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## Active Communities & Youth Services



Image: Basketball in Milingimbi with  
'Next 9'

# NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026

# ACTIVE COMMUNITIES & YOUTH SERVICES

JANUARY MARKED THE END OF A BUSY AND SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL HOLIDAY PERIOD FOR OUR ACYS TEAMS, HIGHLIGHTED BY A RANGE OF EXCITING PROVIDER VISITS ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES.

WE WERE PLEASED TO HOST SOUND ED IN RAMINGINING AND YIRRKALA, NEXT 9 IN MILINGIMBI, HOOPS 4 HEALTH IN GALIWIN'KU, BUILD UP SKATEBOARDING IN GAPUWIYAK AND RAMINGINING, AND CORRUGATED IRON ARTS IN MILINGIMBI. THROUGHOUT THE HOLIDAYS, ACYS TEAMS ALSO DELIVERED A VARIETY OF FUN, SAFE AND ENGAGING ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN EACH COMMUNITY.

THERE'S PLENTY TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2026. WE HAVE TWO UPCOMING GALA DAYS: THE UNDER 17S AFL X BOYS IN GUNYANGARA, HOSTING GAPUWIYAK AND YIRRKALA, AND THE UNDER 17S ULTIMATE FRISBEE COMPETITION IN MILINGIMBI, HOSTING GALIWIN'KU AND RAMINGINING. WE'RE ALSO LOOKING FORWARD TO THE REGIONAL AFL X GIRLS EVENT IN GUNYANGARA IN MAY.

THANK YOU

PETE

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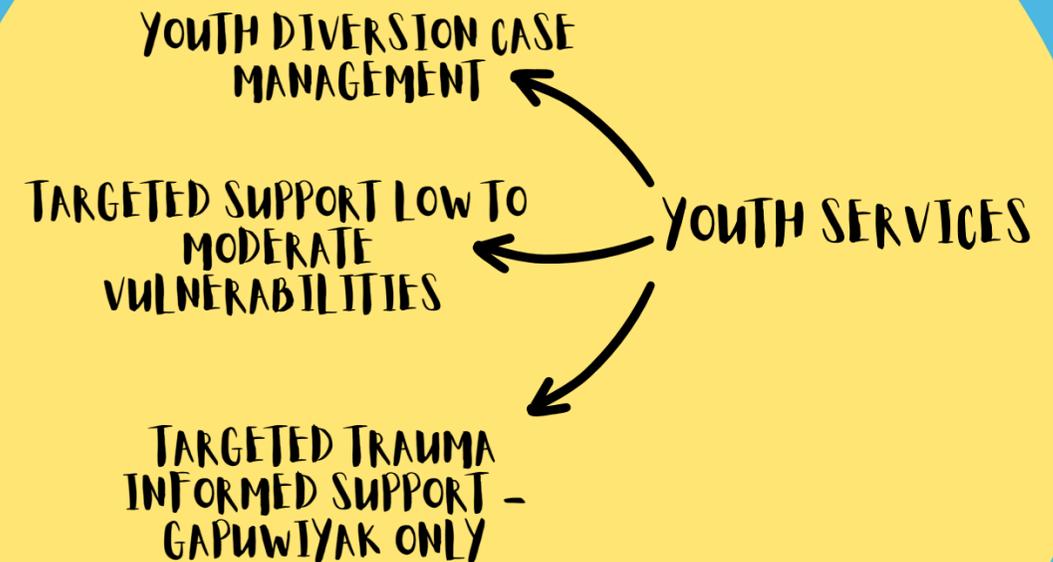
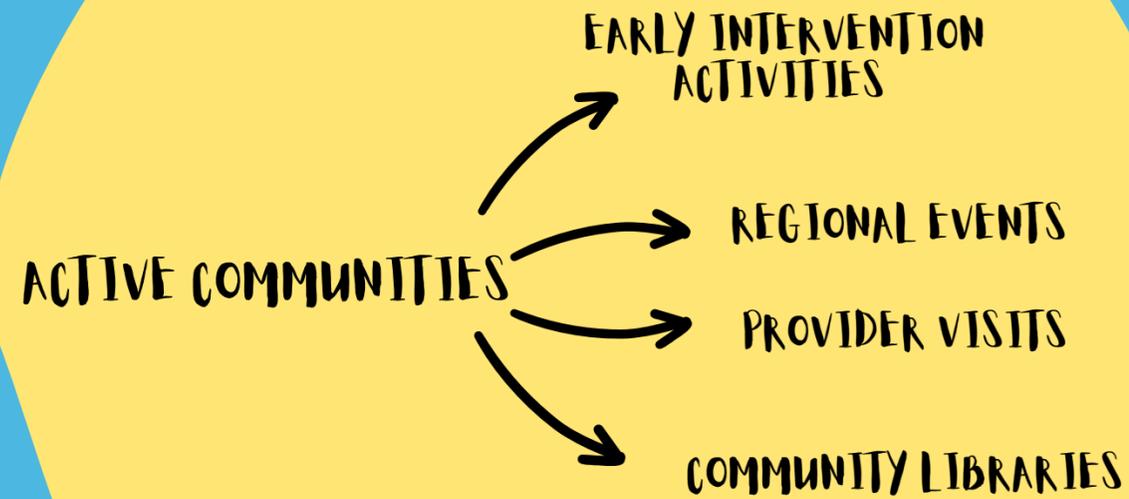


