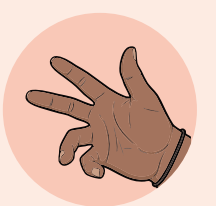




WAT NA! NEWS



Balgo • Billiluna • Halls Creek • Mulan • Ringer Soak • Warmun • Yiyili

EDITION 1

OCTOBER 2025



CREDIT: SHIRE OF HALLS CREEK

Our stories, our paper: Halls Creek launches its own newspaper

TAKE ME
I'M FREE!

Welcome to Wat Na!, the Shire of Halls Creek's new community paper. It is a big moment for our town and remote communities.

In remote places like ours, community newspapers are more than just news. They are places to share stories, celebrate events, and keep a record of life. Now, the Shire has one of its own.

The Shire of Halls Creek will help put the paper together each month. But the paper belongs to the people. Everyone in the community is welcome to share stories, photos, notices, memories, and history.

Across Australia, community newspapers have a proud history. For example, the Koori Mail, owned by Aboriginal groups since 1991, is read all over the country and has won many awards. In Arnhem Land, the

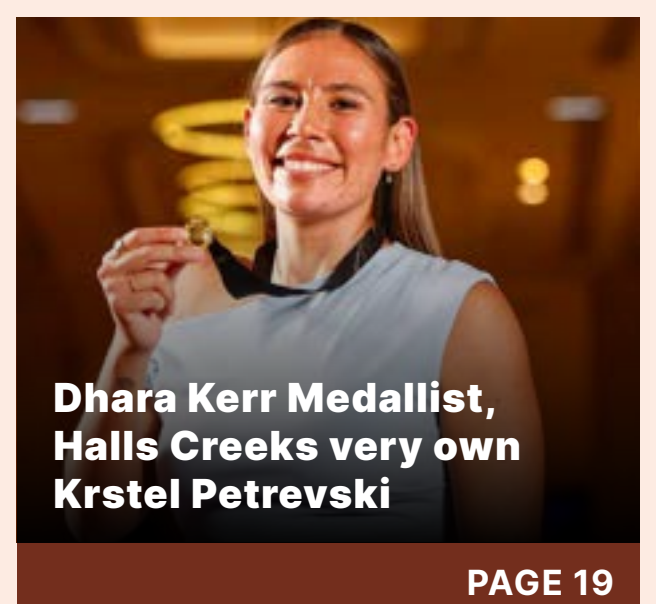
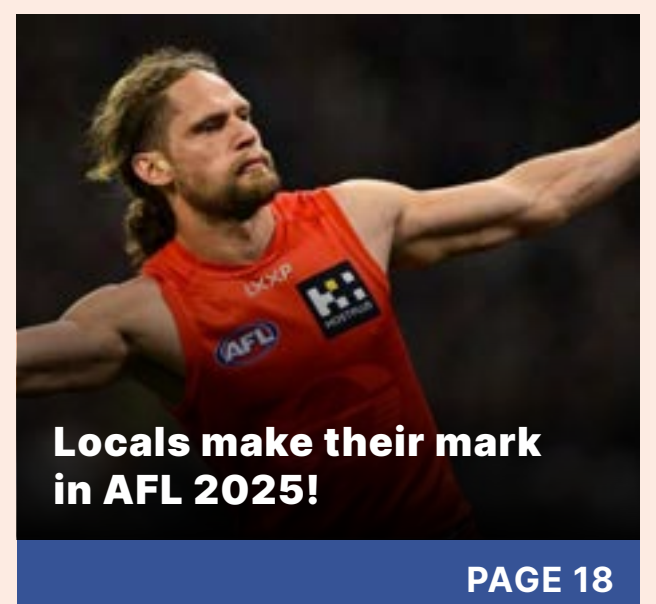
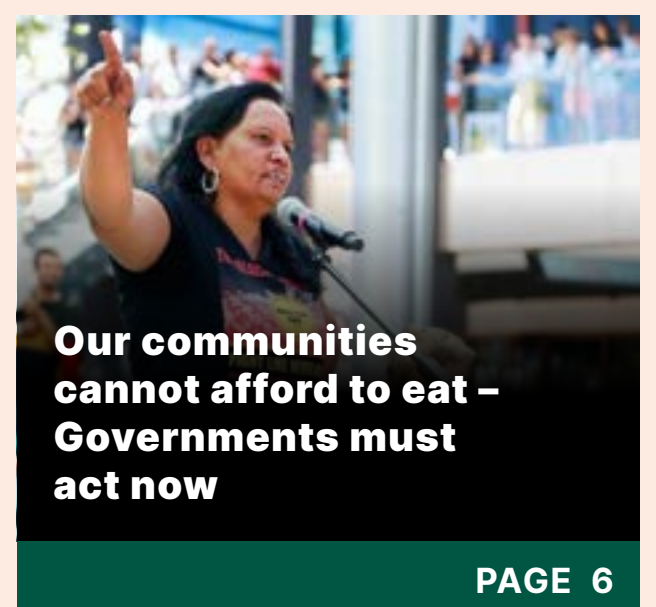
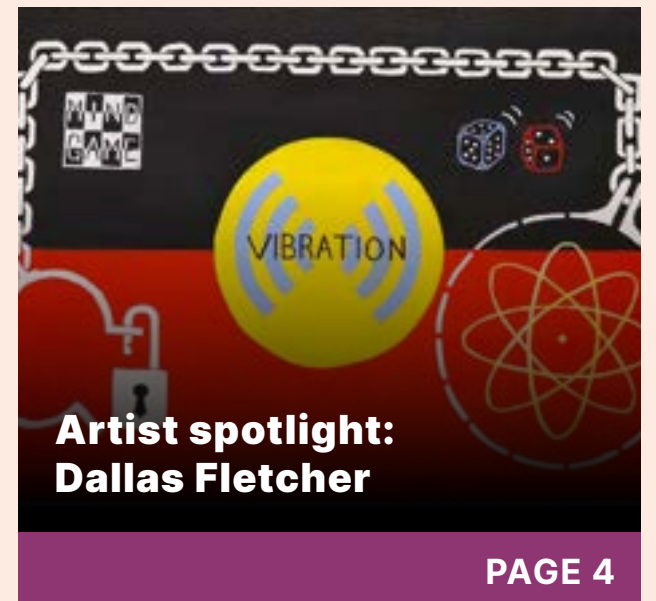
Ngukurr News helped young people get more involved in their community.

