Numbulwar
Arnhem Region

Community Profile

**Pronunciation:** Noom-bull-wah

**Alternate names:** Rose River

**Location:** 400km east of Katherine

**NT region:** South East Arnhem

**Population:** 800 approx.

**Access:** By air from Katherine or charter from Groote

**Language groups:** Wubuy, Anindilyakwa, Mara, Wandarrang, Waagilak / Ritharrngu, Ngalakan, Ngandi, Rembarrnga, and Djambarrpuynu

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Climate *(Arnhem)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Temp. Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winter dry season (May to September)</td>
<td>Cooler and dry</td>
<td>15°C to 33°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humidity Range 20% – 50%</td>
<td>Fine weather with no rain and much lower humidity than wet season and a possibility of becoming cold by Territory standards during June/July.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer wet season (October to April)</td>
<td>Hot and humid</td>
<td>22°C to 35°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humidity Range 30% – 95%</td>
<td>The build-up occurs from September with building humidity, intermittent lightning storms and downpours. Rains typically arrive December/January with regular heavy downpours and the possibility of cyclones.</td>
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</table>
History
The Aboriginal 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.

Community Life

Description of community: Numbulwar is situated between the coast and the mouth of the Rose River. The area is thriving with wildlife including buffaloes and is a hot spot for fishing.

Changes in population: Population figures are estimates, as several factors impact on movement. These include seasonal changes and ceremonial activity and movement between outstations.

How is it affected by seasons: Heavy rain in the wet season can cause road closures up to 2-3 days.

Major landmarks or cultural factors: Men’s ceremonial area nearby so it is important to check where you can walk.

Local industry/mine: None.

Tourism: None.

Arts/crafts: Art Centre is located at the school.

**Please check with the Health Clinic on arrival for sacred sites to avoid and health or social issues to be aware of.
### Governance

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community or other governance structures</td>
<td>Northern Land Council</td>
<td>Telephone (08) 8920 5100</td>
<td>Web <a href="http://www.nlc.org.au">www.nlc.org.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Numbulwar Homelands Council Assoc Incorporated</td>
<td>Telephone (08) 8975 4005</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Outstations

There are nine Outstations with residents - Wuyagiba, Andanangki (Walker River), Yillila, Dharrari, Alharrgan, Yimidarri (Wandu), Wumajbarr, Markalawa and Waldharr (Harris Creek). There are several other Outstations, which do not have residents living permanently, and movement to these is not anticipated in the future.

### Permit System

All visitors must obtain a permit from the appropriate authority for the duration of their stay. Permits may be required for any person visiting the community including activities such as fishing, camping and visiting certain beaches.

Permit application for Numbulwar is through Northern Land Council (NLC).

### Infrastructure, facilities and services

#### Community

- **Church:** Church of the Holy Spirit.
- **Community Halls and Sheds:** Yes
- **Workforce Skills or Training Facilities:** Training Centre.
- **Post Office:** None. Mail plane comes weekly. Please supply your own stamps.
- **School:** Pre-school, Primary and Secondary to Year 12.
- **Library:** None
- **Council Office:** Centrelink Agent.
- **Women’s Centre:** None
- **Childcare Centre:** Playgroup at the Numbulwar preschool.
- **Aged Care Centre:** Numbulwar Aged Care & Respite Centre | Telephone (08) 8975 4541
- **Banking:** ATM and Eftpos in store and at the take-away. Traditional Credit Union.

#### Community store

**Arnhem Land Progress Association (ALPA)** | Telephone (08) 8975 4083
Basic food goods, hardware, Fresh fruit/veg/milk/meat is available, however is limited. Fresh produce can be ordered online and delivered via barge from Darwin.

- **Opening hours**
  - Monday and Tuesday: 9am – 12pm and 1pm - 5pm
  - Wednesday to Friday: 9am – 12pm and 1pm - 7pm
  - Saturday and Sunday: 9am – 12pm

#### Other food outlets

- Take-away shop is located in Newtown. Open from 9am – 9pm, 7 days a week.

#### Food orders

Food orders can be delivered via Toll’s barge service.

- **Toll:** Telephone 1800 220 436
  - Web [www.tollgroup.com/tollmarinelogistics](http://www.tollgroup.com/tollmarinelogistics)
- **Woolworths Online:** Web [www.woolworthsonline.com](http://www.woolworthsonline.com)
- **Coles Online:** Web [www.shop.coles.com.au](http://www.shop.coles.com.au)

#### Recreational facilities

Youth, sport and recreation program.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Commercial accommodation</strong></th>
<th>Shire has some commercial accommodation.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fuel</strong></td>
<td>Diesel and Opal fuel available. Takes keycard and credit card.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mechanic</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Police station</strong></td>
<td>2 Police Officers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alt. police contact</strong></td>
<td>Emergency Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td>Community Night Patrol - 4 staff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Telephone/internet/mail**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Mobile phone</strong>¹</th>
<th>Telstra 3G coverage available. Please check with your mobile provider before heading out bush.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Internet</strong></td>
<td>Personal usage at clinic is minimal. Please check with HCM.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mail</strong></td>
<td>Mail plane delivers on Mondays.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td>Landlines are provided with health centre accommodation.</td>
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</table>

