Kunbarlanja, WEST ARNHEM LAND – NORTHERN TERRITORY – AUSTRALIA

Kunwinjku Seasons

KAKBI
N
NW
NE
W
KARRIKAD
E
KOYEK
SW
SE
S
WALEM

KUNBARLANJA

Kunumeleng

The time of **kangolmarnburen**, when the humidity builds, **kunmgol** (clouds) and **kunmayorrk** (wind) gather together from all directions. The first rains and storms are a time to think of loved ones and to think about new things for the coming year.

Animals hear **kangurdulme** (thunder) and know it's time for a change. **Namarrkon kamayhmayhke** (lightning flashes) tell us that the **Ngalmangiyi** and **Kedjebe** are moving closer to the bank and are easier to collect.

Kedjebe (Arafura filesnake) are fat and developing eggs. It is the best time to hunt **Kedjebe** around the edges of billabongs.

With the first rains, it is a time of new growth and fruits, **kakukdjordmen**, **Manboyberre** (*Syzygium forte*), **Mandjalbbirdo** (*Syzygium eucalyptoides* ssp. *bleeseri*), **Mandjarduk** (*Syzygium suborbiculare*), **Manngalele** (*Fluggea virosa*), **Mandak** (*Persoonia falcata*), **Manducjmi** (*Buchanania obvata*) ripen and are eaten throughout the wet season.

Kurrung

The hot, dry time when the air is fragrant from many plants flowering, like **Manboyberre** (*Syzygium forte*) and **Manmidjedjuk** (*Syzygium suborbiculare*). These plants will go on to fruit in **Kunumeleng**.

Ketpordarkardirne, the water is drying out and it has dropped low enough to safely collect **Karnubirr** (freshwater mussels), water lily roots and catch **Wakih** (freshwater prawns).

Ngalmangiyi (northern long-necked turtle), **Ngardderkwo** (northern snapping turtle), and **Manmarkan** (water python) with **kawurluwurlhme kunak** (floodplain burning) to clear the **kundalk** (grass).

Boog (Arafura filesnake) are fat and developing eggs. It is the best time to hunt **Kedjebe** around the edges of billabongs.

Mankodjbang (*Aponogeton*) is ready to be boiled or cooked in the coals.

Long-necked turtle hatchlings dig out of their burrows on the floodplain with the first rains.

The water level is low. **Mankodjbang** (*Aponogeton*) is ready to be boiled or cooked in the coals. Good time for hunting **Ngalmangiyi** (northern long-necked turtle), **Ngardderkwo** (northern snapping turtle), and **Manmarkan** (water python) with **kawurluwurlhme kunak** (floodplain burning) to clear the **kundalk** (grass). Long-necked turtle hatchlings dig out of their burrows on the floodplain with the first rains. Good time for hunting **Ngalmangiyi** (northern long-necked turtle), **Ngardderkwo** (northern snapping turtle), and **Manmarkan** (water python) with **kawurluwurlhme kunak** (floodplain burning) to clear the **kundalk** (grass). Good time for hunting **Ngalmangiyi** (northern long-necked turtle), **Ngardderkwo** (northern snapping turtle), and **Manmarkan** (water python) with **kawurluwurlhme kunak** (floodplain burning) to clear the **kundalk** (grass). Good time for hunting **Ngalmangiyi** (northern long-necked turtle), **Ngardderkwo** (northern snapping turtle), and **Manmarkan** (water python) with **kawurluwurlhme kunak** (floodplain burning) to clear the **kundalk** (grass).

Wurrkeng

Kunbonjdjek, the cool weather time, when dry winds blow from the east. **Koyek Kunmayorrk**, and **Kaboklung**, the water level starts dropping.

With lots of plants **kangubun** (flowering), like **Mandjalen** (*Eucalyptus tetrodonta*) and **Manadajlek** (*Grevillea pteridifolia*) the native bees are busy collecting pollen and making honey. It's the best time for collecting **Manklung** (sugar bag) and hunting **Kuij** (kangaroo).

Manbulu (*Xanthostemon paradoxus*) flowering tells us it is a good time for collecting **Kurdukadji wirark** (emu eggs).

Good time to start hunting **Nalmangyi**, **Kedjebe**, **Manlumak**, and **Djilikuybi**.

Tubers of aquatic plants can be harvested throughout year, though it's easiest when the water level is low. **Kukbam** (*Trigochin procerum*) are aquatic plants with edible tubers that are boiled or cooked in the coals.