Researchers also say these papers do more than just make people feel good. Anthropologist Professor Kate Senior found that newspapers in remote Indigenous communities gave residents a way to tell stories that were positive, nuanced, and deeply connected to their culture.

For our Shire, this paper is about connection. It will share trusted news, keep a record of daily life, and give local people a voice. Most of all, it will belong to everyone. It is a place where our Shire can see itself, tell its own stories, and stay strong together.

Welcome to the first edition.

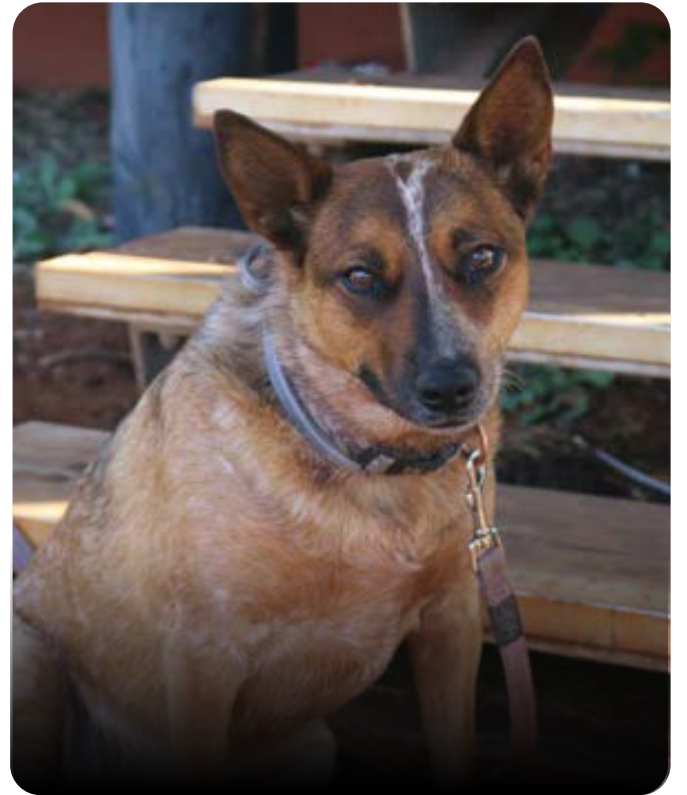
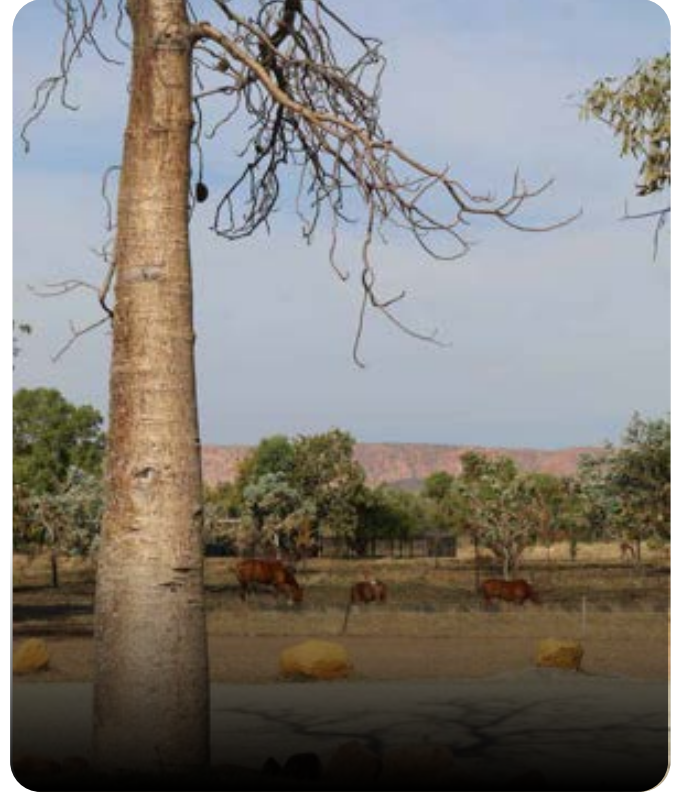
WORDS BY SHIRE STAFF





Captured in Halls Creek

Share your adventures around the Shire of Halls Creek! Tag your posts with **#WatNaHallsCreek** on Instagram, or email your favourite shots to **watnanews@hcshire.wa.gov.au**.



Listen to Wat Na! on 6PRK 98.1FM Stereo Halls Creek

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which the Shire operates and pay our respect to Elders, past, present and emerging; for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of First Nations peoples across the country and are instrumental in shaping our collective futures.



New stories, new space

At the Shire of Halls Creek we believe this town and our communities are a place of talent, beauty and possibility – and this year we put that belief to work – for today, tomorrow and for our children’s children.

We listened first. Hundreds of residents, elders, families and youth helped shape the draft Strategic

Community Plan. Your priorities were clear: safer streets and stronger youth support, reliable services, more housing, respect for culture and Country, and opportunities for local business. That plan will steer how we invest and build.

