

Galiwin'ku

Arnhem Region

Community Profile

Pronunciation: Gally-wing-coo

Alternate names: None

Location: At the southern end of Elcho Island, 550km north-east of Darwin, and 150km west of Nhulunbuy

NT region: North East Arnhem

Population: 2,200

Access: By air from Darwin or Nhulunbuy. By sea from Darwin. No direct road access

Language groups: Djambarrpuyngu is the most commonly spoken language. There are up to 12 other languages



Climate (Top End)

Season	Description	Temp. Range
Winter dry season (May to September)	Cooler and dry	15°C to 33°C
Humidity Range 20% – 50%.	Fine weather with no rain and much lower humidity than wet season and a possibility of becoming cold by Territory standards during June/July.	
Summer wet season (October to April)	Hot and humid	22°C to 35°C
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.	

History

Aboriginal people have inhabited this region for more than 40,000 years. Prior to the arrival of Europeans, Elcho Islanders and other Yolngu living along the coastal edges of Arnhem Land had regular contact with sea traders passing through the great trading route between China and Europe. Trepanng fishermen had been coming each year to the Northern Territory coastline from Macassar for many generations. Trading activities existed between the visitors and the local Yolngu and provided a significant economic contribution to the region.

In the 17th Century Dutch, Portuguese and Spanish are known to have charted the Arnhem Land coast.

The impact of any possible contacts with these traders is not known.

After the Goulburn Island mission was set up in 1921, Elcho Island was chosen as the site for a second Methodist overseas mission. However, oil drilling by the Naphtha Petroleum Company closed the mission site, which was relocated to Milingimbi.

Galiwin'ku on Elcho Island was eventually established in 1942 as a refuge from possible bombing of the Milingimbi Royal Australian Air Force Base during World War II, with the arrival of Harold Shepherdson, a lay associate of the Methodist Overseas Mission.

The Methodist church started its Methodist overseas mission in Galiwin'ku in 1947. During the 1950s a fishing industry started, a large market garden flourished and a cypress pine logging industry and sawmill began. During early settlement, the mission encouraged Aboriginal people to stay on their traditional homelands and use Galiwin'ku as a service centre. However, the mission ended when self-government came in the 1970s, and the community is now the largest Aboriginal community in north east Arnhem Land.

In 2008, Galiwin'ku became part of the East Arnhem Shire and the Shire took over local government.

Community Life

Description of community:

Galiwin'ku is the major community on Elcho Island. Elcho Island is part of the Wessel Island group located in the East Arnhem Region of the Northern Territory. It is a traditional Aboriginal community and is the second largest Aboriginal community in the Northern Territory. Elcho Island is at the southern end of the Wessel Island group, and is bounded on the western side by the Arafura Sea and on the eastern side by Cadell Strait. Elcho is a tropical Island with varying terrain. The eastern side of the Island is banked with mangroves and mud, a perfect situation for the local's favourite food, the mud crab and barramundi. The western side of the Island consists of sandy beaches and reefs, where oysters, crayfish, various reef fish and turtles are hunted. Areas of the Island consists of tropical rainforests, tidal creeks and large cliff areas containing brightly coloured ochre rocks which are used for body paint for ceremonies as well as for making paint for art works.

Galiwin'ku is the only town on Elcho Island, and is also the Aboriginal name for the whole island. The island is the home of musician Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu and the Chooky Dancers (Djuki Mala).

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:

The population of Galiwin'ku varies during the seasons, with many of the outstation residents migrating to the community during the wet season due to inaccessibility.

Local industry/mine: Market garden, strong music and arts scene.

Tourism: The Art and Craft Centre, located on the cliff top, is popular with tour groups in dry season. A community market is held on Fridays.

Arts/crafts: Elcho Island Art and Craft Centre - long-standing tradition of producing stunning art work, especially Morning Star Poles, didgeridoos, carving, jewellery and baskets.

****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 East Arnhem Shire **Telephone** (08) 8987 9206
Web www.eastarnhem.nt.gov.au

Community or other governance structures Galiwin'ku Council **Telephone** (08) 8987 9033
Northern Land Council-Nhulunbuy Office **Telephone** (08) 8987 8500

Outstations Approx. 25, including Rorruwuy, Gawa, Mapurru, Mata Mata, Mudhamul, Garriyangurr, Nikawu, Nyekala, Wunbirri, Yirringa, Dhudupu, Galawarra and Mallarramii. Population approximately 450

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 Galiwin'ku is through Northern Land Council (NLC)

Web www.nlc.org.au

Infrastructure, facilities and services

Community

Church: Active community church and Bible translation centre

Community Halls and Sheds: Sports and Recreation Hall, YMCA

Workforce Skills or Training Facilities: TAFE, Resource Centre and the Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation (ALPA) provide training under Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) for potential employees for the store

Government Offices: Centrelink, Dept. of Human Services, Dept. of Transport, Northern Land Council

Post Office: Yes **Telephone** (08) 8987 9073

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

School: Shepherdson Preschool, Gawa Christian School, Shepherdson College and Galiwin'ku Senior Secondary School (pre-school to year 12). The College provides education services to seven Homeland Learning Centres (HLCs)

Library: Galiwin'ku Library and Knowledge Centre

Council Office: Council Administration Centre

Women's Centre: Yes

Childcare Centre: Childcare for working mums, family first and pre-school/kindergarten

Aged Care Centre: Galiwin'ku Aged and Disability **Telephone** (08) 8987 9221
Service operated by East Arnhem Shire

Banking: Traditional Credit Union and two ATM machines are located in the ALPA store

Community store **Galiwin'ku Store:** **Telephone** (08) 8987 9036

Store is operated by the Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation (ALPA). Limited fresh food, sometimes fresh milk, basic groceries, hardware and clothing

