

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



wire@westarnhem.nt.gov.au 08 8979 9465 Published by West Arnhem Regional Council



Charles Darwin University conducted plant ticket training in Gunbalanya from 14-29 August with a total of 16 students (13 from West Arnhem Regional Council and 3 from DEMED) participating. Read More, page 5.

# **MANINGRIDA AN NDIS TRIAL SITE**

The Territory Labor Government has welcomed the announcement of Maningrida as the first of two trial sites in a \$7.6 million investment into the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Minister for the NDIS, Bill Shorten revealed that Maningrida would be a beneficiary of the pilot program for alternative commissioning approaches in thin markets where there are not enough services available to meet participants' needs.

This is to ensure that participants can better access supports in remote and First Nations communities and will build on the work the Northern Territory Government is undertaking in partnership with the community, NDIA and sector as part of the deep dive into how the NDIS is working in Maningrida.

Alternative commissioning will be undertaken in partnership with First Nations and remote communities to ensure the pilot is both culturally appropriate and underpinned by an understanding of community strengths and preferences.

"In partnership with First Nations and remote communities to ensure the pilot is both culturally appropriate and underpinned by an understanding of community strengths and preferences.."

Minister Shorten announced Maningrida's inclusion as a trial site following a gathering with all State and Territory Ministers for Disabilities for a meeting of the Disability Reform Ministerial Council (DRMC) in Darwin. The DRMC is continuing work on the reform of the NDIS and improving NDIS service delivery outcomes, particularly in remote communities.

Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Bill Shorten said, "Alternative commissioning could be a key step in ensuring participants in remote and First Nations communities are better supported in persistently thin markets.

"We live in a proud, diverse, vast nation with people of varying needs and abilities.

"Alternative commissioning approaches could strengthen the way that people access NDIS supports, by everyone working together within the community to achieve better outcomes for participants.

"This pilot will allow us to gain invaluable information on how we can ensure Australians with disability living in remote and First Nation communities can access. Read more, Page 6 >>

## **INSIDE THIS EDITION**



The young people in Minjillang enjoyed this activity at a recent youth, sport and recreation program! PAGE 10 >





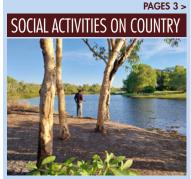
West Arnhem Regional Council welcomes newest Australian citizen in Jabiru.

#### PAGE 2 >

#### NTES VISIT TO WARRUWI



On 16 and 17 September, staff from the NTES (State Emergency Service) visited Warruwi.



Two weeks ago, some of the Aged Care and NDIS participants went to visit Gunbalanya.

# **NEW AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN**



Congratulations to West Arnhem's newest Australian citizen Alex Asilo who is originally from the Phillipines!

West Arnhem Regional Council Deputy Mayor Liz Williams (pictured right) officiated the special ceremony in the Jabiru Council Chambers on Friday, 25 August in front of Alex's family.

It was a very special occasion for Alex who is the final member of their family to receive Australian citizenship.

These ceremonies are always joyous occasions and a very special thing we are able to do for residents in West Arnhem.



#### **Election timetable**

2023 West Arnhem Kakadu Ward by-election

#### 9 September 2023

Date	Time	
Tuesday 8 August		Nominations open
Wednesday 9 August	5:00 pm	Electoral roll closes
Friday 18 August	12:00 noon	Nominations close
	1:00 pm	Declaration of nominations, draw for position on ballot papers
Monday 21 August		Postal vote mail-out commences
Monday 4 September	8:00 am	Early voting commences
		Mobile voting commences
Tuesday 5 September	6:00 pm	Overseas postal voting despatches cease
Thursday 7 September	6:00 pm	All postal voting despatches cease
Friday 8 September	4:30 pm	Early voting ceases
Saturday 9 September		Election day
		Election day voting commences: Mobile voting only
		Election day voting ceases: Mobile voting only
	6:00 pm	Mobile voting ceases
		Primary counts of ordinary, postal and early votes commence
Monday 11 September	9:00 am	Declaration vote verification checks, commence recheck of all counts
Thursday 14 September	9:00 am	Primary counts of accepted declaration votes, further postal counts
Friday 22 September	12:00 noon	Deadline for receipt of postal votes
		Final counts of postal votes commence
	2:00 pm	Distribution of preferences
Monday 25 September	10:00 am	Declaration of the election result



West Arnhem Regional Council acknowledges the First Nations Custodians; and the many Language and Family groups who are Managers and Care-takers to each of their Traditional homelands and Waters across the West Arnhem Regions Wards. West Arnhem Regional Council pay their respects and acknowledge Elders, past present and rising.

