



Community members in Warruwi ring in 2026 at the New Year's Eve Community Countdown with a barbecue and lively dance-off at the Warruwi Recreation Hall.

## WEST ARNHEM WELCOMES 2026

The Warruwi community welcomed 2026 with a New Year's Eve community countdown celebration.

Led by West Arnhem Regional Council's Youth, Sport and Recreation team in Warruwi, the event featured a community barbecue and a lively dance-off at the Warruwi Recreation Hall.

The celebration received strong community support, with a fantastic turnout of residents excited to bring in the new year together.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make the event possible:

- Elijah from Night Patrol and William from the Works crew, who volunteered their time to cook the barbecue.
- Kylinda Brown, who prepared onions for the barbecue.
- Leonie Narul and Debbie Gough, who buttered three

cartons of hotdog rolls.

• The community ladies who decorated the hall beautifully for the big night.

Dance-off winners:

- First place: Ray, Brenton, Gerrard

*"The Warruwi community welcomed 2026 with a New Year's Eve community countdown celebration.."*

- Second place: Layla, Shanti, Nathalia, Timaya, Thelma
- Third place: John, Leroy,

Phillip

Congratulations to Simone Brown, who won the Lucky Door Prize – an exciting first for Warruwi.

WARC YSR Officer Kylinda said, "This year was better than last year. Everybody really enjoyed themselves; they were really happy. It was the first year where we had a Lucky Door Prize – that is a first for Warruwi."

West Arnhem Regional Council Services Manager Debbie said, "This was my first Warruwi event. It was amazing to see how the community comes together and volunteers their time to decorate the hall.

The kids and adults are extremely talented, which was evident during the dance-off. Thank you to the Warruwi community for making me feel welcome and part of the community."

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## WARRUWI COUNTS DOWN TO 2026

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Dance Off winners: Ray, Brenton and Gerrard.



Dance Off Second Place winners: Nathalia, Timaya and Thema.



Dance Off third place: John, Leroy and Phillip.



Kiara, Phianna, Jenny and Dancy setting up the decorations.



Elijah and William cooking the barbecue.



Debbie and Simone Brown who won the lucky door prize.

# WIRE

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

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

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

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## 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



TEABBA

TOP END ABORIGINAL BUSH  
BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION

## MANINGRIDA COMMUNITY RINGS IN THE NEW YEAR

Maningrida families and community members came together to celebrate the start of the new year with a spectacular New Year's Eve fireworks display, proudly presented by the Maningrida Local Authority.

Around 150 people attended the annual celebration, gathering despite the wet weather to enjoy the much-anticipated show. Thanks to the new Maningrida Changerooms grandstands, many were able to comfortably take cover from the rain and continue to enjoy the festivities.

The impressive fireworks lit up the sky as children and adults alike watched on, marking a joyful end to 2025 and a bright beginning to 2026.

A special thank you goes to the Maningrida Local Authority, whose continued support ensures this annual event remains a much-loved tradition that brings families and friends together each year.

West Arnhem Regional Council also acknowledges the dedication of its staff who worked tirelessly in the lead-

up to and during the event to ensure everything ran smoothly. Their efforts were instrumental in creating a safe, fun, and memorable night for everyone.

A big thank you is also extended to Njarmaleya for hosting a community barbecue, adding to the festive atmosphere.

Council would additionally like to thank MERGS, NT Police, and Troy and the team at Fireworks Australia for their invaluable support in making the event possible.



## 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.

## WHAT'S ON



West Arnhem communities will soon celebrate Australia Day with their own community events. Please keep an eye on your local notice boards for more information.

### 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

## JANUARY

9 - 15 Healthy Lunchbox Week

Wed 21 International Mother Language Day

Sat 24 International Education Day

Mon 26 Australia Day Celebrations - Minjilang

Wed 28 West Arnhem Regional Council Ordinary Council Meeting

Thu 29 Warruwi Community Meeting, Ajurumu Store

## JABIRU TOWN SQUARE TRANSFORMATION CONTINUES

The transformation of the Jabiru Town Square continues!

The revitalisation project is creating a more inclusive, vibrant space for everyone to relax and connect.

The most recent improvements within the Town Square include:

- Bench seating relocated into shaded areas
- A new cold water bubbler installed at the front of the supermarket
- New USB charging ports and power points now available at the supermarket bench

These upgrades build on the first round of enhancements, which introduced new soft furnishings, picnic rugs, umbrellas and giant games - all designed to make the plaza a welcoming hub for both residents and visitors.

This project is proudly supported through the Rio Tinto Jabiru Social Infrastructure Fund and West Arnhem Regional Council.



Valarie Tambling using the new phone charging points in the Jabiru Town Plaza.

