

Central Australia Region

RAHC
REMOTE AREA HEALTH CORPS



Community Profile

Hermannsberg (Ntaria)

1st edition
March 2010

This Community Profile provides you with information specific to the Western Arrernte 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:

www.hermannsburg.com.au

www.nt.gov.au/pfes/

www.bushtel.nt.gov.au

www.ntgpe.org/communityprofiles/remotecentres/ntaria.html

Recommended reading

A Straight Out Man, F.W. Albrecht and Central Australian Aborigines. Barbara Henson. ph 08 89567402

Broken Song, Barry Hill.

Hermannsburg Potters Aranda Artists of Central Australia, Jennifer Isaacs. ph 08 89567402

Venture of Faith, P.A. Scherer. ph 08 89567402

Koopardilya Springs and other stories, OAM Josie Patrick 2003. ph 08 89567402

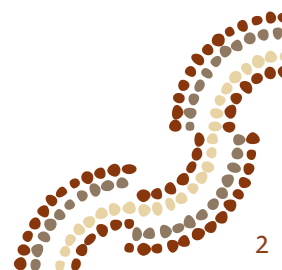
RAHC would also like to acknowledge and express gratitude to the Aboriginal people of the Western Arrernte Region who have so generously shared aspects of their culture and communities for use in this Profile.

*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.

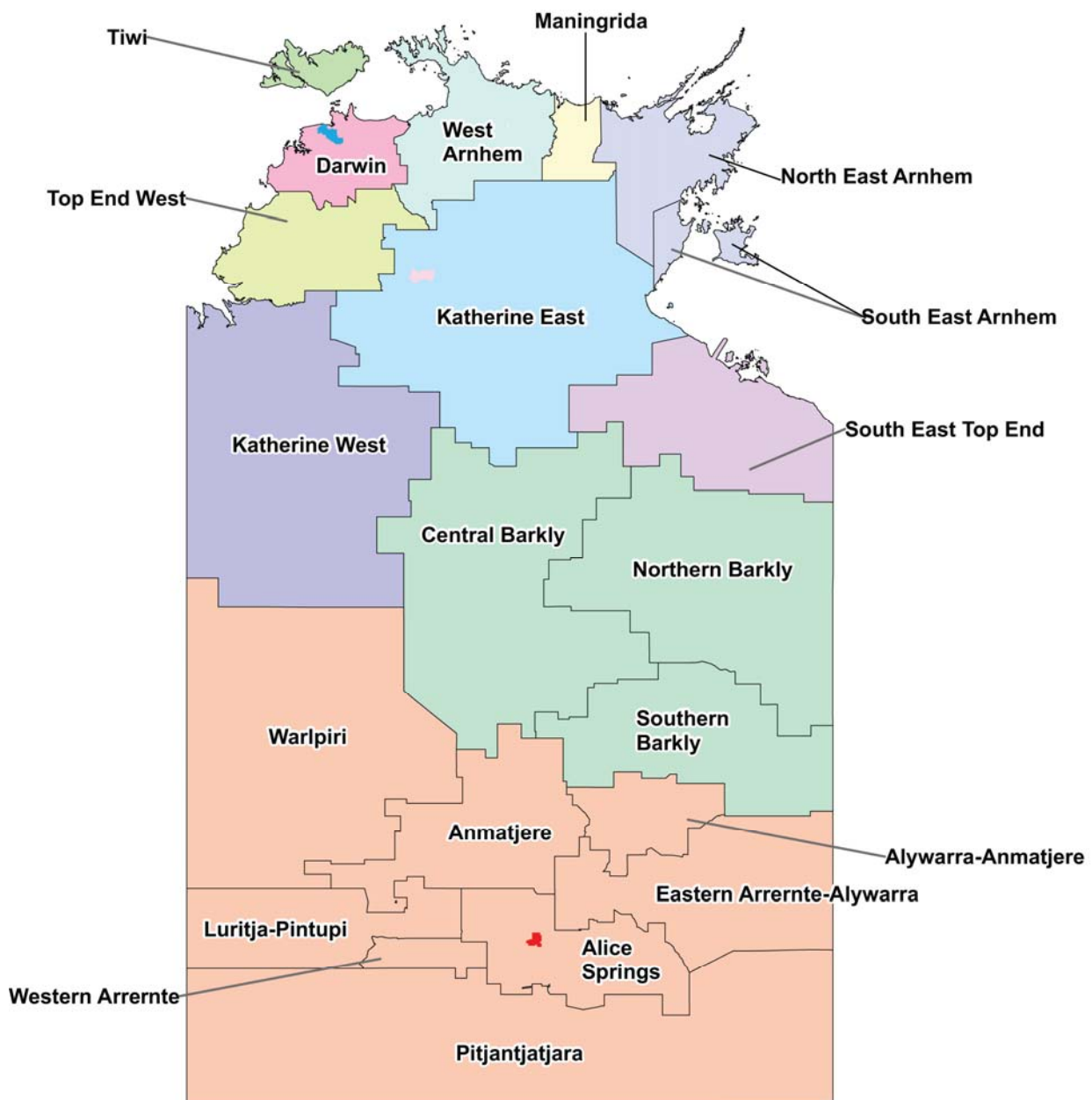
If you have any further information about this community that would be useful to add to this profile please contact RAHC via: enquiries@rahc.com.au or call 1300 MYRAHC.

