

# Timber Creek Katherine Region

## Community Profile

- Pronunciation:** Timber Creek

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- Alternate names:** Makalamayi

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- Location:** 300kms west of Katherine

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- NT region:** Katherine West

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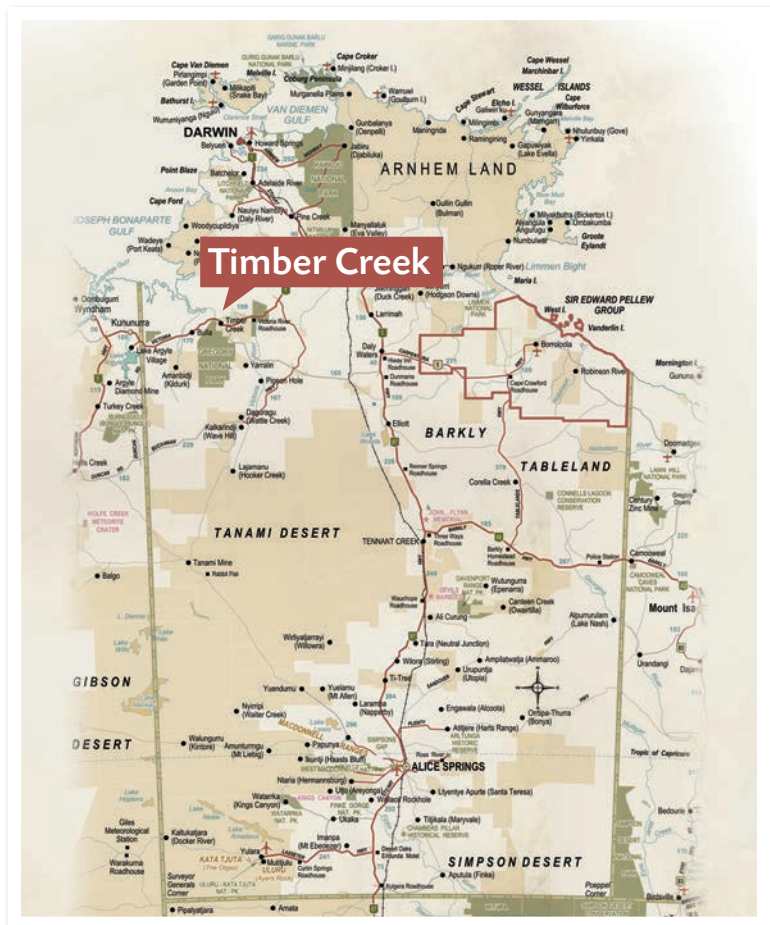
- Population:** Approximately 600

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- Access:** Sealed road

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- Language groups:** Ngarinyman, Ngaliwurru



## Climate

Season	Description	Temp. Range
Winter dry season (May to September)	Cooler and dry	15°C to 33°C
Humidity 20% - 50%	Fine weather with no rain and much lower humidity than wet season and a possibility of becoming cold by Territory standards during June/July.	
Summer wet season (October to April)	Hot and humid	22°C to 35°C
Humidity can rise to 95%. Please ensure you are equipped for these extremes. Humidity 30% - 95%	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.	



## History

In 1855, the explorer Augustus Charles Gregory sailed from Queensland to the Northern Territory. He was finally shipwrecked on the Victoria River 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 to European settlement.

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 1930s when roads made the port redundant. The township is now a tourist and service centre for a number of Aboriginal communities and stations.

## Community Life

### Description of community:

Timber Creek is situated on the Victoria Highway, the main Highway between Katherine and Kununurra. It is a key rest stop for many vehicles travelling along the highway as it is about halfway along the 500km stretch. There is quite a lot to see in Timber Creek with Gregory National Park and Victoria River only a short distance away.

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

### How is it affected by seasons:

Timber Creek lies on the banks of Victoria River. Heavy rain within Victoria River catchment area may cause flooding and closure of the highway. Closure of the highway for at least a few days occurs at some stage through most wet seasons.

### Major landmarks or cultural

**factors:** The Victoria River, running through deep valleys and gorges, is one of the Northern Territory's most scenic places to catch barramundi. Gregory National Park is Timber Creek's backyard. Covering an area of approximately 13,000km<sup>2</sup>, the park is home to red-rimmed escarpment ranges, plunging gorges and ancient Boab trees. Please contact Parks and Wildlife on (08) 8975 0888 for information regarding Judbarra Gregory National Park.

### Local industry/mine: Tourism

**Tourism:** The town features several attractions that preserve its rich pastoral and exploration heritage and fishing is one of Timber Creek's biggest draw cards as well as a key stop on the Victoria Highway, the highway between Katherine and Kununurra.

**Arts/crafts:** Timber Creek Festival is held annually showcasing local indigenous talent and traditional dance. Events range from whip cracking to fire sculpture, Boab nut painting and a children's circus. There will be bush toy making, didgeridoo art and spear throwing competitions along with bush food and market stalls.

