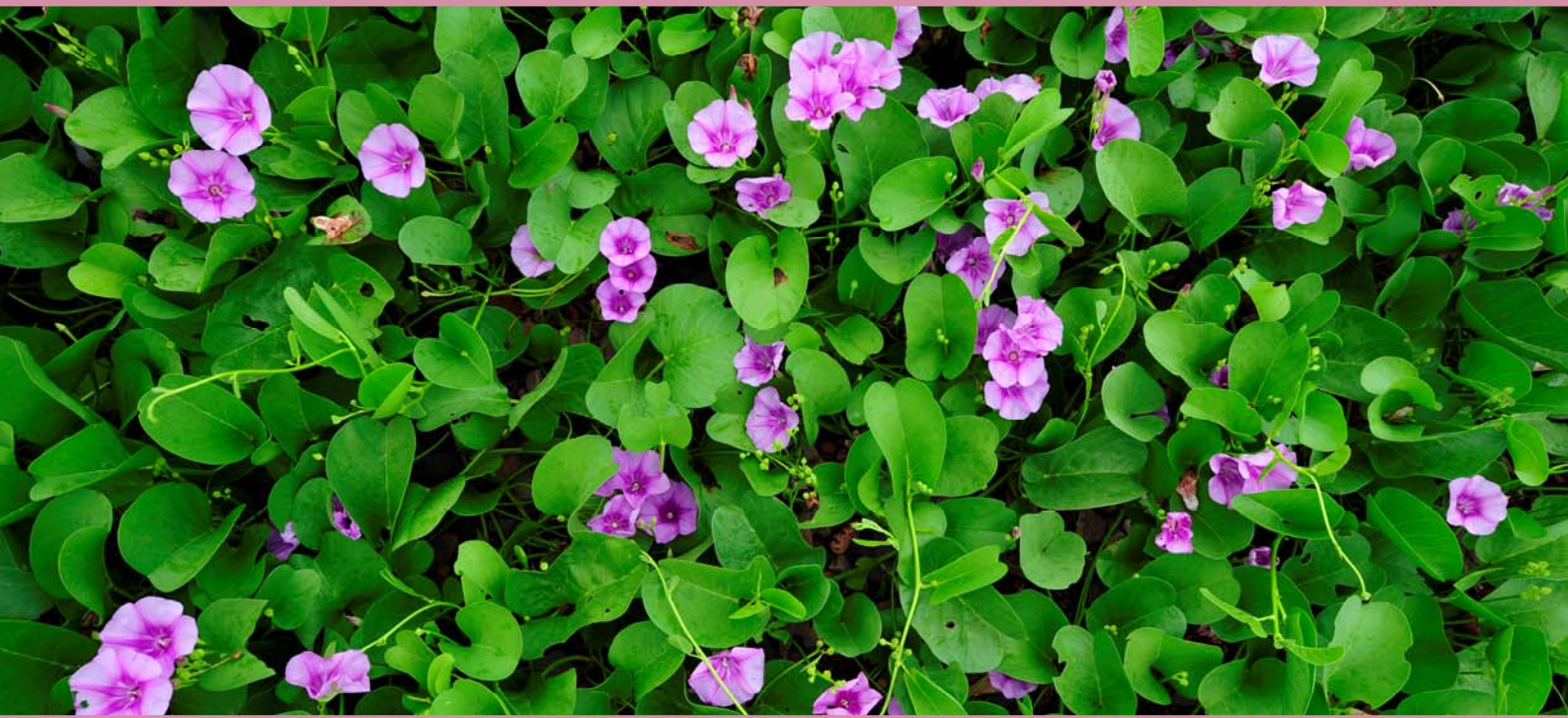


Katherine East Region

RAHC
REMOTE AREA HEALTH CORPS



Community Profile

Minyerri

1st edition
March 2010

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.sunrise.org.au/sunrise/bottomroad.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.

