

Ampilatwatja

Central Region

Community Profile

Pronunciation: Um-bludder-watch

Alternate names: Ammaroo

Location: 325km north east of Alice Springs

NT region: Alywarra-Anmatjere Region

Population: 500 (2010 census) but fluctuates greatly

Access: Alice Springs

Language groups: Alyawarr



Climate (Central)

Season	Description	Temp. Range
Winter (June to August)	Cooler and dry	3°C to 20°C
	The temperature can drop below 0°C overnight in winter. Please ensure you are equipped for these extremes.	Fine weather with no rain and the possibility of getting quite cold by Territory standards during June/July. Spring (Sept-Nov) and Autumn (Mar-May) in Central Australia see warm days and cool evenings.
Summer (December to February)	Hot and dry	20°C to 35°C
	The temperature can rise above 40°C in summer. Please ensure you are equipped for these extremes.	Central Australia has a semi-arid climate. In the summer months, the days are generally hot, sometimes very hot. If rain is to fall, it is more likely in the summer months, which may lead to road closures.



History

Freehold title leases were granted by the Federal Government around 1910 to establish cattle stations on Alywarr land in an attempt to bring white settlers and development to the centre of Australia. The land's traditional owners ...

... were coerced to move from culturally significant sites and lost rights to hunting grounds to make way for grazing cattle.

The resultant Ammaroo Station became a gathering place for the Alywarr people by the sixties and seventies where many worked as drovers and fencers. In 1976 under the Native Titles Act, Alywarr families were granted a small plot at an area known then as Honeymoon Bore, about 10 km from Ammaroo Station. This small settlement is what has now developed in to the community of Ampilatwatja.

In the 1990's the Traditional Owners of the area gained small excisions from the local pastoral lease to continue their life on their land. Ampilatwatja is the cultural heartland of the Alywarr nation. There are three outstations with the main ones being Irrultja, 60 km away, and Atnwengerrp, 40km away.

With few exceptions, all the Aboriginal people living at Ampilatwatja belong to the Alywarr language group. Their country extends over some 17,000km² and through the pastoral properties of Ammaroo, Murray Downs, Elkedra,

Derry Downs, Utopia, Lake Nash and Urandangie. Alywarr is further divided into a number of smaller units called "countries". The Amperiatwatye people are from Aherrenge country which spans three cattle stations, Ammaroo, Derry Downs and Elkedra.

Community Life

Description of community: The language spoken at the community is Alywarr and there are approximately 500 residents. There is a General Store that provides basic groceries and provides territory bush orders, but no takeaway food available.

The Ampilatwatja Bombers AFL side play on the local ground, Windy Hill, and travel extensively through the region during the AFL season.

Changes in population: Population figures are estimates, as several factors impact on movement. These include seasonal changes, ceremonial activity and movement between outstations.

How is it affected by seasons: Rain fall in summer wet season can cause temporary road closures.

Major landmarks or cultural factors:

The local community is famous for their art work.

Local industry/mine: Pastoral activities, Art Centre.

Tourism: 4WD, camping, waterhole swimming, and Art Centre.

Arts/crafts: The Community Art Centre began in 1999 and artworks produced maintain a strong focus on Alywarr lore, with a particular

emphasis on the natural landscape. Ampilatwatja has a very active group of artists, who have recently exhibited at the National Gallery of Victoria to much acclaim. The art of Ampilatwatja is strikingly different from that of other Indigenous painting with a much broader colour spectrum than what is usually expected in Aboriginal art. A new arts centre is under development.

Website: www.ampilatwatja.com

****Please check with the Health Centre on arrival for sacred sites to avoid and health or social issues to be aware of.**

Governance

Local Government Barkly Shire Council (Tennant Creek) **Telephone** (08) 8962 0000
Web www.barkly.nt.gov.au/our-communities/ampilatwatja

Community or other governance structures Ampilatwatja Community Government Council.

Outstations Irrultja and Atwengerrp.

Permit System¹ All visitors must obtain a permit from the appropriate authority for the duration of their stay. Permits may be required for any person visiting the community including activities such as fishing, camping and visiting certain beaches.

