

Ramingining Arnhem Region

Community Profile

Pronunciation: Ramen-gining

Alternate names: None

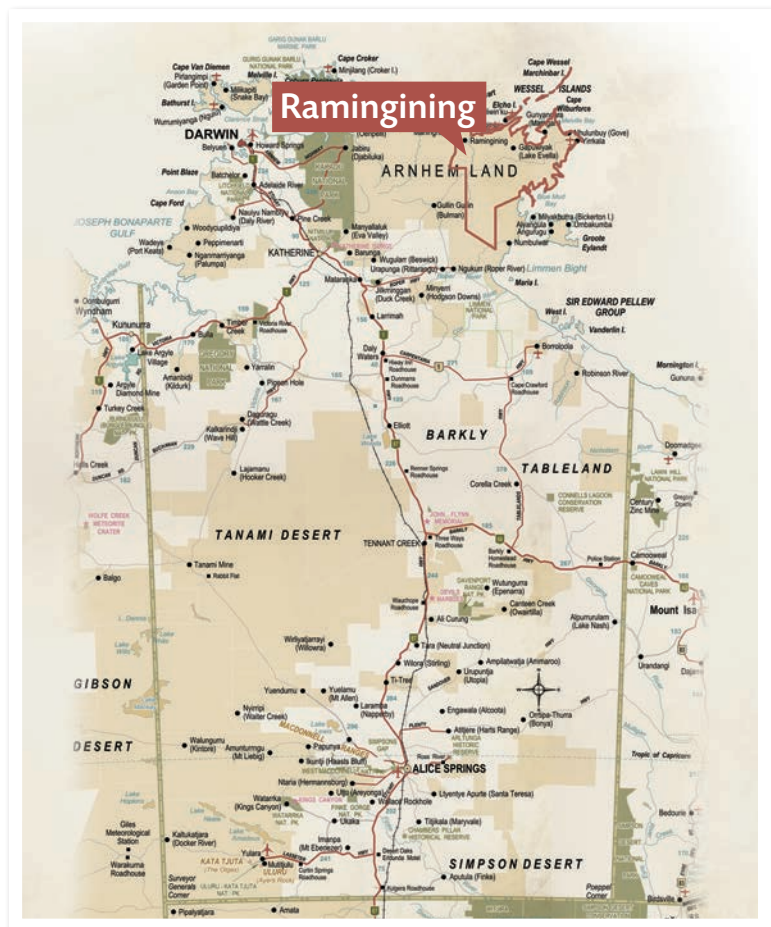
Location: 550km east of Darwin, and 200km west of Nhulunbuy

NT region: North East Arnhem

Population: 800 approx.

Access: From Darwin by road or air

Language groups: Yolngu or Yolŋu Matha, primarily Djambarrpuyngu and Gupapuyngu



Climate (Top End)

Season	Description	Temp. Range
Winter dry season (May to September) Humidity Range 20% – 50%.	Cooler and dry Fine weather with no rain and much lower humidity than wet season and a possibility of becoming cold by Territory standards during June/July.	15°C to 33°C
Summer wet season (October to April) Humidity Range 30% – 95%.	Hot and humid 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.	22°C to 35°C



History

The tract of land upon which Ramingining township is built, is owned by the Djadawitjibi people of the Djinang group. They are Yolngu people. Their principal creative being is Garrtjambal, the Red Kangaroo.

Travelling from the south-east in the Roper River region across the mainland and over to Milingimbi, Garrtjambal links all the land-owning groups in the region.

In the 1880s the MacCartney family started Florida cattle station on the Goyder River. There were constant clashes with Aboriginal people and the station was abandoned in 1893.

In 1903 the Eastern African and Cold Store Company acquired a 50,000km² lease covering all 'vegetable, animal and mineral' rights to Arnhem Land. With Captain Joe Bradshaw using his steamer, White Star, and five thousand head of cattle being driven overland from stations on the Roper River, the Arafura cattle station was established on land around the Glyde and Goyder Rivers. Chinese cultivated cotton, maize and vegetables on the floodplains and on Maroonga Island.

