This Community Profile provides you with information specific to the Katherine West 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.victoriadaly.nt.gov.au/OurServiceCentres/TimberCreek

RAHC would also like to acknowledge and express gratitude to the Aboriginal people of the Katherine West 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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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.
Katherine West Area Profile

This map of the Katherine West 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 have been noted to be present in this 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.

- Bilinara
- Gurrindji
- Jaminjung
- Jawoyn
- Kriol
- Mayali
- Miriwoong
- Mudburra
- Murrinpata
- Ngaliwurru
- Ngaringman
- Nunggubuyu
- Warlpiri
- Marra

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.
Timber Creek

History
In 1855 the explorer Augustus Charles Gregory sailed from Queensland to the Northern Territory. He was finally shipwrecked at the area now known as Timber Creek. Legend has it that the name was used because of the timber he cut down to make repairs.

The site of Gregory’s camp can still be found and you can plainly see his carvings on one of the boab trees. Over an eight month period Gregory explored much of the region and helped to open up the area.

Some of the largest cattle stations were founded around Timber Creek, and because of this the town became an important port. The first government department to be represented was the police station in the 1890s. Goods were transported to the outlying cattle stations by donkey teams. This continued up until the 1930’s when roads made the port redundant. The township is now a tourist and service centre for a number of Aboriginal communities and Stations.

Major language groups of Timber Creek are:
- Ngarinyman and Ngaliwurru

Governance
Timber Creek Community Government Council: The Council is committed to providing the best for the community. In the future the Council will be playing a more substantial role in the development of tourist related activities. Tourism is the primary focus of the region and employs directly or indirectly many people within the area.

Infrastructure and Community Life

RECREATION / SPORTS
There is a grassed oval with a concrete cricket pitch, and a tennis court with lights. A council recreation area has volleyball, basketball and badminton courts and the council provides racquets and balls if required.

ROAD
Timber Creek is located approx 300 kms along the Victoria Highway. This double lane sealed road is well maintained. Greyhound buses pass through each day (both ways). Timber Creek is nestled in the Victoria River valley escarpment country at the upper limit of the tidal influence. It is one of 2 public access points to the Victoria River, the other being the VR Roadhouse 92km east. Timber Creek lies at the central point on the Victoria Highway between Katherine and Kununurra. The trip from Katherine to Timber Creek takes about three hours.

RUBBISH
There is a council tip and twice weekly council rubbish collection from town addresses from council supplied wheelie bins.

SERVICES
Services in Timber Creek Include:
- Primary School
- Police Station
- 2 Service Stations
- Hotel facilities
- Motel and caravan park accommodation
- General store
- Council Office
- Resource Centre
- Mechanical Workshop
- Museum (police & general)
- Annual Rodeo
- Tour booking agency
- Land Council Office
- Library

SCHOOL
There is a primary school at Timber Creek.

SEWAGE
There is no reticulated sewerage. Septic tanks are used in town.

SHOPS
There is a general store, pub, takeaway/restaurant and mechanic’s workshop.
The Clinic

TIMBER CREEK HEALTH CENTRE
Wilson Street, Timber Creek
Phone: 08 8975 0727
Fax: 08 8975 0748
After Hours: ON-CALL staff—available for emergencies only. To obtain help after hours, call 08 8975 0727
There is a public phone at Timber Creek.

Accommodation & Vehicles
Staff accommodation is provided by KWHB. Visitors can choose from Dusty’s Cabins opposite the Health Centre slightly out of town, or the Hotel and Caravan Park in the centre of town. The hotel rooms have the basic facilities including a small TV, small fridge, soap and towel – but no shampoo. Dusty’s Cabins have cooking facilities.

Keeping the Peace
Police responsible for Timber Creek and its surrounds are located in the Timber Creek Community. Their contact details are:
Phone: 08 8975 0733
There is also a volunteer emergency services group, with vehicle, boat and fire engine.
Getting Advice

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

Timber Creek Community Government Council
PMB 150 Timber Creek NT 0852
Ph: 08 8975 0860
info@timbercreek.nt.gov.au
www.timbercreek.nt.gov.au

Timber Creek Clinic – Katherine West Health Board
PMB 53 via Katherine NT 0852
Ph: 08 8975 0727
timbercreek@kwhb.com.au
Medical Officers, Nurses, Aboriginal Health Workers

Katherine West Health Board Aboriginal Corporation
Unit 10 38 Riverbank Office Village Cnr Shea & First St Katherine NT 0851
Ph: 08 8971 9300
webqueries@kwhb.com.au
www.kwhb.com.au
Provides health services to 7 communities outside of Katherine.
Services include preventive health, maternal health, child health, chronic disease, mobile health team.