A proud young team from Gunbalanya has once again represented the West Arnhem region in the Northern Territory Couch Surfing event on Wednesday, April 15 as part of National Youth Week.

Twenty-four teams from the Northern Territory participated in the couch surfing races in Darwin Parliament House car park, with the Gunbalanya team being the only remote community team taking part. Designed to raise awareness about youth homelessness, the Anglicare NT Couch Surfing event was held on National Youth Homelessness Matters Day, and though the team didn’t win this year, the group had a great time participating.

West Arnhem Regional Council Youth Development Coordinator Sharna Cropley said part of the event is designing and decorating the couch for the big day.

“They all did really well stepping up and challenging themselves.”

“This year the young people decided to acknowledge all the partnering organisations so they did a big ‘GUNBALANYA’ on the back and then had West Arnhem Regional Council, TEAMhealth, Adjumarrarl, and Anglicare written on the sides and front,” she said.

This is the fourth consecutive year the Gunbalanya crew has taken part in National Youth Week activities facilitated by Anglicare NT, with the young ones in the group chosen because they are either young emerging leaders or they have demonstrated significant improvement, with school attendance or completing diversionary programs.

Youth Week also included a visit to Leanyer Water Park, Crocosaurus Cove, bowling, movies and dinner at a restaurant. They were also able to visit a range of services to increase their awareness and access to important services including NAAJA, North Land Council, CAAPS (AOD residential rehab service) Danilla Dilba (Aboriginal Health Service), Headspace and the group also visited the offices of the Royal Commission into NT Youth Detention.

Fortnightly news in brief from Jabiru, Warruwi, Minjilang, Maningrida and Gunbalanya
The Jabiru Army Cadets have recently returned home after a week of intensive training at Robertson Barracks in Darwin. They are part of Remote Indigenous Army Cadets (RIAC), with 30 cadets from around Kakadu forming the Jabiru Unit.

The course last week was for new members as an induction into the Army Cadets with intensive skills and discipline training including marching drills, safe handling of weapons, navigation, cooking ration packs, radio communications and field exercises.

The girls and boys lived on the base for one week, eating at the Mess, and enjoying all the amenities, including the pool, that the Army Base has to offer.

The Robertson Barracks is as big as Jabiru, with almost 1000 personnel living onsite, with all the usual shops, supermarket, swimming pool, gymnasium, hairdresser and things you find in most towns in the Northern Territory.

The week culminated with the Pass Out Parade with the Jabiru Unit along with Cadets from Bathurst Island, Daly River and Wadeye being inspected by Lieutenant Colonel Mark Christopher.

Several promotions were awarded to Jabiru Cadets, along with First Aid Certificates presented to Wadeit Baird and Shantelle Bayne.

The Jabiru Cadets were supported at Robertson Barracks by Padre Lindsay Parkhill, Simon Crowden, Learne Dunne and Andy Ralph, and would like to thank Major Tibbits and Major Lotu from Darwin for hosting the Induction Course.

The next Cadet Camp will take place in the first week of the June school holidays. The Army Cadets will be participating in the ANZAC Dawn Service at Jabiru on Tuesday.
The Bininj Kunwok Language Project is excited to announce the completion of the new book Something About Emus: Bininj Stories from Western Arnhem Land.

The special publication is a bilingual Kunwok and Kumbalanda (English) edited volume, and features stories from dabborrabolk— the old people, with full colour photos and illustrations.

The book presents knowledge from the perspective of senior Indigenous people who have had life-long interactions with emus, and seeks to present the voices of Indigenous people themselves.

Research on the collaborative works began over 10 years ago and involved translating a number of recordings from Indigenous elders, into English.

This material includes detailed accounts of many aspects of emu behaviour; physiology, reproduction, diet, movement and the relationship that Indigenous people have with emus.

The Indigenous authors are all senior knowledgeable community leaders who have been involved in leading the land management movement in Western Arnhem Land over the last 15 years.

In addition to the bilingual and bicultural approach, there is diversity in chapter form and topic in the book, including an introductory chapter which summaries the material from both Indigenous and western scientific perspectives.

Another chapter is a photo essay from anthropologist Professor Emeritus Jon Altman who in 1980 recorded a hunter returning to the outstation camp of Mumeka south of Maningrida with an emu. Editor Murray Garde said the collaborative work will be a useful source of information for a diverse group of people.