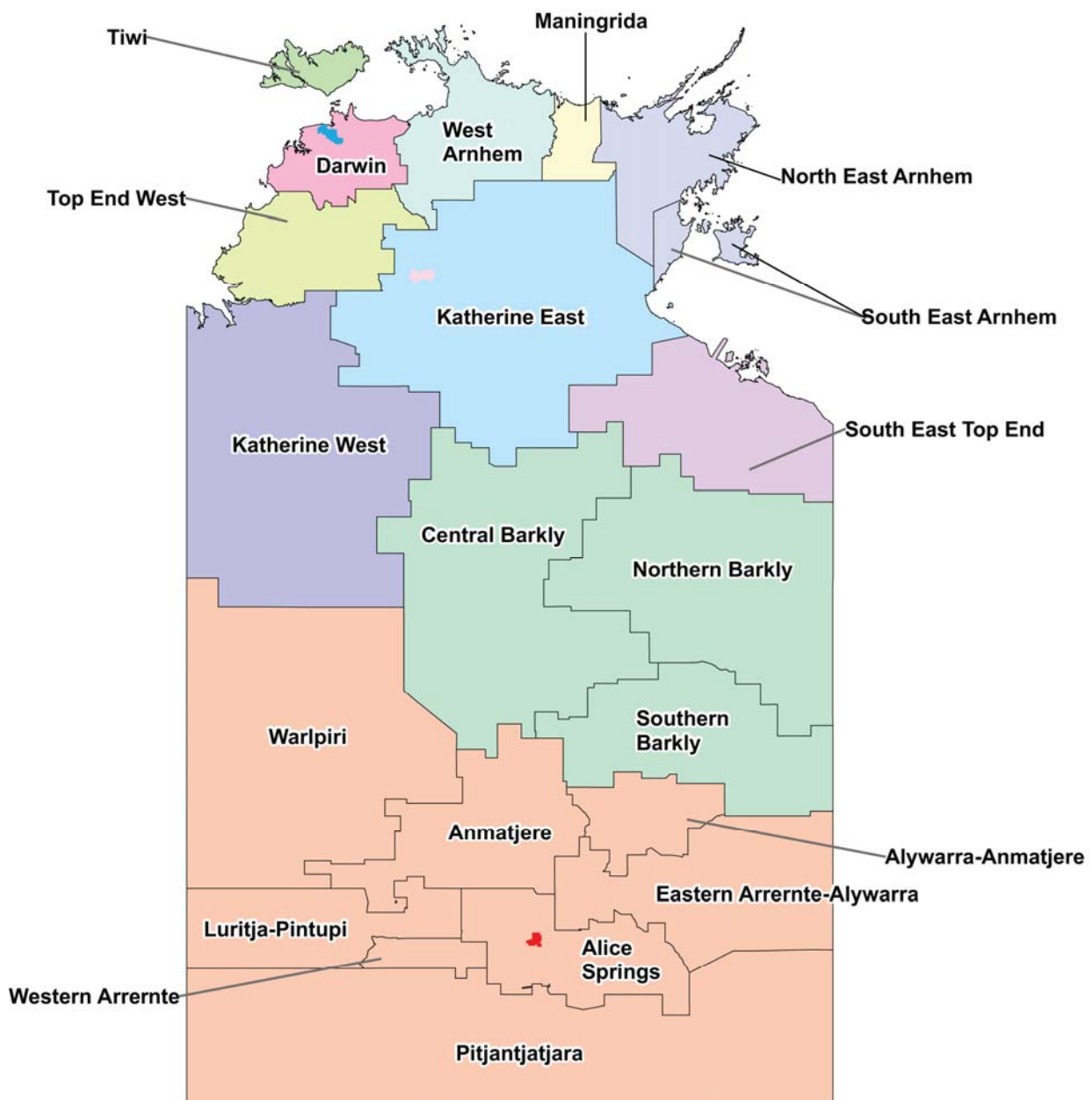
If you have any further information about this community that would be useful to add to this profile please contact RAHC via: enquiries@rahc.com.au or call 1300 MYRAHC.

Photographs used in this Community Profile are copyright of the Remote Area Health Corps. Permission was sought from all individuals or guardians of individuals, before photography commenced.

© Copyright – Remote Area Health Corps, 2010



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 & Implementa-



*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.



Minyerri

History

The Alawa people have lived in South-Eastern Arnhem Land for thousands of years. The Minyerri township is very near the site of the Hodgson Downs Station Residence. Hodgson Downs, a cattle station, was built on the Alawa traditional lands. Conflicts occurred as white settlers began to encroach upon Aboriginal territory and these first encounters included the killing of 30-40 Alawa, of both sexes, in 1903 about 500 metres from the current Minyerri community. This was thought to be one of the biggest massacres of the time. There were similar patterns seen elsewhere in this region as Aboriginal people came to terms with White culture: the impact of tobacco, their work as miners and drovers and many contributed as servicemen during World War II.

Hodgson Downs Station was granted to the Alawa people under the Land Rights Act in 1995, and is now called Waliburru. In the past few years the Indigenous Land Corporation has invested in renewing the cattle station. As at 2008, a 6500-strong Brahmin herd had been established and there was some 500km of fencing, bores, new paddocks, quarters for ringers and managers, and some 20 workers on full-time wages.

Infrastructure and Community Life

The languages spoken at Minyerri are Alawa, Kriol and English. There are between 340 – 500 residents.

Services in the community:

- School – pre-school, primary and secondary classes;
- Women's Centre;
- Centrelink Agent;
- 2 Stores – is also a bank agent and has EFTPOS facilities;
- Police
- Airstrip – there is an airstrip without lights;
- Television and Radio coverage
- Mail plane come in every Tuesday
- No mobile phone coverage
- No internet - only at the clinic

Access

Road: Minyerri is 240 kms southeast of Katherine along the Roper highway. Access to the community is restricted during the wet season as there are a number of floodways which can become impassable. The road is usually graded once a year, normally after the wet season. The majority of the time, the road is very rough with plenty of corrugation and bull dust. Care should be taken when traveling on this road.

Air: Minyerri has an airfield.



Health Centre

The Health Centre is managed by Sunrise Health Service and the hours are Monday to Friday 0800 - 1600 (plus on call and out of hour emergencies). The clinic is staffed by 3 RANs, 1 Senior Aboriginal Health Worker, 2 Aboriginal Health Workers and 1 trainee Aboriginal Health Worker. A GP is scheduled to visit the community two days per week.



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. The health centre vehicles are provided for official use only.

Keeping the Peace

Minyerri Police. Phone: 0147 112 201 (Sat). There is also a Police Station at Mataranka. Phone (08) 8975 4511. Minyerri is a dry community so NO Alcohol is permitted to be taken into the community by anyone.



Getting Advice

The following organisations and contact numbers may be useful in locating sources of advice about Minyerri. 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

Jilkminggan (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



