



East Arnhem Region

RAHC
REMOTE AREA HEALTH CORPS



Community Profile

Milingimbi

1st edition
August 2009

This Community Profile provides you with information specific to the East Arnhem 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:

<http://www.milingimbiart.com/about.html>

<http://www.alpa.asn.au/contents/pg9d.shtml>

http://www.lyl.nt.gov.au/libraries/milingimbi_community_library

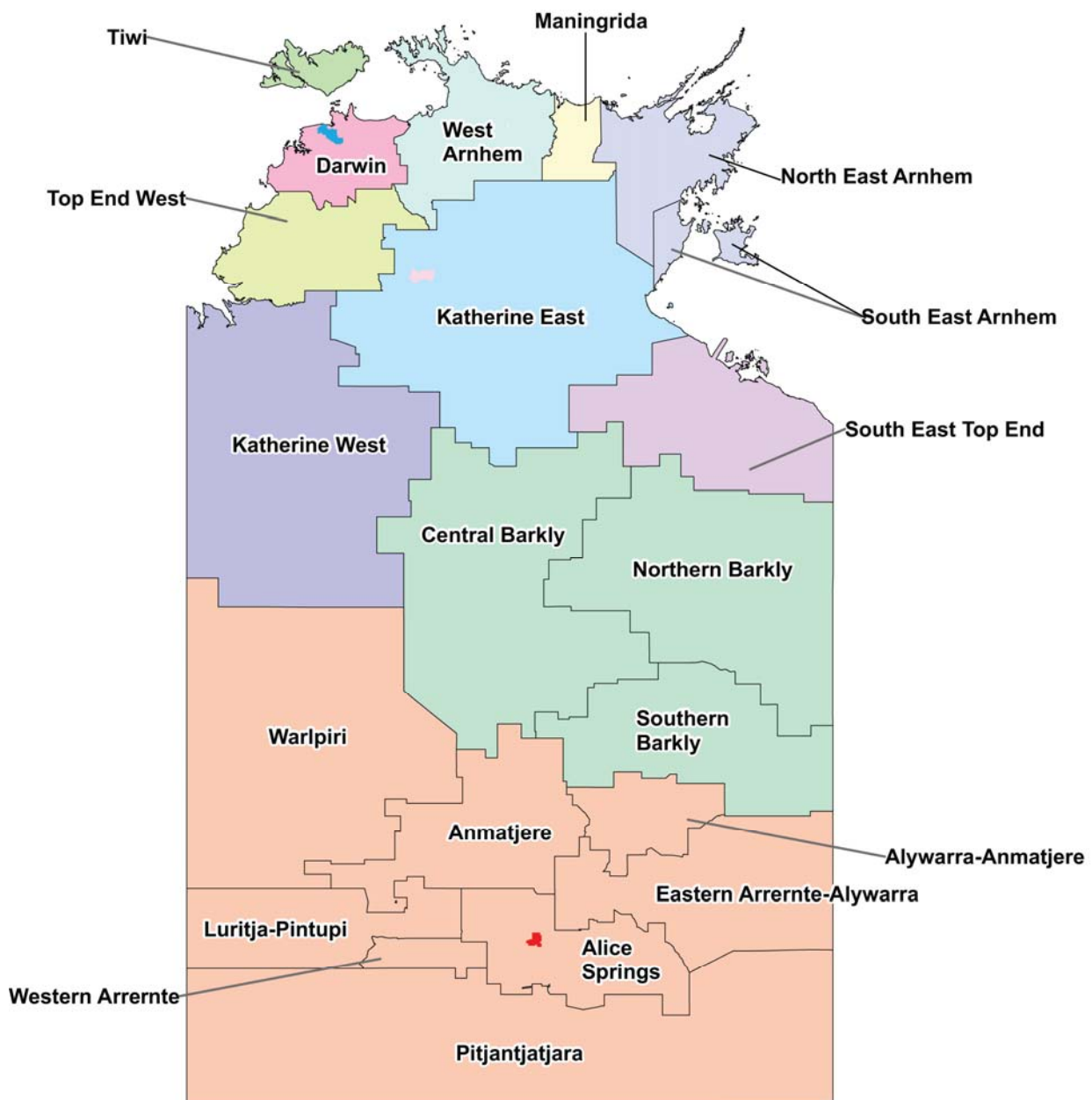
RAHC would also like to acknowledge and express gratitude to the Aboriginal people of the East Arnhem Region who have so generously shared aspects of their culture and communities for use in this Profile.

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Permission was sought from all individuals or guardians of individuals, before photography commenced.

