



# GUNDJEIHM

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



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## ERA AND GUNDJEIHM ANNOUNCE THE MAHBILIL FESTIVAL 2006

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The Mirrar Traditional Owners of Jabiru and Energy Resources of Australia Ltd (ERA) are pleased to announce details of the 2006 Kakadu Mahbilil Festival to be held in Jabiru on Saturday 2 September 2006.

The festival, formerly known as the Wind Festival is now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year, and the program is expected to commence at 2:00pm with food and market stalls, free bush-tucker tasting provided by Kakadu Culture Camp and Murdujul basket weaving demonstrations.

In the evening, the festival will offer a wonderful variety of talented Indigenous musicians, headed up by the Nabarlek, Rock Wallaby and Wildflower bands along with special guests Lucky Oceans, the Zydecats and nationally acclaimed recording artist, Deborah Conway, whose career spans two decades.

Other program highlights include an impressive fireworks spectacular, and an opening performance by the Karrabarra Traditional Dances from West Arnhem Land.

On the eve of the festival, Friday September 1 at 6.30 p.m. all age groups are welcome to attend the After Hours Film Festival, the premiere screening of short films made by young people in the Jabiru and surrounding areas. The screening will be at Jabiru Youth Centre, and the screening is free, with a sausage sizzle.

The Chief Executive of ERA, Harry Kenyon-Slaney, said: "We all look forward to this great time of the year in the region when we celebrate the end of the dry season with festivities in the community. ERA's Ranger mine has been operating continuously in the region for 26 years, and we welcome the cooperative spirit of the Mirrar and their representative Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation in allowing us to present this jointly funded festival."

Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation has played an integral role in the Festival's strong Indigenous focus, with Mirrar Senior Traditional Owner, Yvonne Margarula having recommended the name, "Mahbilil," meaning "afternoon breeze" in the local Gundjeihmi language.

Executive Officer of the Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation and Chair of the Festival's Steering Committee, Graham Dewar, said: "Mahbilil, being a highlight of the Jabiru community calendar, provides an excellent opportunity to showcase the exceptional talents in the region. Credit must go to the many supporters and sponsors for this year's event with special mention of the Jabiru Town Council for the extraordinary efforts made in cleaning up after Cyclone Monica to ensure an attractive venue is available. It is wonderful to see the contributions made by many people and the assistance of local community groups, the Alligator Fishing Club, the Jabiru Bombers Football Club, Jabiru Judo Club, ERA Social Club and the Kakadu Youth Centre. The fact they have all come together to support this occasion is greatly appreciated."

This year's festival has been sponsored by Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation, ERA, Rio Tinto, Jabiru Town Council, Parks Australia North, Power & Water Authority, NT Arts and ERIS.

**Entry price: \$10** Car parking will be available.

Jabiru is three hours drive east of Darwin and we urge all our visitors to drive carefully and to look after our people and wildlife.

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**For further information contact:**

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