



West Arnhem Regional Council Chief Executive Officer Katharine Murray, Member for Arafura Manuel Brown MP, Council Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips, NIAA Regional Manager, Arnhem Land and Groote Eylandt Gerri Wanganeen, Member for Lingiari, Marion Scrymgour MP, Council Mayor James Woods and Minister for People, Sport and Culture Jinson Charls MLA.

## CHANGEROOMS GRAND OPENING

The Maningrida community is celebrating a major sporting milestone with the official opening of the new Maningrida changerooms facility, a \$4.6 million project delivered by West Arnhem Regional Council.

The opening took place on Friday, 14 November, with around 300 community members and special guests in attendance, including the Hon Marion Scrymgour MP, Member for Lingiari; the Hon Jinson Charls MLA, Minister for People, Sport and Culture; and the Hon Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura, alongside other representatives and community leaders.

Funded through the Commonwealth Government's Aboriginals Benefit Account and the National Indigenous Australians Agency, the 600-square-metre facility marks a significant investment in the future of AFL

participation and community wellbeing in Maningrida.

Initiated in 2019, the project has been more than six years in the making – from early planning and community consultation through to completion in 2025.

*"Facilities like the Maningrida changerooms reflect what our communities deserve.."*

West Arnhem Regional Council Mayor James Woods said the delivery of the facility represents a symbolic step forward for sport and opportunity in Maningrida.

"AFL isn't just a sport out here; it's a way of life. It brings us together. It teaches

teamwork, discipline, pride and belonging. It connects generations and builds bridges between cultures. Most importantly, it inspires our young people," Mayor Woods said.

The project has supported local employment and ensured the facility reflects community pride and ownership.

"Facilities like the Maningrida changerooms reflect what our communities deserve. West Arnhem Regional Council remains committed to championing even greater improvements in local infrastructure," Mayor Woods said.

"I want to thank everyone who contributed to turning this vision into reality – from the builders, community consultants and the Council team to the community leaders and local residents who provided guidance along the way."

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Council adopted its 2024-25 Annual Report at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 13 November 2025.

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## UPGRADES AT JABIRU LIBRARY

Have you visited the Jabiru Library recently?

This much-loved community space has just received a major internal refresh through a revitalisation project delivered by West Arnhem Regional Council.

Upgrades include new carpet, a replacement front desk, tables and colourful storage boxes.

While the Library has always been a warm and welcoming place, it now features stunning, vibrant curtains - designed by an Indigenous artist. The curtains compliment the amazing Ngalyod - Rainbow Serpent mural at the Library.

Jabiru Librarian Jillian May is excited to welcome residents and visitors to enjoy the new look and explore the wonderful Kakadu Collection.

"Out with the old and in with the new - new carpet and circulation counter replaced after 40 years, and new curtains. It's a wonderful makeover for the coolest spot in Jabiru - hang out and read some books, tend to emails and catch up with friends."

These upgrades were proudly funded through the Northern Territory Government's Community Benefit Fund.



## 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, Waruwi, 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](mailto: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](http://www.westarnhem.nt.gov.au)

Call (08) 8979 9465 or email [wire@westarnhem.nt.gov.au](mailto:wire@westarnhem.nt.gov.au)

## 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!



## TUNE INTO TEABBA RADIO

Maningrida Radio	106.1 FM
Minjilang Radio	106.1 FM
Gunbalanya Radio	106.1 FM
Waruwi Radio	106.1 FM
Jabiru Radio	98.9 FM



TEABBA  
TOP END ABORIGINAL BUSH  
BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION



# MANINGRIDA FOOTY FESTIVAL WITH SYDNEY SWANS

Swans thank partners and organisations for supporting Maningrida Footy Festival.

More than 20 organisations and partners were involved in this year's anti-smoking initiative in the Top End.

This month the Sydney Swans travelled to the Northern Territory to host the second annual Maningrida Footy Festival.

*"Connect with community members, strengthen partnerships, and broaden the reach of our health and wellbeing messages."*

Players and staff visited five communities in the Top End including Jabiru, Gunbalanya, Milimimbi, Ramingining and Maningrida as part of the

Australian Government's Tackling Indigenous Smoking program.

This year, the primary message focuses on the impact of second-hand smoking in the community - those who don't smoke but are affected by friends and family who do. These visits allowed us to connect with community members, strengthen partnerships, and broaden the reach of our health and wellbeing messages.

Over the course of the festival, more than 120 young people participated in clinics and games.