“The intention is for the book to be accessible for both the Bininj Kunwok speech community and those outside of this community, whether they be researchers, scientists, students, land management groups or bird enthusiasts,” he said.

“We also include a very special chapter by linguist Professor Nicholas Evans who presents two versions of a traditional emu narrative which is well known in Western Arnhem Land, one in the Kundjeyhmi language and the other in the Dalabon language together with English translations. Both of these languages are now severely endangered and the narrative together with introductory contextual notes will make this historically important material more accessible to the Indigenous communities who know this story well.”

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There will be several launches of the book in coming weeks including one in Melbourne and Jabiru with the date of the local event to be announced.
TROPICAL CYCLONE PASSES OVER TOP END COMMUNITIES

Areas from Croker Island to Cape Fourcroy, including the Tiwi Islands were on cyclone warning from Monday, April 10 as a slow moving tropical low moved through the Arafura Sea.

West Arnhem communities including Warruwi and Minjilang experienced plenty of heavy rain and strong winds with flights cancelled and the townships flooded, as well as a number of buildings including the Mardbalk Arts & Culture and CDP office.

The islands also lost communications early on the Tuesday, and as the system moved in a northeast direction, the warning was later cancelled for these areas.

Areas including Point Stuart to Mitchell Plateau, including Darwin were also placed on cyclone watch for some time.

West Arnhem residents should always have their personal and business emergency preparations in place.

Further information about how to prepare for an emergency can be found at www.secureNT.nt.gov.au.

TOURISM NT CAMPAIGN SHOWCASES KAKADU

Tourism NT’s latest advertising campaign featuring images of Kakadu and other Northern Territory landscapes, adventures and flight deals on offer, is set to take over Brisbane for the next two months.

“Passengers at the bag drop are greeted with a jaw dropping image of a Kakadu sunset…”

Department of Tourism and Culture CEO Alastair Shields said the Territory take-over is up and running at the Brisbane Airport Virgin Australia domestic terminal with a humorous advertising campaign that aims to reflect a traveller’s journey from check in to boarding the aircraft.

“Passengers at the bag drop are greeted with a jaw dropping image of a Kakadu sunset with other Top End natural wonderslands on display throughout the terminal and aerobridges with hanging banners and digital screens.

“Daily direct flights and sale fares from Brisbane to Darwin will also be promoted with 21 roadside digital screens throughout Brisbane CBD and a screen at the Myer Centre in Brisbane’s Queen Street Mall which is estimated to reach over 800,000 people,” Mr Shields said.

The showcase allows operators to engage with travellers interstate to promote their own products as well as the destination more broadly.

LEARN-TO-SWIM LESSONS IN GUNBALANYA

Swimming NT will be delivering an 8 week swimming program in Gunbalanya soon.

The program aims to deliver structured lessons facilitated by Swimming Northern Territory and West Arnhem Sport and Recreation staff. The aims of the learn-to-swim lessons program, are to provide long term benefits for the sport and developing indigenous swim coaches and administrators with the hopes to join as affiliated swim clubs in the near future.

Pictured are staff members from the Warruwi Community Creche, Caroline Minaliwu and Selita Luta with mothers and children who are playing at the centre.

The children are looked after between 8am to 2pm five days a week and all families are welcome to come along and join in.

Breakfast and lunch is provided for the children.
INJALAK LAUNCHES NEW LINE OF ETHICAL ART

Injalak Arts is very excited to announce a Pozible crowdfunding campaign to raise funds for the production of its first ever batch of Injalak Ethical Art Thongs.

The thongs are being made in partnership with Etiko, the award winning Australian fair-trade company.

Three of Injalak Arts’ most highly sought after artists, Benson (Isaiah) Nagurrgurrba, Graham Badari and Gabriel Maralngurra, have authorised their cheerful, fun designs for reproduction on the thongs and each will receive royalties.

The samples have already been a big hit with supporters.

“We love these thongs. It is really good if people can wear real Aboriginal designs, not fake ones,” said Co-Manager and artist Benson (Isaiah) Nagurrgurrba.

Aware of the Fake Art Harms Culture campaign and tired of seeing unauthorised Indigenous style designs on a wide variety of souvenir products and clothing, the members of Injalak Arts decided it was time to offer an alternative and began talks with Etiko.

