



The Jabiru community came together to celebrate the official opening of the Jabiru Health Centre last week.

## HEALTH CENTRE OFFICIAL OPENING

One week ago, the Jabiru community came together to celebrate the official opening of the Jabiru Health Centre.

*From Red Lily:* As we reflect on the day, we are filled with pride, gratitude and optimism for the future.

What made the celebration so special wasn't the marquees, the music or the speeches — it was the people.

Seeing community members, Elders, Traditional Owners, families, staff, partners and stakeholders come together to celebrate this important milestone reminded us why community-controlled healthcare matters.

On behalf of the Red Lily Health Board, thank you to everyone who attended, supported and contributed to making the day such a success.

We would like to extend a special thank you to:

- Our wonderful MCs, Kia and Singita, who brought warmth, energy and laughter

to the day.

- Shanice Mudjandi and Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation for the Welcome to Country.

*"Together, we are building a healthier future for West Arnhem.."*

- Minister Steve Edgington and Member for Arafura MLA Manuel Brown for joining us to mark this important occasion.

- Red Lily Health partners, stakeholders and friends for travelling or making the time to help us celebrate this special day.

- West Arnhem Regional Council, Hoops4Health, Hyper the Clown, B2M, DJ Dhee Man and Stan Man for helping create a vibrant and family-friendly celebration.

- CDU Medical students and

volunteers who generously gave their time and support to host stalls, be part of the activities and provide food for the event.

- Our Board of Directors for their vision and leadership in guiding community-controlled healthcare in West Arnhem.

- Our Red Lily team, whose months of planning, coordination and hard work brought the event to life.

Most importantly, thank you to the Jabiru community. This Health Centre belongs to community and seeing so many people come together to celebrate its opening was truly something special.

The opening of the Jabiru Health Centre marks another important step in our journey to deliver culturally safe, accessible and community-led healthcare closer to home.

Together, we are building a healthier future for West Arnhem.

## INSIDE THIS EDITION

### ROLLING OUT FLAG FOOTBALL



Bring It On Sports has been delivering Flag Football programs across our West Arnhem communities.

PAGE 7 >

### BASKETBALL AND CONNECTIONS



Minjilang enjoys a day of basketball, wellbeing and community connection on Country.

PAGE 3 >

### WEST ARNHEM AFL CARNIVAL



AFL Carnival showcases the talent of West Arnhem's girls and boys aged 15 years and under.

PAGE 4 >

### NEXT ROUND OF VET VISITS



The 2026 West Arnhem Vet Program is off to a strong start. Find out when the vet is coming next.

PAGE 3 >

## 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.



**INFLUENZA Vaccination**

**FLU VACCINE IS FREE FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE**

**Ask your local health clinic about getting the flu vaccine**

The flu vaccine is free for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 6 months and over.

You should get the flu vaccine every year to protect yourself, your family and your community.

Speak to your local health clinic to get your free flu vaccine today!

For more information visit [nt.gov.au/flu](http://nt.gov.au/flu)

phn Workforce NORTHERN TERRITORY

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](#)



## 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!



# 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.

*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

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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

## NEXT ROUND OF VET VISITS TO COMMUNITIES

The 2026 West Arnhem Vet Program is off to a strong start, with successful visits already completed in Maningrida and Jabiru, and the next round of veterinary visits now coming up across the region.

Throughout the year, veterinarians and veterinary students from the University of Melbourne will continue travelling to West Arnhem communities to provide essential animal health services.

These visits play an important role in improving animal health and welfare. The program is strongly supported by Local Authorities across the West Arnhem region, who recognise the importance of maintaining healthy dog populations and supporting residents to care for their animals.

As part of the program, surgical desexing and parasite control are funded, with additional treatments and vaccinations also available at standard professional rates.

Residents are encouraged to take



advantage of the upcoming visits when the veterinary team arrives in their community.

By working together, the program helps ensure animals across West Arnhem remain healthy, cared for, and an important part of community life. The veterinary team will visit

communities on the following dates:

### Gunbalanya

29 June – 3 July

21 September – 25 September

### Maningrida

6 July – 10 July

10 August – 21 August

14 September – 18 September

### Warruwi

6 July – 8 July

14 September – 16 September

Third visit date to be confirmed

### Minjilang

9 July – 10 July

### Jabiru

2 – 4 July (includes Manaburdurma)

Please help spread the word to your family and friends about the upcoming vet visits in your community.

## MIXING BASKETBALL AND CONNECTIONS TO SUPPORT WELLBEING

Recently, Red Lily Health Board's Social and Emotional Wellbeing team and Tackling Indigenous Smoking teams teamed up with the Hoops 4 Health crew for an awesome day of basketball, wellbeing and community connection on Country.

