Councillors and staff of West Arnhem Regional Council have wished long-serving Mayor Lothar Siebert all the best with his new endeavours following his announcement to resign as Mayor at the Ordinary Council Meeting on Wednesday, February 15.

Former Mayor Siebert, who served as an elected member and Mayor of West Arnhem Regional Council for almost five years, announced he has taken on the role as Chief Executive Officer of Doomadgee Regional Council in Queensland.

At the meeting, Council elected Councillor James Marrawal as Mayor and Councillor Matthew Ryan as Deputy Mayor.

Over the years, former Mayor Siebert has been a passionate advocate for the people of West Arnhem and has represented the region with pride and strength. With an extensive history in local government, he has been proactive in creating local employment, business opportunities, housing for locals and was involved in the restoration of the Regional Council to a strong and viable financial position.

He was also an elected member of the Kunbarlanjinja Community Government Council from its inception and has represented the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory as an Executive Board Member and Vice President.

West Arnhem Regional Council Chief Executive Officer Brian Hylands congratulates newly-elected Mayor James Marrawal at the last Council meeting.

West Arnhem Regional Council
Chief Executive Officer Brian Hylands congratulates newly-elected Mayor James Marrawal at the last Council meeting.

The recent rainfall has filled the local rivers and creeks, with Nourlangie ‘three bridges’ on the Kakadu Highway flooding over the road the first time in a long while. The rain has also made changes to the landscape including the lookout towards Gunbalanya from Ubirr rock. Read more about the recent rainfall on Page 2. Photo credit: Jacqueline Cahill
The recent rainfall has filled the local rivers and creeks, with Nourlangie’s ‘three bridges’ on the Kakadu Highway flooding over the road for the first time for a long while.

The rain has also got the fish moving with a huge number of fishermen trying their luck around the region with some great fish being produced. This bodes well for run off fishing in March, as barramundi from dozens of waterholes move into the mouth of Nourlangie Creek, situated a few kilometres upstream of the South Alligator Bridge on the Arnhem Highway.

And don’t forget the Jim Jim system, which is also a great contributor of recruitment barra into the South Alligator.

However, fishermen must be cautious particularly when culvert fishing, and be aware of dangers that lurk quietly below or road trains approaching at great speed along the highways.

As for the crocodile risk, Kakadu’s crocodile expert Garry Lindner has this advice, “You may not see crocodiles at these roadside locations – but be cautious. Always expect that a crocodile may be in the area. Some crocs move into well known culvert fishing locations and remain there for the duration of the wet season. They are attracted – just like fishermen – to the fish.”

“Road users, fishermen and other users need to take care when accessing these areas particularly during the wet season,” Garry says.
FUNDING FOR EQUITY TRAINING

Applications are invited for funding under the NT Equity Training Grants program. The program aims to increase training and employment opportunities and outcomes for disadvantaged groups in the Northern Territory.

Who can apply?
Incorporated organisations, registered training organisations and schools.

For more information phone 8935 7747, visit nt.gov.au or email dianne.fong@nt.gov.au

Applications close 28 March 2017.
JABIRU CHILDCARE REDUCES ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT

Jabiru Childcare is making an effort to become a more sustainable centre, and to start, have recently purchased three Surface Pros which will be used for multiple purposes within the facility.

After introducing iCheck-in this year, parents can log-in on the Surface Pro when they arrive at the centre and electronically sign their child in and out of the service for the day.

This is a legal requirement as set out in the Education and Care Services National Regulations that, in the past, has required the use of a lot of paper each day - even for a small service such as the Jabiru centre.

Jabiru Childcare Centre Manager Alleisha Woodward said the other exciting new usage for the tablets is the new online programming system - Storypark.

"More projects and exciting things are sure to following in coming months.."

Storypark allows educators to record and document the children’s learning and development using photos, videos and written observations.

“This is then uploaded to the program and parents are notified via the app or email about a new learning story being available,” Alleisha said.

“In the past we had printed portfolios containing these learning stories and samples of artwork, which all the families treasure but it was not a very sustainable practise with the use of the paper, folders and ink.”

“The other wonderful thing is that extended family can be invited to follow the children’s development, so grandparents in Darwin or aunts and uncles in Indonesia can be even more a part of the children’s journey.”

“All the educators are quickly learning the new system and the feedback from them and the families is wonderful - we look forward to continuing to build this new and exciting tool for the children and families of Jabiru.”

With these exciting new ways of being a more sustainable centre, educator Michi decided to keep moving forward and has developed a recycling project by asking families to bring in their plastic bottles so the centre can recycle them and use the funds to purchase new resources for the centre.

