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



The 2025 Kurrung Sports Carnival program included a women's AFL showcase match with Maningrida versing Jabiru Bombers. Both teams displayed amazing sportsmanship and skill.

CELEBRATING SPORT AND UNITY

The 2025 Kurrung Sports Carnival lit up Jabiru on September 5 and 6, showcasing an outstanding weekend of football and basketball. Hosted by West Arnhem Regional Council, the event brought together men's and women's teams from Jabiru, Minjilang, Maningrida, Warruwi and Gunbalanya.

Through Kurrung, the Council continues its commitment to strengthening communities across West Arnhem. This year's program was bigger than ever, featuring both men's and women's basketball and AFL competitions.

At the opening ceremony of the carnival, West Arnhem Regional Council Mayor James Woods said, "One of the best things about today is seeing all of us come together – not only to compete in sport, but to share friendships, memories and community spirit".

The carnival also fosters strong partnerships with regional stakeholders, and the Council extends its thanks to the organisations that played a key role in making this year's event a success.

"Seeing all of us come together - not only to compete in sport, but to share friendships, memories and community spirit."

This included the Tackling Indigenous Smoking Team and Caulfield Grammar for volunteering and the valuable sponsors and supporters of the carnival.

Long-time and valuable partner, the NO MORE Campaign had a strong presence through the carnival,

supporting and promoting positive fair play, respect and camaraderie on and off the field. Thank you to David at No More who brought teams together at each grand final game to speak about and acknowledge the important messages of eradicating violence in sport, households and our communities.

The NO MORE team awarded the 'Spirit of Kurrung' cup to the Community which displayed the important values of sportsmanship, respect, inclusion and fair play throughout the carnival.

The proud Community which received this award was Minjilang!

Thank you to Charlie King from ABC Radio for conducting live on-air updates of the carnival over the weekend.

In the results, there was a lot of close competition, showcasing the depth of talent in the region.

Read more, Page 7-10

INSIDE THIS EDITION

WARRUWI WATER FESTIVAL



Power and Water team host Warruwi Water

PAGE 2 ~

CFLEBRATING LÍRRA FESTIVAL



This year's Lúrra Festival in Maningrida was nothing short of spectacular.

PAGE 6 >

GUNBALANYA SCHOOL CENTENARY



Gunbalanya School reaches a milestone, celebrating a Century of two-way education.

PAGE 5 >

COMING TOGETHER ON THE COURT



Minjilang hosts activity program in collaboration with the Jamie-Lee Paris Basketball Organisation.

PAGE 7 >

WARRUWI WATER FESTIVAL

Mathilda Lipscombe from Power and Water's Water Demand Management team visited Warruwi on South Goulburn Island recently to run the Warruwi Water Festival.

Warruwi is an at-risk community when it comes to water security, and the event was an opportunity for two-way knowledge sharing between Power and Water and residents. It was a chance for people to ask questions, take part in groundwater monitoring and share cultural stories.

The Mardbalk Land & Sea Rangers and Junior Rangers were involved.

Several residents recorded water conservation messages for sharing with the wider community.

Power and Water works with communities like Warruwi to share with people how precious water is, where it comes from and how they can help protect it



That's a wrap! Group photo from day 2 Warruwi Water Festival.



Warruwi Junior Rangers, Elder Jenny Manmurrulu and school staff watch Mathilda Lipscombe from Power and Water Corporation demonstrate how to use the water monitoring kits.



Warruwi Junior Rangers and USC Pete Hussie watch Head Mardbalk Ranger Nicholas Hunter test groundwater for eDNA.



Warruwi Junior Rangers strike a pose to promote efficient use of water by turning off taps when not in use.



Warruwi Junior Rangers testing billabong water for eDNA.



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



COUNCIL ELECTS NEW MAYOR & DEPUTY MAYOR

West Arnhem Regional Council (WARC) has elected James Woods as Mayor and Jacqueline Phillips as Deputy Mayor at the first meeting of the newly elected Council on Tuesday, 23 September 2025.

"Together, we will continue to listen to our people and make decisions that deliver real results.."

The meeting also included the swearing-in of all newly elected Council Members, with special guests Member for Arafura Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Lingiari Marion Scrymgour MP, and the Honourable Warren Snowdon in attendance.

