

Borrooloola

Katherine Region

Community Profile

Pronunciation: Borra-loo-la

Alternate names: Burrulula

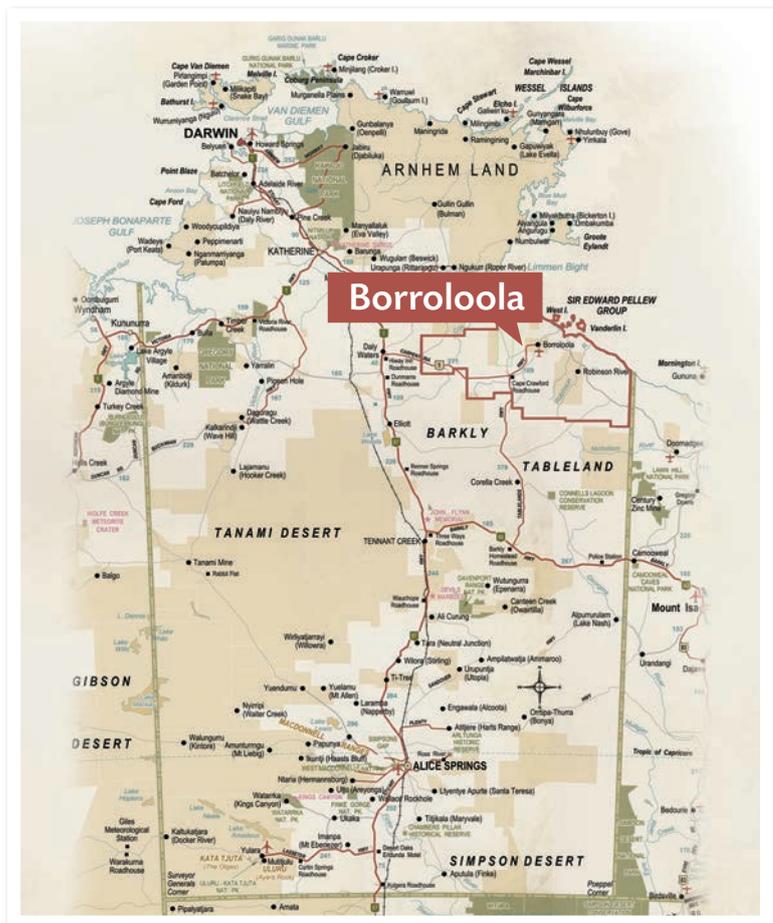
Location: 380km east of Stuart Highway from turn-off near Daly Waters and 850km south east of Darwin

NT region: South East Top End

Population: Approximately 1100.
Dept. of Health figure is 1609 in 2011

Access: Carpentaria Highway and Savannah Way from Hi-Way Inn near Daly Waters (Stuart Highway). North from Barkly Homestead on the Tablelands Highway, joining Savannah Way at Cape Crawford. Both highways are sealed

Language groups: Yanyuwa, Karawa, Mara and Kurdanji



Climate (Barkly)*

Season	Description	Temp. Range
Winter dry season (June to August)	Cooler and dry	8°C to 23°C
The temperature can drop below 0°C overnight in winter. Please ensure you are equipped for these extremes. Humidity Range 20% - 50%.	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 wet season (October to April)	Hot and humid	22°C to 37°C
Humidity can rise to 95%. Please ensure you are equipped for these extremes. Humidity Range 30% - 95%.	The build-up occurs from September with building humidity, intermittent lightning storms and downpours. Rains typically arrive December/January with regular heavy downpours and the possibility of cyclones.	

* Although part of Barkly Tablelands, Borrooloola's climate is tropical



History

Borroloola was first established as a township in 1885 with the construction of a police station (now a museum). Borroloola was on the droving route from North Queensland into the Northern Territory and was suitable for grazing. The community is located at a crossing point of the McArthur River and in the early days the river was the main transport route in and out of the town.

Borroloola retained its reputation as a wild, lawless outpost full of criminals, murderers and alcoholics ...

... where illegal activities such as smuggling and grog running proliferated well into the twentieth century. The town's colourful history of men on the run from the law and horse and cattle thieves included often violent confrontations between pastoralists and Aborigines.

Since the highway was sealed in 1968, Borroloola's remoteness became a magnet for tourists and fishermen and women, some of whom came hoping to experience the wilderness and observe Aboriginal culture.

Borroloola is an important service town for the McArthur River Mine, 60km away. This means that regular passenger travel services can be very busy and early booking is essential.

Community Life

Description of community:

Borroloola is a fully serviced, large town and as the region's popularity for tourism grows, more and more visitors use Borroloola as a base for fishing expeditions.

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:

Movement between Borroloola and outstations based on the seasons.

Major landmarks or cultural factors:

Caranbirini Conservation Reserve and Savannah Way.

Local industry/mine: McArthur River Mine, tourism, commercial fishing and pastoral activities (cattle).

