Fortnightly news in brief from Jabiru, Warruwi, Minjilang, Maningrida and Gunbalanya

INSIDE THIS EDITION

PROGRAM LOGIC WORKSHOP

Plenty of Fun on Territory Day

Gurrung Nominations Open

Maningrida and Jabiru Footy Finals

New Playground at Creche

Naidoc Week Celebrations Around the Region

Kakadu National Park’s Bowali Visitor Centre was a hive of activity as Park staff, visitors from around the world and Traditional owners came together to celebrate NAIDOC Week. There were exciting cultural activities happening all week which celebrated the living cultural landscape of Kakadu, including ranger-guided rock art talks, traditional painting and weaving. Read more inside >>

Gurrung Nominations Open

The greatly-anticipated Gurrung Sports Carnival is shaping up to be a huge event for the West Arnhem region in 2017.

Nominations are now open for the top end’s largest regional sports tournament which will be held in Jabiru on 25-27 August 2017.

Hosted by West Arnhem Regional Council, Gurrung Sports Carnival will feature the men’s AFL competition as well as men’s and women’s basketball games with hundreds of participants across the sports. This year will also see the introduction of a mixed touch football competition to the growing tournament.

West Arnhem Regional Council Youth, Sport and Recreation Coordinator Seide Ramadani said teams from across the top end including Gunbalanya, Jabiru, Daly Waters, Warruwi, Maningrida, Pine Creek, Minjilang and Darwin are expected to enter this year’s competition.

“The weekend is certainly about communities coming together.”

“Sport creates formidable bonds between people and Gurrung has become a special part of the proud local identity over eight years. Not only do we witness great sporting prowess, but the forming of friendships and memories across a vast and diverse landscape,” Seide said.

AFL, touch football and basketball teams from around the region are encouraged to submit their nomination forms by 8 August to take part in this year’s competition.

This year’s Gurrung Sports Carnival will also once again run in conjunction with the Mahbilil Festival which is an annual celebration of Kakadu culture, featuring indigenous bands and local art displays.

Seide said the sports event isn’t just about winning but rather participating and having a great weekend at both the sports carnival as well as the Mahbilil Festival.

“The weekend is certainly about communities coming together to enjoy both events with plenty of fun to be had and entertainment on offer.”

Plans for the major event are well under way and volunteers and potential sponsors are encouraged to contact Seide on 0429 632 083.

The Lions and Seagulls will go head-to-head in the Maningrida Football League Final.

Published by West Arnhem Regional Council

wire@westarncm.nt.gov.au 08 8979 9465
WHAT’S ON

If you have an upcoming event you would like to see listed in this space please phone the Wire on 8979 9465 or email wire@westarnhem.nt.gov.au.

CREATING GOALS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES SUPPORT

The recent Program Logic get together was the third in a series of workshops for local public and primary health care staff for Jabiru and Gunbalanya.

The workshop was held in Gunbalanya and included the peer support workers from the smoking cessation program in Gunbalanya, coordinated by Aimee Riley.

The logic behind the program is to help local Aboriginal health and community workers to prioritise short, medium and long term goals for public health services support for the region.

The attendance was excellent with a previously written program logic document being presented back to the team for clarification before signing off.

Congratulations public and primary health care workers from Jabiru and Gunbalanya for framing this plan for the region.

WARRUWI NAIDOC WEEK CELEBRATIONS

Vacation Care and Crèche children in Warruwi celebrated NAIDOC Week with plenty of fun activities recently.

Safeta Luta combined Aboriginal culture with Torres Strait Island culture. “Kala Lagaw Ya” is the traditional language in the Torres Strait.

Josie Minaliwu face painting with Elva Bon during the NAIDOC Week celebrations.

Glorianna Luta face painting with Ezmay Bon.

Glorianna Luta writing about Moa Island which her family come from.
CELEBRATING NAIDOC WEEK IN KAKADU

Kakadu National Park’s Bowali Visitor Centre was a hive of activity as Park staff, visitors from around the world and Traditional owners came together to celebrate NAIDOC Week. There were exciting cultural activities happening all week which celebrated the living cultural landscape of Kakadu, including ranger-guided rock art talks, traditional painting and weaving.