The day kicked off at Mamaruni School, where students took part in wellbeing activities before hitting the court to sharpen their basketball skills.

Then it was game time! The community courts came alive with hoops, music, a barbecue and plenty of laughs as young people, families and community members joined in the fun.

Huge shoutout to:

- Hoops4Health coaches Damien and Chris
- Mamaruni School
- Minjilang Clinic
- West Arnhem Regional Council
- And the incredible Minjilang community

Most importantly, a massive shout out to the young people who participated. Your energy, sportsmanship and talent had everyone talking.

Safe to say there is no shortage of basketball talent in Minjilang!  
Next stop: Warruwi.



## WHAT'S ON

# NAIDOC WEEK 50 YEARS DEADLY 5-12 JULY 2026

NAIDOC Week celebrations will be held between 5-12 July 2026. Keep an eye on your local noticeboards for event information in your community.

### 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

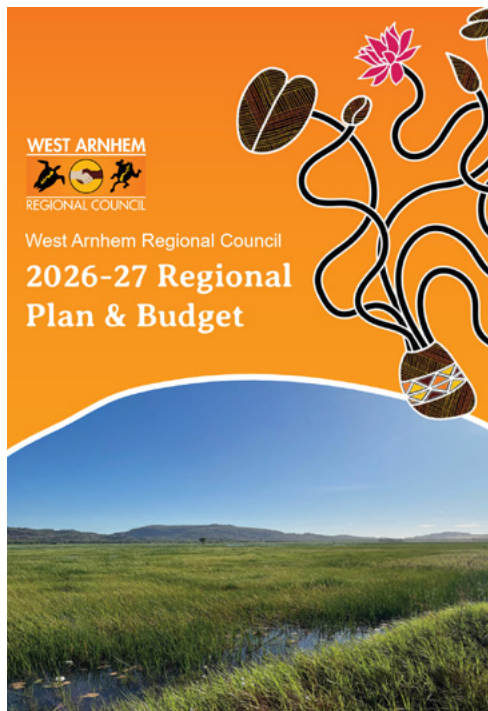
## JUNE

- 22-23** Dodgeball Party Program, Gunbalanya
- 24** Keep Australia Beautiful visit, Maningrida
- 24-25** Dodgeball Party Program, Jabiru
- 29- 3 July** Vet Visit Program, visit to Gunbalanya

## JULY

- Wed 1** Territory Day
- 1-2** WARC Ordinary Council Meeting, Jabiru
- 2-4** Vet Visit Program, visit to Jabiru & Town Camp
- 5-12** 2026 NAIDOC Week Celebrations

## REGIONAL PLAN AND BUDGET RELEASED



West Arnhem Regional Council is pleased to present the 2026–27 Regional Plan and Budget, adopted at the Special Council Meeting on Wednesday, 17 June 2026.

The Regional Plan and Budget outlines Council's strategic priorities, key projects, and detailed financial information for the coming year, including the Long-Term Financial Plan and the Schedule of Fees and Charges.

The document provides a roadmap for delivering services, infrastructure and community outcomes across the West Arnhem region over the next 12 months.

The Plan includes a strong focus on the areas that support Council's everyday operations across our five communities. In the year ahead, Council has a range of initiatives planned to strengthen service delivery, support community wellbeing and help shape a strong future for our region.

Read the Plan: <https://westarnhem.nt.gov.au/news/council-releases-2026-27-regional-plan-and-budget>

## SHOWCASING TALENT AT UNDER 15s CARNIVAL

Get ready for two exciting days of football as the AFL Carnival showcases the talent of West Arnhem's girls and boys aged 15 years and under.

*"Young players to demonstrate their skills, teamwork and sportsmanship.."*

The carnival will be held from 17–18 July 2026 at the Gunbalanya Oval.

The carnival will be played in an AFL 9s format on a smaller field, providing plenty of opportunities for young players to demonstrate their skills, teamwork and sportsmanship.

And, A representative from the NT Talent Team will be attending and scouting players for selection opportunities at the Michael Long Cup.

Come along and support our young athletes!



The West Arnhem Under 16s Footy Carnival held in Gunbalanya in July 2025.

# SHOWCASING COUNCIL EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS

West Arnhem Regional Council was proud to participate in both the Gunbalanya School Careers Day and the Maningrida Job Fair in May 2026, promoting local employment opportunities and connecting with community members across the region.

At the Gunbalanya School Careers Day, approximately 80 students had the opportunity to explore plant and equipment displays, learn about local government careers, and discover future employment and training pathways.

Council also attended the Maningrida Job Fair, hosted by Bawinanga Employment Services, where staff promoted current vacancies and supported community members with job enquiries and applications. The event attracted around 100 attendees and brought together ten stakeholder organisations.