Mayor James Woods said, "It is an honour to be re-elected as Mayor of West Arnhem Regional Council. I look forward to working closely with my fellow Councillors, our communities and stakeholders to build on our strengths and create positive opportunities across

the region. Together, we will continue to listen to our people and make decisions that deliver real results for all, ensuring that West Arnhem grows stronger and more resilient for the future generations."

We are pleased to announce the following Elected Members who will guide the future direction of WARC for the next four years:

Maningrida Ward

- Mayor James Woods
- Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips
- Cr Joseph Diddo
- Cr Jermaine Namanurki

Warruwi Ward

• Cr James Marrawal

Minjilang Ward

Cr Steven Nabalmarda

Gunbalanya Ward

- Cr Henry Yates
- Cr Ralph McCoy

Kakadu Ward

- Cr Ralph Blyth
- Cr Mickitja Onus

There are currently two vacant positions on Council - one in Gunbalanya Ward and one in Kakadu Ward.

The NT Electoral Commission will hold the supplementary elections for these seats in November 2025.



The newly-elected Council members of West Arnhem Regional Council with Member for Arafura Manuel Brown MLA following the swearing-in ceremony on Tuesday, 23 September 2025.





Gunbalanya Councillor Henry Yates reading the Statement of Commitment.



Mayor James Woods and Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips cutting the celebratory cake following the ceremony.



Maningrida Councillor Joseph Diddo signing the Statement of Commitment.

WHAT'S ON



West Arnhem Regional Council will be holding Pre-Cyclone Clean Up Days in Jabiru on 1 October and 5 November 2025.

WEEKLY

Monday

Underwater Hockey: Jabiru Pool, 5pm Kakadu Deadly Runners & Walkers, 5.30pm 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 Kakadu Deadly Runners & Walkers, 5.30pm Jabiru Creative Group: Town Plaza, 6.00pm

Thursdays

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

SEPTEMBER

22 Sept-3 Oct School Holiday Programs

OCTOBER

Wed 1 Jabiru Pre-Cyclone Clean Up Day

Mon 13 WARC Maningrida Local Authority Meeting

Tue 14 WARC Warruwi Local Authority Meeting

Wed 15 WARC Gunbalanya Local Authority Meeting

Thu 16 WARC Minjilang Local Authority Meeting

Fri 17 WARC Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee

Meeting

Tue 28 Halloween Carnival, Jabiru

NEW MACHINERY IN MANINGRIDA



Jack Rau from Airpower recently travelled to Maningrida to hand over a new Hyundai 757TM-9 wheel loader to the West Arnhem Regional Council team.

The addition of this machine will support quality service delivery in the community, with uses including landfill maintenance and road works.

It is fitted with a log grabber attachment for tree removal and container forks, which will assist with barge unloading operations.

FIRST CIRCLES PROGRAM OPENS DOORS

The Finocchiaro CLP Government is inviting Aboriginal Territorians to take part in the First Circles Leadership Program, a flagship initiative helping to grow future leaders, strengthen communities and deliver long-term certainty for Territorians.

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Steve Edgington said the CLP Government is encouraging emerging Aboriginal leaders to apply for the 2026 program and take an active role in strengthening their communities.

"In our year of action, certainty and security we continue to invest in a program that provides pathways for leaders from our remote areas to lead their own communities, contribute to change and help shape the future of the Territory," he said.

"Through workshops, mentorship and education, we build leadership capacity, strengthen governance skills, and empower members to directly engage with high-profile leaders, community representatives, key services and organisations."

Since the CLP flagship initiative began in 2014, 122 Aboriginal leaders from across the Territory have participated. Eleven members from the 2025 cohort will address CLP Government Ministers in October,

presenting their advice on policies, projects and initiatives that directly affect their families and communities.

"This program ensures emerging leaders can provide practical solutions to community challenges while gaining certainty and confidence in navigating public policy," Mr Edgington said.

The six-month program includes four face-to-face workshops and has been instrumental in supporting Aboriginal Territorians to deliver projects that address remote community challenges and provide practical solutions.

"The initiative fosters two-way collaboration and knowledge-sharing between government and remote communities as participants deepen their understanding of public policy and its impacts on Aboriginal Territorians," Mr Edgington said.

First Circles Leadership Program 2025 participant Selmer Smiler, from Kalkarindji in the Victoria Daly region, said she applied so she could inspire the young people in her community.

"After completing First Circles I am able to explore further training courses and opportunities that can help me have a greater impact in my community," she said.

Applications close on 31 October 2025.