Parks combined these events with the Jabiru Library to ensure everyone was able to enjoy the array of NAIDOC Week activities in the region. To end the week of celebrations and activities, everyone came together for a special event at the Bowali centre which involved a flag raising ceremony, craft workshop, damper cooking competition and more.

NAIDOC Week is a time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements and is an opportunity to recognise the contributions that Indigenous Australians make to the country and society.

Gunbalanya came together to celebrate NAIDOC Week recently with lots of fun activities, sports, music, jumping castle and a barbecue for the community to enjoy.

It was a great afternoon with a number of stakeholders working together including the RISE Ventures, Department of Health, Anglicare, Team Health, Centrelink, Council’s Sport & Rec, NT Police, Safe House and the Clinic.

An exciting video of the day can be viewed on the Gunbalanya Youth, Sport and Recreation Facebook Page.

LIVE & WORK

ARNHEM LAND & KAKADU

- Payroll Officer - Darwin
  Fixed Term 12 months Full Time
  Applications close 8 am Monday 24 July 2017

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!!!
PLAYGROUND INSTALLED AT WARRUWI COMMUNITY CARE

Children who attend the Warruwi Creche and Outside School Hours Care were very excited to see their new playground installed at the Community Care Centre in Warruwi recently. The children have proven already that this area will be used a lot more while they enjoy playing outside to develop more skills.

WARRUWI COMMUNITY CARE

WIRE

The West Arnhem Wire acknowledges the traditional owners of country and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects 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.

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

FIRE AT JARBU FISHING LODGE

Members from the Serious Crime Squad are investigating a suspicious structure fire at the Jarbu Fishing Lodge on Croker Island.

“It is believed that between 12:30pm on Friday, June 30 and 3 July a number of structures at the lodge were intentionally set alight,” Detective Acting Senior Sergeant Karl Day said.

“Yesterday, detectives and a NT Fire and Rescue Service investigator attended the scene. Preliminary examinations have indicated that an accelerant was used to start the fire.

“The damage caused to the lodge is quite significant, with some structures being deemed unsalvageable. Early estimates indicate more than $700,000 in damage and lost property.”

Investigations are ongoing.

Police are calling for anyone with any information to contact them on 131 444 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Jabiru’s Christine Wagstaff made the pledge to become an Australian citizen in front of family and friends on Tuesday, July 12.

West Arnhem Regional Council Mayor James Marrawal conducted the ceremony which saw Christine, originally from the United Kingdom, make the important pledge.

West Arnhem Regional Council wishes to congratulate Christine.

WIRE

The West Arnhem Wire acknowledges the traditional owners of country and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects 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.

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

FIRE AT JARBU FISHING LODGE

Members from the Serious Crime Squad are investigating a suspicious structure fire at the Jarbu Fishing Lodge on Croker Island.

“It is believed that between 12:30pm on Friday, June 30 and 3 July a number of structures at the lodge were intentionally set alight,” Detective Acting Senior Sergeant Karl Day said.

“Yesterday, detectives and a NT Fire and Rescue Service investigator attended the scene. Preliminary examinations have indicated that an accelerant was used to start the fire.

“The damage caused to the lodge is quite significant, with some structures being deemed unsalvageable. Early estimates indicate more than $700,000 in damage and lost property.”

Investigations are ongoing.

Police are calling for anyone with any information to contact them on 131 444 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

MANDARIN-SPEAKING GUIDES IN KAKADU

A successful mandarin-speaking tour guide training program is set to attract more Chinese visitors to Kakadu.

Demand for the program was so high an additional 20 guides from around Australia took part in a second round of the training this week, following the inaugural course in April.

This intensive training program included a one day workshop at Charles Darwin University and two days of training in Kakadu National Park.

The participants, on successful completion, receive their Kakadu Knowledge for tour guides certification allowing them to lead groups into the National Park.

Facilitated by the Department of Tourism and Culture, Charles Darwin University and Parks Australia, the initiative is part of the NT Government’s China Ready Industry Program, which is investing $5 million over two years to help boost Chinese visitor numbers to the Territory.

Supporting industry to access Mandarin speaking tour guides is an important step in welcoming more Chinese tourists to the Northern Territory.

