



West Arnhem Regional Council is excited to announce the return of the Kurrung Sports Carnival to Jabiru on 28–29 August 2026, once again running alongside the much-loved Mahbilil Festival.

KURRUNG RETURNS TO JABIRU ALONGSIDE MAHBILIL FESTIVAL

West Arnhem Regional Council is excited to announce the return of the Kurrung Sports Carnival to Jabiru on 28–29 August 2026, once again running alongside the much-loved Mahbilil Festival.

The combined event marks the first time since 2019 that the two major celebrations will be held together, creating an action-packed weekend showcasing the very best of sport, culture, music and community in Kakadu and West Arnhem Land.

Proudly hosted by West Arnhem Regional Council, the Kurrung Sports Carnival is one of the largest Indigenous sporting events in the Top End and has become one of the region's premier annual sporting competitions.

Held each dry season, the carnival has a long and proud history of bringing

together hundreds of athletes from remote Arnhem Land communities. It celebrates the outstanding talent of men's and women's AFL and basketball teams, while providing a healthy, safe and inclusive environment for grassroots sport.

"The carnival has a long and proud history of bringing together hundreds of athletes from remote Arnhem Land communities.."

West Arnhem Regional Council Mayor James Woods said the return of the two events side by side would

create an unforgettable experience for competitors, visitors and the local community.

"Our region is special for many reasons – however the most celebrated has to be the incredible culture, the arts, music and of course sport," Mayor Woods said.

"The Kurrung Sports Carnival and Mahbilil Festival are two iconic events that showcase everything that makes Kakadu and West Arnhem such a unique and vibrant place. Bringing them together again will create an incredible atmosphere for everyone involved," he said.

"We look forward to welcoming teams, families and visitors from across the region and beyond to Jabiru in August for what promises to be our biggest weekend of the year."

Continues, Page 8 >>

INSIDE THIS EDITION

AGED CARE NAIDOC BREAKFAST



To celebrate NAIDOC Week, Aged Care clients in Gunbalanya enjoyed a breakfast at the Billabong.

PAGE 8 >

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF DEADLY



Communities across West Arnhem celebrate the 50th anniversary of NAIDOC Week.

PAGE 3 >

TALENT SHINES AT AFL CARNIVAL



More than 50 young people from across the region attend U15s West Arnhem AFL Carnival.

PAGE 10 >

COMMUNITY PROJECTS DELIVERED



West Arnhem Regional Council delivers important community projects across the region.

PAGE 6 >

AGED CARE OUTING TO JABIRU

Clients from Aged Care in Gunbalanya enjoyed a special outing activity across the river recently.

The day began with breakfast at Cahill's Crossing, followed by a relaxing walk around the lake in Jabiru. The group then enjoyed lunch at the Marrawuddi Arts & Culture Gallery, providing an opportunity to socialise, explore the local art and culture, and spend quality time together.

The outing was coordinated and facilitated by the Gunbalanya Community Care Team, led by Team Leader Tracey, whose dedication ensured the day was both enjoyable and meaningful for all participants.

As these community outings play

"These community outings play an important role in promoting social connection, wellbeing, and active ageing.."

an important role in promoting social connection, wellbeing, and active ageing, and it was wonderful to see everyone enjoying the experience, this is something the Community Care Team will be looking at growing over the coming months.



The group enjoy a bite to eat at the Jabiru Lake.



Len spots a croc in the background at Cahill's Crossing.



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 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
Waruwi Radio	106.1 FM
Jabiru Radio	98.9 FM



TEABBA

TOP END ABORIGINAL BUSH
BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION

NAIDOC WEEK CELEBRATIONS ACROSS THE REGION

Communities across West Arnhem have come together to celebrate the 50th anniversary of NAIDOC Week, with this year's theme, "50 Years of Deadly," bringing people together through culture, sport and community activities.

In Minjilang, the community enjoyed a vibrant NAIDOC Colour Run, proudly supported by ALPA and West Arnhem Regional Council. Young participants ran through the stations while Council staff joined in the fun throwing coloured powder, before everyone gathered for a barbecue.

In Gunbalanya, local young people celebrated with a friendly football match on the oval, followed by a barbecue with family and friends. Aged Care clients also enjoyed a NAIDOC breakfast at the billabong.

The Maningrida Pool was the perfect place to hold the celebrations, with community members enjoying a refreshing swim and sausage sizzle.



It's time to complete your Census.




Every Answer Matters

It's time to complete your Census now. You can complete it online, on paper or with help from the Census team.