Tourism: Fishing (Fishing Classic, Easter), camping, Rodeo Gymkhana and Campdraft (August), Old Police Station (Museum), Houseboats, BoonuBoonu Festival (July) – focus on dance.

Arts/crafts: Waralungku Arts Centre displays and sells Aboriginal artwork including paintings, didgeridoos, basket work and wood carvings made by the local Aboriginal people. Open Monday to Friday, 8am – 12pm and 1pm – 4pm. Waralungku artists are producing exciting contemporary work.

The leading Borroloola artists depict both the life and the history of the community, as well as the distinctive

beauty of the surrounding landscape.

Websites:

www.ropergulf.nt.gov.au/index.php/borroloola.html

www.visitkatherine.com.au/pages/borroloola-the-gulf

****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	Roper Gulf Regional Council	Telephone (08) 8975 8762 Web www.ropergulf.nt.gov.au
Community or other governance structures	Rumburriya Malandari Council Aboriginal Corporation. Borroloola Town Council	Telephone (08) 8979 8922 Telephone (08) 8975 8799
Outstations	26 outstations, serviced by Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Centre. Population 400	Web www.mabunji.com.au
Permit System	Borroloola is a gazetted township so no permit is required for town itself. A permit is required to go to the outstations	

Infrastructure, facilities and services

Community	<p>Church: Aboriginal Inland Mission</p> <p>Community Halls and Sheds: Recreation Hall, Meeting Hall</p> <p>Workforce Skills or Training Facilities: Mabunji Life Skills Program</p> <p>Post Office: Yes Telephone (08) 8975 8797</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening hours Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm <p>School: Borroloola CEC contains pre-school, primary and secondary (to middle years) schools</p> <p>Council Office: Roper Gulf Regional Council, Borroloola Town Council</p> <p>Women's Centre: Yes</p> <p>Childcare Centre: Yes Telephone (08) 8975 8865</p> <p>Aged Care Centre: Malandari Aged Care</p> <p>Banking: There is an ATM located in Malandari store and onther near the Post Office</p>	
Community store	<p>Malandari Store: Telephone (08) 8975 8875</p> <p>Gulf Mini Mart: Telephone (08) 8975 8790</p> <p>Red Dirt: Telephone (08) 8975 8772</p> <p>Malandari Store is the largest of all three stores and is very well stocked. Take-away mid strength beer can be purchased here, however there is a limit per person. Fuel is also sold here and is open until 6pm weekdays. Opening hours on weekends are less</p> <p>All groceries can be purchased from the Gulf Mini Mart. Delivery trucks usually arrive on a Wednesday. Fresh food including meat, vegetables and milk are available. The mini mart serves as a service station, supermarket, takeaway, alfresco coffee shop, mechanical workshop, tyre centre, BOC gas agent and freight depot for Eastern states trucking company</p> <p>The Gulf Mini Mart also operates fishing charters using a state of the art custom built alloy fishing boat. Powered by twin 90hpp motors, this vessel can take passengers to the farthest reaches of the Gulf Of Carpentaria</p> <p>Red Dirt has a butcher that cuts fresh meat and has a good range of both fresh fruit and vegetables. There is also a takeaway store attached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening hours <p>Malandari Store: Monday to Friday 7am – 6pm, Saturday and Sunday - less than weekdays</p> <p>Gulf Mini Mart: Monday to Sunday 7am – 7pm</p> <p>Red Dirt: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday 7am – 7pm, Thursday and Friday 7am - 9pm</p>	

Other food outlets	Takeaway (at Gulf Mini Mart and red Dirt), The Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation (ALPA)Store and Paperbark Café
Food orders	Food orders must be placed by Thursday night and needs to be phoned through to Pandion Haulage. This will arrive the following Thursday in Borroloola. You will need to pay for freight on delivery. These orders come from Woolworths in Darwin Woolworths Darwin: Telephone (08) 8919 8308 Pandion Haulage: Telephone (08) 8947 4040 Web www.pandionhaulage.com.au/schedule
Recreational facilities	Swimming pool at school is available for use, fishing in and around Macarthur River/ King Ash Bay, football, AFL, soccer and basketball
Commercial accommodation	Borroloola Guest House, Borroloola Hotel Motel, Savannah Way Motel (won NT Tourism award 2012)
Car hire	There are two car hire companies in town, one being Borroloola Rent a Car Mobile 0408 472 747 Web www.borroloolarentacar.com.au/
Fuel	ULP (Ultra Unleaded Petrol), Premium and diesel are available from three outlets, including Gulf Mini Mart. All fuels available seven days per week. Mechanical and tyre repairs are available at Gulf Mini Mart, TJS One Stop and Terry Fischer Motors (next to the museum)
Mechanic	Two mechanics
Police station	Yes Telephone (08) 8975 8770
Alt. police contact	Emergency only Telephone 000
Other	None
Telephone/internet/mail	
Mobile phone¹	Mobile phone service in the region – Telstra only
Internet	Internet access is available at the Health Centre for reasonable personal use
Mail	Mail comes in on a regular basis
Other	Own personal 3G internet dongle if applicable
Alcohol	
Alcohol²	The Savannah Way Motel with the Carpentaria Grill Restaurant and the Borroloola Hotel Motel are licensed premises for dining. The hotel sells mid-strength beer – the only take away alcohol sold in the town. Mid-strength beer is the only takeaway alcohol sold in Borroloola ³ . Restrictions apply on quantity sold and where it can be consumed. There is also a licensed premise at the Amateur Fishing Club at Black Rock Landing, King Ash Bay 41 km from town on the Macarthur River. No wine or spirits are available for takeaway – beer only Takeaway mid-strength beer is available from Malandari Store