The Mandarin-speaking Kakadu tour guide program will assist the Tourism Vision target to attract 30,000 annual visitors from Greater China to the NT by 2020.
GHD is undertaking the infrastructure and contaminated sites assessment and Geografia is undertaking an economic and population modelling study and both companies started work in the last month.

In the week beginning 10 July 2017, personnel from GHD and Geografia, will be in Jabiru to further progress the studies. Staff from the two companies will be walking and driving around Jabiru inspecting sites, buildings and interviewing stakeholders. It is expected that the teams will be in Jabiru for around two weeks.

The results from the studies are needed to ensure the NT and Commonwealth Governments make informed decisions around options to support Jabiru as it transitions to a post-mining future.

The infrastructure and contaminated sites assessment will include, but is not limited to:

- options and costings for the future power supply of Jabiru;
- options and costings for an all-weather airstrip to support Jabiru and Kakadu;
- an assessment and verification of the structural and economic life of essential infrastructure in Jabiru, including roads, foot paths and street lights;
- an assessment and verification of the structural and economic life of all NT Government, Commonwealth Government, West Arnhem Regional Council and Energy Resources of Australia sub-leased buildings in Jabiru; and
- an assessment and identification of any contaminated sites (such as asbestos in buildings or any other potential contamination) that may need to be managed or rehabilitated within the town prior to the area being granted as Aboriginal land.

The economic and population modelling study will include, but is not limited to:

- economic impact and population modelling based on future population scenarios for the town;
- an assessment of the level of infrastructure, services and investment (both private and government) required to maintain different population scenarios;
- a non-binding expressions of interest process for parties interested in occupying houses and other infrastructure within Jabiru in the future to determine possible future demand and inform possible market rental values; and
- consultations with banks and financial institutions to confirm what they would need to see in the future sub-leases to consider lending for housing and commercial purposes.

Interested community members will also have the chance to complete a non-binding expression of interest in relation to taking up a future sub-lease to occupy houses and other infrastructure within Jabiru for consideration as part of the new tenure arrangements for the town. Information relating to the non-binding expression of interest will be mailed to households in the coming weeks.

On Saturday 15 July, John Bray, NT Government’s Regional Director in Jabiru, will be in the Jabiru town square ready to answer any questions from community members.

Further information can be obtained by contacting John on 0429 061 764 or email john.bray@nt.gov.au.
Maningrida celebrated Territory Day in style on Saturday, July 1 with a free community event held at the oval.

Hundreds of people gathered at the oval to enjoy fresh fish markets, sausage sizzle, local bands including KK Boyz, Sunrise and Liverpool bands.

To top it off, Malabam Health organised giant jumping castles all the way from Darwin and the Council organised fireworks which were a spectacular finale to a successful day in Maningrida.

The event was coordinated by the Council team at Maningrida and there were many other groups all gave up their weekend to help make this event so magic.

Thank you to Malabam Strengthening Communities for Children, Maningrida Progress Association, Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, Night Patrol, GREATS Youth Services, Maningrida Clinic, Barlmarrk Supermarket, Mr Wilton fish market, Maningrida Emergency Response Group (Vicky & Goody), Maningrida Police, RSAS Maningrida Marshall & team at WIWA Music and Media Maningrida and a huge thank you to the bands, Liverpool, Sunrise and KK BOYS.
TERRITORY DAY CELEBRATIONS IN JABIRU

The Jabiru Sports and Social Club had a cracker of a time on Saturday, July 1 for Territory Day.

The club holds a free community celebration each year with a fireworks display, a free family barbecue with games, special guests for the kids and live entertainment.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GENERAL ELECTION

Would you like to represent your community at the upcoming Local Government General Election in August?

Nominations for the Local Government Election have now opened and if this is something that interests you, you can visit your local West Arnhem Regional Council office for a chat, or pick up a candidate pack.

West Arnhem Regional Council consists of 12 elected members:

- 2 representatives in the Barrah Ward;
- 3 in the Kakadu Ward;
- 3 in the Gunbalanya Ward; and
- 4 members in the Maningrida Ward

If you want to be a councillor, your Nomination Form must be completed correctly and handed in at the front desk at your local West Arnhem Regional Council office between 14 July and 12 noon on 3 August.

