This Community Profile provides you with information specific to the South 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:

RAHC would also like to acknowledge and express gratitude to the Aboriginal people of the South 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.
South-East Arnhem Area Profile

This map of the South-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.

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
Dhuiwai – Djambarrpyungu, Liyagalawumirr, Datiwuy, Marrangu, Djapu
Djiangu – 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.
Numbulwar

History
The people of this region traded with the Maccassans people for thousands of years. Permanent settlement of Numbulwar began in 1952 with the founding of the Rose River Mission by local Aboriginal communities and the Anglican Church Missionary Society. In 1976 community control was passed to the Numbulwar Numburindi Community Council. Numbulwar's people are from a range of clans and traditional owners including groups from Ngukurr up to Blue Mud Bay (South of Nhulunbuy) and over to Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island. Some of the clan groups include the Numamurdirdi, Nunggumadjbarr, Nunggargalu, Nundhirribala, Nglami, Murrungun, Wurrumurra, Lalara, Wunungmurra, Mangurra and Wilfreds.

Language Information
Nunggubuyu/Wubuyu is the main language spoken at Numbulwar with other Aboriginal languages spoken including Kriol with English generally a second language. For further information regarding language in East Arnhem the following websites might be of interest; www.ards.com.au/langresources.htm and learnline.cdu.edu.au/yolngustudies/index.htm

Governance
The local council is the Numbulwar Numburindi Community Government Council. They are responsible for most community services. The Council is comprised of representatives of each clan group that live in and around Numbulwar. The Council meets on a monthly basis and administers and delivers the following activities; Respite and Aged Care; Housing Maintenance and Building works; Parks and Gardens; Garbage Collection; Civil Works (roads, barge landing and airstrip); Sport and Recreation; Radio Broadcasting (BRACS); administration of Government grants and services.

Infrastructure, Community Life, Food and ATM’s
Numbulwar is a very isolated community surrounded by wilderness and beaches. Please ensure you check with someone as to where you can and can’t walk as many areas are sacred sites. There is a strong emphasis in the community on fishing, AFL and basketball.

There is also:

General Store - Basic food goods, hardware, Fresh fruit/veg/milk/meat is available, however is limited. Fresh produce can be ordered from Darwin via the barge.
School - Numbulwar Community Education Centre
Health Centre
Mechanical Workshop, and
Post Office.

There is an ATM and EFTPOS facility in the Community Store. Please keep in mind that variety in the store is limited so if you have any special dietary requirements or specialty items you may want to bring these with you.
Access & Flight Restrictions

Numbulwar is located in East Arnhem Land on the coast of the Gulf of Carpenteria.

Road: Travelling by road is difficult due to significant dirt sections with corrugations and water crossings. Roads may only be open for 4-5 months every year and then in varying conditions. Numbulwar is 438km East of Katherine via Ngukkur. An alternative route via Nhulunbuy Rd turning south at Gapuwiak / Lake Evella. 4WD only recommended.

Air: Sealed airstrip with day and night facility, most airmed planes evacuated to Nhulunbuy or Darwin. Missionaries Aviation Fellowship (MAF) is the Regular Passenger Transport (RPT) providing air transport services to Numbulwar and neighbouring communities, these flights run to and from Gove on Tuesdays and Thursdays, also to and from Groote on Mondays and Fridays. MAF are accepting of baggage weights up to 20 kilograms – however keep in mind it is only a 7 seater plane so these weight allowances may vary, ensure you have a smaller carry on bag with essentials for a night in case all of your luggage does not make it on the plane.

Barge: Perkins Shipping has a fortnightly Barge to Numbulwar. It cost approx $30 per fortnight to freight frozen food and perishables which takes about 4 days from Darwin to Numbulwar.

Health Centre

The clinic is a NT Government DHF clinic with;

- 2 nurses from DHCS,
- GP from the Aboriginal Medical Service - Miwatj,
- 3 full-time Aboriginal Health Workers and
- 2 full-time Aboriginal Health Worker Trainees.

The clinic is open for patients from Monday to Friday 9:00 am -12:00 pm and 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm, and staff are on-call at all other times for emergencies. The afternoons are reserved for programs and chronic disease reviews.

Accommodation, Vehicles & Communications

Type of housing available includes a furnished house with fridge, freezer, microwave, TV, video and washing machine. The RN’s may be expected to share a house (once again check with RAHC staff prior to deployment). Internet and e-mail provided at work only, line to home for Internet access provided but must have own laptop. No vehicle is provided, however, the clinic has a vehicle available for most foreseen uses.

Keeping the Peace

There is a Police Station in Numbulwar. Phone: (08) 8975 4183. Numbulwar is a dry community and it is against the law for anyone to bring alcohol into the area.
Getting Advice

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

Numbulwar Homeland Council Association  
PMB 78 Numbulwar Katherine NT 0850  
Ph: 08 8975 4005

Roper Gulf Shire Council  
Ph: 1300 366 208

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