We also commissioned a Placemaker Plan that reflects how locals want town life to look, feel and function: cooler, greener streets; shade and seating; safer walking links; more public spaces for families and elders; a main street that entices local traders to expand. Early designs and funding bids are in action.

In addition to planning for the future, we have hired new staff to improve service delivery now, taken on local trainees, and taken practical steps like healthy skin week, food safety checks (and price checks), animal management and waste education

– small actions that add up to healthier homes and cleaner streets.

Belief means committing long term. It means backing local talent, investing in our local relationships and people, being honest about the challenges we face, and staying on the tools.

To keep you in the loop on all plans underway, we’ve launched Wat Na! So hold us to account. Share ideas. Join in.

Halls Creek’s future is not something that happens to us. It’s something we build together – proudly, patiently, and with both feet on the ground.

**WORDS BY SUE LEONARD,
CEO, Shire of Halls Creek**

Have a story to share?

We’d love to hear from you! This newspaper is a shared community space for ideas, stories, feedback, and local voices.

See the list on the right for the types of content we’re looking for, and please keep submissions respectful and considerate.

To submit a story please email
watnanews@hcshire.wa.gov.au

- Opinion pieces
- News articles (100–300 words)
- Lifestyle tips (cooking, gardening, home, etc.)
- Event info or posters
- Sports and cultural news
- Classifieds, wedding & funeral notices
- Photos, artwork or drawings
- Health promotion or visiting services info



Wat Na! is created and published by the Shire of Halls Creek with help from local contributors. Thank you to everyone who shared stories and photos.



Artist spotlight



**Dallas
Fletcher**

Dallas was born in Halls Creek in 1969. His mother was Kija and his father a Jaru man from the Halls Creek area.

He was schooled in Broome and South Hedland, and then after some time living at Ardyaloon, Dallas returned to Halls Creek.

Dallas paints in the Yarliyil studio regularly, but unlike his fellow artists whose paintings are depictions of culture and country, Dallas paints as a means to express wider political and societal themes that affect Aboriginal people.

Dallas explores human rights abuses and injustices as well as societal concerns, such as the use and misuse of AI and human data.

**WORDS AND IMAGES SUPPLIED
BY YARLIYIL ARTS CENTRE**



In this painting I am talking about the new developments in AI. It is being used to take the place of real people, but this will never be the same as real flesh and blood.

Flesh and blood is the real pure data that has gone on and on since the beginning of time.

We don't have history of a computer; we have history of land and skin and country and culture. We are pure data in our own right and no-one can take this from us. Our voices matter, we don't need a computer AI speaking for us.

Government mobs are committing treason - they are making moves against country. The boomerang talks about my fight for our pure data, our real history.

– Dallas Fletcher

Follow Yarliyil Arts Centre on Facebook & Instagram @yarliyilarts

Syphilis declared national health emergency – what you need to know

In August 2025, syphilis was declared a Communicable Disease Incident of National Significance across Australia.

That means it’s spreading fast – especially in remote parts of Western Australia – and health authorities are taking swift action to stop it.

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) that spreads through all types of sex, even when people don’t have symptoms. It can also be passed from a pregnant mother to her baby, causing miscarriage, still-birth, or lifelong health problems for the child.

The Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia (AHCWA) says

Aboriginal people are seven times more likely to catch syphilis than non-Aboriginal people, due to barriers like stigma, shame, and the lack of culturally safe health care.

Syphilis can cause serious health problems if untreated, but it’s simple to test for and completely curable with medicine.

How to look after yourself and your family:

- Get a sexual health check regularly – even if you feel fine
- Use condoms when you have sex

- If you’re pregnant, ask your clinic for a syphilis test early and again later in pregnancy
- If you think you’ve been exposed, see your clinic straight away. Treatment is free and private

Free condoms are available from the Condom Trees at the pub (in the toilets), Yura Yungi, Turkey Creek Roadhouse, Warmun Clinic, and the general store in Warmun. There is also a condom tree at Yiyili Clinic, while Balgo, Mulan and Billiluna have condoms on request over the counter. Ringer Soak clinic has a Condom Tree inside the clinic.

WORDS BY SHIRE STAFF





Our communities cannot afford to eat – governments must act now

WORDS BY MEGAN KRAKOUER

*Director, National Suicide Prevention and Trauma Recovery Project,
law graduate completing admission process to become a fully qualified lawyer*

I recently travelled to the Kimberley for sorry business, spending time in Halls Creek before visiting Mulan Aboriginal Community. These journeys carry deep cultural and emotional significance. But alongside the grief, I was confronted with a reality that should alarm all Australians: families in WA cannot afford to eat, especially in the midst of a national cost of living crisis.

In Halls Creek – a town centre, not a remote outstation – basic food prices are staggering. A quarter of a watermelon cost over \$20, nine lamb chops over \$25, twenty sausages more than \$25, a single nectarine \$6.72, and five bananas \$11. These are not luxuries; they are everyday essentials.

When families are priced out of fresh food, poor nutrition becomes inevitable. It drives diabetes, heart

disease, kidney failure, and other chronic illnesses. Hunger and poverty also correlate with higher rates of crime, yet governments continue to treat the consequences of poverty as a criminal issue. In effect, poverty itself is being criminalised.

This is not only an Indigenous issue. Low-income earners, those living below the poverty line, and many non-Indigenous families are being crushed by these costs. Food insecurity is a broader social crisis that affects the entire community.

There are 274 remote communities in Western Australia, all facing similar challenges. The Federal Labor Government, Senator Malarndirri McCarthy, Minister for Indigenous Australians, has implemented a food security package in the Northern Territory. She must extend this package to WA – failing to do so is

a failure in her role. Meanwhile, the WA State Labor Government has done nothing to address this crisis, leaving families behind. That inaction is a political choice – and it is costing lives.