West Arnhem Regional Council Governance Coordinator Greg Gilbert will also be visiting West Arnhem communities; Greg will be based at the council and you will also see him out and about in the community. Have a chat with Greg if you are interested in becoming a councillor or have a chat about any other election matter that you might like to discuss.

The dates are:

- Gunbalanya – Friday, 14 July
- Warruwi – Monday, 17 July
- Maningrida – Tuesday, 18 July
- Minjilang – Thursday, 20 July
- Gunbalanya – Monday, 25 July

If you would like any more information, please visit your local Council office. All West Arnhem residents are also reminded to check their enrolment details at their local Council office or online at http://www.ntec.nt.gov.au, before Tuesday, July 25.
NAIDOC WEEK ACTIVITIES IN JABIRU

There was a huge turn out at the NAIDOC Week activities held at the Jabiru Library recently.

With painting, etching, hand prints and boomerang decorating, the children and parents who attended all had a great time. They were also able to learn about the theme of NAIDOC Week this year, which was ‘Our Languages Matter’.

Library Coordinator Jillian May said NAIDOC Week was the busiest week in a long time with 375 people through the door including locals and visitors.

“The combined Parks and Library NAIDOC Week program ensured that visitors to Bowali for the festivities also attended the library activity,” Jillian said.

“People travelling with children was popular this year and they were impressed with the activities at the library.”

ERA INFORMATION DAY

Energy Resources of Australia (ERA) recently held their first mid-week community Information Day for 2017 on Thursday, June 29.

The day began at 9am with a group of visitors flocking to the Jabiru town centre to secure a seat on one of the three Ranger mine tours. The free mine tours assist ERA in being open and transparent with their stakeholders and also to educate the community about their operations and projects.

Soon after the first mine tour departed, the ERA volunteers began to serve the free sausage sizzle for the locals, tourists and ERA staff family members. Being such a lovely day, a few of the visitors to the region decided to sit down and chat about the mine and their adventures in the NT.

Whilst on the mine tours, the visitors were amazed by not only the size of the haul trucks but the comparison of Pit 3 to Pit 1 and how much work ERA has completed with the rehabilitation of the pit.

The visitors were guided by ERA volunteers who were able to teach them about the day-to-day running of Ranger and answer any questions they might have had.

If you’re interested in visiting the Ranger mine and finding out about the uranium process, the next ERA Information Day will be held on Saturday, July 22 from 9am.

For more information or to register for a tour, contact Leona Katzer on 0409 103 892 or visit the ERA Community Relations office, located next door to Jabiru Foodland.

BDR ROLL OUT IN JABIRU

The roll out of machinery for the Banned Drinker Register kicked off last week in Jabiru and Kakadu.

Member for Arafura Lawrence Costa said Jabiru residents deserve to live in safe and vibrant communities.

“Police have described the BDR as the best tool they have to fight alcohol related crime and antisocial behaviour,” Mr Costa said.

“The BDR will stop problem drinkers being able to access take away alcohol and redirect them to rehabilitation.

“We know that alcohol is an important part of many people’s social and recreational lives and we don’t want to stop that, but we have to address the high levels of alcohol related violence and crime within the Northern Territory.

“We know that 70% of the alcohol sold in the NT is take away. That’s why we are bringing back the BDR to ban problem drinkers from buying take away alcohol and redirect them to rehabilitation.”

Local Member Lawrence Costa said the Banned Drinker Register will return September 1.

“From September 1 all Territorians wanting to buy take away alcohol will have to have approved photo ID,” Mr Costa said.

“The ID will be scanned – and those who are on the Banned Drinker Register won’t be allowed to buy alcohol.”

Problem drinkers will be put on the BDR if they:
- Are taken into Protective Custody 3 times in 2 years
- Have 3 Alcohol Related Infringement notices in 2 years
- Have 3 Protective Custody and/or Alcohol-related Infringement notices in 2 years
- Are the defendant on a Police DVO where alcohol was a factor in the incident
- Have a single mid or high range drink driving offences
Have 2 low range drink driving offences within 3 years.
- Have Child Protection Orders, where an alcohol-related condition is made as part of the order
- Have been charged with an alcohol-related offence (where the penalty is 6 months or more)
- Have been referred to the BDR Registrar by concerned health practitioners, Police, child protection worker or family
- Legislation to bring back the BDR is expected to pass parliament next month.