## 2026 COUNCIL MEETINGS BEGIN

West Arnhem Regional Council will kick off its 2026 Ordinary Council Meetings on Wednesday, 28 January

With the new Council now onboard, elected Members will begin guiding the future direction of West Arnhem Regional Council over the next four years. Local Authority meetings are scheduled to

commence in March 2026.

The full meeting schedule is available on our website: <https://westarnhem.nt.gov.au/corporate-documents/minutes-and-agendas>

All meetings are open to the public, and community members are encouraged to attend.



## PUBLIC NOTICE

The first 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting will be held:



Wednesday, 28 January 2026



[westarnhem.nt.gov.au](https://westarnhem.nt.gov.au) for all meeting dates, agenda & minutes

All Meetings are open to the public!



# GUNBALANYA SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Young people in Gunbalanya enjoyed a jam-packed school holiday program over the festive period from 15 December 2025 to 5 January 2026.

West Arnhem Regional Council's Youth, Sport and Recreation team partnered with Adjumarllarl Aboriginal Corporation, Gunbalanya Church and the Gunbalanya Social Club to deliver a wide range of activities across the community, helping to keep children engaged, active and supported during the holidays.

Together with local stakeholders, Council helped host Christmas events and New Year's celebrations, as well as a variety of programs for children and families throughout the break. Activities included fishing trips, visits to waterfalls, painting, cooking, video games and a range of sports.

To ensure everyone could take part, Council also provided transport for

Elders and young families to and from key community celebrations, including Christmas carols, church services, kids' Christmas celebrations at the Social Club, and the Adjumarllarl Christmas Party.

*"It was fantastic collaborating with so many stakeholders across the community.."*

Gunbalanya Sport and Recreation Team Leader, Harry Tidmarsh, said the collaborative approach was a highlight of the program.

"It was fantastic collaborating with so many stakeholders across the community. Events and programs truly thrive when we work together, and I'm excited to build on this success in 2026," he said.










### 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:**

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

**Find information in one spot:**

- 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](http://www.myagedcare.gov.au) or call 1800 200 422

\*1800 calls are free from land lines; calls from mobile phones might be charged.

Contact: Kathy on 0402 338 430

# COMMUNITY STRENGTH THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

In October, Maningrida Sport and Recreation held the 20-week Basketball Grand Finale, and it was nothing short of incredible. Teams from across the community took part, but what made this event truly stand out was not just the competition it was the strength of the relationships behind it.

Halfway through the competition, we intentionally brought external stakeholders into the planning and delivery of the event, and the impact of that collaboration was clear. Traditional Owners played a visible and respected role, opening each game with words of encouragement focused on teamwork, respect and sportsmanship. At their request, the Church mob were also given the opportunity to open games with prayer.

We were also proud to work alongside NTG, Najmalaya, Yellow Shirts, Night Patrol, and Mala'la Health, whose leaders were present, sometimes collectively, sometimes when they were able but always in support. Their visibility



sent a powerful message to the community, these organisations are not working in silos, they are showing up together, with a shared commitment to the wellbeing of Maningrida.

That united front mattered. It showed young people, families and community members that when stakeholders work side by side, events are safer, stronger, and more meaningful. Recognising this momentum,

our team took a step back and asked the important question early, *what's next?* How do we keep this energy going? How do we continue building connection, trust and collaboration beyond a single event?

In September, we began planning the launch of a 20-week AFL competition, deliberately aligning it with the opening of the new Maningrida change room facilities. The response so far has been extremely positive, with strong community attendance and growing spectator numbers a clear sign that people feel invested and connected.

Importantly, this collaborative approach has already led to

the tangible next steps. As a direct result of the strong relationships built through these events, the Najmalaya CEO has initiated an inter-stakeholder planning retreat in January. This will bring key organisations together to collectively plan a 12-month activity calendar, with a shared focus on coordination, support and sustainability across Maningrida.

So why does this matter for Maningrida?

Because these moments give us the opportunity to move from individual programs to collective planning. Working side by side allows stakeholders to align priorities, share resources, and support one another in delivering consistent, meaningful activities for the community.

Over the past few months, we have worked hard to strengthen these partnerships and the results are starting to show. Slowly but surely, the fruits of that work are becoming visible through increased collaboration, stronger attendance, and a deeper sense of community connectedness.

In Maningrida, strong programs are built on strong relationships. When stakeholders plan together, the whole community benefits.



## Public Notice

# Community Meeting

Thursday, 29 January 2026  
10.00am | Ajurumu Store

**All families, carers and stakeholders welcome!**

Come along to chat about the needs of young families and wurdurd (children) in the Community.

Free barbecue!

Let's work together to support our young people!