Etiko is recognised for producing the first eco-friendly range of footwear (Australia/New Zealand/Pacific region).

Injalak Ethical Art Thongs will be made from a mix of natural and recycled rubber by a fair trade manufacturer in India. Etiko is scrupulous about its supply chain.

The thongs will be comfortable and hard-wearing. Many thongs, including expensive brand-name ones, are made with a blend of EVA and PVC - not particularly good for the environment or your feet.

Injalak Arts plans to sell the thongs from their own retail outlets and also wholesale them in the Top End.

Some of its own Cross-cultural Collaboration products made by disabled artisans in Cambodia are included in the Pozible rewards.

The Pozible campaign finishes on May 1 and the three artists are very hopeful it will reach target and be a success. If so, the thongs will be available from July 2017.

Injalak Arts is a non-profit Aboriginal owned art centre in Gunbalanya, West Arnhem Land which has been operating since 1989. It is recognised for pioneering fair trade manufacturing partnerships.

TRIATHLON IN TOP END TRI-SERIES

Celebrating its 5th Anniversary, this year’s Kakadu Triathlon is a part of something much bigger.

Based on the huge success of the Kakadu Triathlon, CareFlight and Triathlon NT have created the ‘Top End Triathlon Festival’.

Not only does the festival provide an opportunity to compete in three great events in Darwin, Jabiru and Katherine, it also raises vital funds to support CareFlight.

This is an amazing achievement for Kakadu Triathlon; to not only reach five years but to have a major event based on it. The tri-series kicked off over the Easter period with the Darwin Triathlon.

There were a huge number of competitors in the event which included a beginner, intermediate and challenge course, held at the Darwin Waterfront.

Jabiru’s very own Kakadu Triathlon is the next event of the tri-calendar on Saturday, May 13.

Registrations for the Kakadu Triathlon and Duathlon close on Monday May 8 – positions are limited and filling fast. Register at http://kakadutriathlon17.gofundraise.com.au/

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Etiko’s first fair trade thongs in 2015 were a big hit for their comfort and durability. Etiko takes ethics and sustainability in enterprise seriously and in 2016 won the Australian Human Rights Commission of Human Rights Award for Business.
NEW AUSSIE CITIZENS

West Arnhem welcomed three new Australian citizens who made the official pledge in front of family and friends on Tuesday, April 11.

Sebastian Jones and Laura Newman from the United Kingdom and Robert Lee from the Philippines made the important pledge in Jabiru with West Arnhem Regional Council Mayor James Marrawal officiating the ceremony.

Jabiru resident Laura, who arrived in Melbourne in October 2005, said she has always wanted to call Australia home.

“It was my mission to stay in this beautiful country on my own merit. So after 11 years of blood, sweat, tears and joy, I thank you Jabiru for giving me my citizenship,” she said.

The next Australian citizenship ceremony will be held later in the year.

DONATION TO DAWN HOUSE

The Energy Resources of Australia (ERA) Ranger Women’s Network has donated a $3000 fundraising cheque to local Darwin charity Dawn House Incorporated.

Dawn House provides services to women and children escaping domestic and family violence in the Northern Territory. Their mission is to promote the rights of women and children to be safe and live a life free of violence through empowerment, advocacy and education.

The funds were raised at the inaugural Ranger Women’s Network International Women’s Day event through raffles, a silent auction plus a contribution from event ticket sales. Thanks again to all those that supported this event.

The Ranger Women’s Network was formed in 2017 to provide support, mentoring and encouragement to women who are working at Energy Resources of Australia. It recognises those who champion gender diversity and makes available information to inform members about gender diversity issues, strategies and statistics.
COMMUNIQUE

FUTURE OF JABIRU

The NT and Commonwealth Governments, Energy Resources of Australia (ERA), the Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation and the Northern Land Council are continuing to plan for the future of Jabiru ahead of the expiration of the town lease and the coinciding closure of the Ranger uranium mine in 2021. The group met again in March 2017 and will hold monthly meetings going forward.

The March meeting was an opportunity for group members to provide updates on work being undertaken on future arrangements for Jabiru. This included an update from the NT Government on progress being made on an economic and population modelling study, and an infrastructure and contaminated sites assessment study. The studies will be managed by the NT Government in collaboration with the Commonwealth Government and will inform key decisions about the future of Jabiru. The studies are separate to the ERA Social Impact Study in relation to Jabiru but will build on this information where possible.