The Wire is the only regular source of news and information in the Kakadu and West Arnhem Land region. More than 500 copies are distributed fortnightly to Jabiru, Warruwi, Minjilang, Maningrida and Gunbalanya.

Our electronic edition goes out to more than 500 individual email addresses across West Arnhem Land and the Top End.

The Wire accepts advertising from businesses and government organisations. Placement of ads is subject to editorial and Council policy.

Our competitive rates start from as little as \$72 (including GST). Call 08 8979 9465 today or email wire@westarnhem.nt.gov.au 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
Warruwi Radio	106.1 FM
labiru Radio	98.9 FM



# **NT EMERGENCY SERVICE TEAM VISITS WARRUWI**

On 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of September, staff from the NTES (State Emergency Service) visited Warruwi to continue with the feasibility of re-establishing a NTES unit on South Goulburn Island. Over 20 staff and locals took part over the days with a number wanting to sign up to join the volunteer fire and rescue service.

"Watching the NTES and Rangers working together, with WARC staff was an amazing cultural and learning journey.." to achieve a number of fire reduction burns safely and protect Warruwi into the near future. Watching the NTES and Rangers working together, with WARC staff was an amazing cultural and learning journey.."

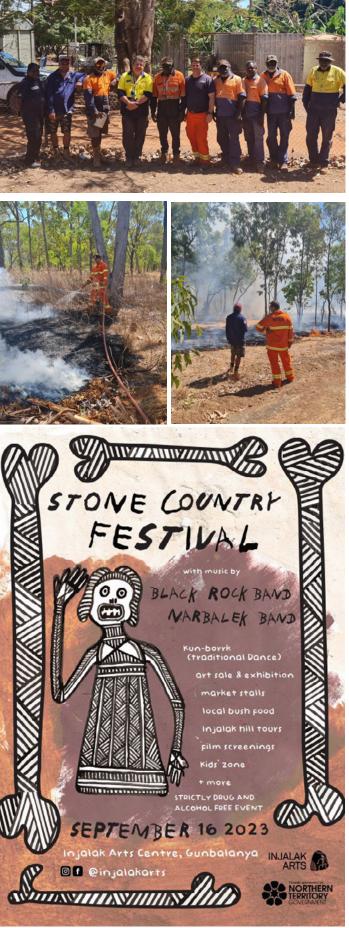
While here, staff from West Arnhem Regional Council NŤES, (WARC), Warruwi School and Mardbalk Rangers took part in actual fire events, equipment/water trailer handling and usage, and controlled fire lighting, blacking out and back burning in day and night conditions. WARC Council Services Matt Griffiths Manager

said, "The past few days with having the rangers, NTES and our staff and community working together shows how much we can achieve working together in a far shorter time. By combining the cultural and traditional methods, along with mechanical and water based firefighting and prevention, we were able to achieve a number of fire reduction burns safely and near future. Watching the NTES and Rangers working together, with WARC staff was an amazing cultural and learning journey, especially for me.

"It develops the communities continue to moving forward with "walking in two worlds" which we do so well in Warruwi." It is important to note that fires on South Goulburn must be approved by Traditional and/or Owners Rangers. Recent fires have put the township at risk. Signage is being put up to remind community and visitors of the requirements.

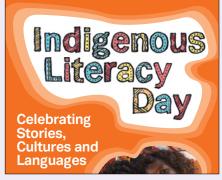
A NTES division is expected to be operational by 2024.





## 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.



Indigenous Literacy Day, celebrating stories, cultures and languages, is held annually on 7 September.