GUNBALANYA SCHOOL CELEBRATES A CENTURY

Gunbalanya School has reached a milestone, celebrating a Century of two-way education on 19 September 2025.

The Centenary event brought together current and former students and teachers, with school students creating an exhibition that reflects the history and present-day life of the school comprising historical school photos, aircraft that have visited the school and memories of teachers who have shaped the school's journey.

Minister for Education and Training Jo Hersey took the opportunity to tour the school and the Trades Training Centre while in Gunbalanya and congratulated the community for their commitment to education.

"Since the CLP came to Government, Gunbalanya School has received an extra \$1.9 million in funding through the Better Fairer Schools Agreement," she said.

"We want to see that extra money translate into improved school attendance rates and better literacy and numeracy levels."

Gunbalanya School attendance in Term 2 2025 was 41.5%, compared to 36.9% in Term 2 2024.

"Two-way education is important for communities like Gunbalanya to ensure we have culturally appropriate classrooms kids want to be in." she added.

One of the School's highlights was in 2004 when Gunbalanya School won a Best Film award for "The Echidna & The Turtle".

Gunbalanya School Principal Sue Trimble said, "This Centenary Celebration represents 100 Years of School Education but also honours the many thousands of years that Bininj people have formally and informally shared their knowledge wealth within cultural teaching and learning practices.

"We are thrilled to welcome previous educators and families back to Gunbalanya to share their connection and experiences."





Gunbalanya School Principal Sue Trimble, Minister for Education and Training Jo Hersey, Department of Education and Training Chief Executive Susan Bowden and Minister for People, Sport and Culture Jinson Charls.



WARC Mayor James Woods, Yingiya Guyula MLA and Member for Arafura Manuel Brown MLA.



Board members Hagar and Renee with Minister Hersey.



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.

Opening Hours:
Monday to Friday 7.30am – 5.00pm

<u>Contact Os:</u> 0417 927 890 or JabiruChildcare@westarnhem.nt.gov.a

Centrelink Customer Reference Number (CRN): 406957335SI

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





CELEBRATING LÚRRA FESTIVAL IN MANINGRIDA

This year's Lúrra Festival, hosted by the Nja-marléya Cultural Leaders and Justice Group in Maningrida, was nothing short of

Lúrra is more than entertainment – it's about keeping culture strong, bringing people together, and celebrating the strengths of the community.

The week-long program was jam-packed with activities, food, music, fashion, and sport - a true celebration for the whole community. Guided by the values of Lúrra, the festival brought together people from across the region to honour the strength, talent, skill, and spirit of this beautiful place, as well as those here, been, and becoming.

The AFL football and basketball competitions drew huge crowds, with more than 200 people gathering to cheer on their teams. The energy, excitement, and display of respect, sportsmanship, and friendly competition made these events real highlights.

Festivals like Lúrra don't just happen - they're made possible thanks to the tireless work of the many people behind the scenes who bring it all together.



UPSKILLING COUNCIL'S TEAM

West Arnhem Regional Council's very own Terry Nami and Baden Golder based in Warruwi have officially completed their sign-ups via Teams and commenced their Certificate III in Civil Construction Plant Operations with Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education RTO 0383.

"Katherine Murray, WARC CEO, says signing up employees in formal certification programs represents a significant initiative within the Council's strategic regional plan, enhancing opportunities for local residents to develop skills and attain professional qualifications".



The West Arnhem Wire | 30 August - 26 September 2025









🤰 **myaged**care



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 appointments
- Help inside and outside your home
- Help with changes to your home
- · Help and support for elders in vour community
- · Who can get help
- · The cost
- · People and groups specially trained to help in your community

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

Contact Service Centre: Lee on 08 8979 9454

MINJILANG COMES TOGETHER ON THE COURT

Minjilang community recently hosted a physical activity program in collaboration with the Jamie-Lee Paris (JLP) Basketball Organisation.

The program was designed not only to enhance physical activity but also to promote cultural awareness and develop coaching skills within the community.

Special guests Jamie-Lee Paris and Alex led two days of professional coaching and training, which created a wonderful buzz in the community.

Their visit culminated in scratch matches, including a fun and spirited boys vs girls basketball game, bringing everyone together in a supportive and energetic environment.

The program featured a diverse range of sessions including:

- Basketball drills and training
- Coaching theory and practice
- Cultural awareness integration through sport

- Team-building and leadership exercises
- Preparation for participation in the upcoming Kurrung Sports Carnival

These sessions provided a valuable platform for local youth and community members to engage in structured physical activity while learning coaching fundamentals and fostering cultural connection.