The main outcomes of the March meeting include:

• NT Government agreeing to lead the development of a concept plan for the future of Jabiru informed by the consultants’ findings in relation to the economic and population modelling and infrastructure and contaminated sites assessment studies;

• NT Government, Director of National Parks and ERA agreeing to progress discussions around matters associated with the end of the current Jabiru Head Lease in 2021;

• Northern Land Council, Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation and the Commonwealth, in conjunction with the NT Government, agreeing to progress negotiations regarding future tenure arrangements for Jabiru under the township leasing framework provided under the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976; and

• NT Government agreeing to lead the development of a comprehensive communications strategy to ensure all stakeholders with an interest in the future of Jabiru are kept updated.

The group members will continue to engage Jabiru residents and other stakeholders throughout this process. Regular updates will be provided to the community as planning milestones are reached.

For further information visit www.nt.gov.au
There was a great turn out to the Jabiru Golf Club Easter hunt over the Easter long-weekend.

The day was made special by the participation from the members and families who turned out to enjoy the event.

Jabiru Golf Club Manager Peter Keenence wished to thank everyone who helped make the day a success.

“The place survives on people jumping up and lending a hand and we never have a shortage of that. Del thank you for your help once again and the boys helping with the cooking and even some of the kids asking if they could help by picking up some of the rubbish,” he said.

“A super thank you goes out to the Gunbalanya police for lending us the giant slip and slide - this was an absolute winner for the kids and a highlight for the day.

“It was only made possible by the helping hand of the Jabiru Fire Department who went out of their way to collect the slide and drop it off and then to top it off come down to the club and spray the kids down while they played. Thank you, Mike, for your help.”

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Jabiru Golf Club held an Easter hunt for the community. Photo credit: Peter Keenence

Jabiru Public Library members are encouraged to call into the library during the operational hours Tuesday (10.30am - 5.30pm), Wednesday, Thursday, Friday (10.30am - 4.30pm) and Saturday (9.30am - 12.30pm) to update your details and receive the new improved membership card.

If you are not already a library member in the Northern Territory please come in and join up to access the extensive library services, which covers a large collection of resources including online databases, DVDs, Audio Books, Popular Authors and much more.

Please provide ID with your current Northern territory address.

New Library Cards
Please come in to the library to receive your new library card.
If you are not already a member come in and join up.
Membership at the library will also allow you to borrow from all NT Library and give you access to online databases.
Expand your horizons come on in and join....

Aiden and Mahalia Lindner with their new Jabiru Public Library junior membership cards.

Jabiru Public Library News

Mums & Bubs
10.30am every Thursday

A Great way to meet new people in town and share information. All welcome

Thought for the day

A library is not just a reservoir of information, it's a place for the brain to rest.

From the earliest childhood, when we learn in a way that echoes innate knowledge, it is very early that we learn to acquire wisdom. A library is a haven where community members come and read down to nothing.

Libraries are a haven in a world where community services are few and far between. Libraries are vital, their worth cannot be measured in toads alone.

Angela Clarke

Internet charges in the library
Library members: Free
Free WIFI ask staff for password
Non-library members: $3 for each 20 minutes (or part of 20 minutes)

A highlight throughout the week was a special visit to the Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association (TEABBA) radio, where the kids went live to air.

Looking back on the week young Brendan Minkulk said, “My favourite thing about this week was couch racing, listening to other services, and talking live on TEABBA Radio and Ten Pin Bowling. I’d like to thank the four sponsors. Thank you.”

Sharna said everyone in Gunbalanya is proud of the young group and what they achieved throughout the week.

“The young people had a fantastic week - they all did really well at stepping up and challenging themselves. We are very proud of all of them,” Sharna said.

The Gunbalanya team participated in the NT Couch Surfing event as part of National Youth Week posing for photographs with the media.

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

SURFING FOR A CAUSE

<< From Front Page

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CALL FOR LIBRARY MEMBERS TO COLLECT NEW-LOOK CARD
Last night which lasted eleven hours is the worst night I ever experienced. It was a night in hell! It started normally as a good day I should say.