## WEEKLY

#### Monday

Underwater Hockey: Jabiru Pool, 5pm Fire Station Training: Jabiru Fire Station, 6pm

#### Tuesdays

Jabiru Playgroup: see the Facebook page, 9:30am Bombers football training: Brockman Oval, 5:30pm Jabiru Firey's Fitness Training: Magela Oval, 5:30pm Aqua Fitness: Jabiru Swimming Pool, 6.15pm Jabiru Art & Craft Group: private residence (enquire directly) 7.30pm

#### Wednesdays

Skins Golf: Jabiru Golf Club, 4.45pm

#### Thursdays

Story Time: Jabiru Library, 11.00am Jabiru Bombers Football training: Brockman Oval, 5pm Jabiru Firey's Fitness Training: Magela Oval, 5.30pm Aqua Fitness: Jabiru Swimming Pool, 6.15pm Jackpot Joker Draw, Jabiru Golf Club 7.30pm

#### Fridays

Jabiru Golf Club raffles & Members Draw, 7pm Pool competition: Jabiru Golf Club, 7pm

#### Sundays

Jabiru Firey's Fitness Training 5.30pm

## **SEPTEMBER**

Thu 7 Indigenous Literacy Day Thu 14 Minjilang Community Info Session Fri 15 WARC Local Authority Meeting, Minjilang Wed 20 Ordinary Council Meeting, Jabiru

## **OCTOBER**

Wed 11 Ordinary Council Meeting, Jabiru

# **NEW FUEL TANK IN GUNBALANYA**

Access to fuel is an essential part of remote living, and in Gunbalanya, it is a critical element which allows West Arnhem Regional Council to deliver community services and programs.

Council recently had the opportunity to replace their old diesel old fuel tank with a new one which will be an important piece of equipment to maintain fuel needs when the community is cut off during the wet season.

The new system has been commissioned in its place and is fully operational. The tender was prepared and sent out for the supply of a new fuel tank system and NQ Petro Queensland was the successful tender.

With the installation now complete, Council now has a fully compliant system which will allow much safer and easy dispensing fuel into Council vehicles and machinery/plant.

The new fuel tank was sponsored by Local Roads and Community Infrastructure - Phase 2 funding.



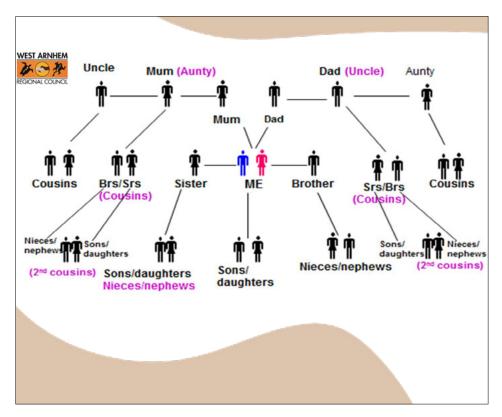
## COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS OPEN

Nominations close in 2 weeks and we don't want you to miss out!

Entry is free, and we would love you to nominate! You can enter an individual, group, business or organisation into one or more of the 7 categories below. Ready to answer a few simple questions? Go to our online portal and select the category from the dropdown nomination award menu. Want to recognise someone but don't have the time? No problem, we are more than willing to help! Simply Refer Someone to us - it takes only 2 minutes to complete the form and our team does the rest! We'll get in contact with them and have them complete the questions. It's that easy!

Great prizes are up for grabs and, we will send out a media release to each of the nominee's local papers encouraging them to write a story, and every nominee will receive a certificate of achievement!

To find out more about the Awards, please visit the website :https://awardsaustralia. com/community-achievement-awards/nt Nominations close on Tuesday 12 September 2023.



# **MACHINERY TRAINING IN GUNBALANYA**





Charles Darwin University conducted plant ticket training in Gunbalanya from 14- 29 August 2023. A total of 16 students (13 from West Arnhem Regional Council and 3 from DEMED) participated in training which included a front end loader, dozer, grader and skid steer. All students passed front end loader and Skid steer and some of the more experienced operators also passed in dozer and grader. Well done to all!



# Ask your mob, <u>your way,</u> RUOK?

66 Come from a place of love

and care. It's not about judging them for the way they've been behaving.

> Karen Meriam, Wagadagam

STRONSER TOGETREE ruok.org.au/strongertogether



RU®K?