“We have also purchased a recycling and sustainability kit that contains recycling bins, water filtration kit, see through compost container and a worm farm. Educators will be discussing the benefits of being sustainable for our environment with the children and more projects and exciting things are sure to follow in coming months,” Alleisha said.

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Tahlen Bradley putting an empty plastic bottle in the recycling bin at the Jabiru Childcare Centre.

Lacey Bear doing her bit for the environment by putting a recyclable item in the recycling bin at Jabiru Childcare.

Kailah Williams using the iCheck-in on a Surface Pro to sign-in the kids at the Jabiru Childcare Centre.

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The West Arnhem Wire acknowledges the traditional owners of country and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respect to them and their cultures, and to elders, past, present and future.

The Wire is the only regular source of news and information in the Kakadu and West Arnhem Land region. More than 800 copies are distributed fortnightly to Jabiru, Warruwi, Minjilang, Maningrida and Gunbalanya.

Our electronic edition goes out to more than 600 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 $65 (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.

MILLION DOLLAR COMPENDS SOON

The secret tag number of the $1 million barra released in Season 2 for Tourism NT’s Million Dollar Fish competition has been revealed.

Minister for Tourism and Culture Lauren Moss joined cricket legend and Million Dollar Fish ambassador Matthew Hayden at the Dinah Beach boat ramp to announce the secret number.

“If you’re lucky enough to catch a red tagged Barra and it carries tag number 2656 - you are an instant millionaire for Million Dollar Fish Season 2,” Ms Moss said.

Eight lucky winners landing $10,000 cash each already.

“This is the last weekend to hook either a $10,000 fish or the big $1 million barra. The Million Dollar Fish Season 2 competition runs from 1 October 2016 – 28 February 2017.
Three communities in West Arnhem are set to receive essential upgrades to the airstrips as part of Round 4 of the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Programme.

Warruwi, Minjilang and Jabiru will be receiving upgrades through the Commonwealth Government program to improve access to services and connections in remote communities across the Northern Territory.

Warruwi on South Goulburn Island will receive $250,000 to reseal the airstrip and re-line markings and Minjilang’s airstrip on Croker Island will receive $25,000 for new line markings and other works such as link-making layouts on the runway, taxiway and apron.

Energy Resources of Australia Ltd (ERA) will also be able to purchase AV-70 solar RF capable lights for the runway edge, threshold end and hold points for aerodrome for the Jabiru Airport.

West Arnhem Regional Council, Council Services Manager in Warruwi Kupa Teao said Warruwi welcomes the upgrades to the airstrip.

“The upgrades will be great for the community which heavily relies on the airstrip for supplies, medical support etcetera,” he said.

Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Darren Chester said, “Australia’s tyranny of distance is a way of life for many of our most remote communities, and safe and functioning airstrips are often the only reliable means of transport for freight and urgent services.

“Smooth runways or keeping wildlife away from airstrips can make all the difference in a safe landing. These upgrades will safeguard access to essential health care services including emergency medical evacuations, while also improving access to work and education opportunities.”

Gunbalanya Independent Public School Board Election Results

Thank you for voting in the new School Board.

Parents

Students

Teachers

Alfred Nayinggul

Terrah Guymala

Leah Nayinggul

Raylene Gellar

Brendon Makuil

Awhina Mathews

Julie Narndal

Grant Nayinggul

Ross Guymala

Joey Nganjmirra

Shanai Wilson

Hamish Robb

Australian Electoral Commissioner Tom Rogers has urged young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to get cracking on their application for the 2017 National Indigenous Youth Parliament (NIYP).

“This is a golden opportunity to come to Canberra to meet and learn from our parliamentarians, the people making decisions that affect Indigenous communities,” Mr Rogers said.

“Applications can be done easily online at www.aec.gov.au/Indigenous.”

2017 is the third time that NIYP will be run by the Australian Electoral Commission following previous events in 2012 and 2014.

“It is extraordinarily pleasing to see the successes of past participants as they continue to develop their leadership skills and achieve great things at work, through study and in their communities,” Mr Rogers said.

“Strengthening leadership among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is a critical component of Closing the Gap.”

NEWS FROM WARRUWI COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Students at Warruwi Community School have been busy lately with many students being rewarded for their great school attendance recently. Students are given a ‘Warruwi dollar’ a day for attending school ‘All Day Everyday’ and were very excited to spend their Warruwi Dollars at the attendance shop.

They have also been learning DI literacy and first language lessons with assistance teachers Jacobina, Jenny and Ruth.

Meanwhile, students from the Shark Class were excited to spend their Friday cooking in the Stephanie Alexander Program.