I decided from the early morning to take the dogs out on a long trip. I would try to find the large canine teeth from the wild boar I shot seven weeks ago. Then I wanted to try to get close to a buffalo so I could take a few pictures.

After a long search I succeeded to find the head where the teeth fortunately still remained. It was far from the rest of the carcass. The largest of the teeth were about fifteen cm. On top of this luck I managed also to take a few good pictures of a buffalo which the dogs held in check.

I now continued by the way into a wildlife sanctuary area, where I had never been in before. I knew that there were tracks into something Allan called ‘The Goose Camp’ and I came across the tracks apparently moving in the right direction. I followed them. Because of the rainy season they now went through marsh and swamp where at other times they went to either side.

Unfortunately I chose the wrong track and after another few hours of wandering around I had no idea where I was. I had lost the track of a big goanna struggling with a large goanna in his ear. I came so close to the buffaloes and boars as in his ear. I came so close to

I was thirsty. Since we had left I had just moistened my lips with some pure water. Mostly we had to work anyway because Allan brings new supplies tomorrow.

I took off Allan’s boots. The waiting time was horrible. I thought, let the mosquitoes sting you and try to rest but no, it was impossible. My skin was quite quickly waved like a washboard and I continued to rub and scratch.

The waiting time was horrible. I tried to think of everything. All what has happened to me from the day I left home to my time in Australia and so on. I tried to count but gave up.

I was thirsty. Since we had left I had just moistened my lips here and there when we met some pure water. Mostly we met only mud holes.

I began to think about where and when a beer, a soda and so on had tasted best. I agreed so on had tasted best. I agreed that a bottle of whiskey and a few cold beers now would beat all early memories.

Last night I decided to use two blankets because I could not keep warm and the nights seem to be colder.

Tonight I tried to lie close to Patra just to get a little warm but did not really succeed. She was too restless and with the contemporaries I also got her mosquitoes. However I tried several times to get her to lie across my belly because I froze and started to get stomach aches.

I must admit that I envied the dogs when I was trying to sit, stand up, lay down and struggled to get some sleep when I heard their snoring. They just slept!

‘My longest eleven hours’ I thought. They will surely end. When the first rays appeared in the sky I was completely destroyed. I had scratched my entire body and I was still in every limb and froze like hell.

I gave up trying to put the boots on as my feet were too swollen and full of blisters and sores.

Now the trip home began and I lacked the black fellows’ hard skin under my feet. I forgot all the pain just thinking that I would be back in the camp in a couple of hours.

When I finally got home I was just able to give the dogs some food and start the freezer. It had to work anyway because Allan brings new supplies tomorrow.

I was almost asleep before I lay down on my bed. How had I missed it! When I woke up I drank about two litres of milk to extinguish the worst thirst I had ever had.

Then I took a bath in the lake and the rest of the day I nursed my sore and blistered feet. I had a terrible night in the woods before I went to Nourlangie but this night beats all nights and I hope that I will never have that kind of experience again. It was a horrible night. To use a coarse expression, ‘a pure arse hole’ trip.

Probably a couple of days will be going before my feet are fit again and I can sit quietly on the bottom. It is not quite the same as before last night.

In the next episode, Flemming gets a great surprise when three landrovers and six men arrive at camp.

Reproduced with permission: Kakadu National Park Cultural Heritage & Biodiversity Management Unit.
Netball NT will be running after school netball clinics for young girls in Gunbalanya in May after being approached by women from the local keen to get them involved in sport, development of teamwork, leadership skills, health and fitness. Netball NT’s facilitator Hayley Gilles will support running, resourcing, growth and coaching of the program.

Thanks to the funding through the Federal Government’s Indigenous Sports Voucher Scheme and West Arnhem’s Sport and Recreation Team. Swimming NT will also be delivering an 8 week swimming program in Gunbalanya soon. The program aims to deliver structured lessons facilitated by Swimming Northern Territory and West Arnhem Sport and Recreation staff.

Mixed Soccer

Wednesday – Juniors 6:00 pm
Magela Oval - All are welcome

Contact – James 0439 086 760

Netball Clinics in Gunbalanya

Plenty of Barramundi Around Crossing

Locals Craig and Jerimiah with another metre barramundi caught recently.

Donna Drexler from Gunbalanya with her first metre barramundi, measuring 1.05m caught at Cahill’s Crossing recently.

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