ALBERTO LUGLIETTI MEMORIAL POOL

WEST ARNHEM

New opening hours commence Monday, 1 May 2023

Monday	1.30pm - 6.30pm
Tuesday	1.30pm - 6.00pm
Wednesday	1.30pm - 6.30pm
Thursday	1.30pm - 6.00pm
Friday	1.30pm - 6.00pm
Saturday	1.30pm - 6.30pm
Sunday	1.30pm - 6.30pm
Public Holidays	1.30pm - 6.30pm

Regular & casual pool passes available

Additional wet season hours 1 October - 30 April		
Tuesday	6.00am - 8.00am	
Thursday	6.00am - 8.00am	
Saturday morning sessions available		
<b>CLOSED</b> Good Friday, Christmas Day, New Year's day <b>NO SCHOOL, NO POOL POLICY</b>		

Olympic-sized pool with shade - children's splashpad & pool - playground - barbecue facilities - gym & shower facilities - kiosk - aqua fitness -- shaded picnic tables - mobility lift - kids Monorail - jumping pillow



The West Arnhem Wire | 19 August - 1 September 2023



#### << From Front Page

provide supports and lessons on how to build the capability of communities and governments, and the types of alternative commissioning that work best."

Minister for Disabilities, Ngaree Ah Kit said, "People with disability deserve inclusion, accessibility, opportunities and support no matter where they live.

"We welcome any support that improves the ability for NDIS participants in the bush to access disability services and addresses the challenges identified in the deep dive work.

"Alternative commissioning approaches will enable the community to identify new and innovative ways to bring disability services to communities that have historically not been able to access the services they need." Member for Ĺingiari, Marion Scrymgour said, "All Australians deserve to have

dignified care and support regardless of where they live. "With some of the most remote communities in Australia, it's absolutely critical to look into new ways of supporting people in the Northern Territory with complex needs.'

Member for Arafura, Manuel Brown said, "The recently launched deep dive in Maningrida examines how to improve the outcomes of the NDIS in remote and very remote communities across the Northern Territory.

"This will be a community led approach working in partnership with Traditional Owners, the disability sector, Aboriginal Health Organisations and all levels of government to create innovative solutions.

"The alternative commissioning trial is one way that utilisation barriers can be addressed and the deep dive will continue to examine other potential solutions.'

**North Australian Aboriginal** 

#### NAAFLS WILL BE IN

#### JABIRU

on the

### 26<sup>th</sup> September

#### If you need assistance you can find us

#### Courthouse

NAAFLS helps Aboriginal Men and Women in:

- ۲ Family Law
- ۲ Family and Domestic Violence (DVO's)
- ۲ **Child Protection**
- Victims of Crime Compensation ۲
- ۲ Witness Assistance / Court Support
- ۲ **Community Legal Education**
- ۲ **Referral and Advocacy services**
- **Tenancy / Housing**

For further information please contact:

#### **TOLL FREE NUMBERS**

Darwin - 1800 041 998

Katherine - 1800 184 868

1800 041 998 (08) 8923 8200 ne Road, Casuarina NT 0810 O Box 43104, Casuarina NT 0811 /w.naafls.com.au | ABN 94 099 016 613 | ICN:4641 1800 184 868 (08) 8972 3200 . 6 Katherine Terrace, Katherine 0 Box 240, Katherine NT 0851 admin@naafls.com.au erine NT 0850

## nunity to talk about the upcoming referendum!









#### Maningrida

Customer Service Officer - Level 3 - \$63k -\$68k, Permanent Full Time, No Accommodation provided – Applications opened till filled.

#### For more information:

Please phone 08 8979 9404 or email vacancy@westarnhen.nt.gov.au



Indigenous people are encouraged to apply

**North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service** 



#### NAAFLS WILL BE IN

#### **GUNBALANYA**

on the

#### 27<sup>th</sup> September

#### If you need assistance you can find us

#### Courthouse

NAAFLS helps Aboriginal Men and Women in:

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e NT 0850

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kadmin@naafls.com.au vw.naafls.com.au | ABN 94 099 016 613 | ICN:4641

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- - **Referral and Advocacy services**

- - - - **Child Protection**



# SOCIAL ACTIVITIES OUT ON COUNTRY

Two weeks ago, some of the Aged Care and NDIS participants went to visit Gunbalanya.

Everybody had a great time catching up with family and seeing community.

In the afternoon, on the way back to Jabiru/Town Camp, they stopped and had a fish along the way, and caught two barramuddi in the first few minutes of fishing.

When people with disabilities get on to the NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme),

these trips out - out on country, out fishing - are known as "Social & Community are known as "Social & Community Participation".

