



Katherine East Region

RAHC
REMOTE AREA HEALTH CORPS



Community Profile

Mataranka

1st edition
March 2010

Funded by the Australian Government

This Community Profile provides you with information specific to the Katherine East Region of the Northern Territory.

The information has been compiled through a number of text and internet resources, and consultations with members of the local communities.

The first version of this Community Profile was prepared for RAHC by The Echidna Group and we acknowledge and thank Dr Terri Farrelly and Ms Bronwyn Lumby for their contribution.

Other sources include:

www.nt.gov.au/pfes

www.matarankamotel.com/matarankaphotos.htm

RAHC would also like to acknowledge and express gratitude to the Aboriginal people of the Katherine East Region who have so generously shared aspects of their culture and communities for use in this Profile.

*Please note: The information provided in this community profile is correct, to the best of RAHC's knowledge, at the time of printing. This community profile will be regularly updated as new information comes to hand.

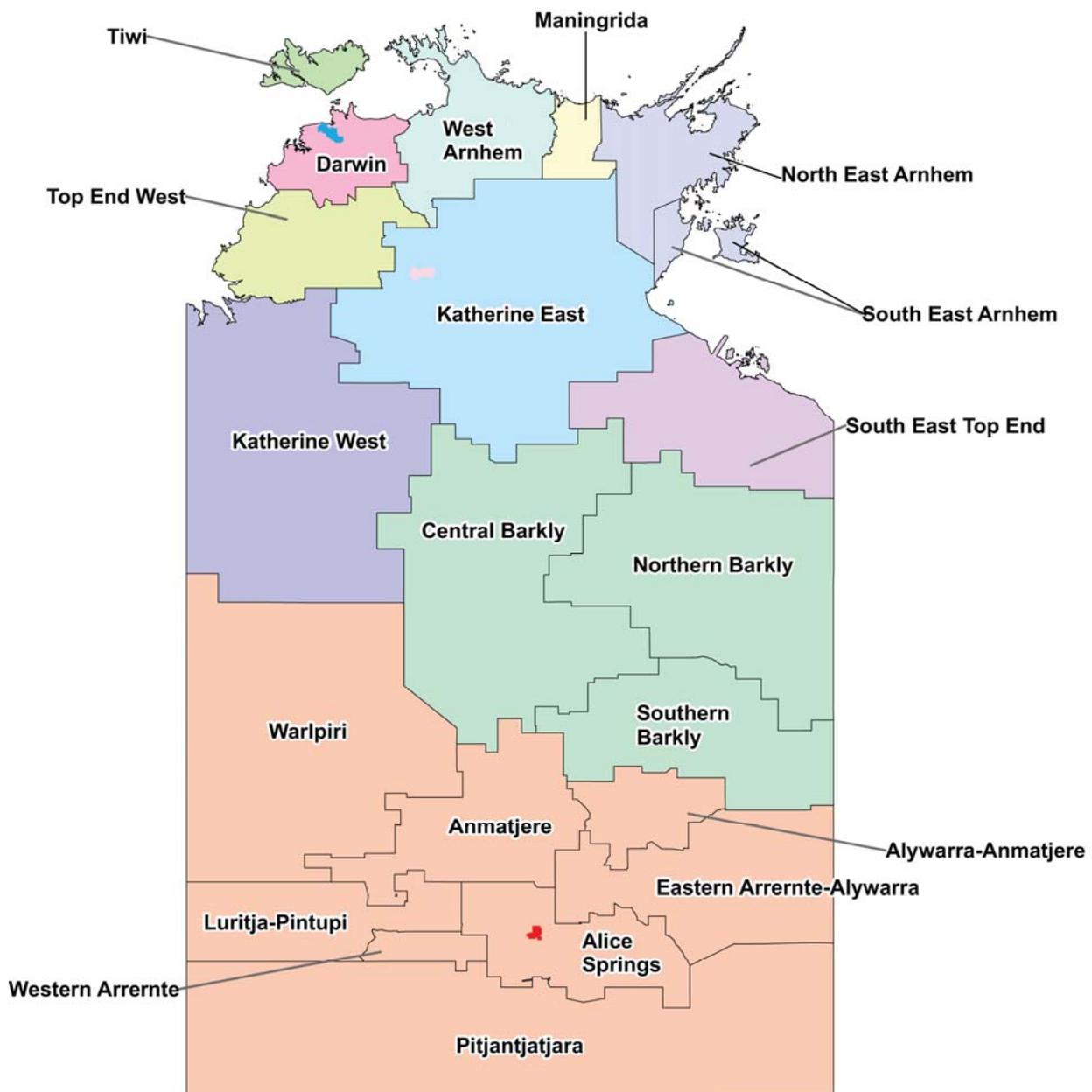
If you have any further information about this community that would be useful to add to this profile please contact RAHC via: enquiries@rahc.com.au or call 1300 MYRAHC.