To find out more about completion options and support visit the website or call 1800 181 227.

➔ census.abs.gov.au



Census

WHAT'S ON



The 2026 Kurrung Sports Carnival will take place in Jabiru on 28 & 29 August 2026. Team Registrations close 14 August 2026.

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

AUGUST

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

Sun 9 International Day of the World's Indigenous People

Wed 12 International Youth Day

10 - 21 Maningrida Vet Visit

Wed 19 WARC Local Authority Meeting, Maningrida

Thu 20 WARC Local Authority Meeting, Gunbalanya

28 & 29 2026 Kurrung Sports Carnival

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.



WEST ARNHEM



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!



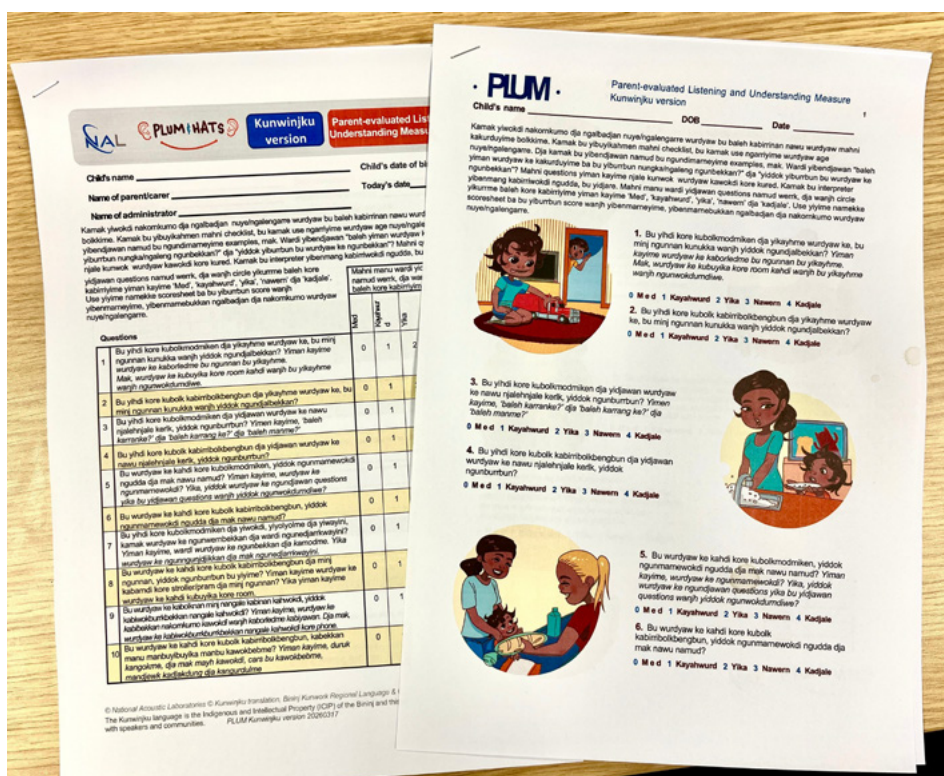
HEARING RESOURCES TRANSLATED INTO LANGUAGE

Recently BKRLCC language workers and linguists completed Kunwinjku and Mawng translations of two children's ear health and hearing checklists for the Hear Out project, led by Isabel O'Keeffe and Chantelle Khamchuang from the National Acoustic Laboratories, the research arm of Hearing Australia.

The checklists-PLUM (Parent-evaluated Listening and Understanding Measures) and HATS (Hearing And Talking Scale)-help health workers, audiologists and educators talk with parents and carers about how children are listening, understanding and communicating, and whether there may be ear or hearing issues. Until now, they had only been available in English, making these translations a world-first for Indigenous languages!

Language worker Salome reflected on translating the checklists saying: Kamak, makka wanjh important for like bu wurud and parents mob[It's good, this checklist is important for children and parents mob] Jeanette Burruali said: That's [checklist] good, yoh, kamak! The translations, information sheets and audio will be available online soon, and are expected to help families and professionals identify hearing concerns earlier and support children better.

For more information contact Isabel at isabel@bininjgunwok.org.au



The Bininj Kunwok Regional Language and Culture Centre translate resources into Kunwinjku and Mawng.



Kunwinjku Language Online course

Kurrung 2026
6 weeks commencing in Sept 2026

This course is a practical introduction to the Indigenous Australian language—Kunwinjku—which is spoken throughout Kakadu National Park and western Arnhem Land. It is designed to develop basic speaking, listening, reading and writing skills at an introductory level, and to develop a knowledge and understanding of the relation between language, culture and society in the community of the speakers.