NEW BROADCASTER AT MANINGRIDA RADIO

After a few fantastic upgrades to the Maningrida radio room by Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association (TEABBA), Hamish will officially start as Maningrida’s new radio broadcaster next week.

Tune in to 106.1 for all the entertainment, local news, reviews and music. A big thank you must also go to former broadcaster Djolpa McKenzie for his great work in relaunching the radio and his commitment to training Hamish before having to leave the position to relocate with his family. Thank you Djolpa and welcome Hamish!
Monday, 5 May 1969

There is not much I could do but I did go into Darwin to ask Pat if there was anything new. She had no news so Allan will probably be back as planned.

Today the Northern Territory celebrates the workers celebration day 1 May. The day is celebrated with parades and speeches as everywhere else in the world.

Most of the procession consisted of Aborigines who demanded equal rights, government aid to their own business and for approved areas for reservations.

This was some of the major texts on the posters and the whole procession was led by a bagpipe band! In the evening Ted and Allan turned up and Ted told me that Allan will probably not have the time to go to Alice Springs. It did not sound promising but this and the economics I will get cleared up tomorrow.

Tuesday, 6 May 1969

Friday morning Allan and I are on our way in two cars to Nourlangie. Here we leave the Nissan and are both driving with the second carto Pine Creek and to Alice Springs. I will get four hundred dollars for the time I have been at Nourlangie.

This was the result of an agreement I made with Allan this morning. The economics are not quite on top but never mind I can live with that.

I still stay with Ted and Margaret and although they are very nice people I do not like to stay long and put them in embarrassment. I feel I do so in a way and I am looking forward to being on my own again. There were letters from my bricklayer colleague Sten Ryder and Irving and Jette.

Sten said that I was welcome back into the gang and that was good news. It’s always good to know that you are welcome back with your colleagues.

Jette said that that I better come now and there were many who missed me.

In the end of the day I went to the movie to see Doctor Zhivago. Before I had left Copenhagen this film had been running for over a year but it had to be shown in Darwin and I had to see it. That is something.

In the next episode, it is Flemming’s last time ever in Darwin.

Reproduced with permission: Kakadu National Park Cultural Heritage & Biodiversity Management Unit.
POPULAR SPORT AND RECREATION PROGRAM

School is out in Maningrida and sport and recreation is in. During the mid-year school holidays, the kids in Maningrida have been busy playing sport and exercising.

To kick off the holidays, Tennis NT came out to Maningrida for a week with Coach Mal Brown conducting workshops. This was really exciting because it was the first time Tennis NT has been in town delivering tennis lessons and the children absolutely loved it. Following on from Tennis NT’s visit the Maningrida kids have been playing the most popular sport in town, which is of course AFL.

The children always have fun watching, playing and learning AFL skills. WARC alongside AFL NT have big plans for junior footy in the Maningrida community, so watch this space.

LIONS AND SEAGULLS GO HEAD-TO-HEAD IN GRAND FINAL GAME

Footy finals have begun in Maningrida and the whole community is joining in the excitement.

A packed crowd turned out for both semi-finals recently which saw the Seagulls win a well-deserved spot into the grand final by 3 points. The Lions fought hard all day but fell short at the final siren.

An impressive 2017 season has provided them with a second chance in the preliminary final.

Another tight contest saw the Tigers run away with a 5 points victory against the Magpies.

It was played in fantastic spirit and all players should be congratulated on the way they played the game. The Magpies are unfortunately out of the finals but should be commended for their outstanding sportsmanship over the entire season.

They really are role models for their community.

On Tuesday, July 11, there was another fantastic game of football between the Tigers and Lions, which was fought out in great spirit.

Both teams played hard all day but when the final siren sounded, it was the Lions advancing into the grand final.

Congratulations to the Tigers on a fantastic season and come back bigger and stronger next year.

Next Saturday will be the Maningrida Football League Grand Final between the Lions and Seagulls. Both teams have been outstanding all year and have very deservedly reached the grand final.

The community is encouraged to come down and show your support for what will be a fantastic day! Remember to barrack hard and respect the umpires! Good luck to the Lions and Seagulls.