**Alcohol**

| **Alcohol – not allowed**² | Numbulwar is a dry community. This applies to everyone, including visitors. |

**Access**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Road</strong></th>
<th><strong>Darwin (10-12hrs) / Nhulunbuy (5-6hrs):</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>During the dry season the community can be accessed by road. Travel time from Darwin via Katherine along the Roper Highway is approximately 10-12 hours via the Roper River and Ngukurr communities. Travel time from Nhulunbuy via Walker River and Harris Creek is approximately 4-6 hours. In both cases a 4wd is essential.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Road access is possible from May to December by 4WD vehicle to Katherine via Ngukurr and the Roper Highway.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Bush / Other services:</strong> There is a fortnightly freight barge service from Darwin to Numbulwar provided by Toll.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Bodhi Bus runs between Katherine and Numbulwar during the dry season (May to September).</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Phone</strong> (08) 8971 0774</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Air**

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<tr>
<th><strong>Facilities:</strong></th>
<th>Numbulwar is also accessible by air and has an all-weather, sealed airstrip linked to the community via a 5km dirt road which can become impassable at times during the wet season.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alyangula, Groote Eylandt (30mins) / Nhulunbuy (1hr):</strong></td>
<td>Charter flights.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Regular passenger transport**

| None |

¹ Telstra 3G/Next G are typically the only mobile services that work in more remote parts of the Northern Territory. See link - [http://telstra.com.au/mobile-phones/coverage-networks/au-coverage/](http://telstra.com.au/mobile-phones/coverage-networks/au-coverage/)

² It is an offence to consume or bring alcohol into a dry community in the Northern Territory
Health Centre

**Health service**
Department of Health (DoH)

**Staff**
- Manager: 1
- Remote Area Nurses: 3
- Medical Practitioners: Visiting
- Aboriginal Health Workers: 3
- Aboriginal Community Workers: 0
- Administration Officers: 1
- Drivers/Gardeners/Cleaners: 1
- Others: 0

**Facilities**
Seven consult rooms, one emergency room and one dental room.

**Operating hours**
Monday to Friday 9-11.45am and 3-4.30pm (closed on Thursday afternoons).

**On call**
RN’s are on a rotating roster of 1st and 2nd on call.

**Services**
- Child Health Programme
- Immunisation Programme
- Women’s Health
- Men’s Health
- Chronic Disease Management
- Healthy School Aged Kids Programme
- Response to Infectious and Communicable Disease
  - including prevention and education.

**Medical Records System**
PCIS

**Vehicles**
The health centre maintains a Hilux utility, and two Toyota Troop Carriers including one that has been converted for use as an ambulance.

**Note: All Troop Carriers are 4WD, manual and take diesel fuel**

**GP**
GP’s visit from Groote Eylandt three days a week.

**Visiting services**
- Dental Program
- Audiology Screening
- Cardiologist / Cardiology
- Paediatrics
- Physician
- Mental Health
- Optometrist
- Nutritionist
- Podiatrist
- Diabetes and Cardiac Educators.

**Acute care**
Care Flight evacuate to Gove or Darwin depending on the condition of the client.

**Other**
Pregnant women birth in Gove or Darwin depending on the condition of the client.

*Training should be arranged before your arrival in the community*
### Accommodation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accommodation</th>
<th>Either a free standing house or bedsitter. <strong>Note: Sharing of facilities may be required.</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Facilities</strong></td>
<td>Usual domestic amenities including microwave, fridge, oven/stove, washing machine, TV and air-conditioning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Linen</strong></td>
<td>Provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vehicles</strong></td>
<td>No vehicle is provided for personal use. NT DoH has a strict policy on vehicle use. Any non-clinical use is not acceptable.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### What to pack for placement

| Clothes | Possibility of cool nights in middle of year, so light warm clothing is useful. In wet season (October – March), clothing for very hot, humid days – loose cotton clothing. Please refer to this website for information on appropriate clothing to wear whilst out in a community. http://ntgpe.org/wp_site/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Appropriate-Clothing-2.pdf |
| Supplies | Bring any specialty foods and a small quantity of fresh food. **Note: Please be mindful of weight restrictions on plane travel.** |
| Personal effects | Bring a hat, sturdy shoes, insect repellent, sunscreen and toiletries. |

### Other tips or relevant information

| Other tips/relevant information | Be prepared for variable standard of accommodation in communities. A sleeping bag sheet insert is a good idea for protection against biting insects. |

Disclaimer

This information is prepared in good faith and to the best of our knowledge at the time of printing. However, Aboriginal communities, like any community, can change as the population shifts and people move on. Please contact the RAHC Regional Coordinator or the Health Centre Manager to confirm any key issues or concerns you may have ahead of your RAHC placement. RAHC also values any input and up to date information or photos you can provide to improve our Community Profiles. Updated January 2015.