We welcomed five men's and three women's teams to the Footy Festival with teams travelling from both Milimimbi and Ramingining.

Education sessions were delivered at six schools across a total of 22 sessions, reaching approximately 385 students.

The trip would not have been possible without more than 20 organisations and partners who helped us along



*Photos Contributed.*

the way, and the club extends its immense gratitude for their support.

We would like to thank AMSANT, Red Lily, Miwatj, Malala Health, East Arnhem Regional Council, West Arnhem Regional Council, NT Police, the Australian Defence Force, AFLNT, Nja-Marleya, Bawinanga

Corporation, Solid Rootz, 33 Creative, Maningrida College, Jabiru Area School, Gunbalanya School, Ramingining School, Milimimbi School, and Ninti One.

A huge thanks also to QBE Insurance, Gatorade, Koala and Yona who supported the trip through donations of football, cups, mattresses and cardboard bed bases.





## WHAT'S ON



The 2025 Jabiru Children's Christmas Party will be held at the Jabiru Pool on Sunday, 30 November. All welcome!

## 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 Fire'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 Fire's Fitness Training: Magela Oval, 5.30pm

### Fridays

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

### Sundays

Jabiru Fire's Fitness Training 5.30pm

## NOVEMBER

**Sun 30** Jabiru Children's Christmas Party, Jabiru Pool

## DECEMBER

**Wed 3** International Day of Persons with Disability

**Fri 5** International Volunteer Day

**Thu 18** Special Finance Committee Meeting

## NEW HOUSES FOR MANINGRIDA

The Finocchiaro CLP Government is continuing to deliver for the bush, with tenants moving into four new houses in Maningrida.

GT Builders Pty Ltd has completed construction of two four-bedroom homes and two five-bedroom homes in the community.

The six-month project involved the demolition of the existing old dwellings and replacing them with larger homes to help address overcrowding in the community of around 3000 residents.

The contractor had a total of 24 workers on the project, including four Aboriginal workers, two of whom were from Maningrida itself.

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development Steve Edgington said the new houses were an important boost for the community.

"As part of the CLP Government's year of action, certainty and security, we are delighted to deliver more housing for families living in Maningrida.

"Housing is fundamental to dealing with the root causes of crime and providing better outcomes in important areas such as health, employment and education.

"It's also pleasing to see the construction of remote housing creating direct economic opportunities for communities through the employment of local people," Mr Edgington said.

"Thanks to GT Builders and our remote housing partners whose teamwork on the ground is delivering real results for remote communities."



Mavis and Colin Bangguna are all smiles receiving the keys to their new house.

Construction was funded by the joint \$4 billion remote housing partnership agreement between the Australian and Northern Territory governments, which aims to halve overcrowding over its 10-year life.

The Australian and Northern Territory governments partner with the members of the Joint Steering Committee for Remote Housing Northern Territory to deliver improved outcomes for Aboriginal Territorians living in remote communities.

## STAY AHEAD OF FLU SEASON WITH VACCINE

The time has come for Territorians to book their influenza vaccination as flu season arrives with more than 1,400 cases confirmed.

Flu vaccination is recommended annually as the Territory enters the Dry season in the Top End, and winter in our southern parts.

During this period, flu case numbers peak across Australia.

Minister for Health Steve Edgington is urging all Territorians over the age of six months to get the flu vaccine.

"Different viral strains of the flu occur each year and it is important to receive an annual flu vaccine to ensure the best protection against current strains," he said.

Flu is already circulating in the Territory. Since the beginning of 2025, there have been more than 1,400 cases confirmed, mostly in the Top End and East Arnhem regions.

The influenza vaccine is free for the following people:

- All children aged 6 months to 5 years
- All Aboriginal people aged 6 months and over.
- People aged 65 years and older.
- Pregnant women during any stage



of pregnancy.

- People aged 6 months and over with conditions predisposing them to complications from influenza.

This year, Territorians aged 5 years and over who are eligible for a free vaccination under the [National Immunisation Program](#) (NIP) can also get vaccinated from a participating pharmacy.

To book a flu vaccination, contact a GP, health clinic or pharmacy.

For more information, including eligibility to receive the flu vaccine for free through the NIP, visit NT Health's [Flu vaccination webpage](#)



# MANINGRIDA CHANGEROOMS OPENING

<< From Front Page

Mayor Woods said the project demonstrates what is possible when governments, councils and communities work in genuine partnership.