Image: School Holiday Disco in Galiwin'ku



Image: SoundEd Music Video recording in Yirrkala

# ACTIVE COMMUNITIES & YOUTH SERVICES



**ACTIVE COMMUNITIES** FOCUSES ON PROACTIVE, CONSISTENT YEAR-ROUND EARLY INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES FACILITATED AFTER SCHOOL HOURS AND DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS. ADDITIONALLY, WE FACILITATE MULTIPLE ANNUAL REGIONAL EVENTS, ENGAGE DIVERSE EXTERNAL PROVIDERS WHO ARE DOMAIN EXPERTS IN A RANGE OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT DISCIPLINES, AND WE NOW RUN COMMUNITY LIBRARIES IN SEVERAL COMMUNITIES.

ACTIVE COMMUNITIES IS MANAGED BY ACTIVE COMMUNITIES MANAGER, DANIEL RULE.

**YOUTH SERVICES** FOCUSES ON MORE TARGETED SUPPORT FOR AT RISK YOUNG PEOPLE EXPERIENCING LOW TO MODERATE VULNERABILITIES. EARC ACCEPT REFERRALS, PROVIDE ASSESSMENT, AND TRIAGE YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 3 SEPARATELY FUNDED BUT COMPLIMENTARY PROGRAM AREAS.

YOUTH SERVICES IS MANAGED BY YOUTH SERVICES MANAGER, CHRISTIAN AREVALO.

# PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT - JANUARY 2026

102

TOTAL ACTIVITIES DELIVERED

3997

TOTAL PARTICIPANT ENGAGEMENTS

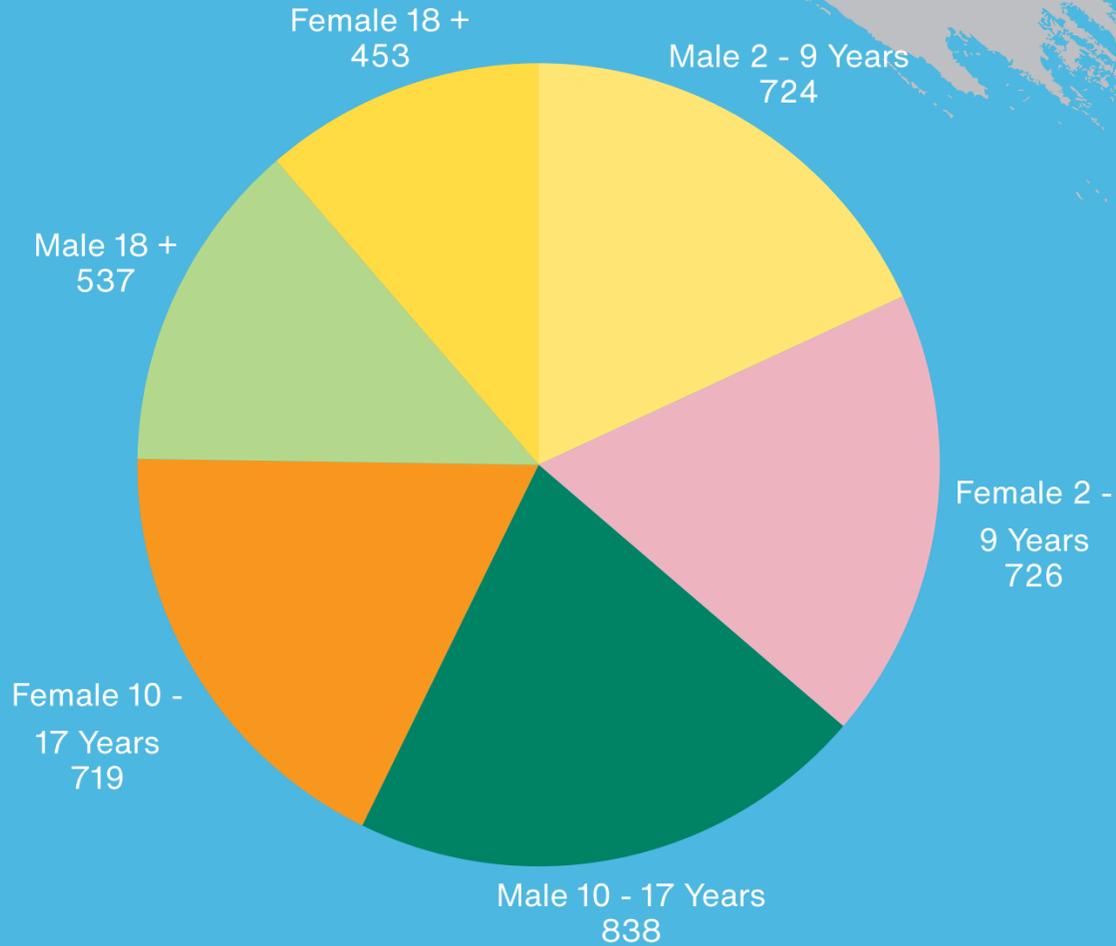


Image: Basketball in Yirrkala

# JANUARY 2026



# STAFF SPOTLIGHT: NIKOLAS MUNUNGGURR

I USED TO GO TO THE REC HALL AS A TEENAGER TO PLAY SPORT. I GREW UP IN GAPUWIYAK AND I LATER WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL AT SCOTS COLLEGE IN SYDNEY. AT SCHOOL, I PLAYED A LOT OF SPORT AND SANG IN THE CHOIR, WHICH LED TO A PERFORMANCE AT THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE FOR THE SCHOOL CHOIR.

BACK IN GAPUWIYAK, I LOVED LEARNING BASKETBALL FROM ATNAS, WHO WAS THE COORDINATOR AND A MENTOR FOR ME. THEN ONE DAY I REALISED I COULD DO THIS AS A JOB TOO. I LOVE TEACHING KIDS, PUSHING THEM AND SHOWING THEM HOW THEY CAN GET AHEAD IN THEIR FUTURE. I LOVE RUNNING ACTIVITIES LIKE VOLLEYBALL, FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL AND TAKING THEM OUT BUSH FOR FISHING.

THIS IS MY SECOND JOB. BEFORE, I WORKED ON A STATION IN THE DESERT. I LEARNED A LOT WHILE MUSTERING AND THE HEAD STOCKMAN WAS A GOOD ROLE MODEL FOR ME, ENCOURAGING ME TO WORK AND SHOWING ME A GOOD WORK ETHIC. I GAINED LEADERSHIP SKILLS FROM THAT JOB THAT I'M APPLYING HERE. I HELP TO KEEP KIDS AWAY FROM TROUBLE. I SIT AND TALK TO THEM QUIETLY. I ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THEM TO DO THE RIGHT THING.

IT'S MY DREAM TO BECOME A SINGER-SONGWRITER. I WANT TO WRITE SONGS AND MAKE MUSIC SO PEOPLE CAN HEAR AND SHARE MY STORY ABOUT WHERE I CAME FROM. I'M INSPIRED BY GREAT YOLNGU MUSICIANS SUCH AS YOTHU YINDI AND EAST JOURNEY BAND TO BUILD MY WAY UP IN THE WORLD. IN THE FUTURE, I WANT TO SHARE THESE SKILLS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE IN GAPUWIYAK SO THEY CAN DREAM BIGGER TOO.

IT'S FUN WORKING WITH MY TEAM AND SHARING THE EXPERIENCE WITH THEM. I'M LEARNING WITH THEM. SYLVIA AND SIKELI HELP ME A LOT, ENCOURAGING ME AND PUSHING ME.