The course explains aspects of grammar and everyday practical conversational strategies. Course materials are online in a series of weekly units designed by linguists with teaching qualifications, in collaboration with native speaking language specialists with many years of teaching experience. Each week two live Zoom tutorials are offered with Kunwinjku native speakers. These are usually offered at 5:00 - 6:00pm NT time on Tuesdays and Thursdays.



The course is \$495. Fees are used to pay our Bininj language teachers and for administration of the course.

Once you have enrolled and paid online you will receive an email in the week before the course with login details and an invitation to our teaching platform Google Classroom where you can interact with teachers and other students and complete weekly assignments.

Follow our Facebook page for updates and announcements closer to commencement date:
www.facebook.com/bininjgunwok

Enrolments now open via the QR code or this link: <https://kunwok.sgy/DVnz3H>

Queries? Email us at:
learning@bininjgunwok.org.au

ENROL NOW!



NGURRIMPE, NGURRIBOLBME, NGURRIBOKDI KUNWOK KADBERRE!
COME, LEARN TO SPEAK OUR LANGUAGE!



Conducted by University of Melbourne

MANINGRIDA VET VISIT

10 - 21 AUGUST 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: 14-18 September 2026



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

COMMUNITY PROJECTS DELIVERED ACROSS THE REGION

West Arnhem Regional Council's Technical Services team has been busy putting the finishing touches on a range of community projects delivered across the region – many of which were identified and supported through the local priorities of our Local Authorities.

These projects support Pillar 4 of Council's Strategic Plan – Service Delivery and Built Environment, ensuring West Arnhem communities have access to high-quality infrastructure and services that meet their unique needs.

In Maningrida, the toilet block extension near the Council Office has been completed by Stedman's Constructions as part of the Maningrida Changerooms Project, supported by the NIAA. The facility has received new fixtures, internal upgrades, repainting and an external extension.

The Maningrida Local

Authority has also funded a new funeral hearse, providing free hearse transport for funerals across the community and surrounding outstations.

New sport and recreation vehicles have also arrived in Maningrida and Gunbalanya, helping more community members access activities, connect with others and participate in programs. These vehicles have been supported by the Member for Lingiari, the Honourable Marion Scrymgour MP.

In Minjilang, a new cemetery has been established, providing an important space for families into the future. The project included fencing, access works, a shelter, footpath and landscaping. The community has also welcomed new flag poles in the centre of town, funded by the Minjilang Local Authority.

In Jabiru, upgrades to the Town Square public toilets have enhanced the facility for

residents and visitors, with new fixtures, lighting upgrades, repainting and external improvements completed.

The Brockman Oval toilet block has also been upgraded with fresh internal paint and new fixtures throughout, providing improved amenities for players and spectators ahead of the upcoming football season. These works were supported by the Rio Tinto Jabiru Social Infrastructure

Fund.

These projects demonstrate the strength of community-led decision-making and the important role Local Authorities play in identifying priorities that deliver lasting benefits for residents across West Arnhem.

Council thanks our Local Authorities, funding partners, contractors and community members for helping bring these projects to life.



Minjilang Cemetery upgrades include fencing, a shelter, footpath and landscaping.



The Maningrida toilet block extension near the Council Office has been completed.



The Jabiru Town Square public toilet block upgrades include new lighting.



The Maningrida Local Authority funded funeral hearse for the community.



New flag poles have been installed in Minjilang.



KURRUNG SPORTS CARNIVAL

UNITING SPORTS TEAMS FROM WEST ARNHEM LAND

28 & 29 AUGUST 2026 JABIRU, NT

MEN'S BASKETBALL

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

MEN'S AFL

WOMEN'S AFL

PROUDLY HOSTED BY:

WEST ARNHEM



REGIONAL COUNCIL

REGISTRATIONS
CLOSE:
14 AUGUST 2026

MORE
INFORMATION:
SEE YOUR LOCAL
YSR TEAM

KURRUNG RUNS ALONGSIDE MAHBILIL FESTIVAL

<< From front Page

Caron Farrell of the Mahbilil Festival said, "The Mirarr community is proud to announce the return of the Mahbilil Festival, taking place 28–29 August 2026 in Jabiru, Northern Territory, in the heart of Kakadu."

"The Mahbilil Festival and Kurrung Sports Carnival play a vital role in promoting the region.."