JABIRU LIBRARY SUPPORTS LITERACY IN THE PHILIPPINES

Jabiru residents Barry and Nancy Bentley recently approached the Jabiru Public Library to collect books for donation to children in the Philippines.

The library was pleased to provide a selection of used picture books, recently retired from the collection but still in excellent condition. These books have now found a new home in a rural province of the Philippines, where they are being used to support children's literacy and numeracy.

This marks the second time the Jabiru Public Library has been able to contribute to this community, thanks to Barry and Nancy's initiative.

Barry and Nancy are highly valued members of the Jabiru community, and their efforts show how even small gifts can make a big difference in supporting children's education.

ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CRISIS SUPPORTERS

Going through a tough time? If you, or someone you know, are feeling worried or no good, we encourage you to connect with 13YARN on 13 92 76 (24 hours/7 days) and talk with an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporter.

This is your story; your journey and we will take the time to listen.

No shame, no judgement, safe place to yarn.

We're here for you: https://www.13yarn.org.au/

- 13YARN is run by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Free and confidential service available 24/7 from any mobile or pay phone
- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporters to yarn to.



KURRUNG SPORTS CARNIVAL WINNERS



The Jabiru Bombers women's AFL team celebrating their win of the Kurrung showcase match against Maningrida.

Men's Basketball – The Jabiru Bombers and Minjilang Eagles battled it out under the court lights. With the crowd cheering on both sides, Minjilang finished strong in the second half, taking the win 11–6.

The Jabiru Bombers were named runners up for the second year in a row, while all teams represented their communities with pride in what was a thrilling start to the carnival.

Women's Basketball aturday morning at the Jab

Saturday morning at the Jabiru Area School saw five teams chasing the trophy. In the grand final, Maningrida faced the Minjilang Eagles, who were determined to back up their men's team's victory the night before. They succeeded with a 16–6 win, taking the champion trophy home. Great team spirit and plenty of laughs on and off the court made the women's competition a highlight of the carnival.

Women's AFL – Another highlight was the return of the women's AFL showcase game before the men's grand final. Thank you to the Jabiru Bombers and Maningrida for fielding strong teams. Both sides displayed plenty of skill, but the Bombers found form and secured a 14–4 win. The Council looks forward to seeing this category of the carnival grow in the years ahead.

Men's AFL – The ME'S AFL competition on Brockman Oval

drew a strong crowd, with five teams competing in a round robin format.

The grand final saw the home team Jabiru Bombers take on Maningrida in a high-scoring match. Both teams showed the benefits of their training in the lead-up, but the Bombers secured victory, claiming their third straight title.

Congratulations also to runners up Maningrida for an outstanding performance.

At the presentations, Team Health awarded an additional prize for Emerging Young Sportsperson, which went to Isiah from Maningrida.

West Arnhem Regional Council wishes to thank everyone involved in the event including participants, Council staff and the volunteers.

Thank you also to the sponsors:

Ranger Rehabilitation Project, Jabiru Property Services, PTM Group, Kaddum Industries, Stedman's Contracting, Red Lily Health, Northern Power Kakadu Service, Lodge, Kakadu Supermarket, Kakadu Contracting, Team Health, JN Mousellis Civil Contractors, C&R Constructions, Malala Health, Service Jabiru Station, Northern Territory Government, Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation, Kakadu Tourism, AFL NT, Hutch Air, Kakadu Kneads, AJ Couriers, ALPA, Caulfield Grammar School, NIAA, The Croc, Cooinda Lodge, Contracting and No More.

WORK IN & EXPERIENCE ARNHEM LAND & KAKADU

Gunbalanya

Community Care Team Leader | \$79k | Permanent | Full time | Subsidised Accommodation | Open until filled

Youth, Sport & Recreation Assistant | \$26.53/hr | Permanent | 25 hrs | No Accommodation | Open until filled

Works Assistant | \$26.53/hr | Permanent | 25 hrs | No Accommodation

Community Safety Senior Officer | \$37.39/hr | Permanent | 25 hrs | No Accommodation | Open until filled

Community Safety Officer | \$31.35/hr | Permanent | 27.5 hrs | No Accommodation | Open until filled

Centrelink Assistant | \$26.53/hr | Permanent | 30 hrs | No Accommodation | Open until filled

