**Community Profile**

**Pronunciation:** Per-lan-gimp-ee

**Alternate names:** Garden Point, Pularumpi

**Location:** The community is on the northwest coast of Melville Island, which is part of the Tiwi Islands

**NT region:** Tiwi Islands

**Population:** 400 approximately

**Access:** By air or ferry from Darwin

**Language groups:** Tiwi

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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>
</tr>
<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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</tbody>
</table>
History
At the end of the last ice age, between 18,000 and 20,000 years ago, the Tiwi Islands were connected to the mainland through what is now Coburg Peninsula. Rapid sea level rises between about 8,000 and 12,000 years ago separated the islands from the mainland and each other. It is likely that the original inhabitants of the Tiwi Islands were living in the area when it was still part of the mainland (Forrest 1998).

The first known written recording of a sighting of the Tiwi Islands was by Dutch navigator Pieter Pieterszoon in 1636. In 1644 another Dutch navigator, Abel Tasman sailed through Dundas Strait between the Tiwi Islands and Coburg Peninsula. Neither of these two established that the two islands were separate land areas.

Early European contact with the Tiwi was characterised by violence and hostility. The first recorded contact was in 1705 when three Dutch ships led by Maarten van Delft spent several months exploring the Tiwi and Coburg coastline. They landed on the north coast of Melville Island on what is now known as Karslake Peninsula, and were met by spears in an attempt to drive them from the land. In contrast to other areas along the north coast, evidence suggests that the Tiwi were also consistently hostile to Macassans.

It was the British navigator Phillip Parker King who, in 1818, finally established that there were two separate land areas, and named them Bathurst Island and Melville Island respectively. King’s exploration led to the British and the Tiwi along with other problems associated with the location led to the abandonment of the fort in 1829.

One legacy left behind by the British was a number of buffalo that had been shipped from Timor. In 1895 the entrepreneur EO Robinson organised a shooting party for Melville Island, and by 1915 over 18,000 buffalo hides had been taken (Hooper 2000). As an off season activity, and as buffalo numbers became depleted, interest turned to cutting and milling the native cypress Calitris intratropica, and three sawmills were established on Melville Island between 1895 and 1916.

In 1910 the Roman Catholic Church was granted 10,000 acres on the south eastern tip of Bathurst Island, and in 1911 Father Francis Gsell established a mission site at Nguiu. The mission and ensuing government policies resulted in the establishment of communities as residential centres, which endure to today.

Pirlangimpi was established from the stationing of a police officer at Garden Point in 1939, whose role was to act as ‘Sub-Protector of Aborigines’ and to control Japanese contact with the Tiwi. A number of ‘incorrigibles’ were taken from Darwin to Garden Point in the same year. In 1940 a Catholic Mission was established as an institution for part Aboriginal children, and the incorrigibles moved on to a new settlement at Snake Bay. By 1943 the Garden Point Mission had a wharf, market and dormitories (Forrest 1998).

In 1967 the settlement was taken over by the Commonwealth Government’s Welfare Branch, and in 1984 became Pirlangimpi under the NT Government’s new form of local government.

Community Life
Description of community:
Pirlangimpi lies along the western coastline of Melville Island, in the Apsley Strait, between Bathurst and Melville Islands. Bathurst Island is easily seen from Garden Point.

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

How is it affected by seasons: During the wet season, high rain fall can flood roads for up to several days.

Major landmarks or cultural factors: Check with Health Centre on arrival.

Local industry/mine: Market Garden, strong music and arts scene.

Tourism: The Art and craft, sport and recreational activities.

Arts/crafts: Munupi Arts and Crafts Centre.


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local government</th>
<th>Tiwi Islands Regional Council</th>
<th>Telephone (08) 8970 9600</th>
<th>Web <a href="http://www.tiwiislands.org.au">www.tiwiislands.org.au</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community or other governance structures</td>
<td>Tiwi Land Council</td>
<td>Telephone (08) 8978 3788</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstations</td>
<td>Putjamirri</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permit System¹</td>
<td>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 Pirlangimpi is through Tiwi Land Council (TLC).</td>
<td>Web <a href="http://www.tiwiandcouncil.com">www.tiwiandcouncil.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Infrastructure, facilities and services

**Community**
- **Church:** Our Lady of Victories Church
- **Community Halls and Sheds:** Yes
- **Workforce Skills or Training Facilities:** Community Development Employment Program (CDEP), VET at Tiwi College, The Tiwi Islands Training and Employment Board.
- **Post Office:** at council office | Telephone (08) 8978 3788
- **School:** Pularumpi School. Preschool, lower primary, middle primary, upper primary. Option after primary school is Tiwi College or Boarding Schools in Darwin.
- **Library:** Located at the school
- **Council Office:** Centrelink Agency and Tiwi Council Office.
- **Women’s Centre:** Yes, a part of the Munupi Arts Centre
- **Childcare Centre:** Pirlangimpi Crèche
- **Aged Care Centre:** Yes
- **Banking:** Commonwealth Bank Agency and eftpos facilities available.