"Mahbilil Festival is a vibrant celebration of Mirarr culture, bringing together music, traditional dance, bush foods, art, sport, workshops, and community activities. Held alongside the Kurrung Sports Festival, the event reflects the spirit of the Kurrung season, when cool afternoon breezes bring people together to celebrate culture, country, and community," Caron said.



Shellie Morris is in the Mahbilil lineup of talent. Photo credit: Wayne Quilliam.

"As Jabiru transitions from a mining town to a tourism and cultural destination, the Mahbilil Festival and Kurrung Sports Carnival play a vital role in promoting the region, supporting local businesses, and strengthening cultural connection. The festival also provides an opportunity for visitors to experience authentic First Nations culture in one of Australia's most



Christine Anu will be headlining the 2026 Mahbilil Festival.

iconic landscapes."

Visitors can expect two days of exciting sporting action alongside the Mahbilil Festival's vibrant program of live music, cultural performances, local art, food and family-friendly activities, making it a must-visit event on the Top End's dry season calendar.

AGED CARE CLIENTS ENJOY SPECIAL NAIDOC ACTIVITY

To celebrate 50 Years of Deadly during NAIDOC Week, the Aged Care clients in Gunbalanya enjoyed a breakfast down at the Billabong for a nice change of scenery in the dry season.

Several Elders and younger participants helped prepare the fire and watched as Marietta prepared the traditional damper from scratch, baking it directly over the coals.

Sharing the damper, scones and warm tea allowed lots of conversation about the billabong, with other locals, Red Lily OT's and SAL Consulting.

Speech therapists also visiting. Thanks to Kathy and Alison staff from Jabiru who helped on the day. With the success of this event, it has inspired plans for future regular gatherings at the billabong.



UPCOMING VET VISITS

The 2026 West Arnhem Vet Program is continuing into the second half of the year with more community visits scheduled in coming months before the onset of the wet season.

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.

Residents are encouraged to take advantage of the upcoming visits:

Gunbalanya

21 September – 25 September

Maningrida

10 August – 21 August

14 September – 18 September

Waruwi

14 September – 16 September

Third visit date to be confirmed

Minjilang

17 & 18 September 2026

Third visit date to be confirmed

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

MEMORABLE NAIDOC WEEK CELEBRATION IN JABIRU

Community groups and stakeholders across Jabiru came together to celebrate NAIDOC Week on Thursday, 16 July, with a day of culture, connection and community.

The celebrations commenced with a special Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony, setting the scene for a meaningful day of learning and celebration.

This year's event was made even more special with students from Jabiru Area School and Caulfield Grammar School joining in the festivities. Students enjoyed taking part in a range of cultural activities, art workshops and community activities.

The event featured a live broadcast from Teabba - Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association Radio, a community barbecue proudly supported by CatholicCare and the Jabiru Fire Station, delicious kangaroo tails prepared by the Djurrubu Rangers, and plenty of activities for community members of all ages to enjoy.

Thank you to all the local groups, organisations and volunteers who helped make Jabiru's NAIDOC celebration a success.

Finally, a big thank you to our community for your incredible support.

This National NAIDOC Week Activity is funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency.



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 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

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.



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

KEEP SAFE:



COUGH AND SNEEZE INTO YOUR ELBOW



KEEP WOUNDS CLEAN AND COVERED



CLEAN HOUSEHOLD ITEMS AND SURFACES



YOUNG TALENT SHINES AT AFL CARNIVAL

West Arnhem Regional Council partnered with AFLNT and Adjumarllarl Aboriginal Corporation Stronger Communities for Children in hosting the U15s West Arnhem AFL Carnival.

More than 50 young people, boys and girls, from Maningrida, Jabiru and host community Gunbalanya proudly represented their communities, displaying great enthusiasm, teamwork, leadership

and sportsmanship throughout the carnival.

The event provided an exciting opportunity for young players to showcase their AFL skills and enjoy the school holidays and participant in a talent pathway that could lead to recognition and future opportunities at the Michael Long Centre in Darwin.

Gunbalanya claimed victory in both

the boys' and girls' competitions against Maningrida.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make the carnival a success, especially the community members who came along to cheer on the players.

Their support helped create a memorable event that inspired and encouraged the next generation of aspiring AFL stars.

Well done to everyone involved.



Gunbalanya Girls Team.



Gunbalanya Boys Winners.



Jabiru Girls Team.



Gunbalanya & Maningrida.



Maningrida Girl in Action.



Jabiru & Maningrida Girls in Action.



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

BE CROCWISE  **becrocwise.nt.gov.au** 