As a law graduate completing the admission process to become a fully qualified lawyer, and as Director of the National Suicide Prevention and Trauma Recovery Project, I see firsthand how hunger and poverty feed despair, trauma, mental ill-health, and suicide. Yet I also see the strength, resilience, and resourcefulness of the community. Families, elders, and community leaders work tirelessly to support each other, maintain culture, and protect children despite immense hardship. To deny families the ability to put healthy food on the table is to deny them dignity, hope, and the chance to thrive.

The solutions are clear and urgent:

- 1. Extend the NT food security package to WA immediately, ensuring remote communities can access affordable, healthy food
- 2. Regulate food and freight prices in regional and remote towns to prevent price gouging
- 3. Implement targeted subsidies for low-income families, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to guarantee access to essential nutrition

- 4. Prioritise community-led solutions, working with Aboriginal leaders to ensure culturally appropriate programs that address health, education, and food security simultaneously
- 5. Establish a Halls Creek Advisory Council, with positions specifically quarantined for Indigenous representatives, and hold regular meetings to guide local decision-making

Closing the Gap targets cannot be met if children and families cannot access healthy food. Food is a human right, not a privilege

I have already contacted the Indigenous Affairs Minister Malarndiri McCarthy, the Premier of WA Roger Cook, and Labor Senator Dorinda Cox. The message is clear: our communities cannot wait another day. Governments must act now – before hunger, disease, and despair claim more lives.



INFLATED PRICES IN HALLS CREEK. CREDIT: MEGAN KRAKOUER



CREDIT: MEGAN KRAKOUER



CREDIT: MEGAN KRAKOUER



CREDIT: AUSTRALIA'S NORTH WEST

Farewell from Shire President Malcolm Edwards



After many years serving this community, I have made the decision to step down as Shire President. It has been a great privilege to represent Halls Creek, and while I am resigning from this role, I will continue to call this place home.

My time in local government has stretched across nearly three decades, with 28 years as a councillor and the past 10 as Shire President. I did take a break in the early 2000s, but I was drawn back by my hopes for the future of our Shire and the drive to see real social and economic prosperity here.

One passion has stood above all others: the bitumisation of the Tanami Road. That cause has taken me to Canberra to lobby politicians, and it has given me some memorable

stories. I still remember racing down to the Kimberley Hotel after hearing the federal transport minister was in town – I wasn’t even a councillor at the time – to tell him about the potential of the Tanami. The very next day, he went to see it for himself, and funding soon followed.

I am also proud of the strong relationships I have built across the Kimberley and the way Shire Presidents have worked together for the good of our communities. Local government has changed enormously since I began – when agendas were typed on a typewriter and accounts written by hand in a ledger – but the heart of it remains the same: people working for their community.

I would like to thank our CEO, Sue Leonard, my fellow councillors, and

the Shire team behind the scenes. Their hard work and support have made my time as President very rewarding, and I know they will continue to serve Halls Creek with dedication.

Although I step down from this role, my interest in the Tanami and the opportunities it can bring to our region will never fade. Former Broome Shire president Harold Tracey promised that whatever happens, he’ll push me down the Tanami in a wheelchair himself if he has too. I may be leaving the office, but I’ll still be here, watching with pride as our Shire moves forward towards growth, prosperity, and full, rich lives for us all.

WORDS BY MALCOLM EDWARDS



Health and Wellbeing Festival joins PRK Radio's 35th celebration!

Mark your calendars: the Nguyuru Waaringarrem, Health and Wellbeing Festival will take over the Halls Creek Recreation Centre on Saturday 1 November 2025.

Led by Yura Yungi Medical Service in partnership with the community, the festival celebrates healthy living, culture, and connection. Attendees can expect community stalls and activities during the day, followed

by cultural performances and live bands in the evening.

This year's festival also doubles as a milestone party for Puranyanga-Ranka Kerrum (PRK) Radio, which is celebrating 35 years on air serving Halls Creek and the East Kimberley. Organisers say combining the two events will create a bigger, more inclusive program that showcases local talent while making it easier

for families to be part of the action.

The event will be alcohol-, drug- and smoke-free. Organisers warmly thank sponsors and supporters for making the program possible and encourage families to come along, bring the kids, and celebrate community.

WORDS BY SHIRE STAFF



Nguyuru Waaringarrem Health and Wellbeing Festival!



Where:

Halls Creek Recreation and Aquatic Centre



When:

Saturday 1 November 2025

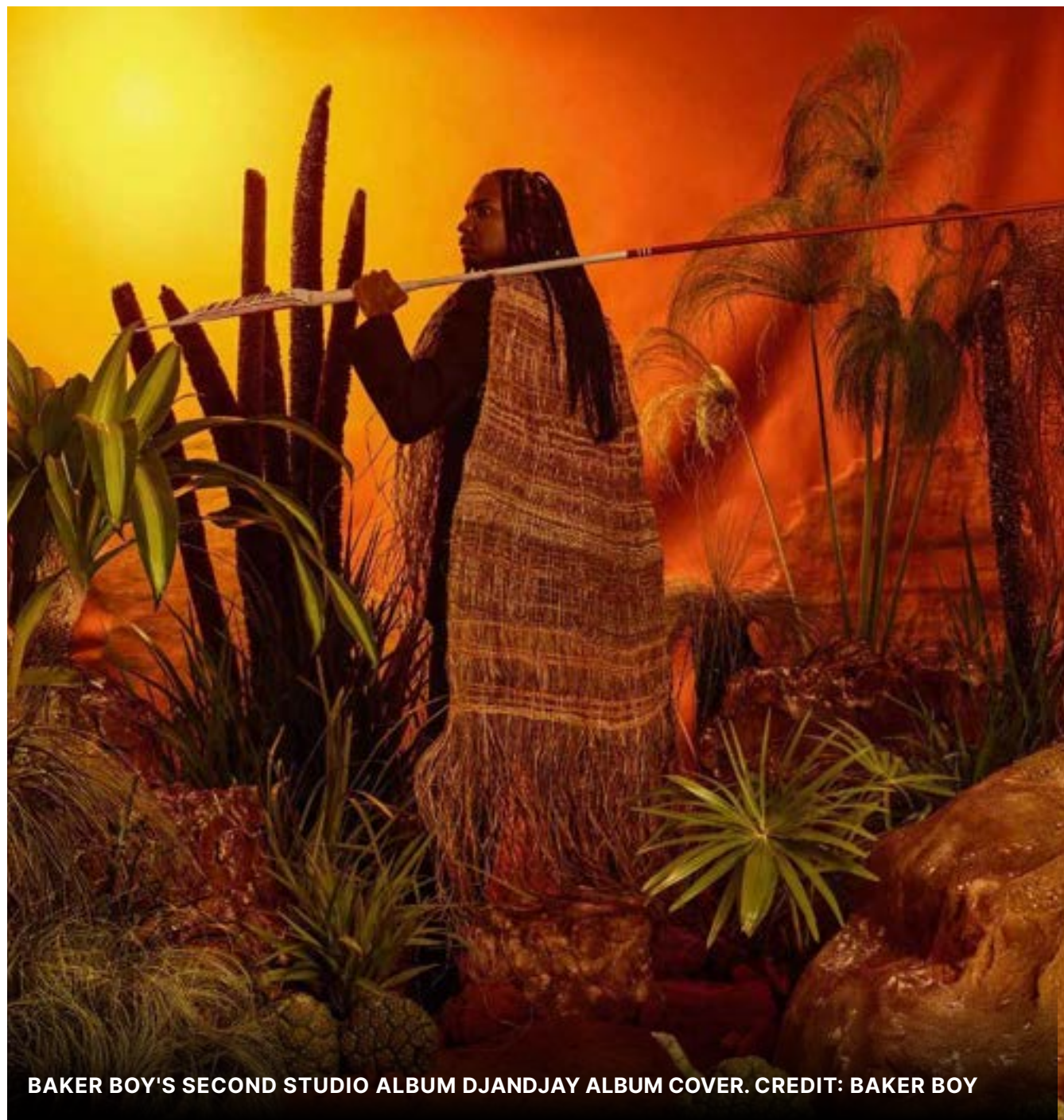


Important:

Alcohol-, drug- and smoke-free event

Highlights:

- Community stalls and activities during the day
- Cultural performances in the evening
- Live bands into the night



Baker Boy drops second album 'DJANDJAY' & shares AFL Grand Final stage with Snoop Dogg

Yolngu rapper Baker Boy has released his second studio album, *DJANDJAY*, which landed on the 10 October via Island/Universal.

"DJANDJAY is about truth. It's about strength and defiance. I put my whole self into this album – and it feels like all of me is in there,"

he told *Rolling Stone Australia* magazine.

A proud First Nations artist from Arnhem Land who raps in Yolngu Matha, Burarra and English, Baker Boy has

long championed language and culture in the mainstream.

Talking about the new album on Instagram, Baker Boy said the album feels like "a whole new level".

"It's deeper, more personal and feels like my most powerful work yet."

"Named after my late grandmother and the Yolngu spirit guide DJANDJAY, this album is about strength, truth, and stepping into who I really am. I really poured everything I got into this album over the last two years and can't wait to share it with

you in full."

His momentum peaks after the 2025 AFL Grand Final, where he debuted single "Thick Skin" at the MCG accompanied by Emma Donovan and Kee'ahn. He later returned to the stage to add a Didgeridoo flourish during Snoop Dogg's pre-game extravaganza.

Baker Boy's profile is both critical and commercial: his debut album *Gela* swept five ARIA Awards in 2022, including Album of the Year and Best Solo Artist.

WORDS BY SHIRE STAFF

J-MILLA brings ‘Generation Rise’ workshops to Halls Creek

Larrakia/Marranungu rapper J-MILLA visited Halls Creek recently to run back-to-back youth workshops at Town Hall as part of his Generation Rise – Chapter One outreach program.

Turnout was strong and young people workshopped lyrics, rhythm and safe social-media habits, and left with practical tips to pursue their own music careers. Elders, families and local services praised the respectful, culture-centred approach and said the visit inspired participants

to keep creating.

Born and bred in Darwin, J-MILLA is a loud and proud member of the Indigenous Marranungu people. He has written and performed his music since the age of 11 and is viewed as one of the brightest young Indigenous stars making their way through the industry.

Loved for his high-energy hip-hop and sharp social commentary, J-MILLA has been a consistent advocate for remote Aboriginal

communities, taking music and mentoring on the road so young people in the bush have the same chances as those in big cities.