Warruwi - your ideas & voices are important!



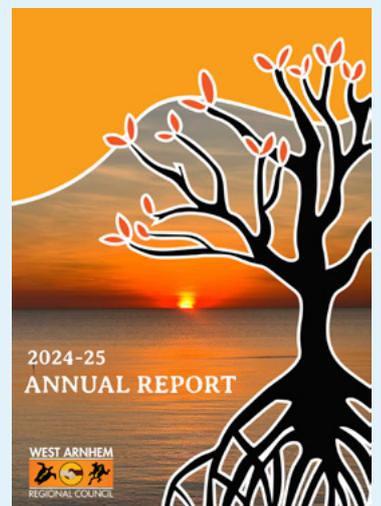
## WEST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCIL ADOPTS 2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT

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, Warruwi 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.



Website: <https://westarnhem.nt.gov.au/corporate-documents>

# 20-WEEK AFL COMPETITION UNDERWAY

The Kick the Habit with the Sydney Swans event in Maningrida was the perfect way to close out the year with strong momentum. It brought together sport, health, and community in a way that genuinely worked the kind of week where everything aligned.

Youth Sport and Recreation teams from Gunbalanya and Jabiru travelled to Maningrida from 12–17 November to support the event and be part of a significant milestone for the community: the official opening of the new Maningrida Change Rooms. These two events, running side by side, drew the entire community together, to witness the opening, celebrate sport, and take part in a week full of activity and connection.

The Kick the Habit festivities included AFL, kickball, and health checks delivered by Mala'la Health Clinic, creating a well-rounded program that focused not just on sport, but on wellbeing. It was clear a lot of thought and planning went into the week and it showed.



Attendance was strong, the energy was high, and the community engagement was outstanding. Simply put, everything just worked.

During the same week, Sport and Recreation Maningrida also launched a 20-week AFL competition, which has already been incredibly well received by the community. The timing could not have been better. The opening of the new, state-of-the-art change room facility

marked a turning point for local sport. Fully equipped with player change rooms, first aid facilities, umpire rooms and a cafeteria, it is arguably one of the most advanced sporting facilities in Arnhem Land.

More than just a building, the new change rooms have created a renewed sense of pride and connectedness among AFL followers which, in Maningrida, is almost everyone. It truly felt like a



once-in-a-lifetime moment for the community.

West Arnhem Regional Council Wellbeing Coordinator Hans Wesche said, "Being able to support and be present at such a successful community event is one of the things I value most about my role. Spending time on the ground, talking with community members, and hearing firsthand how excited people are about their new facility was incredibly rewarding. Moments like this are a reminder of why community-led sport and recreation matters and the impact it can have when done well."

## 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.

**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)

**VOLUNTEERS**  
ORDINARY PEOPLE DOING  
EXTRAORDINARY THINGS

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 brigades 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.

## WORK IN & EXPERIENCE ARNHEM LAND & KAKADU



### Gunbalanya

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 | Open until filled  
 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  
 Community Care Officer X 2 — \$31.35/hr | Permanent | 20 hrs | No Accommodation | Open until filled

### Jabiru

Child Care Centre Manager | \$101k | Permanent | Full time | Subsidised Accommodation | Closes 28 January, or earlier if filled  
 Early Childhood Educational Leader | \$85k | Permanent | Full time | Subsidised Accommodation | Open until filled  
 Works Officer- MR Licence — \$61k | Permanent | Full time | Subsidised Accommodation | 28 January 2026  
 Early Childhood Group Leader | \$73k | Fixed Term | Full time | Subsidised Accommodation | Open until filled  
 Pool Officer — \$68k | Permanent | 25 hrs | Subsidised Accommodation | Open until filled  
 Early Childhood Cook and Educator — \$31.35/hr | Permanent | Full time | No Accommodation | Open until filled  
 Early Childhood Educator Assistant — \$31.35/hr | Permanent | Full time | No Accommodation | Open until filled

### Maningrida

Works Assistants x 2 - \$26.53/hr | Permanent | 25 hrs | No Accommodation | Open until filled  
 Post and Administration Officer | \$73k | Permanent | Full time | Subsidised Accommodation | Open until filled  
 Cleaner — \$31.35/hr | Casual | No Accommodation  
 Youth, Sport & Recreation Assistant — \$26.53/hr | Permanent | 25 hrs | No Accommodation | Open until filled

### Minjilang

Community Care Officer - \$31.35/hr | Permanent | 20 hrs | No Accommodation | Open until filled  
 Child Care Senior Officer — \$73k | Permanent | Full time | Subsidised Accommodation | Open until filled  
 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 — \$73k | Permanent | Full time | Subsidised Accommodation | Open until filled  
 Team Leader Works — \$40.13/hr | Permanent | Full Time | 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  
 Youth, Sport & Recreation Assistant — \$26.53/hr | Permanent | 25 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

## 300 NEW HOMES BUILT IN REMOTE COMMUNITIES

300 new homes have now been built in remote First Nations communities and town camps across the Northern Territory, marking a major milestone in the Australian and Northern Territory Governments' remote housing partnership.