Students who have great attendance at school have been receiving a ‘Warruwi dollar’ as a reward.

STANDING TOGETHER FOR EDUCATION

West Arnhem Regional Council Sport and Recreation team at Maningrida has launched a new initiative to promote school attendance in Maningrida. The team is joining up with Government and non-government organisations including Government Engagement Coordinator, Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, Maningrida Progress Association, Maningrida College, Malabam Health Board including GREATS Youth Service to run a monthly event at the swimming pool to celebrate the high achievers who attend school every day. This program will complement various other initiatives in the community to support kids to go to school every day.

These organisations want the school children to know we all stand together to support education in the community and this is a great joint effort to send a positive message of support.

The first event will be held on March 24 and will include a pool party, barbecue and lots of fun activities for the kids to enjoy.

Pictured are West Arnhem Regional Council administration/Post Office staff members Naomi Nadjamerrek and Sophia Nawirrdj in the Gunbalanya office ready to help the community.
MOSQUITO SURVEYS PLANNED FOR JABIRU

Northern Territory Department of Health Medical Entomology plans to carry out an annual mosquito breeding survey of Jabiru, to confirm the absence of the exotic dengue mosquito Aedes aegypti next month.

Two officers from Medical Entomology will visit Jabiru to carry out an inspection of residential and commercial premises on Wednesday, March 1 and Thursday, March 2 to collect mosquito samples for identification.

The Health Department is asking the community for support by providing access to their backyards as the officers make their way around the area to carry out this important work.

The Northern Territory is currently free of the dengue mosquito, which can transmit dengue fever, chikungunya, yellow fever and Zika virus. However, there is the potential that this mosquito, which is present in North Queensland, could inadvertently be transported into the Northern Territory as eggs in old tyres or other receptacles.

“The Health Department is asking the community for support…”

In the past 13 years, the mosquito has twice been transported into Tennant Creek from North Queensland, with elimination programs required to eliminate this mosquito from the Northern Territory.

Aedes aegypti breeds in artificial receptacles in urban backyards. Receptacles such as used tyres, buckets, drums, rainwater tanks, roof gutters, bird baths and dog water tubs could provide breeding sites for this species of mosquito.

LUCKY ESCAPE AT SOUTH ALLIGATOR RIVER

Members of the public, Kakadu National Park staff and health authorities have been thanked for their efforts after a vessel, carrying three fishermen, overturned in the South Alligator River on Saturday, February 18.

A report was received at about 5pm that afternoon, from a person who was fishing upstream on the South Alligator River, that there was a submerged vessel with a large amount of debris about 3 kilometres north of the boat ramp.

Jabiru Police, who liaised with Rangers and the clinic, attended the boat ramp and were advised that a 26-year-old male had been recovered from the water near the vessel but two others were still missing.

Set back by a large storm, police eventually found the submerged vessel and received word that the missing people had turned up alive and well back at the boat ramp some time later.

They said their 4 metre boat overturned when a larger boat had passed, causing a substantial bow wave. The 26 year-old swam to the bank and walked for some 45 minutes before being picked up by a passing vessel, while the others made their way out of the river, walked around and decided to swim back across and walk over the floodplain towards the highway.

Fortunately none of the occupants were harmed during the incident.

Celebrating 5 years in 2017

Saturday, 13 May

More information will be released soon.

12 weeks to go — start training now!

To celebrate 5 years a duathlon will be introduced in the Open category.

COURSE DELIVERS LIFE SAVING SKILLS

Swimming NT and Sport and Recreation teamed up to deliver vital lifeguard training in Maningrida last week.

Eight participants took part in the course delivered by Mark Walker, a veteran of aquatics who has spent a lot of time running training programs across West Arnhem over the years.

As part of the course, participants did practical and theory work in performing water rescues, first aid, using spinal boards and supervising patrons in the facility.

“These are vital skills for the community members to hold and as we gear up our expansion of aquatic programs in Maningrida, it’s fantastic to have a local team of Lifeguards who can support community programs,” said Council’s Sport and Recreation Coordinator Seide Ramadani.

The next lifeguard course will be held in Jabiru in late March. Stay tuned for details.

MANINGRIDA DELIVERS NEW PROGRAM

Maningrida has launched a new program for strong swimmers called ‘Dolphins’.

The program will support identified strong swimmers who will be supported to develop their skills and techniques in the water. This is the first program of its kind in Maningrida and is being delivered over several weeks.

“In 2017 we have developed a strong partnership with Swimming NT which will see more expansion of Swimming Programs and use of the pool facilities in Maningrida. This has included Lifeguard training, Dolphins Programs and aquatic exercises,” said Council’s Sport and Recreation Coordinator Seide Ramadani.