**Community store**
- **ALPA Store:** | Telephone (08) 8978 3962 | Web www.alpa.asn.au
Well stocked medium size store with fresh fruit and vegetables, frozen meat, bread, dairy and shelf items. ALPA store also sells a small range of clothes and electrical appliances. Takeaway food is available from the store daily.
- **Opening hours**
  - Monday to Wednesday 8.30am – 3.30pm
  - Thursday and Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm
  - Saturday 9am – 12pm
  - Sunday Closed

**Other food outlets**
- Takeaway available at the shop and at the club.

¹ RAHC HPs are not required to obtain permits for their placement as they are exempt under legislation related to the Emergency Response.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Food orders</strong></th>
<th>Grocery orders can be made from either Woolworths or Coles online and sent by Tiwi Barge Service from Darwin to Pirlangimpi.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tiwi Barge Service:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Telephone</strong> (08) 8947 1118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Woolworths Darwin:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Telephone</strong> (08) 8995 9308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coles Darwin:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Telephone</strong> (08) 8941 8055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recreational facilities</strong></td>
<td>Fishing, including charter boats and tours, recreation hall, sports oval, and gym equipment in the park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commercial accommodation</strong></td>
<td>None, closest is Melville Island Lodge in Milikapiti.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fuel</strong></td>
<td>Diesel and unleaded fuel available. Pay by cash, Eftpos or fuel card.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mechanic</strong></td>
<td>Garage and workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Police station</strong></td>
<td>Yes</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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Telephone/internet/mail</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mobile phone²</strong></td>
<td>Telstra 3G coverage available. Please check with your mobile provider before heading out bush.</td>
</tr>
<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 is delivered weekday mornings on the Fly Tiwi flight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td>Landlines are provided with health centre accommodation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alcohol</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alcohol – allowed</strong></td>
<td>Pirlangimpi club sells mid strength beer only. Restrictions apply on take away and a permit is required. Please check with the local police.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Road</strong></td>
<td>No road access.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

² 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/our-coverage/
Air

Tiwi Islands are approximately 125km by air (30mins) from Darwin.
Fly Tiwi provide a twice-daily flight between Darwin and Garden Point on weekdays and a daily service on weekends and public holidays. 
Web www.flytiwi.com.au
Operated by Kakadu Air Services, Air-Connect now run a twice-daily service on weekdays between Darwin and Nguiu (Bathurst Island) Web www.airconnectnt.com.au

Ferry

Sealink NT provides a ferry service between Darwin and Nguiu on Thursday, Friday and Sundays. Web www.sealinknt.com.au

Health Centre

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health service</th>
<th>Department of Health (DoH):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Telephone (08) 8978 3737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Web <a href="http://www.health.nt.gov.au">www.health.nt.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Email <a href="mailto:pirlangimpi.clinicmgr@nt.gov.au">pirlangimpi.clinicmgr@nt.gov.au</a></td>
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</table>

Facilities

Five consult rooms, one emergency room and one dental room.

Operating hours

Monday to Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm.

On call

RN’s are on a rotating roster of first and second on-call.

Services

- Men’s Health
- Women’s Health
- Chronic Disease
- Child Health Programme
- Immunisation
- Emergency
- Healthy School Aged Kids Programme
- Response to infectious and communicable disease, including prevention and education

Medical Records System

PCIS

Vehicles

Maintains a Toyota Troop Carrier that has been converted for use as an ambulance. There is a second Troop Carrier for 2nd on call.

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

GP

Visits on Tuesdays

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3 Training should be arranged before your arrival in the community
### Visiting services
- Occupational Therapist
- Physiotherapist
- Nutritionist
- Preventable Chronic Disease (PCD)
- Public Health Nurse
- Women’s Health Educator
- Audiologist
- Podiatrist
- Maternal
- Child and Youth team
- Dentist
- Dental Therapist
- Optician
- Optometrist
- Mental Health Team
- Aged and Disability
- Family and Children’s Services

### Acute care
Careflight evacuation to Darwin

### Other
Pregnant women birth in Darwin.

### Accommodation
**Accommodation**
Either a freestanding house or single occupancy demountable “Donga” style.

**Note: Sharing of facilities may be required.**

**Facilities**
Usual domestic amenities including microwave, fridge, oven/stove, washing machine, TV and split system air-conditioning.

**Linen**
Provided

### Vehicles
**Vehicle**
No vehicle is provided for personal use.

**Policy**
NT DoH has a strict policy on vehicle use. Any non-clinical use is not acceptable.

### What to pack for placement
**Clothes**
Possibility of cool nights in middle of year, so light warm clothing is useful. In wet season (October – April), 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.

**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

<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Be prepared for variable standard of accommodation in communities. A sleeping bag sheet insert is a good idea for protection against biting insects.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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.