THIS WORK HELPS COMMUNITY BY HELPING KIDS TO SET GOALS FOR THEIR FUTURE. THEY CAN END UP SOMEWHERE IN SCHOOL. THEY CAN BRING THE LIFE OF COMMUNITY TO OPPORTUNITIES DOWN SOUTH, SHARING THE SKILLS WE TAUGHT THEM HERE.

THE KIDS HAVE FUN PLAYING SPORT. THEY ARE ALWAYS HAPPY. THEY COME TO SHAKE MY HAND WHEN THEY ARRIVE AND WE HAVE FUN.



# EMPLOYMENT & CAPACITY BUILDING

DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY, OUR DELIVERY NETWORK FEATURED 27 STAFF, INCLUDING **23 STAFF MEMBERS IDENTIFYING AS INDIGENOUS**. THIS INCLUDED:

3 X FULL-TIME ACTIVE COMMUNITIES COORDINATORS

1 X CASUAL/PART-TIME YOUTH MENTORS

16 X CASUAL/PART-TIME ACTIVE COMMUNITIES WORKERS

3 X LIBRARY & CULTURAL HERITAGE WORKERS

OUR INDIGENOUS IDENTIFIED TEAM MEMBERS ARE CRITICAL IN THE DELIVERY OF STRENGTHS-BASED AND CULTURALLY CENTRED ACTIVITIES.



# ACTIVITY PROVIDER REPORT

12-16 JANUARY 2026

## SOUNDED - RAMINGINING

WAYNE FROM SOUNDED DELIVERED AN ENGAGING PROGRAM FOR PARTICIPANTS IN RAMINGINING DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS. THE PROGRAM INCLUDED SONG WRITING INCLUDING CREATING A THEME FOR THE VIDEO, CHOOSING A BEAT AND WRITING THE LYRICS.

THE SESSIONS THEN EVOLVED TO RECORDING VOICES SINGING THE SONGS. NEXT PARTICIPANTS TOOK WAYNE AROUND RAMINGINING TO FILM IN DIFFERENT PLACES. WAYNE HAS THEN COMPILED THE BEST FOOTAGE AND AUDIO TO CREATE THE MUSIC VIDEO FOR THE RAMINGINING COMMUNITY. THE SONG THAT HAS BEEN CREATED THROUGH THIS PROGRAM IS CALLED 'SHOW SOME LOVE'.

APPROXIMATELY 25 PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED THE WORKSHOPS EACH DAY, INCLUDING A MIX OF ADULTS, YOUNG KIDS AND TEENAGERS.

EARC HAS RECENTLY WORKED WITH WAYNE IN YIRRKALA (TWICE) AND GALIWIN'KU (TWICE). IT WAS SPECIAL TO BRING WAYNE TO RAMINGINING SO THAT THEY COULD ALSO RECORD A SONG CELEBRATING THEIR COMMUNITY. EACH TIME WAYNE WORKS IN COMMUNITY WE GET FANTASTIC ENGAGEMENT AND A NICE MEMENTO TO REMEMBER THE WORKSHOPS. THANKS WAYNE!

QUOTE FROM ACTIVE COMMUNITIES WORKER, JARICA: "KIDS ARE HAPPY TO JOIN IN AND HAVE A GO AT SINGING"

ANOTHER GREAT OUTCOME FROM THIS PROGRAM EMERGED FROM A CHALLENGE THAT WAS PRESENTED. OUR ACYS COORDINATOR DARRAN WAS ON LEAVE DURING THE PROGRAM. IN HIS ABSENCE, A LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY WAS PROVIDED FOR ACTIVE COMMUNITIES WORKER JARICA TO CLOSELY SUPPORT WAYNE TO DELIVER THE WORKSHOPS. JARICA TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY AND LED BY ENSURING STRONG COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, ASSISTING WITH NECESSARY ADMINISTRATION, AND DRIVING WAYNE AROUND COMMUNITY AS NEEDED. IT REALLY WAS AN EXAMPLE OF A GREAT SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM DELIVERED BY SOUNDED AND THE RAMINGINING ACYS TEAM. BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO JARICA FOR HELPING TO MAKE IT ALL HAPPEN!