It is advisable to bring in as much fresh produce as possible and any specialty products/items required **Web** www.alpa.asn.au

- Opening hours** Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm
Saturday 9am – 12pm

Other food outlets Two other small stores and takeaway food outlets

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

Food orders	Toll Shipping deliver from Woolworths in Darwin. Toll Shipping: Woolworths Darwin:	Telephone 1800 220 436 Telephone (08) 8919 8308
Recreational facilities	Basketball courts, campground, tennis courts, sports ground	
Commercial accommodation	Marthakal Motel (50 rooms with single beds, meals available)	
Fuel	Diesel at service station	
Mechanic	Two workshops	
Police station	New police station (2012)	Telephone (08) 8987 9089
Alt. police contact	Ramingining (or Milingimbi)	Telephone (08) 8979 7858
Other	Community Night Patrol	Telephone through police station
Telephone/internet/mail		
Mobile phone²	Only Telstra mobile service in the region	
Internet	Internet access is available	
Mail	The community has a post office agency located at the community store. Mail comes in on a regular basis	
Other	Landlines are limited in accommodation. Best source for contact is a Telstra mobile	
Alcohol		
Alcohol – not allowed³	Galiwin'ku is a dry community. This applies to everyone, including visitors	
Access		
Road	No road access. Barge services: All freight for the ALPA store is barged to the community on a weekly service. The barge landing is located on the south east coast 5 km from the community. The barge road is gravel and is accessible all year round	
Air	Facilities: All weather airstrip with automatic radio controlled lighting. The community owns and operates a charter business – Marthakai Yolngu Airlines Darwin (1½ hours + 30 minute stop in Maningrida): Airnorth flies a return service to Elcho Island, via Maningrida, every day except Sunday Nhulunbuy (45 minutes): Charters only	
Regular passenger transport	Airnorth service (as above)	

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

Health Centre

Health service

Marthakal Homeland Health Service

Telephone (08) 8970 5566

Web www.marthakal.org/homelands-health-service

Email healthmanager@marthakal.org

Ngalkanbuy Health Centre

Telephone (08) 8970 5700

Web www.miwatj.com.au

Email woodsc@miwatj.com.au

Governance

Marthakal runs Homelands Health Service. Marthakal are responsible to 13 homelands; four communities on the mainland and nine communities on the island remotely

Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation runs Ngalkanbuy Health Centre. Ngalkanbuy Health Service provides acute support to outstations when requested by Marthakal Resource Centre. Outstation clients access both services

Staff

	Marthakal	Ngalkanbuy
• Managers	1	1
• Remote Area Nurses	3	5
• Medical Practitioners	3	3
• Aboriginal Health Workers	3	6
• Aboriginal Community Workers	2	-
• Administration Officers	2	-
• Drivers/Gardeners/Cleaners	2	-
• Others	2	-

(2 Health Young Mothers and AHW (Environmental) at Marthakal)

Facilities

Marthakal Health: Service the outlying homelands and communities

Ngalkanbuy: Five treatment rooms

Operating hours

Both: Monday to Friday 8.30am – 12pm and 2pm – 4.30pm

On call

Marthakal: AHW first on-call, RN or Doctor back-up

For on-call nurse:

Telephone 0488 705 500

Ngalkanbuy: Emergencies only

Services

Marthakal

- Wound Management
- Adult and Child Health Assessments
- Immunisation Program
- Women's Health
- Sexual Health
- Asthma Management
- Mental Health Support
- Chronic Disease Management
- Diabetes Screening/Education
- Antenatal and Maternity Care
- Healthy Young Mothers Program
- Health Promotion and Education
- Aged Care and Environmental Health.

Ngalkanbuy

- Men's Health
- Women's Health and ANC
- Paediatric Program
- Immunisation Program
- Chronic Disease Program
- Mental Health Program
- GP Service
- Emergency Service.

Medical Records System⁴

Communicare for both

⁴ Training should be arranged before your arrival in the community

Vehicles	<p>Marthakal: Maintains a Toyota Troop Carrier that has been converted for use as an ambulance. There are also three other 4WD vehicles for the Nursing Team to use when transferring between the homelands</p> <p>Ngalkanbuy: Has two Toyota Troop Carriers as ambulances as well as other vehicles</p> <p>**Note: All Troop Carriers are 4WD, manual and take diesel fuel.</p>		
GP	<p>Marthakal: Monthly visits to outstations. Employed by Marthakal</p> <p>Ngalkanbuy: Three Doctors, alternating full-time. Employed by Miwatj</p>		
Visiting services	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p>Marthakal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dental Program • Audiology Screening • Optometrist Screening • Podiatry Service. </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p>Ngalkanbuy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialists (including Physician) • Dentists. </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Marthakal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dental Program • Audiology Screening • Optometrist Screening • Podiatry Service. 	<p>Ngalkanbuy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialists (including Physician) • Dentists.
<p>Marthakal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dental Program • Audiology Screening • Optometrist Screening • Podiatry Service. 	<p>Ngalkanbuy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialists (including Physician) • Dentists. 		
Acute care	Remote Medical Practitioner is on call 24 hours for telephone consultations and evacuations. Emergency service provided by Ngalkanbuy. Evacuations to Nhulunbuy or Darwin depending on severity of condition		
Other	Pregnant women birth in Gove		
Accommodation			
Accommodation	<p>Either a freestanding house or single occupancy demountable “Donga” style</p> <p>**Note: Sharing of facilities may be required</p>		
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	Check with clinic on usage		
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	<p>Bring any specialty foods and a small quantity of fresh food</p> <p>**Note: Please be mindful of weight restrictions on plane travel</p>		
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.

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