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The Northern Territory



Legend

	Alice Springs Urban		Katherine East
	Barkly		Katherine Urban
	Borroloola Area		Katherine West
	Central Australia		Maningrida
	Darwin Rural		Tiwi
	Darwin Urban		Top End West
	East Arnhem		West Arnhem

This map of the Northern Territory, divided into regions, has been adapted from the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) Program Management & Implementation Section (2008) Map of the Northern Territory.

The depicted areas are for the purpose of the Remote Area Health Corps Community Profiles alone, and do not represent any Aboriginal language group, land or cultural group boundaries.



Katherine East Area Profile

This map of the Katherine East Area has been taken from the map of the Northern Territory, adapted from the OATSIH Program Management & Implementation Section (2008) Map of the Northern Territory.



*The population figures refer to the number of Aboriginal peoples living in the community, and are estimates only.

It should be noted that in many Aboriginal communities, population figures can fluctuate dramatically, due to a number of factors including seasonal changes (wet and dry seasons), and ceremonial activity.

Communities can also known by several names – this may include the European name given to it after colonisation, and several Aboriginal names.

Major Communities		
Name	Population	Resource Centre
Katherine	3000	Katherine Town Council
Larrimah		Roper Gulf Shire Council
Daly Waters		
Bulman (Gulin Gulin)	450	
Barunga	350	
Beswick	550	
Minyerri	400	
Ngukurr	1000	

Minor Communities	
Name	Resource Centre
Binjari	Katherine Town Council
Rockhole	Kalano Community Association
Eva Valley	Roper Gulf Shire Council
Weemol	
Urapunga (Rittarangu)	
Hodgson River Station	
Jilkminggan	
Mataranka Town Camp	

Languages in the Region

The below languages are present in the Katherine East region. However it should be noted that as a result of colonisation, the growth of towns, and the transient nature of some Aboriginal peoples, there may be many different Aboriginal languages evident in a given area.

Gurrindji
 Jawoyn
 Kriol
 Mayali
 Ngarlingman
 Nunggubuyu
 Warlpiri
 Marra

Kriol is the contact language now spoken as a first language by most Aboriginal people across the region. Kriol is spoken in the Barkly and further north, but not generally far south of Tennant Creek.

Aboriginal Interpreter Service

www.dlghs.nt.gov.au/ais
 NT Dept of Local Govt & Housing
 Central booking service 08 8999 8353

The AIS Provides 24 hours 7 days a week central booking service.



Mataranka

Location: 106kms South Katherine

Population 480 - 630

History

The land around Mataranka and the Roper River is home to the Mangarayi and Yungman Aboriginal groups. The Mataranka Springs, according to Aboriginal Dreaming legend, were created at the same time as the Roper River course, carved by a Rainbow Serpent whirlwind.



Explorer, Ludwig Leichhardt crossed the Roper River in 1845. Early European settlement at Mataranka was based on pastoralism after attempts at sheep farming were defeated by the harsh climate and rough terrain. The area became known through the 1908 book of Mrs Anneas (Jeannie) Gunn, 'We of the Never Never', describing her experiences at nearby Eley Station. The Station is now administered by the local Aboriginal people. The Darwin-Alice Springs railway reached the town in 1927, making the small settlement a rail and service centre, a role that continues today.

The language spoken at the community is Alawa, Mayali, Kriol and English.

Infrastructure and Community Life

The Mataranka township services the outlying cattle stations and Aboriginal communities and is well equipped with facilities for travellers. There is a range of camping grounds, accommodation and a supermarket.

Mataranka has a sub-tropical climate, with distinct wet and dry seasons. The dry season temperatures range from 25oC to 35oC, with an occasional 40oC during November and December. The dry season is cooler with temperatures often dropping to 10oC overnight.

10 km to the east of Mataranka is a 4 hectare park with a superb thermal pool and stands of tall cabbage tree palms and paper-barks. This popular stopover and picnic spot for visitors is owned and operated by the Mataranka Homestead Tourist Resort.