<u>Jabiru</u>

Centrelink Senior Officer | \$73–82k | Permanent | 30 hrs | No Accommodation | Open until filled

Community Care Senior Project Officer | \$101k | Permanent | Full time | Subsidised Accommodation | Closes Wed 8 Oct 2025

Manager Business & Commercial Services | \$116k | Permanent | Full time | Subsidised Accommodation | Closes Wed 1 Oct 2025

Works Assistant | \$26.53/hr | Permanent | Full time | No Accommodation

Early Childhood Educator Assistant | \$61–73k | Permanent | Full time | No Accommodation | Open until filled

Pool Officer | \$61k | Permanent | 25 hrs | Subsidised Accommodation

Maningrida

Casual Cleaner | \$31.35/hr | Casual | No Accommodation

Youth, Sport & Recreation Assistant | \$26.53/hr | Permanent | 25 hrs | No Accommodation

Miniiland

Community Safety Assistant | \$26.53/hr | Permanent | 27 hrs | No Accommodation | Open until filled

Senior Works Officer | 85k | Permanent | Full time | Subsidised Accommodation | Open until filled

Child Care Senior Officer | \$73–82k | Permanent | Full time | Subsidised Accommodation | Open until filled

Warruwi

Child Care Senior Officer | \$73–82k | Permanent | Full time | Subsidised Accommodation | Open until filled

Broadcasting Officer | \$37.39/hr | Permanent | 12.5 hrs | No Accommodation | Open until filled

Centrelink Officer | \$34.59/hr | Permanent | 7.6 hrs | No Accommodation

For more information: Please phone 08 8979 9404 or

email <u>vacancy@westarnhen.nt.gov.au</u>

WEST ARNHEM

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Indigenous people are encouraged to apply

COMMUNITIES UNITE AT SPORTS CARNIVAL

KURRUNG SPORTS CARNIVAL RESULTS

Men's Basketball Winners: Minjilang Eagles Men's Basketball Runners Up: Jabiru Bombers Men's Basketball MVP: Nathan (Minjilang)

Women's Basketball Winners: Minjilang Women's Basketball Runners up: Maningrida Women's Basketball MVP: Chelsea (Minjilang) Women's AFL Winners: Jabiru Bombers Women's AFL Runners Up: Maningrida Women's AFL MVP: Celia Grigg (Maningrida)

Men's AFL Winners: Jabiru Bombers Men's AFL Runners Up: Maningrida Men's AFL MVP: Aidan McAdam (Jabiru) 'Spirit of Kurrung' Cup: Minjilang



Minjilang and Warruwi men's AFL teams showing great sportsmanship after their final game.



The Jabiru Bombers men's AFL team preparing for the competition on home



The Minjilang Eagles and Maningrida women's basketball teams come together in unity after Minjilang took the win in the grand final.



The Gunbalanya men's AFL team getting ready for their first game at the start of the carnival.



The Maningrida women's AFL team preparing for their showcase game against the Jabiru Bombers.



Men's AFL most valuable player was awarded to Aidan McAdman (Jabiru) by WARC Mayor James Woods.



Jabiru Bombers women's basketball team in uniform before the competition commenced.



WARC Mayor James Woods pictured with Cyril Rioli supporting the Jabiru Bombers.



Jabiru Bombers and Gunbalanya women's basketball teams showcasing strong sportsmanship.

WIRE

SPORT



The Warruwi Storm men's basketball team taking to the court on Friday night.



The Minjilang Eagles men's basketball team coming together during the competition.



WARC Mayor James Woods presents the men's basketball 'most valuable player' to Nathan from Minjilang.



WARC Mayor James Woods presents the women's basketball 'most valuable player' to Chelsea from Minjilang.



Celia Grigg was awarded the MVP in women's AFL and is pictured with Mayor James Woods.



WARC Elected Members, Steven Nabalmarda, James Woods and Mickitja Onus.



David from NO MORE and Mayor James Woods present the Spirit of Kurrung Cup to Minjilang community.



The Jabiru Bombers men's basketball team in their new team uniforms before the competition got underway on Friday night.



The Maningrida men's basketball team getting ready to take to the court on the Friday night.



The Warruwi Storm women's basketball team shaking hands at the end of their game.



Emerging Young Sportsperson went to Isiah from Maningrida, pictured with Mayor James Woods.



The Maningrida and Jabiru Bombers men's AFL teams come together as Runners Up and Winners.