"Thank you for investing in our community and for recognising the true value and importance of long-term investment in sporting infrastructure in remote communities."

The Maningrida changerooms facility will serve

as a key hub for sport and community life for many years to come, with the 2025/26 AFL season set to kick off soon.

The change rooms opening coincided with the Maningrida Footy Festival – hosted by the Sydney Swans Football Team and local health organisations, encouraging the community to 'Kick the Habit' as part of the Australian Government's Tackling Indigenous Smoking program.



## ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CRISIS SUPPORTERS AVAILABLE



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.



# NOMINATE NOW FOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



Winner of the 2025 Stakeholder of the Year Award, Red Lily Health in Warruwi.



Winner of the 2025 Cultural Leader and Elder Citizen of the Year Award, Bunug Galaminda receiving the award from Geri Narul in Warruwi earlier this year.

West Arnhem Regional Council has opened nominations for the 2026 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 Awards are Community-driven so

we encourage you to consider putting someone forward in your networks for the 2026 Awards.

It is a pleasure for WARC 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. Do you know someone who contributes to our community and inspires those around them?

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

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

**Nominations Close:** 19 December 2025.

**For more information:** Call 89799465 or email [wire@westarnhem.nt.gov.au](mailto:wire@westarnhem.nt.gov.au)



## HOME SECURITY

Reduce the opportunity for thieves to gain entry into your home, by doing the following:



**LOCK your door** – the most effective way to prevent thieves from entering your home.



**Lock gates, garages and sheds** when not in use. Lock all doors and windows, even when you are outside.



**Don't leave valuables in obvious places.** Thieves often target jewellery, in jewellery boxes on bedroom dressers and other valuables in bedside drawers and cupboards.



**Keep your house keys, car keys and garage remote controls away** from the front door or in obvious places. Thieves may use them to gain entry to your home or to steal your car.



**Consider installing an alarm system,** motion sensor lighting or closed circuit cameras.



**Lock all garden tools and ladders away** so they can't be used to break into your home.



**Install security screens/doors** and ensure they are key locked.



**Make sure keyed locks are fitted** to all of your doors and windows.



**Use an ultra violet (UV) pen to mark property.** Mark your valuables with your driver's licence number, prefixed by the letters 'NT' for Northern Territory e.g. NT123456.



**Keep trees and bushes in front of doors and windows trimmed** to avoid being used as hiding places.

If you see any suspicious activity in your local community, report it to Police on **131 444** or call Crime Stoppers on **1800 333 000**  
For further information contact your local police station or visit [www.police.nt.gov.au](http://www.police.nt.gov.au)

## BE MOSQUITO-MINDED THIS WET SEASON

Top Enders are reminded to be mosquito-mindful during the peak-population period from October to January.

Salt marsh mosquitoes are aggressive biters that can transmit mosquito-borne diseases such as Ross River virus and the Barmah Forest virus disease.

This announcement comes as NT Health sounds the alarm to look out for the menagerie of other wet season monsters: murky mud, menacing stingers, mango madness, and mean extreme heat.

The Northern Territory is home to more than 100 different species of mosquitoes, of which some spread diseases to people, pets, and livestock.

Diseases transmitted by mosquitoes include Ross River virus, which can leave you feeling achy and worn out, and more serious ones like Murray Valley encephalitis and Japanese encephalitis virus, which can be life-threatening.

To minimise the chance of

being bitten by mosquitoes people should:

- Wear protective light-coloured clothing with long sleeves, long trousers, and ankle protection with socks, in areas where mosquito bites are likely.
- Use a protective repellent containing DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus (PMD) and other mosquito protection devices as a supplement to protective clothing when outdoors in areas of mosquito activity.
- Avoid exposure to coastal swamps and mangrove areas.
- Use mosquito coils, lanterns and barrier sprays in outdoor areas and near the home to prevent mosquitoes from entering houses.
- Ensure infants, children and animals are adequately protected against mosquito bites.



## WEST ARNHAM REGIONAL COUNCIL ADOPTS 2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT

West Arnhem Regional Council adopted its 2024-25 Annual Report at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 13 November 2025.

The Annual Report features Council's strategic goals and objectives, performance for the financial year ending 30 June 2025 as well as the financial analysis of reports and audited financial statements.

The 2024-25 Annual Report can be downloaded on Council's website, obtained by visiting the Council Offices in Jabiru, Gunbalanya, Maningrida, Waruwi and Minjilang or by telephoning (08) 8979 9444.