The Mataranka region is home to the Roper River, one of the world's most magnificent rivers. The river flows 250km east from headwaters at Mataranka to the Gulf of Carpentaria, and is fed from crystal clear springs all year round. The Roper River has a beautiful emerald green colour and runs through the largest stand of Livistonia Rigida palms in the world. Pandanus and River red gums also grow along the banks of this river. Large billabongs filled with Gigantea and Lotus lilies are also a spectacular sight. The Roper River is also famous as one of the NTs best locations for Barramundi fishing.

Services

There is a health clinic and primary school to year 7. The nearest high school is in Katherine. There is a supermarket, store, two roadhouses, hotel and caravan park with cabins and an automatic teller machine. There are a regular bus services and an airstrip suitable for light aircraft.

Other Services in the community:

- * Centrelink Agent & Library
- * Youth, Sport and Recreation program;
- * Post office
- * Police
- * Television and Radio coverage



Recreation activities: Canoeing, boating, swimming, bushwalking and fishing. The Back to the Never-Never Festival is in May and Mataranka Bushman's Carnival Major Rodeo in August each year.

Nearby attractions: Mataranka Hot Springs and Mataranka Homestead Tourist Resort, Eley Cemetery, Eley Station replica. There is also the Stockyard Gallery and Museum, Barramundi Fish Feeding, Mataranka Falls, Eley National Park and Bitter Springs.



Access

The community is accessible by road for most of the year except when there is severe flooding during the wet season. The road is a single lane and is sealed to the turn off to the community. The remainder of the road is unsealed and Four Wheel Drive is required to make the journey after rain. Heavy rain will close the road.

Health Centre

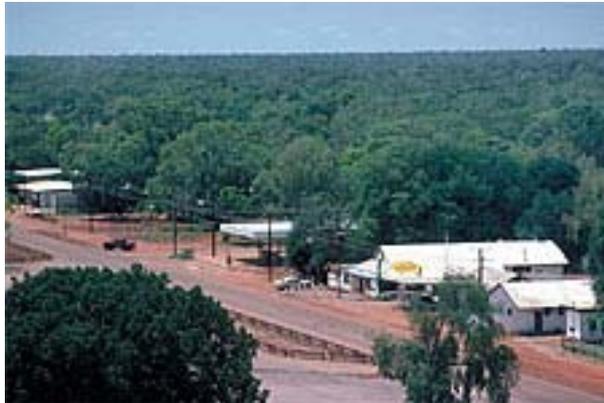
The Health Centre is managed by Sunrise Health Service. Hours are Monday to Friday 0800 - 1600 plus on call and out of hour emergencies. The clinic is staffed by 4 RANs, 1 Senior Aboriginal Health Worker and a GP visits the community weekly.

Accommodation & Vehicles

The furnished housing is well equipped with cooking and communication facilities including an electric stove, one large refrigerator & upright freezer, a washing machine, TV and DVD player. There are crockery, cutlery, pots and pans. Linen is provided although you may like to bring your own. There is a telephone in the house. Internet is also available at the clinic. No vehicle is provided for personal use.

Keeping the Peace

There is a Police Station at Mataranka. Phone (08) 8975 4511



Getting Advice

The following organisations and contact numbers may be useful in locating sources of advice about Mataranka. Care has been taken to ensure these details are correct, however unfortunately some may change or be unattended.

Roper Gulf Shire Council
Po Box 1321 Katherine NT 0851
Ph: 08 8972 9000
ceo@ropergulf.nt.gov.au

Sunrise Health
Po Box 371 Katherine NT 0851
Ph: 08 8971 1120

Provides services to 9 health centres located east of Katherine along the Arnhem Highway and the Roper Highway. Services include primary clinical care services, emergency care, health promotion, social support services, chronic disease management, nutrition programs, aged care programs, women's & maternal health, child health, aural health, men's health.

Barunga 08 8975 4501

Binjari 08 8971 0970

Bullman (Gullin Gullin – Weemol) 08 8975 4712

Jilkmिंगgan (Duck Creek) 08 8975 4741

Manyallaluk (Eva Valley) 08 8975 4864

Mataranka 08 8975 4547

Miniyeri (Hodgson Downs) 08 8975 9959

Ngukurr 08 8975 4688

Wulgularr (Beswick) 08 8975 4527