These events are an important way for Council to support local employment, strengthen workforce pathways and encourage the next generation of workers across West Arnhem.







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 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.



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)



Conducted by University of Melbourne

## GUNBALANYA VET VISIT

29 JUNE - 3 JULY 2026

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

### HOW DO I SEE THE VET?

See the Council Office or phone 8970 3700 to leave your name, phone number, lot number, pet description, procedure needed.

**Treatments/procedures covered by the program:**  
 Surgical desexing and parasite control are funded by the program  
 Other treatments and vaccinations are at standard professional rates



For further info, see the Council Office or the Vet Team

&lt;&lt; From front Page



Conducted by University of Melbourne

# MANINGRIDA VET VISIT

**6 & 10 JULY 2026**

*This is a health & animal management program for all community members!*

## HOW DO I SEE THE VET?

See the Council Office or phone 8979 6600 to leave your name, phone number, lot number, pet description, procedure needed.

**Location:** The Vets will be located at Lot 430A.

### Treatments/procedures covered by the program:

Surgical desexing and parasite control are funded by the program  
Other treatments and vaccinations are at standard professional rates

**Next Vet Visit:** 10-21 August 2026

For further info,  
see the Council  
Office or the Vet  
Team



# COMMUNITIES GET A TASTE OF FLAG FOOTBALL

Over the past few weeks, Bring It On Sports has had the privilege of delivering Flag Football programs across West Arnhem Land communities.

This week marked the final leg of the tour, with coaching programs delivered in Gunbalanya (Oenpelli) and Jabiru (Kakadu), bringing an incredible journey to a close.

From Maningrida, Warruwi and Minjilang through to Gunbalanya and Jabiru, we have witnessed firsthand the power of sport to bring people

together, build confidence, create opportunities and strengthen community connections.

A huge thank you to West Arnhem Regional Council, the schools and communities who welcomed us so warmly.

Your support, enthusiasm and commitment to providing positive opportunities for young people made this program truly special.

I would also like to acknowledge our coach, Gary, whose passion, energy and ability to connect with

participants of all ages helped make the program such a success.

The feedback received from schools and communities throughout the tour has been outstanding and a testament to the impact that dedicated coaches can have.

Thank you, West Arnhem, for your hospitality, generosity and community spirit.

We leave with wonderful memories and a strong belief in the positive impact sport can have in remote communities.



## Keep Australia Beautiful Council NT IN MANINGRIDA

KAB NT is visiting Maningrida 22 to 25 June 2026. KAB is a national organisation focusing on litter reduction and waste management for healthy outcomes in the community.



You are invited to come along and meet Heimo from KAB NT and join in an open chat on **reducing litter in Maningrida to benefit country.**



**Date: 24 June 2026**



**Time: 10.00am**



**Where: Council Office**



## SHARING JOHN LEMIBANDA'S STORY IN LANGUAGE

Artist stories – John Lemibanda (pictured right).

**John (skin name: Nabangardi, clan: Wurrik) tells some of his story for the West Arnhem Wire, with help from the Bininj Kunwok Regional Language and Culture Centre.**

Retta Dixon was hard. Five days a week school at Ludmilla, then two days off on weekends. We lived in the dormitory. There were no good times there. They wouldn't let us go out, just made us stay in one place nearly all of the time.

I didn't see my family for all that time, except for short visits sometimes. It was no good. I lost the stories of my parents and grandparents because I was away so long, living too long with Balanda mob in Darwin. Four years is a long time, especially when you're young. There was nobody else from West Arnhem Land there at Retta Dixon, just us three boys. The rest were Darwin boys, there because they were homeless maybe. There was one Balanda boy there, the rest of us were all Bininj (Aboriginal).

Later on I went back and took a look, and thought to myself, "this is where I was.... back in the 1970s".

After we came back to Madjinbardi from Darwin, things got worse. Berrimah jail was just opening, and I was old enough when I got to 18, to go to prison when I got into trouble.

I had seen my family drinking in front of me, and we picked up their bad habit. They were heavy drinkers, those kobahkobanj (old people).

Balanda bindiwoni kunbang (white people would give them grog). We saw how Balanda in this way were destroying our way of life, our stories, our lives - everything was being destroyed. Bolkwarreminj kadberre (things went bad for all our family). Koyek (east) where my family originally came from, there had been no kunbang (grog).

So I said to myself, "this is what they do, so I'll do the same thing myself now, I'll do it my own way". Then they would say to me, "stop drinking grog, you should be kunbangyak (without alcohol)! Wait until you grow up, then you can drink!" But larrk (no, I didn't listen).