Within five years the venture failed; the cattle roamed and were speared, and the Europeans left.

Chronic water shortages at Milingimbi especially in 1962 lead to the conversion of Ngangalala from an outstation to a community. (Ngangalala was the original landing site on the Glyde River for the Arafura cattle venture. On aviation maps it is still marked as White Star landing.) It took nine years for the mission to be granted a lease on the area

despite desperate water shortages on Milingimbi.

The community was established in the early 1970s, and became recognised as Aboriginal land with the passage of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act of 1976.

By late 1971, 200 people had moved to Ramingining. By then Murwangi Pastoral Association had been registered as an Aboriginal organisation but had yet to gain funding. Murwangi, located south of Ramingining on the lower reaches of the Goyder, has had a difficult history but still operates as a cattle station.

Ramingining is now the major community and Ngangalala is now a sizable homeland community, 8km to the north east of Ramingining.

Community Life

Description of community:

Ramingining is an idyllic, culturally rich Indigenous community in the tropical forest on the edge of the Arafura Swamp. Many outstations are situated on the banks of lagoons and rivers teeming with wildlife. The community was the location for the movie *10 Canoes*, and is home to many outstanding artists and musicians.

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

How is it affected by seasons: While Ramingining is accessible by road and air, it is often closed off during the wet season due to flooding.

Major landmarks or cultural factors: 15km out of town is a billabong with plenty of wildlife.

Local industry/mine: None.

Tourism: Art Centre.

Arts/Crafts: Bula'bula Arts Centre.

The name Bula'bula was selected in 1989 by local artists for their co-operative as it refers to the message embodied in the song-cycle of Garrtjambal's journey from Roper River to the Ramingining region. More literally, Bula'bula translates as the tongue, or voice of the kangaroo.

Websites: www.bulabula-arts.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 East Arnhem Shire Council **Telephone** (08) 8986 8986
Web www.eastarnhem.nt.gov.au/ramingining

Community or other governance structures Northern Land Council **Telephone** (08) 8920 5100
Web www.nlc.org.au

Outstations Yatalamarra, Wulkarimirra, Ngangalala, Mulgurrum, Garanydjirr, Galadjapin, Gattji, Geliri, Manbbirri, Bundatharri and Gurulul.

Permit System A permit from the Northern Land Council is required to visit Ramingining.

Infrastructure, facilities and services

Community

Church: None

Community Halls and Sheds: None

Workforce Skills or Training Facilities: None

Post Office: Yes

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

School: Ramingining School , Pre-school to Year 12.

Library: Ramingining Community Knowledge Centre.

Council Office: East Arnhem Shire Office **Telephone** (08) 8979 7951

Women’s Centre: Ramingining Women’s Centre **Telephone** (08) 8979 7951

Childcare Centre: FAFT playgroup at the school.

Aged Care Centre: Ramingining Aged and Disability Service **Telephone** (08) 8979 7951

Banking: Traditional Credit Union agency and ATM in the store.

Community store **Arnhem Land Progress Association (ALPA):** **Telephone** (08) 8979 7921

All freight for the ALPA store is barged to the community on a weekly service. The barge landing is located on the north coast 30km from the community.

Fresh fruit and vegetables are delivered on a Tuesday.

It is advisable to bring any specific grocery items as stocks are limited.

- **Opening hours** Monday to Sunday 9am – 5.30pm.

Other food outlets Takeaway attached to the store. Open Monday to Friday, 10am-2pm.

Food orders Food orders from Woolworths or Coles can be purchased online and delivered via weekly barge service or via Fly Tiwi domestic flights. Check with store for barge contacts.