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NEW RESOURCES AT JABIRU LIBRARY

The Jabiru library has this week seen a massive boost to its play resources with a primary focus on puzzles.

The purchase, which concentrates on the cognitive and sensory development of babies through to eight year olds, is an exciting new direction for the library.

Some of the highlights of the purchase include a giant alphabet fishing set, 15 wooden puzzles, 7 giant floor puzzles and sensory and sound matching games and puzzles.

Pop in to the dry, air-conditioned library and have a look! There is also free WiFi available.

FREE LEARN TO SWIM FOR KIDS

A 10-week program after school covering:
- Water safety awareness
- Swimming skills
- Learn to swim
- Mothers and babies programs
- Kids under 10 must be accompanied by adult

STARTS: Daily on Monday, February 20, 2017
WHERE: Jabiru Pool
TIME: 3:00pm – 6:00pm

To register your child, contact the Council office on 8979 9444

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Gunbalanya

DATE: Thursday, March 2
TIME: 9am – 11am
MEET: At the Gunbalanya Park

Barbecue lunch in the park for participants

Laura and Ruckus enjoying the new puzzles and toys available at the Jabiru Library.
NOURLANGIE SAFARI CAMP, EPISODE 29

Nourlangie Safari Camp, here is 9SLK
Is anybody listening? (My radio code)

From the Diaries of Fleming Jensen 1968-1969
In the previous episode, Fleming celebrates a successful hunting trip and goes on a cleaning spree in preparation for guests to the camp.

Wednesday, 2nd April 1969
Another busy day. Up early and hunting. “We would like to have some real meat for the visitors at Easter, can you handle that?” They were the words of Allan and for that purpose I took off.

It was a good day. I got a hit on a calf that was about a year old and during the shooting I also shot a young buffalo, so now there’s plenty of meat in the house.

It also meant that I could give something to the girls. They have not had any beef in a long time. The trip home was one of the worst.

“I cannot help but plan my future. At least for the next six years though I know that; inside myself the future coincidences will decide it for me ..”

Rarely have the flies been so annoying and it was also early in the day and therefore roaring hot. We have not had rain for over a week so maybe the rainy season has passed.

This afternoon I drove thirty miles up and down the airstrip because Allan had to send a telegram this week so maybe the rainy season has started. Probably I will not be able to save up money to complete the journey from Australia without having to be here a long time and that is not my intention.

So I might have my remaining money sent from home, four to five hundred dollars and if I can hopefully save four hundred dollars here in Australia, I will comfortably be able to go to New Zealand and Japan.

Whether I get back to Australia and Indonesia, Singapore and Bangkok directly, time will tell. If I get lucky I might sign on from Japan and then home. I think through the Panama Canal and perhaps to New York.

If not in that direction maybe on the Trans-Siberian railway through Siberia and Russia to Finland.

If I can leave Australia within three months with about eight hundred dollars and then hope for my luck and the good coincidences, I think it will be totally on top but as I said, let us wait and see and hope for the best.

Friday, 4th April 1969
I was expecting guests today but as so often before I have waited in vain. I wonder if our Easter safari has been canceled.

Water is becoming a problem. I had to get two hundred litre drums of water at the lake. It was with two ten litre buckets but now I can probably do more in a couple of days.

Worse thing to happen is if a dozen people suddenly appear. This afternoon I went out with the dogs to shoot wild boar. It is now long ago. We were disappointed and returned home without having met a single one.

On the way home I shot an unidentified snake. It was sunning itself on the path just where I was walking and luckily I discovered it in time. I took no chances with snakes, so it had to be killed.

Saturday, 5th April 1969
Where the ladies toilet were bad the men’s were no better, even more worse, so here I used the whole day cleaning.

When I was coming down to bathe in the lake I was that close to a snake, only a few centimetres away. I was so frightened that I dropped my two buckets I had with me. It was not very joyful to have an evening bath today.

I started to write letters and started to write to some of my friends and one to the Melbourne post office. There is something to start with.

Sunday, 6th April 1969
On the Saturday’s wish program on the radio there was a greeting from Allan and a message that I would get the message about Alice Springs on Wednesday.

I think the old man is going a little too far.

That means at least one more week but if he gives one hundred dollars for the past week and one hundred dollars for the coming week and we agreed for the previous two, so never mind.

I will then have over four hundred dollars to go south and it’s not so bad.

I celebrate Easter relaxing and write letters.

This afternoon I went fishing and caught indeed a nice fish. However there were no fish at supper because when I was ready to ‘rip’ I could not see what was this or that so it all ended up in the garbage can.