¹ 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/>

² It is an offence to consume or bring alcohol into a dry community in the Northern Territory

³ This may be subject to change

Access

Road

Darwin (7 to 8 hours⁴): From Hi-Way Inn near Daly Waters on the Stuart Highway, turn onto single lane Carpentaria Highway, Savannah Way after Cape Crawford. Sealed road, but may be closed after heavy rain for up to a week in the wet season

Barkly Homestead (6 hours): Tablelands Highway north to Cape Crawford, join Savannah Way to Borroloola. Sealed roads, but may be impassable in time of heavy rain

Other services: Barge landing 40 km away, at Black Rock, but not in all weather

Air

Facilities: The airstrip at Borroloola is a sealed night and day strip, and is used by smaller planes, the RAAF and the RFDS Mail plane services town three times weekly with seats available. It is a half day trip from Katherine due to frequent stopovers on the mail run. Main strip, at McArthur River Mine 60 km away is used by Airnorth, which runs a daily service, Monday to Friday from Darwin. Book well in advance, as the planes fill up with fly-in-fly-out mine workers

Darwin (2 to 3 hours): Charters and Airnorth

Regular passenger transport

Airnorth has several flights per week to McArthur River

Health Centre

Health service

Department of Health (DoH)

Telephone (08) 8975 8757

Web www.health.nt.gov.au

Email borroloola.clinicmgr@nt.gov.au

Staff

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Manager | 1 (and RAN) |
| • Remote Area Nurses | 6 |
| • Medical Practitioners | 2 (including DMO) |
| • Aboriginal Health Workers | 4 |
| • Aboriginal Community Worker | 1 |
| • Mental Health Nurse | 1 |
| • Administration Officers | 4 |
| • Drivers/Gardeners/Cleaners | 5 |
| • Other: | - |

Facilities

Two bed Emergency, five treatment rooms, x-ray available, radiology every Wednesday

Operating hours

Monday to Wednesday and Friday	8.30am – 4.30pm
Thursday	1pm – 4.30pm

On call

1st and 2nd RN on call, plus a driver every night

Services

- Substance Abuse Support
- School Screening (annually)
- Old People Screening (ongoing)
- Well Women's Screening (ongoing)
- Well Men's Screening (ongoing)
- Under 5 Screening (ongoing)
- Immunisation
- Chronic Disease Outreach
- Maternal and Child Health
- Communicable Disease Reporting and Management
- Home Visiting Services (as required)
- Palliative Care (as required).

⁴ Approximate travel time one-way

Medical Records System⁵	PCIS
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	Two resident GP positions filled by combination of visiting District Medical Officer, two weeks on and two weeks off, plus locums
Visiting services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paediatrician • Surgeon • Physician • Gynaecologist • Dentist • Ophthalmology • Commonwealth Rehab Service. • Cardiologist • Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist • Mental Health • Preventable Chronic Disease • Aged and Disability Service • Maternal and Child Health <p>Most visit three monthly on average, some six monthly</p>
Acute care	Care Flight evacuations are available almost all through the year, with the possible exception of heavy cyclonic weather
Other	Pregnant women birth in Darwin or Katherine depending on their history and needs
Accommodation	
Accommodation	Either a freestanding house or single occupancy demountable “Donga” style with shared facilities or the Savannah Way Motel
Facilities	Usual domestic amenities including microwave, fridge, oven/stove, washing machine, TV and split system air-conditioning
Linen	Provided
Vehicles	
Vehicle	No vehicle is provided for personal use
Policy	NT DoH has a strict policy on vehicle use. Any non-clinical use is not acceptable
What to pack for placement	
Clothes	<p>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</p> <p>Please refer to this website for information on appropriate clothing to wear whilst out in a community</p> <p>http://ntgpe.org/wp_site/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Appropriate-Clothing-2.pdf</p>
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

⁵ Training should be arranged before your arrival in the community

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.

Canberra Office

Suite 17J, Level 1, 2 King St, Deakin ACT 2600

T 02 6203 9588 F 02 6203 9598

Darwin Office

Level 4, Darwin Central Offices, 21 Knuckey Street, Darwin NT 0800

T 08 8942 1650 F 08 8942 1676