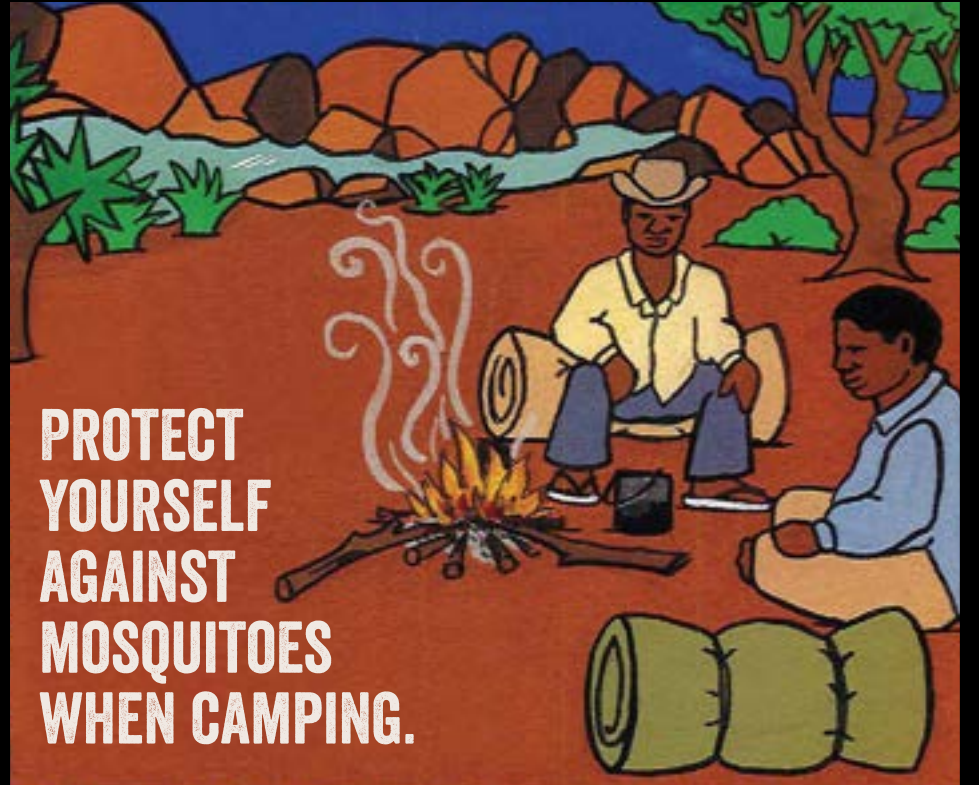
Offstage, he loves travelling with his wife, Pops (also a social media star), and their two children, deliberately going to towns that others bypass to stay connected with community and Country.

WORDS BY SHIRE STAFF





WEAR LONG, LOOSE-FITTING, CLOTHING & USE INSECT REPELLENT.



PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST MOSQUITOES WHEN CAMPING.

★ **FIGHT** *the* **BITE** ★



PROTECT YOURSELF

against

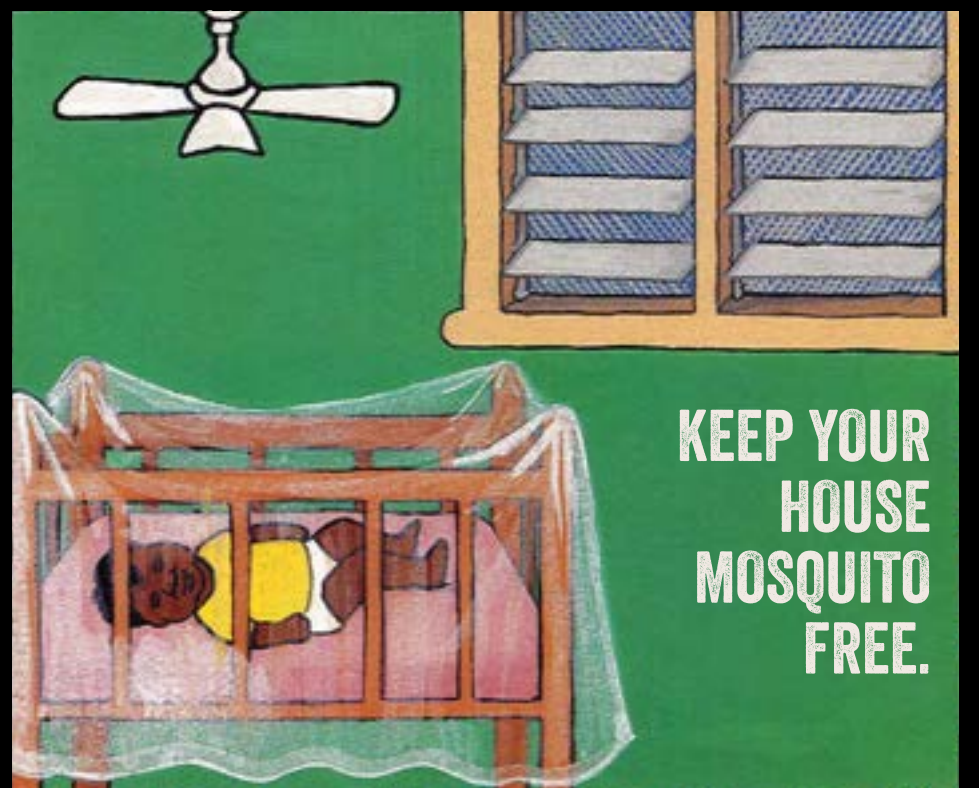
DISEASE-CARRYING MOSQUITOES



★ **COVER UP. REPEL. CLEAN UP.** ★



REMOVE THE WATER AND CONTAINERS MOSQUITOES BREED IN.



KEEP YOUR HOUSE MOSQUITO FREE.

For more information, contact the Kimberley Population Health Unit
9194 1630, your Community Health Clinic or Aboriginal Medical Service.

www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/ **FIGHTTHEBITE**



Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

This poster is supported by the WA Department of Health.
Fight the Bite is an initiative of the Government of South Australia.

WA Stolen Generations Redress Scheme – what our community needs to know

On 27 May 2025, the WA Government announced the Stolen Generations Redress Scheme. This historic initiative recognises the harm and trauma caused by the forced removal of Aboriginal children from their families in Western Australia before 1 July 1972.

The scheme will be led by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, in partnership with Aboriginal organisations, including Yokai – Healing Our Spirit and the Kimberley Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation.

WHAT IS IT?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are eligible will get

\$85,000

WHO CAN GET IT?

Must have been **under 18** and taken from family in WA before

1 July 1972

WHEN CAN YOU APPLY?