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The Northern Territory

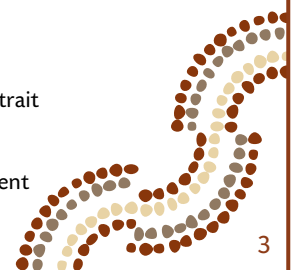


Legend

 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

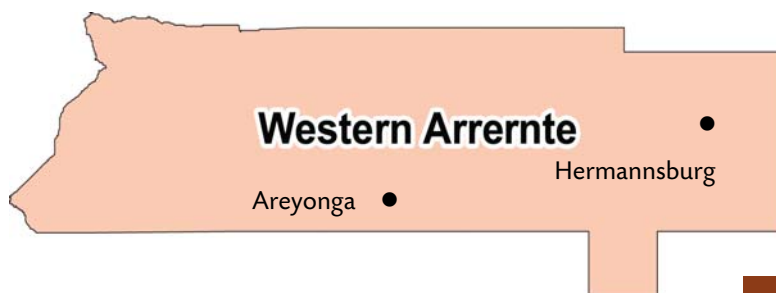
This map of the Northern Territory, divided into regions, has been adapted from the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) Program Management & Implementation Section (2008) Map of the Northern Territory.

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.



Western Arrernte Area Profile

This map of the Central Australia – Western Arrernte 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.



*The population figures refer to the number of Aboriginal peoples living in the community, and are estimates only.

Major Communities		
Name	Population	Resource Centre
Areyonga (Utju)	200	MacDonnell Shire Council
Hermannsburg	650	
Wallace Rockhole	160	

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 Western Arrernte 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.

Alyawarre	Kutkatja	Warlpiri
Anmatyerre	Mudbarra	Warnmanpa
Central Arrernte	Luritja	Warrumungu
Eastern Arrernte	Ngaanyatjarra	Western Arrernte
Jingili	Pintubi	Yankunytjatjara
Kaititj	Pitjantjatjara	Wuriaki
Ngaatjatjarra	Southern Arrernte	
Pertame	Wambaya	

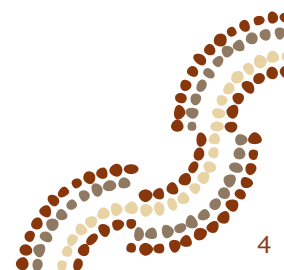
Aboriginal Interpreter Service

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.



Hermannsburg (Ntaria)

History

Ntaria is within the traditional land of the Western Arrernte people and is the name given to the parcel of land which includes Hermannsburg, site of the former mission, established by German Lutheran missionaries in 1877 at the forefront of pastoral expansion in central Australia. It is the last of the missions of the German Hermannsburg Missionary Society, established due to the influence of the German settler community in South Australia. Lasting from 1877-1982, it is one of the longest serving denominational missions in Australia.

The name was taken from the town in Germany where the missionaries had trained. By 1891 the missionaries had created a dictionary of the Aranda language. This translation allowed the missionaries to translate the New Testament into Aranda.

In 1894 Pastor Carl Strehlow took charge of the mission. He was to remain in charge for the next 28 years and his son, T.G.H. Strehlow (who became a noted anthropologist), was one of the few white men to be fully initiated into the customs of the Aranda people.

Pastor Strehlow found the original buildings in bad repair and from 1896 he started, with the help of a builder named Dave Hart and an Aboriginal work force, to construct the buildings which still stand in the settlement. It was during Strehlow's period of administration that the mission expanded and became a relatively progressive centre for Aborigines. In 1922 he died at Horseshoe Bend on the Finke River while on his way to hospital in South Australia.

Subsequently the mission achieved a number of historic firsts. In 1925 Strehlow's successor, Pastor F. W. Albrecht (his daughter Helene Burns was brought up on the mission and still speaks fluent Aranda began a program which encouraged the local people to develop skills and trades. This led to the establishment of a tannery in 1936. In 1930 Hermannsburg became the first outpost in the Northern Territory to use a pedal wireless.

Governance

Ntaria Council Incorporated. Ph: (08) 8956 7411
Hermannsburg falls with the boundaries of the Ntaria Land Trust.

Access

125km from Alice Springs on sealed road. Take the Larapinta Drive from Alice Springs, after 125km Hermannsburg will be on the right. Airstrips in the district can be closed after steady rains.