# SOUNDED - RAMINGINING



# ACTIVITY PROVIDER REPORT

12-16 JANUARY 2026

## CORRUGATED IRON - MILINGIMBI

WE WELCOMED NIKKI AND NAT FROM CORRUGATED IRON YOUTH ARTS TO MILINGIMBI TO ASSIST WITH FACILITATION OF OUR SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM. NIKKI AND NAT FACILITATED A VARIETY OF CIRCUS, DANCE AND DRUMMING SKILLS AS PART OF THEIR FLIPS AND TRICKS PROGRAM.

THE TEAM FACILITATED SIX ACTIVITY SESSIONS WITH 20-40 PARTICIPANTS AT EACH SESSION AND APPROXIMATELY 70 UNIQUE PARTICIPANTS ENGAGING ACROSS THE WEEK.

NIKKI AND NAT NOTED STRONG PEER SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN GROUP SKIPPING ACTIVITIES. IT WAS ALSO EVIDENT THAT THERE WAS A LOT OF JOY AND EXHILARATION FOR PARTICIPANTS TRYING FLIPS IN A SAFE AND SUPPORTED ENVIRONMENT ON THE MINI TRAMP. ADDITIONALLY, MANY PARTICIPANTS EXPERIENCED INDIVIDUAL SUCCESS WITH PLATES ACTIVITIES AND DRUMMING CREATED A GOOD OUTLET FOR ANY EXTRA ENERGY THE PARTICIPANTS HAD.

YOUNG PEOPLE LEFT EACH NIGHT ENSURING THEY KNEW WHEN ACTIVITIES WOULD START AGAIN THE NEXT DAY SO THEY DIDN'T MISS A MINUTE OF THE ACTION.

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE MILINGIMBI SCHOOL FOR LOANING THE MINI TRAMP AND CRASH MATS SO THAT THE COMMUNITY COULD GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS PROGRAM!

THANKS CORRUGATED IRON YOUTH ARTS FOR ANOTHER EXCITING PROGRAM!



# CORRUGATED IRON - MILINGIMBI



# ACTIVITY PROVIDER REPORT

12-16 JANUARY 2026

## BUILD UP SKATEBOARDING - GAPUWIYAK

THE GAPUWIYAK PROGRAM WAS WELL RECEIVED, WITH STRONG INTEREST FROM THE KIDS AND COMMUNITY ABOUT SKATEBOARDING RETURNING. ATTENDANCE WAS HIGH AND CONSISTENT THROUGHOUT SESSIONS. DUE TO LIMITED EQUIPMENT, PARTICIPANTS SHARED SKATEBOARDS AND TOOK TURNS DURING ACTIVITIES.

THE PROGRAM SUPPORTED POSITIVE SOCIAL OUTCOMES ACROSS THE WEEK. AS SESSIONS CONTINUED, PARTICIPANTS SHOWED INCREASED CONFIDENCE AND WILLINGNESS TO TAKE PART, WITH ALL PARTICIPANTS EAGER AFTER INITIALLY BEING HESITANT. THE DYNAMIC AND FLEXIBLE DELIVERY OF THE PROGRAM SUPPORTED HIGH ENGAGEMENT, PARTICIPATION, AND A SENSE OF OWNERSHIP IN EQUIPMENT, WITH PARTICIPANTS SHOWING PRIDE IN THEIR PROGRESS AND INCREASED CONFIDENCE IN THEIR ABILITIES.

QUOTE FROM PARTICIPANT (BOY, 10) "ITS REALLY COOL. I HAVENT USED MY BOARD IN AGES AND YOU GUYS ARE REALLY NICE"

QUOTE FROM PARTICIPANT (BOY, 13) " YO I LIKE IT" "YOU CAN GO FAST AND HAVE FUN AND LEARN SCARY THINGS"

OVER THE WEEK, NUMEROUS COMMUNITY MEMBERS NOTED THEIR INTEREST IN THE PROGRAM AND WERE HAPPY FOR THE ACTIVITY TO BE DELIVERED.

QUOTE FROM EARC YOUTH MENTOR THOMAS " THE DJAMAKULI REALLY LIKE IT. THEY'VE BEEN EXCITED ALL DAY FOR YOU GUYS TO COME AND TEACH THEM... ITS GOOD TO DO SOMETHING NEW AND PLAY NEW GAMES"

FOR FUTURE PROGRAMS - SHARING SHOULD REMAIN A FOCUS. THE PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL SKATEBOARDS IS RECOMMENDED DUE TO VERY HIGH PARTICIPANT ENGAGEMENT. THE SUPPORT FROM LOCAL STAFF, INCLUDING YOLŊU-SPEAKING WORKERS, WAS CRITICAL IN ASSISTING COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT. WE LOOK FORWARD TO FUTURE PROGRAMMING!