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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

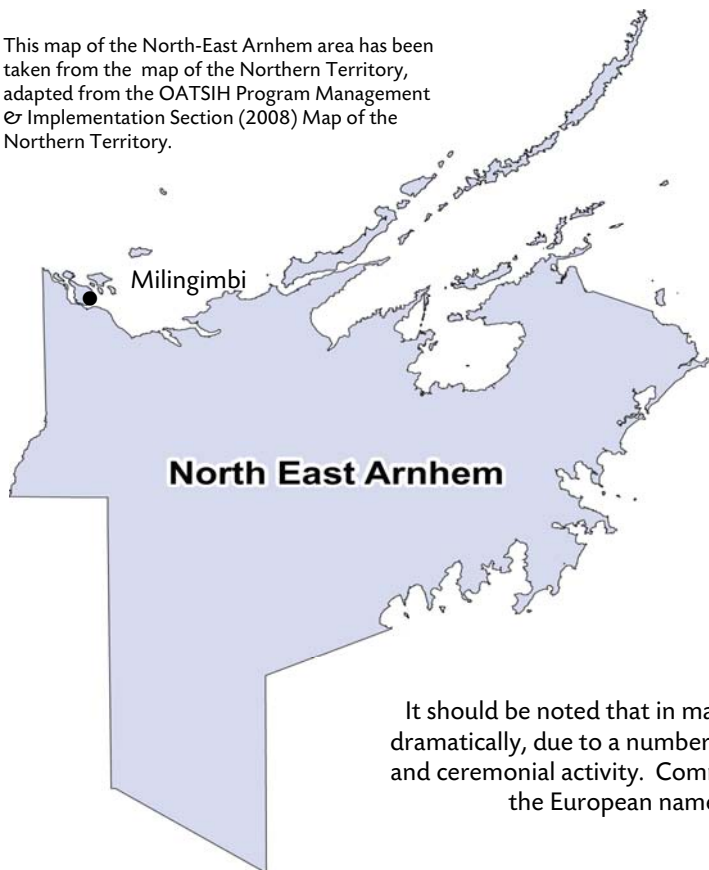
This map of the Northern Territory, divided into regions, has been adapted from the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) Program Management & Implementation Section (2008) Map of the Northern Territory.

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.



North-East Arnhem Area Profile

This map of the North-East Arnhem area has been taken from the map of the Northern Territory, adapted from the OATSIH Program Management & Implementation Section (2008) Map of the Northern Territory.



Major Communities		
Name	Population*	Resource Centre
Nhulunbuy	3800	Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited
Milingimbi	1200	East Arnhem Shire Council
Ramingining	725	
Galiwin'ku	1600	
Yirrkala	900	
Gapuwiyak	950	

*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 be known by several names – this may include the European name given to it after colonisation, and several Aboriginal names.

Languages in the Region

The below languages are present in the East-Arnhem 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.

Yolngu languages:

Dhay'ya – Djarrwark, Dhalwangu
 Dhangu – Golumala, Rirratjinu, Galpu, Wangurri
 Dhuwala – Gupapuyngu, Gumatj, Manggalili, Wubulkarra, Mandarrpa
 Dhuwal – Djambarrpuynu, Liyagalawumirr, Datiwuy, Marrangu, Djapu
 Djangu – Warramirri, Mandatja
 Djinang – Murrungur, Mildjingi, Wulagi

Alawa
 Anindilyakwa
 Kriol
 Nunggubuyu

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

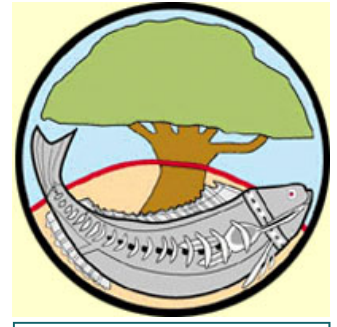
The AIS Provides 24 hours 7 days a week central booking service.



Milingimbi

Milingimbi is one of the Crocodile Islands located between the Blyth and the Glyde Rivers and is separated from the mainland by a narrow channel. It is approximately 500km east of Darwin and 250 km west of Nhulunbuy. The Island has a land area of 70km/sq although two thirds of the island is below high tide with the highest point on the island only a few metres above sea level.

Milingimbi was chosen as a mission site in 1916 by Rev. James Watson of the Methodist Overseas Mission. Building commenced in 1923. In 1940 the mission undertook a contract to build a landing strip for the RAAF on Milingimbi. As a consequence the mission was bombed by the Japanese on the 9th and 10th of May 1943. One Aborigine was killed, and others were wounded. The raids caused substantial damage.