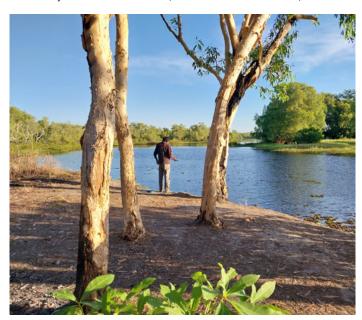
Assistance with Social and Community Participation comes from NDIS core funding.

Core funding is for everyday activities, such as going out to the shops, or going out to the billabong, as ways of staying active within the community. While Aged Care is more for the elders (over 50 if bininj over 65 if balanda), NDIS is

for anybody who is currently living with a disability, or for young ones under 7 who may need some early supports to assist them.

If you, or somebody you know, would like to know about the NDIS, or would like to sign up to the NDIS (if eligible), please speak with one of the Remote Community Connectors in your community - the people in the purple shirts!

"If you, or somebody you know, would like to know about the NDIS, or would like to sign up, speak with a Remote Community Connector in your community.."



We are coming to your community to talk about the upcoming referendum! We encourage anyone who want to know more about what a referendum is and how you can get yourself ready to vote. We will be in Gunbalanya on the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> of September

We will be holding morning sessions between 9:00am – 12:30pm in the Council Conference Hall on both days. Come in for a yarn and get ready for





#### **Referendum Education Session**

We are coming to your community to talk about the upcoming referendum We encourage anyone who want to know more about what a referendum is and how you can get yourself ready to vote to attend. We will be in Maningrida on the 5th, 6th and 7th of September. We will be holding sessions outside the **Post Office**. Come do morning for some morning tea and a yarn! We will see you there!







## **Bibi Planes** for Health





NACAS



Bibi planes are pilotless aircraft and are already improving the delivery of medicines and other health care products to remote communities across Africa and Asia. West Arnhem will be the first trial of Bibi planes in Australia.

+ spright





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Delivering health care to remote communities in the Top-End is challenging due to poor

road infrastructure and seasonal flooding.

Bibi planes (drones) could be the solution.

Map of the Bibi plane delivery flight

Before we start transporting medicines, we first need to trial the Bibi planes and see if they will cope with the Top-End weather. Red Lily Health Board will decide where the Bibi planes will fly to first







Outside Minjilang Council Office 1.00pm – 3.30pm Thursday, 14 September 2023

Ask Council staff questions about your community!

Hear from Member for Arafura Manuel

**Brown MLA** 

With a community barbecue!

Come along for some manme!

WEST ARNHEM

WEST ARNHEM

## West Arnhem Regional Council

Kakadu Ward by-election



There is 1 vacancy for the position of councillor in the West Arnhem Regional Council, Kakadu Ward by-election. Candidates are as follows; in ballot paper order:

- Mickitja Onus
- Charlotte Meneer

#### Where and when can I vote?

Mudginberri Thursday 7 Sept 11am - 12p	m		
marsady / Sept 11am 12p	····		
Cooinda Thursday 7 Sept 2pm - 3pm (undercover area outside Barra Bar & Bistro)			
Kakadu National Park Office Friday 8 Sept 9:15am - 10	D:15am		
Manabadurma Friday 8 Sept 11:30am - 2	12:15pm		
Jabiru, Community Hall Friday 8 Sept 2:15pm - 5: Saturday 9 Sept 8am - 2pm	:15pm		
NT Electoral Commission Monday 4 Sept 8am - 4:30p (Darwin office) to Friday 8 Sept	om		

#### What if I can't vote in-person?

If you are unable to vote in person, apply now for a postal vote. Postal vote applications close 6pm on Thursday 7 September.



www.ntec.nt.gov.auntec@nt.gov.au0889997623Authorised by the Northern Territory Electoral Commission80 Mitchell St Darwin NT 0800

The West Arnhem Wire | 19 August - 1 September 2023

# 22 HOMES ON THE WAY IN GUNBALANYA

New homes in the West Arnhem community of Gunbalanya are making a positive impact on residents in the community, with 16 homes complete and six more under construction.

The delivery of these homes has meant an extra 52 bedrooms in the community of just over 1,300 people.

As works continue, many more families are set to receive new and upgraded homes. In total, 57 new homes will be built in the community and an additional 67 bedrooms added as home extensions.

The first round of works is worth \$26.5 million and includes construction of 24 new homes under the HomeBuildNT program and the extension of 18 homes through the Room to Breathe program.