- THE BUILD UP SKATEBOARDING TEAM



# BUILD UP SKATEBOARDING - GAPUWIYAK



# ACTIVITY PROVIDER REPORT

19-23 JANUARY 2026

## HOOPS 4 HEALTH - GALIWIN'KU

WE WELCOMED DAMIEN AND QUENTON FROM HOOPS 4 HEALTH TO FACILITATE BASKETBALL ACTIVITIES IN GALIWIN'KU DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.

THE PROGRAM INCLUDED BASKETBALL SHOOT AROUND SESSIONS, CULTURAL AND BASKETBALL SKILLS SESSIONS AND TWO TOURNAMENT NIGHTS.

THE PROGRAM RAN ACROSS FOUR NIGHTS AND HAD STRONG ENGAGEMENT FROM CHILDREN, TEENAGERS AND ADULTS. WE WERE ALSO PLEASED TO INVITE MIWATJ HEALTH TO SHARE MESSAGES ABOUT HEALTHY LIFESTYLES TO COMPLEMENT THE APPROACH FROM HOOPS 4 HEALTH.

A HUGE ATTENDANCE OF 80 PEOPLE OF ALL AGES JOINED FOR THE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT NIGHT ON THE THURSDAY NIGHT TO COMPLETE THE HOOPS 4 HEALTH WORKSHOPS. AFTER THE GAMES, HOOPS 4 HEALTH AWARDED MANY PRIZES AND EVERYONE SHARED A BBQ.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO DAMIEN, QUENTON AND THE HOOPS 4 HEALTH TEAM FOR THE EXCELLENT PROGRAM DELIVERED IN GALIWIN'KU!



# HOOPS 4 HEALTH - GALIWIN'KU



# ACTIVITY PROVIDER REPORT

19-23 JANUARY 2026

## NEXT 9 SPORTS ACADEMY - MILINGIMBI

WE WERE PLEASED TO WELCOME ATNAS FROM NEXT 9 SPORTS ACADEMY TO FACILITATE A SERIES OF BASKETBALL WORKSHOPS FOR THE MILINGIMBI COMMUNITY DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.

ATNAS WAS RETURNING TO MILINGIMBI AFTER DELIVERING A PROGRAM FOR THE MILINGIMBI SCHOOL IN DECEMBER 2025. ACCORDINGLY, HE WAS ABLE TO BUILD UPON THE SKILLS OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SERIES OF WORKSHOPS.

ATNAS RAN A VARIETY OF DRILLS AND GAMES ON FIVE AFTERNOONS AND EVENINGS. ENGAGEMENT WAS STRONG EACH DAY WITH 20-40 PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN EACH SESSION. THERE IS A REAL DESIRE IN MILINGIMBI FOR BASKETBALL PROGRAMS AND ATNAS WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE THIS WITH GREAT STRUCTURE.

THANKS SO MUCH ATNAS FOR AN INSPIRING PROGRAM!



# NEXT 9 SPORTS ACADEMY - MILINGIMBI



# ACTIVITY PROVIDER REPORT

19-23 JANUARY 2026

## BUILD UP SKATEBOARDING - RAMINGINING

THE SCHOOL HOLIDAY BUILD UP SKATEBOARDING ROADSHOW MOVED ON FROM GAPUWIYAK AND LANDED IN RAMINGINING FOR ANOTHER FIVE DAYS OF WORKSHOPS.

BUILD UP SKATEBOARDING WERE RETURNING TO RAMINGINING AFTER A SUCCESSFUL VISIT IN 2025. THEY WERE MET WITH ENTHUSIASM BY THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WERE EAGER TO GET BACK ON THE BOARDS AND DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS.

THE PROGRAM COMMENCED WITH BUILDING 10 NEW SKATEBOARDS THAT HAD BEEN PURCHASED AND SENT TO RAMINGINING IN ADVANCE OF THE PROGRAM DELIVERY. THE YOUNG PEOPLE ALWAYS ENGAGE WELL CONSTRUCTING THEIR BOARDS.