You can also email [info@westarnhem.nt.gov.au](mailto:info@westarnhem.nt.gov.au) for a copy of the document.



## WORK IN & EXPERIENCE ARNHAM LAND & KAKADU

### Gunbalanya

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

### Jabiru

Manager Community Services — \$116k | Permanent | Full time | Subsidised Accommodation | Closes Wed 17 December 2025  
Customer Services Officer — \$68k | Permanent | Full time | Subsidised Accommodation | Closes Wed 10 December 2025  
Relief Administration Officer — \$73k | 6 Month Fixed Term | Full time | Subsidised Accommodation | Closes Wed 3 December 2025  
Early Childhood Educator Assistant — \$61–73k | Permanent | Full time | No Accommodation | Open until filled  
Pool Officer — \$61k | Permanent | 25 hrs | Subsidised Accommodation | Open until filled

### Maningrida

Casual Cleaner — \$31.35/hr | Casual | No Accommodation | Open until filled  
Youth, Sport & Recreation Assistant — \$26.53/hr | Permanent | 25 hrs | No Accommodation | Open until filled

### Minjilang

Child Care Senior Officer — \$73–82k | Permanent | Full time | Subsidised Accommodation | Closes Wed 10 December 2025  
Works Officer — \$31.35/hr | Permanent | Full Time | No Accommodation | Open until filled  
Broadcasting Officer — \$37.39/hr | Permanent | 12.5 hrs | No Accommodation | Open until filled

### Waruwi

Child Care Senior Officer — \$73–82k | Permanent | Full time | Subsidised Accommodation | Closes Wed 10 December 2025  
Team Leader Works — \$40.13/hr | Permanent | 12.5 hrs | No 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 | Open until filled

For more information:

Please phone 08 8979 9404 or

email [vacancy@westarnhem.nt.gov.au](mailto:vacancy@westarnhem.nt.gov.au)



Indigenous people are encouraged to apply

## WEST ARNHAM WELCOMES NEW AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN

West Arnhem Regional Council was proud to welcome Jillian Pojaras from the Philippines, who became an Australian citizen during a special ceremony held in Maningrida on Tuesday, 4 November.

Presiding Officer Mayor James Woods officiated the ceremony as Jillian made her Australian Citizenship Pledge.

Congratulations, Jillian, and best wishes as you begin this exciting new chapter as an Australian citizen!



Jillian Pojaras and West Arnhem Regional Council Mayor James Woods.



**VOLUNTEERS**  
ORDINARY PEOPLE DOING  
EXTRAORDINARY THINGS



**JOIN US!**  
NT Fire and Rescue  
**VOLUNTEERS**

Are you over 16 years old,  
reasonably fit and healthy?

For more info email: [volunteercoordination@pfes.nt.gov.au](mailto:volunteercoordination@pfes.nt.gov.au) or visit [www.fire.nt.gov.au](http://www.fire.nt.gov.au)



The Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS) volunteers provide a fire and disaster response within the major towns and communities, and road crash rescue response along much of the Territories major road network.

Volunteer members respond in the first instance to emergency calls within their district. They may also attend emergencies in other volunteer fire brigade areas when requested to assist at major incidents.

NTFRS currently have approx 250 volunteers within 8 Volunteer Fire Brigades and 7 Fire and Emergency Response Groups.

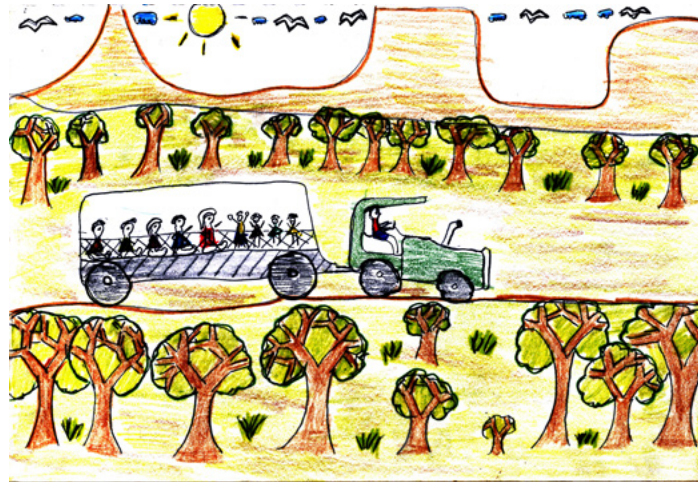
# JEANETTE BURRUNALI SHARES A STORY

Jeanette Burrunali tells a story about visiting Kamarrkawan when she was young, with some Kunwinjku language added. Drawings by Jeanette.