Permit application for Ampilatwatja is through Central Land Council (CLC).

Web www.clc.org.au

Infrastructure, facilities and services

Community

Church: Open air church service with local ordained priest. Lutheran service.

Community Halls and Sheds: The church serves as the Community Hall/Centre.

Workforce Skills or Training Facilities: Arts Centre.

Post Office: Yes

Telephone (08) 8956 9966

- **Opening hours** Monday to Friday 8am – 4.30pm

School: One school operates at Ampilatwatja with 50-60 students enrolled. The school works on an ESL teaching model with children split into two groups, junior and senior and works with the School of the Air as well.

Library: None

Council Offices: Barkly Shire Services.

Women's Centre: Yes

Childcare Centre: No, but there is a pre-school at the school.

Aged Care Centre: Yes, only provides food.

Banking: There is an ATM located in the store.

Community store

Aherrenge Community Store:

Telephone (08) 8956 9885

One store with no takeaway food. Basic groceries, limited fresh produce as the delivery is weekly. Long life milk, frozen meat, frozen bread, fresh fruit and vegetables.

It is advisable to bring in as much fresh produce as possible and any specialty products/ items required.

- **Opening hours** Monday to Friday 9am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm
Saturday 9am – 1pm
Sunday Closed

Other food outlets

None

Food orders

Trans-territory bush orders can be placed through Woolworth's Alice Springs to be picked up on weekends by people going to town or to be trucked out fortnightly.

Woolworths Alice Springs:

Telephone (08) 8953 0988

Recreational facilities

4WD, camping, waterhole swimming after rains, basketball – court doubles as tennis court.

¹ RAHC HPs are not required to obtain permits for their placement as they are exempt under legislation related to the Emergency Response.

Commercial accommodation	None	
Fuel	OPAL and Diesel available from the store.	
Mechanic	None	
Police station	No, nearest is Alparra, but police make regular visits.	Telephone 131 444 Alparra
Other	Community Night Patrol.	Telephone (08) 8956 9966
Telephone/internet/mail		
Mobile phone²	No mobile phone access, however, there is a Telstra tower being installed (Nov 2013). ADSL Internet/email access and satellite dish.	
Internet	Internet access is available at the Health Centre for reasonable personal use.	
Mail	Mail plane delivers once a week if it's dry and not windy.	
Other	Landlines available in staff accommodation.	
Alcohol		
Alcohol	Ampilatwatja has voluntarily been a dry community since its establishment, this means no alcohol or other prohibited substances. Penalties are in place for anyone who breaches these restrictions.	
Access		
Road	Alice Springs (4 hours⁴): Access is by road via Alice Springs. The road is sealed for 100 km and there is 220 km unsealed. The trip takes approximately 4 hours from Alice Springs in dry conditions, firstly on the sealed Stuart Highway and then on the dirt Sandover Highway. A 4WD vehicle is required to make the journey after rain. Heavy rain will close the road.	
Air	Facilities: Flights take 1½ hours from Alice Springs. The mail plane runs weekly and passenger flights are via charter from Alice Springs airport. The dirt airstrips are also used by the Royal Flying Doctors Service (RFDS) and are accessible day and night. Alice Springs (1 hour): Charters or doctors' plane.	
Regular passenger transport	None	

² Telstra 3G/Next G are typically the only mobile services that work in more remote parts of the Northern Territory. See link - <http://telstra.com.au/mobile-phones/coverage-networks/our-coverage/>

³ It is an offence to consume or bring alcohol into a dry community in the Northern Territory

⁴ Approximate travel time one-way

Health Centre

Health service

Ampilatwatja Health Centre Aboriginal Corporation

Telephone (08) 8956 9942

Email ceo@ampilatwatja.com.au

Staff

- Manager 1
- Remote Area Nurses 2
- Medical Practitioner 1
- Aboriginal Health Workers 4 (2 male / 2 female)
- Aboriginal Community Workers 5
- Administration Officer 1
- Drivers/Gardeners/Cleaners 4
- Other. -

Facilities

The Ampilatwatja Health Centre has three consulting rooms and two emergency rooms with separate waiting rooms, allowing for flexibility when catering for cultural requirements.