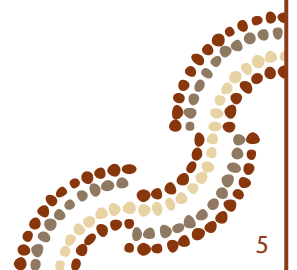
Keeping the Peace

The Ntaria Police District is mostly either Aboriginal owned or National Park land with the Police Station at the community of Hermannsburg. The Station is one of the busiest remote Police Stations in Central Australia.

Although Ntaria is an Alcohol Restricted Zones under the Liquor Act, alcohol related incidents do occur. Police also deal with substance abuse in the community. Members also attend to the general duties of motor vehicle registration, medical emergencies, firearms licensing and regular patrols.

Overnight patrols are conducted to Areyonga and Kings Canyon via the Mereenie Loop Road on a monthly basis.

Hermannsburg Police Station - Phone: (08) 8956 7422



Infrastructure and Community Life

Ntaria is situated in one of the most picturesque areas of Central Australia, comprising the broad expanse of Missionary Plain running east-west with its northern and southern boundaries embracing the MacDonnell and Krichauff Ranges. The plain is covered by thin wooded grassland and includes the dramatic crater formation of Gosse Bluff. The Finke River and Ellery Creek are the main watercourses passing through the district and the main roads are Larapinta Drive, Namatjira Luritja Road, Ernest Giles Road and the Mereenie Loop Road. Larapinta Drive is sealed to Ntaria. In heavy rain, Larapinta Drive can be cut by water flowing over creek crossings.

Weather: The district experiences typical Central Australian weather with high summer and low winter temperatures. Temperatures range from a low of -2°C in winter to a maximum of approximately 46°C in summer. Humidity is low with most rainfall during the late summer months. Heavy rain, during February and March, can cause flooding and cut off areas from Alice Springs for a few days. Winter rainfall consists of light drizzle over several days.

Services: Primary school and Alice Springs School of the Air. There is also a women's cultural centre, two supermarkets, the Ntaria Store with post office, bank agency and takeaway food and the Finke River Mission Store, plus service station and mechanical workshops and church.

Recreation activities: Local sports teams include the Western Aranda Football Club and Western Aranda Softball team and the community has a sports recreation officer.

Nearby attractions: Nearby Palm Valley National Park, Ellery Big Hole and Boggy Hole are ideal for picnics, barbecues and swimming. The Finke Gorge, West MacDonnell and the Watarrka National Parks attract large numbers of tourists to the District with the peak between April and October. The Kings Canyon Resort has a motel, camping and restaurant facilities.

Health Centre

Western Arrernte Health Aboriginal Corporation (WAHAC) employs around 20 staff including a Health Service Manager, a GP a Community Health Team Manager, a number of health professionals, support staff and a group of Trainee Community Liaison Workers. Doctors from Alice Springs regularly visit for specialist clinics. The WAHAC Board (consisting of elected community members) is a strong voice for the region.

WAHAC (along with a number of other remote Aboriginal Health Services) is currently being managed by Central Australian Aboriginal Congress in the transition to community control. Congress is the Aboriginal Health Service for Aboriginal people in Alice Springs and is the largest and oldest Aboriginal community controlled health service in the Northern Territory.

There is a Health Council at Ntaria, which is known as the Western Arranta health Council and was formed in 1993. The Health Centre is permanent and has 19 rooms, including bathrooms and storerooms. It was previously the old Strehlow Memorial hospital, which was opened in 1955. It was extensively renovated in 1999 to make it more functional as a community health centre with separate areas for men and women, a bigger kid's area, improved office space, better bathrooms and separate toilets.

Western Arrernte Health Aboriginal Corporation

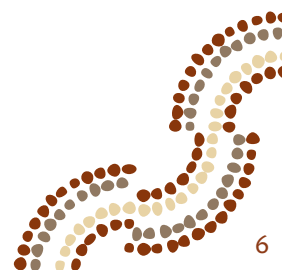
Address: C/o Post office, Hermannsberg, Alice Springs NT 0872

Phone: (08) 8954 6028

Fax: (08) 8954 9021

Email: hsdo@wahac.org.au

Hours: 8.00am-5.00pm, Mon-Fri, after hours emergency service available



Getting Advice

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

MacDonnell Shire Council
First Floor Alice Plaza Todd Mall Alice Springs NT 0870
Ph: 1300 360 959
info@macdonnell.nt.gov.au

Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
25 Gap Rd Alice Springs NT 0870
Ph: 08 8951 4444 (Clinic)
Ph: 08 8951 4400 (Admin)
www.caac.org.au

*Services include Congress Alukura Women's Health & Birthing, Congress Social & Emotional Health.
Staff include Medical Officers, Aboriginal Health Workers, Counsellors*