Milingimbi Logo—
Barramundi and Tamarind Tree

Milingimbi has a long history of contact and trade with the Maccassans who came each season to collect trepang. Tamarind trees on the beach and surrounding an old Maccassan well are an obvious legacy of this period. Traditionally the name Milingimbi belongs only to a small section of land surrounding this well, now known as Bush Camp.

Two of the main languages are *Grupapungu* and *Djambarrpuynu*. However, there are several other languages & dialects spoken in Milingimbi. *English* is a second language for most Aboriginal residents.

Governance

Council was dissolved by legislation from 1st July 2008 & now forms part of the new East Arnhem Shire. There are six established outstations that are serviced separately by the MOPRA Outstations.

The combined populations of the homelands and Milingimbi community are approximately 1000 residents with about 50 non-Indigenous residents. The residents are spread through 13 clan groups. There are six established outstations.

Milingimbi is a traditional Aboriginal community with restricted access. Permission to visit is required by law.

Infrastructure and Community Life

Electricity - Generated from an on site powerhouse, reticulated and metered throughout the community.

Water - Supplied from 5 production bores powered by electric pumps and is reticulated throughout the community.

Sewerage - Disposed via water borne, and gravity systems through 2 pumping stations, to ponds located about 3km from the community.

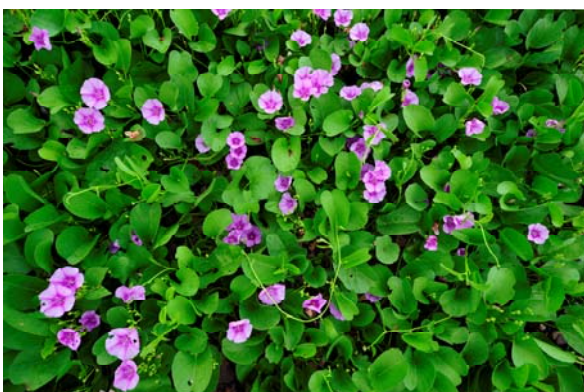
Milingimbi has a School, Health Clinic, ALPA (Arnhemland Progress Association) Store, Centre link agency, a library & Australia Post. ALPA operates a community store & is open 6 days a week. EFTPOS & ATM facilities available. All freight for the ALPA store is barged to the community on a weekly service. The barge landing is located adjacent to the community.

The library is a joint use library with Milingimbi Community Education Centre. The collection consists of over 5,000 resources that meet the educational and recreational needs of the community. The library has a large collection of Aboriginal resources and artefacts.

Milingimbi also has an Art Centre, which produces paintings, limited edition prints, carving & didgeridoos by Aboriginal artists. You can visit their on-line galleries, photographs & information at www.milingimbiart.com

Next G mobile phone service provides excellent coverage for most of the island with Next G Internet connection.

Milingimbi also hosts the Gattjirrk Cultural Festival each year & is in its 24th year. The aim of the Festival is to draw people together, to celebrate & strengthen cultural expression & to promote the physical & spiritual well being of the community.



Biting midges are a problem - so bring your insect repellent.

Please be aware that sections of the Island can be closed due to ceremonies.

Visitors should take great care to avoid entering these areas.



Alcohol and other drugs

Milingimbi is a restricted dry traditional community.

Alcohol restrictions apply to all residents & visitors.

Access

Access is by air & sea only. The Airport is sealed all weather strip with electric lighting, shelter & toilets. Airlink & Air Ngukurr provides 2 services daily to & from Darwin 6 days a week, with 1 service on Sundays. MAF (Missionary Aviation Fellowship) provides 2 services on a Saturday & none on a Sunday. MAF has 1 pilot & 1 single engine plane based in Milingimbi to provide charter services.

The barge service is for cargo & not a passenger service.

The Health Centre

The Community Health Care is managed by Territory Health who employs two clinic sisters. There are also several Aboriginal Health Workers. A doctor visits the Community from Gove hospital two days per week.

The NT Aero medical Service in emergency situations can evacuate patients to Gove or Darwin Hospitals.



Family Outstations

Name	Resource Centre
Mooronga	Milingimbi Outstation Progress Resource Association
Bayagida	
Gumuruguru	
Dhipirrinjura	
Langarra	

Getting Advice

The following organisations and contact numbers may be useful in locating sources of advice about Milingimbi. Care has been taken to ensure these details are correct, however unfortunately some may change or be unattended.

Arnhemland Progress Association
14 Shepherd St Darwin NT 0800
Ph: 08 8944 6444

East Arnhem Shire Council
GPO Box 4246 Darwin NT 0801
Ph: 1300 764 573
Info.eastarnhem@eastarnhem.nt.gov.au

Milingimbi Community Incorporated
Ph: 08 8987 9905



