia Brennan, said the transition, which officially took place on 1 July, went smoothly and was a proud moment for local people.

"Community control means decisions about our health are being made by our own people, in our own way," Ms Brennan said.

"The Red Lily Health Board is made up of strong local voices, and we're ready to walk together with Gunbalanya and partners to build a stronger, healthier future."

Evidence shows that increasing community involvement in the planning and delivery of health services brings additional health benefits to locals."

The Red Lily Board and NT Health have worked in partnership to transition to operations to Aboriginal community control in line with community needs.

Two doctors and three nurses have been made available until 11 July to assist with a smooth transfer of services.

NT Health will continue to provide support in the community, including visiting specialist services such as optometry, paediatrics, and oral health.



### RADIO TRAINING IN GUNBALANYA



Radio broadcasting is going well in Gunbalanya, with local broadcaster Edward taking part in hands-on radio training alongside Allan.

Great to see skills growing and confidence building as local voices get ready to hit the airwaves!

Interested in a job in radio broadcasting? Pop into your local Council Office for a chat!

#### Tune into TEABBA Radio in your community:

- 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

# VIBRANT NAIDOC WEEK ACTIVITIES IN MINJILANG

What an incredible couple of days celebrating NAIDOC Week in Minjilang!

In collaboration with West Arnhem Regional Council, CDP, the Clinic, and ALPA Store, Minjilang came together for two days of fun, culture, and connection:

On Tuesday, 9 July, the celebrations included a big day full of music, a colour run, foam and water play, cultural stalls, and a massive

community barbecue!

This was followed by further celebrations of culture on Wednesday, 10 July, with kangaroo tail and bush oven cooking, spear throwing (a clear crowd favourite!), NAIDOC banner painting, manyardi (cultural dancing), and live music.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make these NAIDOC Week activities such a success!











# YOUR VEST ARNHEM YOUR VOTE

# 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



# BUILDING SAFER ROADS IN KAKADU

The Australian and Northern Territory governments are delivering long-awaited upgrades to key roads in Kakadu National Park to improve visitor access, boost safety and support economic growth.

The first tender under the Australian Government's \$70 million program of upgrades has opened, with construction on Kubara Road and Maguk Road set to begin in 2025.

These works are part of the Australian Government's \$216 million Growing Tourism in Kakadu package.

The package was announced in 2019 and is now being delivered by the Northern Territory Government's Department of Logistics and Infrastructure (DLI) in partnership with Parks Australia and the federal Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts.

Between 2025 and 2027, upgrades will be completed on five visitor roads - Jim Jim Falls, Maguk, Gimbat, Gunlom and Kubara to improve flood immunity, support tourism and business, reduce closures and extend safe access to some of the Territory's most iconic sites

Importantly, the works will be staged to minimise impact on visitors and operators.

"Kakadu is a key economic and cultural asset for the Northern Territory, and these upgrades will support our local communities and tourism operators," said Minister for Parks

and Wildlife and Tourism and Hospitality Marie-Clare Boothby.

## "Kakadu's most iconic locations and experience this World Heritage wonder.."

"These improvements will make it easier to visit stunning places like Maguk Gorge, with its stone amphitheatre and plunge pool, and Kubara Pools, near the Nanguluwurr Art Site." "It's about delivering action, certainty and security for Traditional Owners, tourism operators and visitors."

"Construction will be managed carefully to ensure continued access - delivering certainty for locals and the tourism sector."

Federal Member for Lingiari Scrymgour said, "This investment will make it safer and easier for people to visit some of Kakadu's most iconic locations and experience this World Heritage wonder.

"Upgrading these key roads will improve flood resilience and travel conditions, while supporting local businesses and tourism operators.

"These works are part of our broader commitment to making sure Kakadu remains a world-class destination."

#### **UPCOMING VET VISITS**

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

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

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

The 2025 dates are:

Jabiru/Manaburduma: 26-30 August (TBC), 18 September Gunbalanya: 15-19 September Warruwi: 15-19 September Minjilang: 22-24 September Maningrida: 10–23 August, 8-12 September

Community members 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







#### 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 appointme and other places)
- · Help inside and outside your home ke 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



# JABIRU TOWN PLAZA GETS A VIBRANT NEW LOOK



The centre of Jabiru is looking brighter than ever, thanks to a fresh new makeover of the Jabiru Town Plaza as part of Jabiru's Revitalisation supported by the Northern Territory Government.

West Arnhem Regional Council has facilitated this stage of the project with stakeholder support along the way.

Designed to transform the plaza into a welcoming hub for both residents and visitors, the first stage of the revitalisation



has introduced vibrant soft furnishings, picnic rugs, umbrellas, and even giant games like Jenga - adding colour, comfort, and fun to the space.

To improve the greenery and overall atmosphere, three old garden beds were removed and replaced with lawns, planted by local contractor Kakadu Native Plants. Adding to the community spirit, Caulfield Grammar School volunteered their time to paint garden bed frames



and verandah posts, giving the plaza a brighter feel.

Stage two of the project is already in motion, with plans to install new wayfinding signage and fill the remaining garden beds with native plants chosen for their colour, fruit, and educational value.

The transformation is already making a difference - creating a more inviting and inclusive space where people can relax and connect.

# NOMINATE

#### **FOR THE 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS**

#### Thinking of running for your local council?

This is your opportunity to represent your community.

Nominations open Friday 11 July and close 12 noon, Complete and submit your nomination form at ntec.nt.gov.au/25LGE

For information about the role and responsibilities of a councillor contact your local council.

#### **NEED HELP NOMINATING?**

Contact the NT Electoral Commission







ntec.nt.gov.au





## **Jabiru Childcare Centre**

Currently taking enrolments for 2025!

national Early Years Learning needs. Our educators work closely with the children to develop a play-based program

Enter your child onto the wait list:





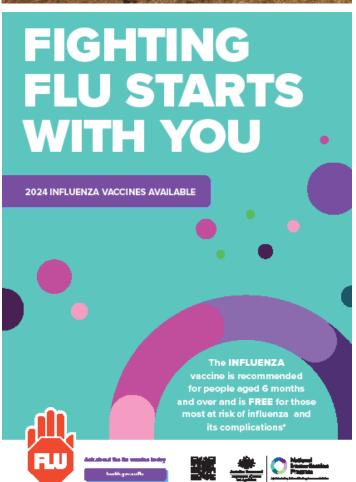
# VIBRANT SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM IN MINJILANG

#### << From Front Page

West Arnhem Regional Council staff in Minjilang delivered a collaborative school holiday program in partnership with the Clinic, Community Development Program (CDP) and ALPA Store.













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