Works are being carried out through a joint venture by the Demed Aboriginal Corporation in Gunbalanya and Aboriginal-owned construction company Dice Australia (DDJV).

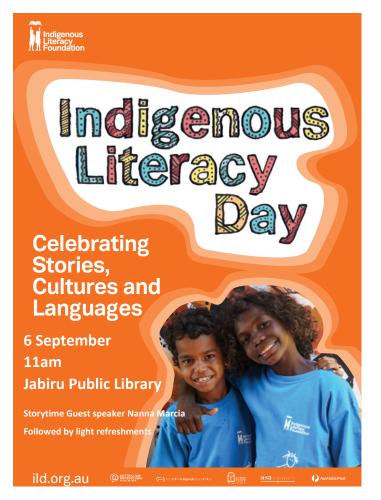
These works are jointly funded by the Northern Territory and Australian Governments through the \$2.1 billion Remote Housing Investment Package Our Community. Our Future. Our Homes – improving Aboriginal housing in remote communities.

Housing designs and allocations are chosen by the community, through the local decision-making process.

Since 2016, a record 2882 homes have been built or upgraded, while a further 795 homes are underway across the Territory under all remote housing programs.

Acting Minister for Housing and Homelands Ngaree Ah Kit said, "The Territory Labor Government is building more houses in the bush to alleviate overcrowding and support local jobs.

"Gunbalanya is one of the prettiest places in the Territory and it will look even better with the upgraded homes painted in bright colours."



## PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS

Japanese encephalitis (JE) is caused by the Japanese encephalitis virus. Encephalitis is inflammation of the brain tissue and is usually caused by an infection. The virus is spread through mosquito bites.

Infection in humans is most commonly asymptomatic.

On rare occasions, it can result in severe disease with brain damage and even death.

#### How it is spread

JE is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. It cannot be spread from person to person. In countries or regions where the virus is present, the transmission is more common

where the virus is present, the transmission is more common in areas of increased mosquito activity.

Pigs and wild water birds help spread the virus. It multiplies in infected pigs, leading to very high levels in their blood.

Mosquitoes feeding on infected pigs and water birds pick up the virus and may spread it to humans.

Symptoms

It usually takes 5 to 15 days between getting bitten by the infected mosquito and becoming unwell.

- Symptoms include:
- headaches
- fever
- seizures or fits (especially in young children)
  - neck stiffness
  - drowsiness

• confusion, delirium and coma in severe cases.

#### Treatment

There are no specific treatments for JE. In most cases, individuals are admitted to hospital where they are closely observed and given supportive care.

#### How to protect yourself

There are 2 ways to prevent JE: • avoid being bitten by

mosquitoes

• there is a vaccination. There is currently a limited supply of JE vaccines. If you're a Northern Territory (NT) resident you may be eligible to receive a free vaccine.





# ManingridaJABILocal RadioOPEN

## **Tune in to 106.1**



WEST ARNHEM



# JABIRU PUBLIC LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

#### New opening hours commence Monday, 6 March 2023

Monday	10.30am - 4.30pm	
Tuesday	10.30am - 4.30pm	
Wednesday	10.30am - 4.30pm	
Thursday	10.30am - 4.30pm	
Friday	10.30am - 4.30pm	
Saturday & Sunday CLOSED		
Public Holidays CLOSED		

#### **LIBRARY FEATURES:**

- Books: Adult fiction, Young Adult and Junior fiction)
- Extensive Kakadu CollectionGraphic novels
- Public WiFi & computers
- Non fiction and reference
- Free Audiobooks via BorrowBox
- DVDs & Music CDs
- Newspapers

FREE membership for Jabiru residents - FREE WiFi -Loan up to 20 books, 4 DVDs and CDs at a time -Access to a range of online research databases - FREE eBooks & eAudiobooks via BorrowBox - Weekly Mothers Group Storytime -School Holiday Programs

Visitors welcome! Contact: (08) 8979 9460 or library@westarnhem.ni:gov.au www.westarnhem.nt.gov.au

V A M

# MINJILANG HAVE FUN WITH FACE PAINTING

How fun is face painting! The young people in Minjillang enjoyed this activity at a recent West Arnhem Regional Council youth, sport and recreation program!











#### Want to work at a federal election?

Visit www.aec.gov.au register your interest