Anyway I enjoyed the afternoon and that was the case.

Next time I might catch a fish that is easier to deal with. While the sun now shines all day and sometimes unbearably hot so the nights are becoming cooler. Yes, really cold.

In the next episode, Fleming misses yet another message over the radio, but this time it doesn’t bother him.

Reproduced with permission: Kakadu National Park Cultural Heritage & Biodiversity Management Unit.

LIVE & WORK
ARNHEM LAND & KAKADU

- Senior Works Officer – Maningrida
  Full Time – Accommodation available – Applications close 8am Monday, 27 February 2017

- Carpenter – Gunbalanya
  Full Time – Accommodation available – Applications close 8am Monday, 27 February 2017

- Finance Manager – Darwin or Jabiru
  Full Time Fixed Term 3 years – Accommodation available in Jabiru – Applications close 8am Monday, 27 February 2017

- Council Services Officer – Gunbalanya
  Full Time – Accommodation available – Applications close 8am Monday, 27 February 2017

- Human Resources Officer – Darwin
  Full Time Fixed Term 12 mths – No accommodation available – Applications close 8am Monday, 27 February 2017

- Housing Officer – Darwin
  Full Time – No accommodation available – Applications close 8am Monday, 27 February 2017

- Landfill Officer – Gunbalanya
  Full Time – No accommodation available – Applications close 8am Monday, 27 February 2017

- Pool & Recreation Officer – Jabiru
  Full Time – Accommodation maybe available – Applications close 8am Monday, 27 February 2017

- Out of School Hours & Vacation Care Assistant Warruwi
  Casual 2 positions – No accommodation available – All applications will be considered.

- Childcare Assistant – Warruwi
  Casual – No accommodation available – All applications will be considered.

- Administration Trainee – Maningrida
  Fixed Term Full Time – No Accommodation available – All applications will be considered.

To apply:
Visit website below or phone 08 8982 9522
www.westarnhem.nt.gov.au/employment

Email completed application to vacancy@westarnhem.nt.gov.au

Indigenous people are encouraged to apply!!!

West Arnhem Wire - Fortnightly news in brief from Jabiru, Gunbalanya, Maningrida, Warruwi and Minjilang

West Arnhem Wire | 11 - 24 February 2017

Regional Council
SWIM LESSONS IN JABIRU

Swimming NT and West Arnhem Regional Council have teamed up to deliver a 10-week Learn to Swim Program in Jabiru, thanks to the Northern Territory Government’s Sports Vouchers scheme. This is a popular program in the community and more than 70 participants registered in the first week.

The program is being delivered after school, equipping kids with vital swimming and survival skills in the water. The program will include water safety awareness, learn to swim and a mums and bubs program. For more enquiries about the program, please contact us at Council on 8979 9444.

A similar program will also be delivered in Gunbalanya over 12 weeks commencing in April.

ATTENTION
POOL PATRONS

There are new opening hours at the Jabiru Pool:

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, SUNDAY 12:00pm – 6:30pm
TUESDAY AND THURSDAY 12:30pm – 6:00pm
SATURDAY 9:00am – 6:30pm

The pool will be closed on Fridays until further notice. We appreciate your understanding and wish to apologise for any inconvenience caused during this time.

JABIRU BOMBERS THANK SPONSORS

On Saturday, February 18 the Jabiru Bombers played their last home game of the season and held a special event to thank their sponsors for their generous contribution throughout the season.

There was a curtain-raiser game, played by some talented youth from Gunbalanya and Jabiru, followed by the main event Jabiru Bombers vs Nightcliff Spartans.

Unfortunately, even the best can fall short of a victory, and the Jabiru Bombers were defeated by 2 goals.

Despite the match outcome, it was a fun day had by all, with some free family fun activities such as an inflatable water slide, some stunning glitter tattoos and even an exciting visit from the Jabiru Fire Truck.

The Jabiru Bombers would again like to thank all of their sponsors: Jabiru Sports and Social Club, ERA, Gunbalanya Sports and Social Club, Intract, Foodland, Blueridge Engineering, Northtech Solutions, JLB Contracting, Trademark Plumbing, Kakadu National Park, Veolia, Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel, The Cricket and Football Shop, Morris Corporation, The Bark Hut, Kakadu Contracting, Macka’s Earthworks, Power and Water, Best Contracting, West Arnhem Regional Council, West Arnhem Mowing and BP Jabiru, the fans for their amazing support, and everyone who helped out at the sponsors day event. The mighty Bombers still reign supreme at the top of the ladder, and look forward to remaining a fierce contender entering into the finals.