



FLOOD NEWS FLASH - Stronger Together Special Edition

12th October 2023 Artwork by Natalie Davey

Recent Events - Stronger Together Event Recap

We had an amazing turnout on the Fitzroy Crossing Oval on Saturday 7th October to celebrate Thirrili yani Yilingarri (Stronger Together) - reflecting and celebrating how far we have come in recovery and building resilience for the future.

There were 65 artists and facilitators who provided entertainment such as face painting, kite making, balloon twisters, bush fairies, circus acts and 13 monstrous inflatables including water slides, climbing walls, bucking bulls and obstacle courses! The kids had fun with performances by The Lulus Show, the Heaps Good Show, a ZAP CIRCUS glow performance and even a Mitch Tambo performance! Finally, Baker Boy brought the house down with his hit songs and The Flaming Galahs finished off the night with some great Australian music.





Fitzroy River Bridge Update - New Bridge to be opened by the end of 2023

Main Roads has today confirmed the New Fitzroy River Bridge will open to all traffic by the end of 2023, more than six months ahead of schedule. This early opening will provide assurance to the local community and freight industry ahead of the next wet season.



Construction of the New Fitzroy River Bridge project is progressing at a rapid rate with the entire bridge deck now substantively complete.

Works are now underway on the deck surfacing and safety barriers, as well as road construction works on both bridge approaches. Main Roads will continue to keep the local community and freight industry updated on the progress of the works and a further announcement on the details of opening to traffic and timing, will be made in the coming weeks. The temporary low-level crossing, four kilometres upstream from the new Fitzroy River Bridge remains open to all traffic.

The New Fitzroy River Bridge is funded by the Australian and Western Australian Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

We are Stronger Together - Stories from the Ground

Hundreds of people gathered for the “Stronger Together” event on October 7th at the oval in Fitzroy Crossing to recognize the community’s progress in rebuilding, including critical work on the Fitzroy River bridge.



“So, a massive effort has been put in by everybody to get the bridge rebuilt, to get houses rebuilt, and to get people jobs,” said Minister for Emergency Services Stephen Dawson at the event.

“It’s great to be here today to celebrate the achievements of the last 10 months. A bit more work to be done, but it is a nice opportunity to celebrate before the wet,” said Mr. Dawson.

Member for the Kimberley Divina D’Anna spoke to the crowd at the Saturday event about the “unseen costs” of the flood devastation.

“The event today really showcases a reward and a day of relaxation for all the resilience that the community of the Fitzroy Valley has shown over the last 10 months. I know that it has been a hard few months for all of you but it’s a testament to the spirit of the people that we have that live in our Kimberly region,” said Ms. D’Anna.

She also says the rebuilding efforts have been positive for a lot of young people in the valley.

“I was speaking to a local bloke from Bayulu who is quite excited because he’s going to Marra Worra Worra - another local business - next week which helped him line up jobs with Main Roads to work on roads not only here but all around,” said Ms. D’Anna.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Event	Date
Raining on the Rocks - Garnduwa Festival	Fri 20th - Sun 22nd October Fitzroy Crossing Recreation Centre

We are Stronger Together - Celebrating the resilience of the Fitzroy Valley

Acclaimed Indigenous rapper Baker Boy from Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory stole the show when he took to the stage drawing a large crowd that danced and sang along. Other artists like the Flaming Galahs and Mitch Tambo also rocked out with their incredible music.

Gamilaraay man Mitch Tambo describes himself as a pop artist that infuses language with contemporary beats and rhythms to create a new genre dubbed "corroboree pop." Touring Australia, Tambo said he came to Fitzroy to give back and to help ignite a healing spirit in the community.



No matter what you're going through in this world, no matter how tough it gets, we've got the most powerful healing tool in the whole world and that's our culture. And when you're going through tough things, find a way to reconnect with elders and strong members of the community to find those stories," explained Tambo.

Also, Geoff Kelly and the team from Drone Sky Shows lit up the sky with an 'out of this world' drone show based on the Bunuba Dreamtime story of "Fire Winthali".

Stories of the flood devastation were also told through an art exhibition displaying printed photos sent in by the community. The art exhibition also displayed paintings from artists at Mangkaja Arts Centre.



The Stronger Together event was hosted by the Shire of Derby/West Kimberley and Bunuba Dawangarri Aboriginal Corporation.



Contact Information

Department of Communities Disaster Response Hotline

1800 032 965

Mental Health Help - Fitzroy Crossing

9166 1700

Mental Health Help - Derby

9193 3605

After Hours - Mental Health Support

1800 552 002

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Crisis Support (24/7)

13YARN (13 92 76)

Road Updates

- For information on road updates you can view the latest road report on the Shire of Derby West Kimberley website here: <https://www.sdwk.wa.gov.au/>
- For the latest travel advice on state roads, visit the Main Roads Travel Map at <https://travelmap.mainroads.wa.gov.au/Home/Map> or call 138 138
- For more information on Main Roads' Kimberley Flood Response, visit <https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/travel-information/driving-in-wa/kimberley-flood-response/>

Kimberley Floods Recovery Information

For Kimberley Floods Recovery Information please visit www.emergency.wa.gov.au/recovery

Flood Hubs

Fitzroy Crossing Visitor Centre

4 Flynn Drive
8am-12 noon
Monday - Thursday
(08) 9191 0904

Broome Flood Help

Call 0476 897 424
If you're in Broome and
need help

Derby Housing Office

16-22 Loch Street
10am-2pm
Monday - Friday

Do you have a story to share or updates from your area? We want to hear from you! Contact us by phone (08) 9191 0999 or email media@sdwk.wa.gov.au