The scheme is expected to open in late 2025 and will remain open for three years.

Register for open date updates at [wa.gov.au](https://www.wa.gov.au)

HOW TO APPLY

When applications open you can ask for a **paper form** by **phone** or **post** or at the **Shire front-desk**.

Family members can apply if a Stolen Generations survivor passed away on or after the **27 May 2025**.

SUPPORT FOR APPLICANTS

The WA Government recognises that many survivors and their families will need practical and emotional support during this process.

- **Yokai – Healing Our Spirit**
yarn@yokai.com.au | (08) 6288 8123
- **Kimberley Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation**
reception@ksgac.com.au | 1800 830 338
- **Contacts**
08 6552 5050 | WASG@dpc.wa.gov.au

An information pack with more detailed guidance is also available from the Shire front-desk. Please visit during office hours if you'd like to collect one.

BEWARE OF SCAMMERS

Community members are warned to look out for 'claim farming' or 'claims harvesting.'

This is when individuals or organisations contact people unexpectedly and pressure them into signing forms, often asking for a share of future payments.

Remember:

- You do not need to pay anyone to apply
- No genuine support service will charge you
- Be cautious about sharing personal details
- Contact the Department if you're unsure

The Shire of Halls Creek encourages community members to share this information widely and to seek support if needed.

Less roaming dog packs in town, Shire Ranger says

In the months since a successful free desexing drive received an overwhelming response in Halls Creek, the Shire’s chief Ranger has noticed a drop in dangerous, roaming dog packs.

“This is responsible dog ownership in action,” he said. “It’s clear that less dogs are forming street packs in town, and the streets feel safer because of it,” Paul Robins said.

The Shire’s desexing drive – aimed at improving animal health and reducing the number of stray or aggressive dogs – was embraced by pet owners from across the region. Dogs were brought in from town, stations, and remote communities, with local

vets and rangers working flat out to meet demand. The highest number of dogs brought in by a single owner was 9.

The free desexing service included surgery, microchipping, tick and worm treatment, and 12 months’ registration. It was run in partnership with Con Air Vet Care and supported by local community teams. A similar clinic in Warmun and Frog Hollow desexed 41 dogs in 2.5 days.

Desexing stops unwanted puppies and reduces stray dogs. Stray dogs often form packs, fight, and spread disease. They can be dangerous for children, elders, and animals.



DOG DESEXING IN HALLS CREEK.
CREDIT: SHIRE OF HALLS CREEK

Ranger Paul says desexed dogs are generally calmer, healthier, and less likely to roam or act aggressively. They’re also less prone to certain cancers and infections.

For families, this means fewer vet bills, fewer fights between dogs, and a safer, more peaceful home.

WORDS BY SHIRE STAFF

Does your home need a tidy up?

The Shire of Halls Creek works with local health staff to help people living in houses with problems. These problems can be things like:

- Broken plumbing
- Too much rubbish
- Pests and insects
- Unsafe or dirty yards

Because the weather here is so tough, homes need more care than in other parts of WA.

If a problem is reported, the Shire will contact the family and set a day to help.

This is what happens:

- At 8am, rubbish bags and a trailer are dropped off
- The family fills the trailer
- At 2pm, it is picked up
- A family member or helper goes with the Shire officer to the tip to unload before it closes at 3pm

The Shire can also:

- Spray for pests (with consent)
- Fix small plumbing issues
- Lend a mower or brush cutter (you do the yard work yourself)

Senior Enviromental Health Officer Dean Graham says, “Chronically unclean or infested homes pose serious threats to human health – they can trigger respiratory illnesses, spread disease, and worsen well-being.”

If big problems are found – like broken structures or dangerous damage – photos are taken and sent to the Department of Communities. This will help get repairs done faster.

If you want help for your home, please contact the Shire.

WORDS BY SHIRE STAFF

Bad tummy bug going around called **rotavirus**

Rotavirus spreads fast between people. Babies and young kids can get very sick with:

- vomiting
- watery diarrhoea
- tummy pain
- fever
- sleepy or not much energy

How to look after sick kids:

Make sure sick kids drink water, oral rehydration solutions (hydralyte) or breastmilk/formula.

If they can't drink fluids or you're worried, take them to the clinic or hospital.

Stop rotavirus by:

- washing hands with soap and water —especially after changing a nappy, going to the toilet, and before cooking, eating, and drinking
- using disinfectants to clean up kitchens, bathrooms, toys, and other surfaces
- keeping sick kids away from Elders or people with health problems
- making sure kids get their vaccines at the right time —kids get rotavirus vaccine at two and four months old

If you are worried about your kid call your local clinic.



**Aboriginal
Health Council
of Western Australia**

450 Beaufort Street, Highgate WA 6003
Ph: (08) 9227 1631 | Fax: (08) 9228 1099
www.ahcwa.org.au AHCWA [ahcwa_hq](https://twitter.com/ahcwa_hq)

King of the Kimberley dates set!

Basketball fans, take note: the King of the Kimberley competition will hit the courts at the Halls Creek Recreation Centre from 14-16 November 2025.

The new dates give organisers more time to focus on umpire training and equipment upgrades, helping lift the standard and safety of play for both visiting and local teams.

The King of the Kimberley is a highlight of the community sporting calendar, drawing teams and supporters from across the region. As with other community events, the competition will be alcohol-, drug- and smoke-free, ensuring a safe and welcoming environment for all.

Sponsors and supporters are acknowledged with gratitude for

making the event possible, and residents are invited to come along and cheer on the teams for an action-packed weekend of basketball and community spirit.

WORDS BY SHIRE STAFF



Halls Creek basketball comp!