Then in the 80s I got a job at the meatworks at Madjinbardi. But I used to run away to Gunbalanya, Katherine, Pine Creek, Manawukan (Maningrida) and other places, for maybe two months, then come back. They would say to me, "this is a paid job, you should stay here and work", but I didn't listen to them.

One time I went back koyek to see my father's and mother's country, when I was 18 or 19. I had already been there once korroko (before) when I very small, but I didn't remember much. That time they showed me my djang (sacred area) which is a short-necked turtle dreaming. We call that turtle dedjdjinhdjinh or ngard.

But this time my parents weren't there to show me their country, so I just saw it myself. I only heard about that country from them by listening to their stories, until I finally went there and saw it with my own

eyes. When I was growing up in Madjinbardi they would tell me, "this is not our country, our country is back that way," and they would say the names of the places. We would ask them, "can we go and look at our country? Karridurndeng (can we go back)?" But they would just say, "no, we're too busy here". So I decided I had to go and see myself. I just wanted to see my country and maybe stay there.

I did go back and see one place kore kunbolk ngarrewoneng (our country), a place called Kornalkyoy, right up on the escarpment where there's a lot of sand along a big river. Nganjingmakminj (I was happy) and I was proud, and people were proud of me for going there. I thought to myself, "this is the country my father taught me about". I could hear ngarradj (sulphur crested cockatoos) screeching, and I said to myself, "this is my family calling out to me, welcoming me". I've still got it here in my mind, my memory of that place.

But I couldn't stay there - I had to think about my family kondah (here) at Madjinbardi. I needed to hear more stories about kunbolk ngadberre (our country) from my father and mother.

Young people now, who have never seen their father or mother's country, should go back and see it, because it's their home land, and the spirits are there, everything is there for them. But it's up to them, it's their choice.

I have stories to pass on, about my country, my life, to my kids if they want to listen. "Come up here and I'll tell you a story. I



want to tell you stories from your grandfather," I tell them. I can give them our Bininj law. I can tell them about all the family, from the start, who I am and who they are, so they can follow in the footsteps of those old people. Young people wurdurd ngarrbenbukkan kunmayali dja kunwok kadberre (we can teach them our knowledge and language).

Ngarridjare ngarrbenbukkan wurdurd birrikuburleerri dja Balanda - we want to educate both our Aboriginal kids and also Balanda kids. I always welcome those Caulfield Grammar kids from Melbourne when they come up here. Ngarrbenwolngwon ba kunwaral kabennahnan - we smoke them so that the spirits will protect them.

I and ngalbininj kobeng ngardduk (my wife) Joy Nabegeyo (Ngalwamud skin group, Djalama clan), we both teach Caulfield Grammar kids about manme (bush tucker), plants, how we use kunkod (paperbark), kunngobarn (pandanus), about "colour" (different colour dyes women get from plants for weaving), and how we can live from the bush. And we also show those



John painting.



One of the Retta Dixon buildings in Darwin.

# Get DIPHThERIA Outta Here!

Skin sores or sore throat? See your clinic.



Check with the clinic if your family is safe and up-to-date with immunisations.

KEEP SAFE:

-  **COUGH AND SNEEZE INTO YOUR ELBOW**
-  **KEEP WOUNDS CLEAN AND COVERED**
-  **CLEAN HOUSEHOLD ITEMS AND SURFACES**

If you need an interpreter we can book one for you.



## CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

<< From previous page

students how we make mako (didgeridoos), dolobbo (bark for paintings or huts and bilem - canoes), mankole (bamboo spears), mandulk (spears made other trees) and borndok (woomeras).

Well Bonj (finish), that's my story.

You can meet John, Billy and Joy if you visit Marrawuddi Gallery in Jabiru when they are working there, and you can see their paintings or crafts there too.





### 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:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Access services to support you with:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rides around your community (to see family, food shopping, doctor's appointments and other places)</li> <li>• Help inside and outside your home (like vacuuming, preparing meals, cleaning gutters and mowing the lawn)</li> <li>• Help with changes to your home (like adding hand rails or ramps)</li> </ul> | <p><b>Find information in one spot:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help and support for elders in your community</li> <li>• Who can get help</li> <li>• The cost</li> <li>• People and groups specially trained to help in your community</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

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

# Dodgy Bros

POP UP. PARTY. DODGEBALL.

## West Arnhem Tour

11<sup>TH</sup> - 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026

11<sup>TH</sup> 12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
**MANINGRIDA**

18<sup>TH</sup> 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
**MINJILANG**

22<sup>ND</sup> 23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE  
**GUNBALANYA**

24<sup>TH</sup> 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
**JABIRU**



BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER THROUGH FUN, FITNESS, MUSIC...AND DODGEBALL!