This is a story about me, my grandma and aunties, when we went to Kamarrkawan outstation when I was ten years old in 1987 for the school holidays.

One day I travelled with my parents from Darwin, where I was going to school, to Oenpelli (Kunbarlanya). We slept at Kunbarlanya, then next day me and my auntie Leanne Guymala (Ngalwakadj Ngalbularlhda, who I call morlah) went on a plane to Kamarrkawan outstation. It's about one or two and half hours flight. We landed at Kamarrkawan, and there was still some people out there (walakki birrimirnderri).

Then on the weekend we went camping at the river (mankabo). We rode on the tractor (mandengeyi). My brother in law (Nawamud Nadjordi, ngardduk kunkun, nawu kakkali ngamarneyime), was driving (he has since passed away).



We got there and we put out our stuff (kunmadj). After that, in the afternoon, we caught lots of fish (djenj) on the Mann River. Then we cooked and ate it.

Then the next morning we went to another place to go fishing and looking for long yam (karrbarda). It was a place called Mibik on Rol clan country (kore kubolk Rol). We got there, got off the tractor and walked down to the river.

Me and my aunties (morlah

ngardduk) and my grandma (mamamh) set up the fishing line (wakkidj) and threw it in the water. My morlah were Ngalwakadj Ngalwurrbbarn, Ngalwakadj Ngaldjordi Leonie and Ngalwakadj Ngalbularlhda Leanne. My mamamh was Mary Nabolhbol (Ngalwamud Ngaldjordi), who since passed away. She was Jimmy Kalarriyia's sister. Then we all started catching fish (ngarrimangi djenj wanjh). I caught a black bream

(dumbuhmanj).

After that we went to look for karrbarda in a small forest by a sandy dry creek bed (kangarredubbe walakki), five minutes' walk from where we were fishing. One of my aunties found a karrbarda vine (rakelngalkeng). Then she started digging. And after that my grandma rakelngalkeng too, and started digging. Then after that, my auntie Leanne found a vine (nganerakelngalkeng) showed me (nganbukkang) the plant so I could see (nganang) how we can find and dig karrbarda. We all collected karrbarda, then went back to Kamarrkawan where we slept on the sand (kukayalanj) by the river.

Then two weeks later we went on another trip down the river on the tractor, with Nawamud driving. He dropped us all at a fishing spot - me and my morlah, my mamamh and a little girl named Emma Namarnyilk (Ngalkangila Ngalburlalhda), who was Jimmy's daughter.

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## Australia Day Citizen of the year Awards

Nominate someone who makes a real difference in your  
Community in the 2026 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](http://www.westarnhem.nt.gov.au)  
Pick up a form at any WARC Office  
Email: [info@westarnhem.nt.gov.au](mailto:info@westarnhem.nt.gov.au)

NOMINATIONS CLOSE: 18 December 2025

### CONTACT:

EMAIL: [info@westarnhem.nt.gov.au](mailto:info@westarnhem.nt.gov.au)  
PHONE: (08) 8979 9465



# FIGHTING FLU STARTS WITH YOU

2024 INFLUENZA VACCINES AVAILABLE

The INFLUENZA  
vaccine is recommended  
for people aged 6 months  
and over and is FREE for those  
most at risk of influenza and  
its complications\*



Get ahead of the flu season today

[health.gov.au](http://health.gov.au)





## &lt;&lt; From Previous Page

She was about seven years old. *Nawamud* dropped us off then went back to *Kamarrkawan* camp.

Then we began fishing on the river and we caught lots of fish (*nawern*). Later in the afternoon we waited for *ngardduk kunkun* to come back and pick us up again. But there was a problem with the tractor, although we did not know (*ngarriwakwani*). We were waiting and looking out for him for a long time (*kunkuyeng*). Then we started walking back home along a road.

We walked for about five minutes from the river, then one of my *morlah* and my *mamamh* saw buffaloes (*nganabbarru*) going in the same direction as us, along the river (*ngarrikebrokkarrinj*). They shouted "*Ngababbarru! Nganabbarru!*"

I went to a tree and tried to climb up (*yimankek ngadulkbidbuyinj*), but my *morlah* Leanne ran and grabbed my arm, and we climbed up a tree together (*nganedulkbidbom*). Others started climbing trees too.