ONCE BUILT, SKILLS PROGRESSED FROM SITTING AND LYING ON BOARDS TO STANDING WITH SUPPORT FROM A COACH. MORE ADVANCED SKATEBOARDERS WERE THEN ABLE TO PROGRESS TO RIDING STANDING UP ON THEIR OWN.

PARTICIPATION WAS REGULARLY AROUND 30 ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPANTS PER DAY WITH YOUNG PEOPLE STAYING UNTIL THE REC HALL CLOSED AT NIGHT. LOTS OF POSITIVE FEEDBACK HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM YOUNG PEOPLE AND STAFF ALIKE.

SINCERE THANKS TO COACHES ALAN AND WILLIAM FOR FACILITATING ANOTHER EXCELLENT AND ENGAGING PROGRAM FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF RAMINGINING. SKATEBOARDING WILL CONTINUE TO BE A REGULAR PART OF OUR PROGRAMMING IN RAMINGINING.



# BUILD UP SKATEBOARDING - RAMINGINING



# ACTIVITY PROVIDER REPORT

19-23 JANUARY 2026

SOUNDED - YIRRKALA

THANKS TO NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT, YOUNG PEOPLE IN YIRRKALA WERE ABLE TO ATTEND MUSIC VIDEO WORKSHOPS DELIVERED BY WAYNE FROM SOUNDED.

OUR ACTIVE COMMUNITIES COORDINATOR, ROB AND HIS TEAM WERE ABLE TO SUPPORT WAYNE'S EXCELLENT PROGRAM FROM THE YIRRKALA DROP-IN CENTRE. THE PROGRAM ENGAGED 64 UNIQUE PARTICIPANTS.

SIMILAR TO THE SOUNDED PROGRAM DELIVERED IN RAMINGINING THE WEEK PRIOR, THE PROGRAM INCLUDED SONG WRITING INCLUDING CREATING A THEME FOR THE VIDEO, CHOOSING A BEAT AND WRITING THE LYRICS. THE SONG THAT HAS BEEN CREATED THROUGH THIS PROGRAM IS CALLED 'ONE BIG FAMILY'.

THE SESSIONS THEN EVOLVED TO RECORDING VOICES SINGING THE SONGS. NEXT PARTICIPANTS TOOK WAYNE AROUND YIRRKALA TO FILM IN DIFFERENT PLACES. WAYNE HAS THEN COMPILED THE BEST FOOTAGE AND AUDIO TO CREATE THE MUSIC VIDEO FOR THE YIRRKALA COMMUNITY.

THE MUSIC VIDEO DEVELOPED IN THIS PROGRAM CAN BE VIEWED HERE: [YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=EAIR5YXU3PC](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAIR5YXU3PC)



# SOUNDED - YIRRKALA



# LOOKING AHEAD...

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 28 MARCH

- GALA DAY - UNDER-17 BOYS AFL - GUNYANGARA (PARTICIPATING TEAMS INCLUDE GAPUWIYAK, YIRRKALA AND GUNYANGARA)

### 18 APRIL

- GALA DAY - UNDER-17 MIXED ULTIMATE FRISBEE - MILINGIMBI (PARTICIPATING TEAM INCLUDE RAMINGINING, MILINGIMBI AND GALIWIN'KU)

### 6-10 APRIL

- CORRUGATED IRON YOUTH ARTS - YIRRKALA/GUNYANGARA
- CORRUGATED IRON YOUTH ARTS - GAPUWIYAK
- MILINGIMBI ART - MILINGIMBI
- BULA BULA ART - RAMINGINING



# JOIN OUR TEAM!

ROLES WITH THE ACYS TEAM ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN:

GALIWIN'KU, GAPUWIYAK, GUNYANGARA, MILINGIMBI & RAMINGINING

GET IN TOUCH TO DISCUSS THESE ROLES:

[DANIEL.RULE@EASTARNHEM.NT.GOV.AU](mailto:DANIEL.RULE@EASTARNHEM.NT.GOV.AU)

[EASTARNHEM.NT.GOV.AU/EMPLOYMENT/  
POSITIONS-VACANT](https://EASTARNHEM.NT.GOV.AU/EMPLOYMENT/POSITIONS-VACANT)



# We want to hear from you!

EARC Activity Provider Community  
Visits Survey 2025



Active Communities  
& Youth Services

SCAN THE QR CODE

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## ACTIVE COMMUNITIES & YOUTH SERVICES PLAYLIST



**Active Communities  
& Youth Services**



**YouTube**

