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.alpa.asn.au
http://www.ntgpe.org/communityprofiles/remotecentres.html

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.

*Please note: The information provided in this community profile is correct, to the best of RAHC’s knowledge, at the time of printing. This community profile will be regularly updated as new information comes to hand.

If you have any further information about this community that would be useful to add to this profile please contact RAHC via: enquiries@rahc.com.au or call 1300 MYRAHC.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Communities</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Population*</th>
<th>Resource Centre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nhulunbuy</td>
<td>3800</td>
<td>Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Milingimi</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>East Arnhem Shire Council</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Raminginig</td>
<td>725</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Galiwin’ku</td>
<td>1600</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yirrkala</td>
<td>900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gapuwiyak</td>
<td>950</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*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 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 – DjambarrpuynYu, 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.
Galiwin’ku / Elcho Island

Elcho Island is a traditional Aboriginal (Yolngu) community situated approximately 550km north-east from Darwin in the Northern Territory and is the southernmost Island of the Wessel Island chain. Elcho Island is around 50kms long and only 6kms wide, but because of the unsealed, bush track roads it can take many hours by four-wheel drive to get from one end to the other and at times in the wet season areas become inaccessible.

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 reef where oysters, crayfish, various reef fish and turtles are hunted. Other 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.

The township of Galiwin’ku is based at the southern end of Elcho Island and has a seasonal population of around 2200 Yolngu people which includes outstations at Mata Mata, Inglis Island, Maparru and Garriyak and many others. Galiwin’ku is the largest community in East Arnhemland. 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.

History
Prior to the arrival of Europeans, Elcho Islanders and other Yolngu living along the coastal edges of Arnhemland had regular contact with sea traders passing through the great trading route between China and Europe. In the 17th Century Dutch, Portuguese and Spanish are known to have charted the Arnhemland coast. Galiwin’ku was established with the arrival of Harold Shepherdson, a lay associate of the Methodist Overseas Mission, from Milingimbi in 1942. It is the service centre for several traditional tribal homelands, which were encouraged during the early settlement in order to retain the traditional way of life.

Governance
The Galiwin’ku Community Inc. is the local government authority responsible for provision of most community services. The Council is comprised of representatives of each clan group that live at Galiwin’ku. The Council pursues policies that reflect pride in Yolngu traditions, culture and the community, together with self-determination, empowerment and local management. The Council’s mission is to deliver services that will provide protection to people and create a healthy environment where residents can enjoy a quality of life and opportunities for self-advancement. The Council also adopts the advocacy role for the community in the wider Australian context.

Infrastructure and Community Life
There are three Diesel Caterpillar Generators all running on a computerised automatic program which feeds power into the community grid in accordance to demand. Total output is approx 1.3 megawatts.

Elcho Island has an airfield with Air North flying return services daily from Darwin. The flight to Elcho Island from Darwin is approximately 2 hrs. All freight for Galiwin’ku 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.

Market Days are held every Friday, commencing 4:30pm at the Church lawn. There are various stalls including food, drinks, clothes, plants, household goods, toys, etc. The Markets are very popular with many of the local families making an evening of enjoying the relaxed atmosphere.

The Art Centre at Elcho Island is located on a cliff top (the eagle’s nest in Yolngu mythology) south east of the Galiwin’ku town centre and enjoys spectacular views looking south west over Mission Beach, Abbott Island and the surrounding sea.

The deeply spiritual Artists from Elcho Island specialise in producing both traditional Yolngu x-rays style works and more contemporary designs utilising natural ochres on bark and paper. The artists also produce stunning Morning Star Poles, Yidakis (Dideridoos), Carving, Jewellery and Hand Woven Baskets made from raw materials collected from the bushland and beaches surrounding their homelands.

The Elcho Island Art and Craft Centre promote local arts and crafts. During the dry season (May - October) many organised tour groups visit the Centre. While most groups fly in, others arrive by ship, come ashore for a few hours and sail off again. Regular exhibitions are held in the Northern Territory. Some of the local artists have travelled overseas to exhibit and promote their crafts, with great success.
The Clinic
Ngalkanbuy Health Centre is staffed by 6 registered Aboriginal Health Workers, 5 RN & various other associated ancillary health staff. The Centre provides a comprehensive primary health service to all residents of Elcho Island together with a range of public health & targeted program activities. In addition, the service provides a high quality twenty-four hour emergency after hours clinical care service.

Chronic Disease Management: The chronic diseases relating to cardiac, renal & the respiratory system remain problematic when compared with data from first world countries. The Ngalkanbuy Health Centre is fortunate to have visiting specialist including a visiting physician to the clinic on a regular basis.

Some of the other activities the Ngalkanbuy Health Centre cover:
Well Women’s Program, Mental Health, Children’s Program, Men’s Health, Research, Strong Women/Strong Babies/Strong Culture Program.

Marthakal Homeland & Resource Centre is another health organisation on Elcho Island. This service provides programs in Men’s Health, Women’s Health and ANC, Paediatric and Immunisation, Aged Care, Chronic Disease & Mental Health. Medical Officers and visiting Specialists service the Galiwin’ku and conduct health care checks in the homeland communities.

RAHC has placed a number of health professionals in the Ngalkanbuy Health Centre since the beginning of 2009.

Community Security
There is a Police Station on Elcho Island. The Galiwin’ku Night Patrol self-polices the community by vehicle to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour and/or offer a safe transportation service to a place of safety for those at risk. The Night Patrol staff assists the people of Galiwin’ku; checking around the community for trouble; talk to troublemakers and their families and sorting out trouble in a community Aboriginal way. If the trouble continues, they talk with Council about calling police for assistance.

Night Patrol staff receives training in development of Common Night Patrol protocols and practices. The workshops are organised and run by the NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services.

Night Patrols allow the Council to concentrate on the major issues, rather than become involved in community disputes.

Other Services:
Community Store
Take Away Shop
ATM
Primary School
High School
Day Care Centre

Elcho Island is a Dry and Petrol Free Community.

This applies to anyone on the island.

NO Alcohol and other prohibited substances (dry community)

NO Petrol vehicles or petrol on the island (petrol free community)
Getting Advice

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

**Marthakal Homeland & Resource Centre**
Galiwin’ku
PMB 62 Winnellie Mail Centre NT 0820
Ph: 08 8987 9030
*Services include: Men’s Health, Women’s Health and ANC, Paediatric Program and Immunisation Program, Aged Care, Chronic Disease Program, Mental Health Program, Medical Officers, Visiting Specialists.*

**Ngalkanbuy Health Service**
Galiwin’ku
PMB 250 Winnellie Mail Centre NT 0822
Ph: 08 8987 9031
*Staff includes Medical Officer, Nurses, Aboriginal Health Workers*

**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](mailto:Info.eastarnhem@eastarnhem.nt.gov.au)

**Galiwin’ku Community Incorporated**
Elcho Island Darwin NT 0800
Ph: 08 8987 9033