*"This investment is not only changing the lives of First Nations families, it is building a stronger future for remote communities.."*

The joint \$4 billion investment aims to halve overcrowding for First Nations families by delivering up to 2,700 new homes by mid-2034.

The 300th home was recently completed in Peppimenarti. The four bedroom, two-bathroom house was built through a joint venture between Green River Aboriginal Corporation and Big River Housing.

This milestone follows new homes being built in remote communities including Ampilatwatja, Maningrida, Mutitjulu, Ramingining and Lajamanu.

The Northern Territory Remote Housing Package is being delivered under a partnership between the Albanese and Finocchiaro Governments, Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory and the four Northern Territory Land Councils.

Shared decision-making through the Partnership Agreement ensures First Nations organisations are central to implementing this significant investment.

Improving housing is a key part of Closing the Gap, supporting First Nations families and building a foundation for healthier, stronger communities.

Since its launch on 1 July 2024, the Northern Territory Remote Housing Package has generated significant economic benefits, creating jobs during construction,

supporting employment and upskilling local trades while boosting businesses and suppliers across the Territory. Minister for Indigenous Australians, Senator Malarndirri McCarthy said, "These 300 new homes are part of our long-term plan to ease overcrowding and improve living conditions in remote Northern Territory communities.

"This investment is not only changing the lives of First Nations families, it is building a stronger future for remote communities while at the same creating jobs, building skills and backing Territory businesses.

"We will continue to work with the Northern Territory Government, Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory and Land Councils to ensure remote housing solutions are community-led and sustainable for the long term."

Special Envoy for Remote Communities, Marion Scrymgour said, "Our government is taking real action to address overcrowding in remote Territory communities by investing \$2 billion to build 2,700 homes across the bush.

"These 300 new homes showcase what can be achieved when all levels of government work with local stakeholders to deliver for people in remote communities.

"Building these homes will not only impact living conditions but will also deliver vital employment opportunities to some of our most economically disadvantaged communities."

Northern Territory Minister for Housing, Steve Edgington said, "As part of the Finocchiaro Government's year of action, certainty and security, we're proud to be delivering more homes for families in remote locations right across the Territory.

"Everyone knows that improvements in housing contributes to better health, education and employment outcomes for families and I am delighted to have reached the completion of 300 new homes in the bush."



# MINJILANG AUSTRALIA DAY

**10am - Recreation Hall**  
*Bacon & Egg Breakfast &  
Colouring Competition begins*

**2.00pm - Minjilang Oval**  
*Barbecue Lunch & Spear  
Throwing Competition*

**3.00pm - Minjilang Oval**  
*Colouring Competition  
Judging and Prizes*

**Disco Night with YSR Team**  
*Prizes sponsored by ALPA*

**MONDAY**  
**26 JANUARY 2026**



**STARTS AT**  
**10AM**



**PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:**



## ADULT DOUBLES TENNIS TAKES OFF IN JABIRU

West Arnhem Regional Council's Jabiru Youth Sport and Recreation (YSR) team have been spending time getting to know the community and listening to what people want to see more of in Jabiru. Their approach has been simple - show up, have conversations, and let the community guide the direction of our programs.

To support this, we shared an online community survey inviting feedback on activities people would like to see more of. Community members have shared that they are aware of the survey and have been comfortable providing their feedback directly through conversation. This has

reinforced the importance of relationship-based engagement and being visible on the ground.

One clear outcome of this engagement has been the Adult Doubles Tennis competition.

The tennis program ran throughout the early weeks of December and was well received by participants. It provided a regular opportunity for adults to come together, stay active, and connect in a relaxed and social environment. Although the planned grand final was unfortunately rained out, feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing a strong interest in seeing the

competition return.

Adult Doubles Tennis is a strong example of what can happen when programs are shaped by community voice. By taking the time to listen, build trust, and respond to what people are asking for, Jabiru YSR is able to deliver activities that are relevant, inclusive, and genuinely supported by the community.

As we continue engaging with community members and strengthening these relationships, we look forward to expanding opportunities that reflect what Jabiru wants to see not just what we think should be delivered.



**Watch your kids in croc country.  
Their safety is up to you.**

**BE CROCWISE** 

[becrocodilewise.nt.gov.au](http://becrocodilewise.nt.gov.au)