Operating hours

Monday to Friday 8.30am – 12.30pm and 2.30pm – 5pm.

On call

On call rotation with RNs and sometimes with Health Workers, so on call roster varies between 1:2 and 1:3 nights averaged per week. The weekend is a 1:2 roster duty. The doctor is expected to be second on call back up for RN if in town.

Services

The Health Centre is owned and operated by Ampilatwatja Health Centre Aboriginal Corporation (AHCAC), a primary health care service which also provides a 24 hour emergency service and caters for residents from Ampilatwatja, Irrultja, Atnwengerrp and Welere.

The Health Service is also available to all non-Indigenous people residing within the Ampilatwatja community.

Medical Records Systems⁵

Communicare.

Vehicles

The Health Centre maintains a Toyota Troop Carrier that has been converted for use as an ambulance.

****Note: All Troop Carriers are 4WD, manual and take diesel fuel.**

GP

District Medical Officer (DMO) consults are discussed with the Alice Springs DMO. DMO and other health professionals visit from Alice Springs on a regular basis.

⁵ Training should be arranged before your arrival in the community

<p>Visiting services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition and Paediatric Specialist (visit on a regular basis) • Diabetic Specialist • Ophthalmologist • Obstetrics and Gynaecology • Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist • Mental Health • Lawyers and Legal Aid • Podiatrist • Physician • Surgeon • Renal Physician • Women’s Health • Dental Team. <p style="text-align: right;">} visit one to two times per year</p> <p>In addition to this, a clinic run to town occurs weekly for outpatient consultations in Alice Springs.</p>
<p>Acute care</p>	<p>A Remote Medical Practitioner is on call 24 hours for telephone consultations and evacuations. Emergency evacuations can be made to Alice Springs via Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) air ambulance.</p>
<p>Other</p>	<p>Pregnant women birth in Alice Springs.</p>
<p>Accommodation</p>	
<p>Accommodation</p>	<p>Fully fenced, furnished housing is available for RAHC staff and is well-equipped with cooking and communication facilities including an electric stove, one large refrigerator and upright freezer, a washing machine, TV, DVD, CD and video player. There is a four seat dining setting with plenty of crockery, cutlery, pots and pans and an electric kettle. There is air-conditioning, reverse cycle for heating during winter.</p> <p>The RANs may be expected to share a house.</p>
<p>Facilities</p>	<p>Usual domestic amenities including microwave, fridge, oven/stove, washing machine, TV and split system air-conditioning.</p>
<p>Linen</p>	<p>Provided.</p>
<p>Vehicles</p>	
<p>Vehicle</p>	<p>No vehicle is provided, however the clinic has a vehicle available for most foreseen uses.</p>
<p>Policy</p>	<p>Private usage of vehicles is allocated to one trip a month. This is on negotiation with the clinic.</p>

What to pack for placement

Clothes

Possibility of cool nights in middle of year, so light warm clothing is useful. In wet season (October - April), clothing for very hot, humid days – loose cotton clothing.

Please refer to this website for information on appropriate clothing to wear whilst out in a community.

http://ntgpe.org/wp_site/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Appropriate-Clothing-2.pdf

Supplies

Bring any specialty foods and a small quantity of fresh food.

****Note: Please be mindful of weight restrictions on plane travel.**

Personal effects

Bring a hat, sturdy shoes, insect repellent, sunscreen and toiletries.

Other tips or relevant information

Other tips/relevant information

Be prepared for variable standard of accommodation in communities. A sleeping bag sheet insert is a good idea for protection against biting insects.

Disclaimer

This information is prepared in good faith and to the best of our knowledge at the time of printing. However, Aboriginal communities, like any community, can change as the population shifts and people move on. Please contact the RAHC Regional Coordinator or the Health Centre Manager to confirm any key issues or concerns you may have ahead of your RAHC placement. RAHC also values any input and up to date information or photos you can provide to improve our Community Profiles. Updated June 2014.

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