

Congratulations to our young star employee **Raychelle McKenzie, Acting Manager for the BHAC Yellow Shirts crew**, who is making waves as a finalist in two prestigious categories at this year's **Northern Territory Young Achiever Awards**. Recognised for her impactful work, she is competing for the **Somerville Promoting Disability Rights and Inclusion Award** as well as the **Aurizon Indigenous Achievement Award**. Both accolades will be celebrated at the gala presentation on 11 April 2025, marking a significant milestone in her inspiring journey towards social change and inclusion.



Community members – and especially kids! – were happy to shake paws with some newly hatched baby crocs at the **Djelk Rangers' Shed**.

The rangers collect the eggs and sell them to crocodile farms, which is a great source of income and a very sustainable and ethical way of reducing the numbers of crocs in the wild. The Rangers can also remove 20 saltwater crocodiles per year under the Problem Crocodile Permit. The community support for this program is enthusiastic, as crocs in Maningrida and especially on Homelands become a real bother!

See **Dickson Marrday** holding the babies while the public admires them – gently, but firmly!



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BAWINANGA HOMELANDS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



BHAC NEWSLETTER

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Well done **Djelk Rangers**, commended by **Australian Border Force** for reporting a sighting of suspicious fishing boats near Maningrida. Based on this information, the Border Force intercepted two illegal foreign fishing vessels and apprehended 12 crew members in waters off the Northern Territory coast.

ABF vessels subsequently located and intercepted the vessels near Maningrida and Port Essington, Northern Territory on Sunday, 22 February 2025. ABF officers seized a total of 1,200 kilograms of trepang (sea cucumber), valued up to AUD\$12,000, and fishing equipment.

The vessels were seized and destroyed at sea in accordance with Australian law.



Great news – with **Ziian Carey** on maternity leave, **Jessica Stalenberg** is now back in the Manager's seat of **Babbarra Women's Centre**. Our best wishes to Ziian and welcome Jess! We missed you!

Babbarra is a whirl of activity as usual and in the national limelight again: it has been shortlisted for the Creative Australia Asia Pacific Art Award 2025. The prize is \$25000 which will help operational costs. The amazing textile exhibition that attracted audiences in India is about to be sent to Australia where it will be on display in Darwin at Tactile Arts in June – July. The artists will get to travel in to see the exhibition.

A senior Kuninjku artist **Margot Gurawiliwili** has been in Maningrida and away from homeland for the wet season making some beautiful Lino.



Also, the Babbarra artists have been learning a novel and much needed skill: how to operate a computer. This is the first – but definitely not the last time they have done any computer training.

Here's **Raylene Bonson** mastering the complex ELMO software - well done!



SAFE PROUD PEOPLE CONNECTED TO COUNTRY THROUGH SONG LINE

In early February, seven senior women artists from **Maningrida Arts & Culture** presented **WERRKNO II**, an exhibition of 33 original works on paper at Laundry Gallery in Parap, Garramilla (Darwin), a First Nations-owned Indigenous art gallery based in a beautiful old laundromat. These works were created during the Kurrung build-up season, with storm clouds rumbling and the first rains breaking the heat. Through a week-long workshop facilitated by Ingrid Johanson and generously funded by the Northern Land Council's Indigenous Economic Stimulus Grant and was the second formalised artist development workshop for these artists working with fine art paper. Using natural pigments from the earth ground on paper, and monochromatic mark-making using charcoal and Indian ink the artists have visualised the skin of Namorrorddo, the shooting star spirit that emits rays of white light from their heads and are malevolent in nature, and the eggs of the Djomi, a freshwater fertility spirit with a fish tail, alongside depictions of yams, dillybags, bush medicine plants and fish traps.

The exhibition was opened on Saturday 8 February by Traditional Owner **Joy Garlbin**, alongside artists **Belinda Kernan**, **Elizabeth Wullunmingu**, and **Jack Nawilil**, to an enthusiastic audience. **WERRKNO II** runs until March 8, with artworks available for purchase online through Laundry Gallery.

Here is **Joy Garlbin** presenting **WERRKNO II** at Laundry Gallery, Darwin