But *Ngalkangila* Emma was crying (*nalkbunalkbuni*) next to a tree. Her grandmother *Ngawurrkbarnj* was already up in the tree and had left the little girl down on the ground (*korroko bidbom kore kurrulk, barnhbarndi kaddum, kandji bibawong kore kurorre dingihdi*). Me and my *morlah* went and got the little girl, and Leanne said to her big sister (*ngalwernwarre*), "Why did you leave that little girl down here? You should have put her up in the tree first!

(*Njaleken bu yibawong ngahli wurdyaw kandji, ngaleng werrek yibarnnameninj kaddum!*)"

After that, my *mamamh* Old Mary started hitting a billycan (*dongidongi*), trying to scare the *nganabbarru* away. But Leonie said "Don't do that Auntie! Otherwise they will follow and chase us! (*Yun yingimewon kunekke, wardi birribekkayinj manbu noise dongidongi billycan, wanjh birriborledmeninj ngandinayinj ngandingudjadjuyinj!*)" Mary was Leonie's father's sister (*ngalkornkomo*).

Then our elders made a plan while the *nganabbarru* were walking alongside the road in the bush towards the river. We walked slowly and quietly (*ngarriwohngurdmeng yeledj ngarriwam*), following the bushes and headed home along the side of the road, away from the river.

Then after five minutes we heard a tractor sound getting closer – it was the tractor my *kunkun* was driving, with his wife and kids (*ngalbininj kobeng dja wurduurd nuye*). We were so happy when we saw the tractor was coming.

They stopped and picked us up and we told him, "we saw *nganabbarru* there behind us, alongside the road! (*ngarrinang ngabarrawu kuhni yerre, bu manbolh ngarrimbolhkadjuy!*)". He and his wife said back to us, "they must all be going down to the river (*kare nakka kukabo kabirrihkolung*)"

After that we all went back home, cooked fish and damper then we had supper (*ngarrikinjeng djenj wanjh ngarringuneng kandidjawa dorrengh*). Then we all had a shower and went to sleep (*ngarriwam*

*ngarriwurlebmeng wanjh ngarrikeyonginj*).

Two weeks later my Dad and Mum (*Nangarridj Nadjalama dja Ngawakadj Ngalbularlhaja, Issiah Burrunali dja Marlene Namarnyilk*) came to pick me up. They had travelled by car. We all slept one night at *Kamarrkawan* then left for *Kunbarlanya* the next day. We slept there one night and went back to Darwin the next morning.

I had a great time out there for the school holidays at *Kamarrkawan* with my Auntie Leanne and my other *morlah* and family.

At that time I was schooling at Darwin, at Tiwi primary school. I was there for six years, and before that I was at Millner School for four years.

After those years I got older (*ngakimukminj*) and went to Nightcliff High School with my sisters Rosemary Nambulwad (*Ngalbangardi Ngalmadjawarr*) and Gwen Nayilibidj (*Ngalbangardi Ngaldulmankarr*) and our brother, who has since passed away (*Nabangardi Nadulmankarr nawu bolkyakminj*). Michelle Bengarr (*Ngalkangila Ngalmarrirn*) with us too.

After two years at High School I went back to *Kunbarlanja* because a big cyclone was coming towards Darwin. "Let's go back, a big cyclone is coming! (*karridurndeng, cyclone nakimuk kamhre!*)" my *morlah* Old Molly Nayilibidj (*Ngawakadj Ngaldjalama*) told us. She was worried (*keleminj*). We had to stop at *Kunbarlanja* for a while until the cyclone went away.

And that's the end of my story (*wanjh bonj*).





## SYDNEY SWANS TRAIN WITH JABIRU BOMBERS

On Tuesday, 11 November, members of the Sydney Swans football team visited Jabiru as part of trip to Gunbalanya and onto Maningrida to host the Maningrida Footy Festival.

West Arnhem Regional Council's Jabiru Youth Sport and Recreation and Red Lily supported the Swans' visit.

During the day, the Sydney Swans members ran footy clinics within the school and Red Lily provided health

promoting speeches.

At night time, two Sydney swans players joined the Jabiru Bombers down at Brockman Oval, where a 'kick to kick' was held with the younger Bombers and the ladies were lucky to have a swan AFLW player join the team.

This visit supported the Tackling Indigenous Smoking campaign.

Thanks for visiting!



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Their safety is up to you.**

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