Coles Online: **Web** www.shop.coles.com.au

Woolworths Online: **Web** www2.woolworthsonline.com.au

Fly Tiwi: Telephone: (08) 8929 9300 **Web** www.flytiwi.com.au/main/page_freight.html

Recreational facilities Football, basketball, fishing.

Commercial accommodation East Arnhem Shire Guest House **Telephone** (08) 8979 7906

Fuel Garage Store sells opal and diesel fuel. Available 24hrs if paying by credit card.

Mechanic	Yes. Ask at council office.	
Police station	Yes	Telephone (08) 8979 7858
Alt. police contact	Emergency only	Telephone 000
Other	Community Night Patrol	Telephone Check with Police
Telephone/internet/mail		
Mobile phone ¹	Telstra 3G mobile coverage available. Please check with your mobile provider before heading out to community.	
Internet	Personal usage at the clinic is limited. Please check with Health Centre Manager (HCM).	
Mail	Mail is delivered by Fly Tiwi with domestic flights on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.	
Other	Landline is available in staff accommodation.	
Alcohol		
Alcohol – not allowed ²	Ramingining is a dry community. This applies to everyone, including visitors.	
Access		
Road	<p>Darwin and Nhulunbuy (8 hours either way) Ramingining is a mainland community located to the west of the Glyde River about 30km south east of Milingimbi Island, 580km east of Darwin, 435km by road west of Nhulunbuy and 30km inland. Maningrida is 85km by road to the West. The main Nhulunbuy to Katherine road is 100km to the south. Both roads linking Ramingining are dry season, four-wheel drive use only.</p> <p>Bush / Other services There is a weekly freight barge service from Darwin to Ramingining via the Dhabila Landing located 32km from Ramingining over a dirt road. This service delivers all goods for the community, including dry, chilled and frozen food for the two stores, and fuel.</p>	
Air	Facilities: Ramingining has a sealed, all-weather airstrip.	
Regular passenger transport	Fly Tiwi flies direct from Darwin to Ramingining on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Airnorth flies from Darwin to Milingimbi daily where Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) charts you the rest of the way to Ramingining (10 mins).	
		Web www.maf.org.au

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

Health Centre

Health service

Department of Health (DoH)

Telephone (08) 8979 7923

Web www.health.nt.gov.au

Email ramingining.clinicmgr@nt.gov.au

Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Managers 1• Remote Area Nurses 3• Medical Practitioners visits• Aboriginal Health Workers 2• Aboriginal Community Workers 1• Administration Officer 1• Drivers/Gardeners/Cleaners. 2
Facilities	One dental clinic, five consulting rooms and one treatment room.
Operating hours	Monday to Friday 9am – 4pm.
On call	RN's are rostered for 1st and 2nd on call. Rotating roster managed by HCM.
Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Antenatal care• Growth Assessment and Action (GAA) program• Healthy under 5s program• Childhood and adult immunisation• Healthy School Aged Kids program (HSAKs)• Preventable Chronic Disease (PCD) program• Well Women's and Well Men's Screening• Infectious and communicable disease prevention and control• Mental health and wellbeing.
Medical Records System³	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	None. Only locums.
Visiting services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dentist• Audiologist• Optometrist• Women's Health Nurse• Child Health• Mental Health• Physiotherapist• Occupational Therapist• Speech Therapist• Environmental Health Officer• Nutritionist• Cardiologist• Paediatrician.

³ Training should be arranged before your arrival in the community

Acute care	Emergency evacuations can be made to either Darwin or Nhulunbuy by Care Flight.
Other	Pregnant women birth in either Darwin or Gove dependant on their needs.
Accommodation	
Accommodation	Either a free standing house or single occupancy demountable “Donga” style. **Note: Sharing of facilities may be required.
Facilities	Usual domestic amenities including microwave, fridge, oven/stove, washing machine, and air-conditioning. Some accommodation includes a TV.
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	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 November 2014.

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Darwin Office

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