Halls Creek Basketball comp has brought out a lot of local talent. Through hard work and determination the competition has been going strong for a number of weeks now. Starting on Monday 18 August, the teams have been going strong and participation has been high. The matches are happening every Monday and Thursday 6pm-8pm, so come to the Rec Centre and get involved.

WORDS BY SEAN FRANZ
Garnduwa





Get involved! 6pm-8pm
every Monday and Thursday

Local pool reopens for the season

Now, as the warmer weather rolls back in, the focus shifts closer to home – the Halls Creek Aquatic Centre has officially reopened for the season!

The pool is sparkling, the sun is

shining, and the community is ready to dive in. This season also brings fresh energy to the team, with two new staff members joining the crew to help keep everyone safe, supported and smiling.

So grab your towels, gather your mates, and come down to make a splash – the Aquatic Centre is back and ready for a big summer of fun and fitness.

WORDS BY ELDEAN MCCAILE



Lifesaving carnival headed for Halls Creek

The Halls Creek Aquatic and Recreation Centre will host the 2025 Kimberley Spirit Swimming & Life-saving Carnival on 27 November 2025, inviting Year 5 and 6 students to compete in friendly swimming and pool-lifesaving events that build technique and water-safety skills.

Shire of Halls Creek Sport & Recreation Manager Eldean McCale urged local kids to join in.

“It’s vital our local kids learn to swim and learn to swim well. Drowning rates in Aboriginal communities

remain too high. It takes just a few minutes for a child to drown.”

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are over-represented in drowning data. Royal Life Saving research shows that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are 1.7 times more likely to drown than the rest of the Australian population (migrant communities are also over-represented).

The lack of a functional public swimming pool in many remote communities is a major contributing factor,

McCale said, as well as a lack of natural swimming holes during the dry season and in croc-areas of the country.

The carnival builds on the success of Swim for Fruit and Swim and Survive, giving Aboriginal children extra opportunities to practise lifesaving skills in a fun, culturally safe setting.

To enquire or register: contact Catherine Buckley on (08) 9383 8200.

WORDS BY SHIRE STAFF

Locals make their mark in AFL 2025!

WORDS BY BILL LUCAS



JY FARRAR CELEBRATES HIS MIRACLE GOAL AGAINST FREMANTLE. CREDIT: AFL PHOTOS

Jy Farrar: From the fringe to the finals

After almost two years out of the Gold Coast Suns' senior side, Farrar forced his way back in Round 21 against Brisbane, breaking a 713-day wait. Playing as a high-intensity forward, he kicked three goals and held his spot for the Suns' final seven games – including their first-ever finals campaign.

His trademark pressure and never-say-die attitude made him a fan favourite, capped off by a brilliant boundary-line goal in the elimination final against Fremantle that sent Optus Stadium roaring. The Suns are now in talks to extend his contract after the best stretch of his career.

Eyes on 2026 for Shane McAdam

Shane McAdam endured a tough year, sidelined by a torn Achilles that ended his season before it began.

Contracted for the upcoming 2026 season, he'll be hoping for a strong, healthy pre-season. With any luck, he will be able to recapture the magic of his 2021-22 campaigns and form a deadly duo with Melbourne's Kozzie Pickett.



MCADAM TRAINING 2024.
CREDIT: AFL PHOTOS

Toby Bedford's giant year: Signed til 2029

After earning the club's Coaches Award in 2024 as one of the league's best taggers, Toby Bedford moved back into familiar territory this year as a lively small forward.

He played every game and finished with 17 goals for the season. With his new contract keeping him at the Giants until 2029, Bedford will continue to inspire aspiring players from the Kimberley.



TOBY BEDFORD DURING ROUND 15, JUNE 22, 2025. PICTURE: AFL PHOTOS



DHARA KERR MEDALLIST, KRSTEL PETREVSKI. CREDIT: MICHAEL FARNELL/SPORTS IMAGERY

Halls Creek’s Krstel Petrevski recognised with WAFLW’s top honour

Subiaco midfielder Krstel Petrevski has capped off a stellar season by winning the Dhara Kerr Medal – the WAFLW’s highest individual accolade. Petrevski polled 26 votes, finishing five clear of her nearest rival.

Speaking at the awards in Perth, the proud Kija Jaru woman said it

was a privilege to represent Subiaco. “To my teammates and the club, I couldn’t be the footballer I am without you. You make me a better player, and I’ve made lifelong friends and family wearing the gold and maroon.”

At just 24, Petrevski has already

carved out an impressive football journey. She previously played AFLW with both Melbourne and West Coast before joining Subiaco, and began her career after moving to Melbourne as a teenager.

WORDS BY SHIRE STAFF



SPORT + REC MANAGER AND FOOTY COACH ALDO MCCAILE

Balgo–Halls Creek U/16s step up in Kununurra

Meanwhile, Clinton Cox (Coxy) and Sean from Garnduwa led a combined Under 16s team from Balgo and Halls Creek to Kununurra to play a curtain-raiser match before the grand final.

The young side showed plenty of

skill and spirit, going toe-to-toe all game and finishing in a hard-fought draw. It was a huge effort from the boys in their final game of the season – and a proud moment for everyone involved.

WORDS BY ELDEAN MCCAILE



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KIMBERLEY SPIRIT FOOTBALL PROGRAM. CREDIT: ELDEAN MCCALE



Halls Creek boys bring the heat in Broome

As the cool season settled over Halls Creek, our talented Under 19 boys football side hit the road, travelling to Broome for a series of games that showcased their grit and determination.

In perfect playing weather, the boys

took the field with fire in their hearts, showing strong teamwork, discipline, and pride in representing their community. Every match was a hard contest, and every player stood tall.

The trip was about more than just footy. It built character, leadership

and lifelong memories, proving again what young people from Halls Creek can achieve when given the chance.

WORDS BY ELDEAN MCCALE