Mankuiaj (water chestnut, *Eleocharis dulcis*) make a sweet snack, vanburggerrji) and **Kukbam** (*Trigochin procerum*) are aquatic plants with edible tubers that are boiled or cooked in the coals. Good time for hunting **Nalmangyi**, **Kedjebe**, **Manlumak**, and **Djilikuybi**. Tubers of aquatic plants can be harvested throughout year, though it's easiest when the water level is low. **Kukbam** (*Trigochin procerum*) are aquatic plants with edible tubers that are boiled or cooked in the coals. Good time to start hunting **Nalmangyi**, **Kedjebe**, **Manlumak**, and **Djilikuybi**.

Lots of **Makkakkurr** (Australian pelican) in the billabongs.

Good time for fishing for **Warardjan** (pig-nosed turtle).

The fruits of **Manburrumburrurn** (*Cassytha filiformis*) are ready to collect in **Kurrung** and **Kunumeleng**, while **Mamarawan** (*Acacia auricoma*) fruits throughout the year.

Mamwiled (*Cerbera dacrodon*) is fruiting.

Mandjalem (Eucalyptus miniata) flowering tells us it's time for collecting **Mandjalem** (black bream), **Burd** (sooty grunter) **Namardaka** (black catfish) and **Kulujbirr** (saratoga) are caught.

The **Djaddede** (grasshopper) calls out to tell us that the yams are ready. **Mankinjdjek** (cheeky yam, *Dioscorea bulbifera*) and **Karrbardp** (*Dioscorea transversa*) are ready and are collected throughout the dry time.

Water lilies are flowering and seeds are growing throughout the dry season. **Manbun** (roots) and **Bandjungka** (seed heads) of **Wurmmenj** (*Nelumbo nucifera*) are collected to eat. The seeds can be eaten as snacks, and **Manbarmo** (stems) of **Mirbulu** and **Manburngkal** (*Nymphaea ampla*) are also collected to eat.

Manjdjenj (Eucalyptus miniata) flowering tells us it is a good time for collecting **Kurdukadji** (emu eggs).

Manjdjenj (Eucalyptus miniata) flowering tells us it is time for **Manwurk** (kangaroo drives using fire).

The rains have finished. The cooler temperature and the wind blowing from north east to west signals the start of the dry time.

Yekke

The monsoon time with heavy rains brings **kudjarr** (flooding and flowing water) and **kunmayorrk** (strong winds). **Djiljdjilih** (bush sugar cane, *Heteropogon triticeus*) has brown coloured juice inside, which is sweet to drink. **Manbedje** (spear grass, *Sorghum intrans*) is growing.

Mandarl (*Melaleuca viridiflora*) flowering is a sign that **Kudjewk**. It is also a sign that the fish are developing eggs and the flying foxes are getting fat.

The time of abundant **mandjelemen** (ripe fruits). **Mandolhdolh** (*Cucumis melo*), **Manbuled** (*Ampelocissus* sp.), **Mankurndalh** (*Vitex glabrata*), **Manbadbirri** (*Uvaria rupestre*), **Manyuku** (*Antidesma parvifolium*), **Mandjurukkumarlba** (*Antidesma ghaesembilla*) are fruiting and collected through the wet season. **Badjdjo** (*Brachystelma glabriflorum*) tubers are also collected.

Yukkuyukku (fire fly lights) flash at night to signal fruits are ripe and ready to collect.

Djerj kabalamdi (fish are fat) and it is the best time for fishing. Lots of **djenj** (fish) like **Mamarnkol** (barramundi), **Dunbohmanj** (black bream), **Burd** (sooty grunter) **Namardaka** (black catfish) and **Kulujbirr** (saratoga) are caught.

Nadjiuem (black wallaroo) and **Kornobolo** (agile wallaby) are hunted in the high country.

Bush fruits like **Mandjodmo** (*Grewia retusifolia*) are still being collected.

The **Djaddede** (grasshopper) calls out to tell us that the yams are ready. **Mankinjdjek** (cheeky yam, *Dioscorea bulbifera*) and **Karrbardp** (*Dioscorea transversa*) are ready and are collected throughout the dry time.

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Bangkerreng

Nakurl (knock 'em down storms) coming from **koyek** (the east) flattens **Manbedje kirridjdjal** (spear grass), **Manbedje duwa** (the later spear grass) is still green and growing until **bara** (the later rains).

Clouds turn an orange-red and signal the time for collecting **Manimunak wirlarrk** (magpie goose eggs).

Manbedje seeds development is a sign magpie goose chicks are about to hatch.

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Manjdjenj (Eucalyptus miniata) flowering and the **Bangkerreng** ripening of Kakadu plum, **Manmarkkwarrl** (shovelnose catfish) and **Kulujbirr** (saratoga) are caught.

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