### Websites:

[www.nationaltrustnt.com.au/properties/timber-creek/](http://www.nationaltrustnt.com.au/properties/timber-creek/)

[www.visitkatherine.com.au/pages/timber-creek-victoria-river/](http://www.visitkatherine.com.au/pages/timber-creek-victoria-river/)

[www.timbercreekhotel.com.au/about\\_timber\\_creek.html](http://www.timbercreekhotel.com.au/about_timber_creek.html)

[www.travelnt.com/katherine-and-surrounds/events/timber-creek-festival.aspx?ForceRedirect=1](http://www.travelnt.com/katherine-and-surrounds/events/timber-creek-festival.aspx?ForceRedirect=1)

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

## Governance

**Local Government** Victoria Daly Shire Council  
**Telephone** (08) 8972 0777  
**Web** [www.victoriadaly.nt.gov.au](http://www.victoriadaly.nt.gov.au)

**Community or other governance structures** Timber Creek Community Government  
Ngarliwurru Wurli Association  
**Telephone** (08) 8975 0860  
**Telephone** (08) 8975 0710

**Outstations** There are 16 outstations including Bulla Marralum, Kneebone, Amanbidgee, Doojum in Keep River National Park, Myatt, Muruning, Barrac Barrac, Gilwi, BobYard, Djarrung, Bubble bubble, Police Hole, Binjin and Gulardi.

**Permit System<sup>1</sup>** Permits required for camping, alcohol and beach access. Not for Timber Creek itself. All outstations require a permit for entry.

Permit applications are available through Northern Land Council.

**Web** [www.nlc.org.au](http://www.nlc.org.au)

## Infrastructure, facilities and services

**Community**  
**Church:** Baptist Church at Bulla Camp  
**Community Halls and Sheds:** Yes  
**Workforce Skills or Training Facilities:** Community Development Employment Program (CDEP)  
**Post Office:** None. General Store will post any mail and mail can be delivered to the clinic, c/o Timber Creek Health Centre, PMB 53 Timber Creek NT 0852.  
**Library:** None  
**School:** Primary school  
**Council Office:** Yes  
**Women's Centre:** None  
**Childcare Centre:** Yes - Open Monday to Friday, 7.30am - 2.30pm.  
**Banking:** There is an ATM located in the store.

**Community store** **Fogarty's Store:** **Telephone** (08) 8975 0722  
Store stocks a small range of fresh produce, frozen goods, shelf items, ice, bait and tackle.  
• **Opening hours** Monday to Friday: 8am – 5pm  
Saturday: 8am – 12pm  
Sunday: Closed

**Other food outlets** BP restaurant, takeaway and pub

**Food orders** Food orders can be made online at Woolworths and will be delivered from Katherine. Nighthawk Transport will deliver your order to the general store. Cost of delivery depends on the size and range of the order. Orders must be in by Thursday to be delivered on Tuesday evening.

**Woolworths Katherine:** **Telephone** (08) 8934 8100

**Web** [www2.woolworthsonline.com.au](http://www2.woolworthsonline.com.au)

**Nighthawk Transport:** **Telephone** (08) 8972 3889

**Web** [www.nighthawktransport.com.au](http://www.nighthawktransport.com.au)

**Recreational facilities** Fishing, AFL, basketball, tennis, camping and bushwalking

<sup>1</sup> RAHC HPs are not required to obtain permits for their placement as they are exempt under legislation related to the Emergency Response.

<b>Commercial accommodation</b>	Timber Creek Hotel and Circle F Caravan Park.	<b>Telephone</b> (08) 8975 0722
<b>Fuel</b>	BP fuels including Diesel and unleaded.	
<b>Mechanic</b>	Yes, at BP station.	
<b>Police station</b>	Yes	<b>Telephone</b> (08) 8975 0733
<b>Alt. police contact</b>	Emergency ONLY	<b>Telephone</b> 000
<b>Other</b>	Community Night Patrol	<b>Telephone</b> (08) 8972 0777
<b>Telephone/internet/mail</b>		
<b>Mobile phone</b> <sup>2</sup>	Telstra 3G mobile coverage available. Please check with your provider before heading out bush.	
<b>Internet</b>	ADSL Internet/email access and satellite dish at the clinic.	
<b>Mail</b>	Mail is delivered to the Health Centre.	
<b>Other</b>	Landlines available in staff housing.	
<b>Alcohol</b>		
<b>Alcohol – allowed</b> <sup>3</sup>	One licensed premise in town, one with a 24hr license to cater for the tourists/ pastoral workers. Take away restrictions are as per NT times for take away alcohol. Liquor restrictions apply to Aboriginal outstations with alcohol prohibited. Alcohol restrictions also include ‘beer only’ days during the week. <b>**Note: Alcohol is not permitted to travel in KWHB vehicles</b>	
<b>Access</b>		
<b>Road</b>	<b>Katherine (2.75 hours<sup>4</sup>):</b> 282km West of Katherine on the Victoria Highway. The highway is all 2-lane bitumen and well maintained. Greyhound buses pass through each day (both ways). The road is easily passable in a 2WD vehicle although a 4WD is better for exploring the surrounding areas. <b>Other services:</b> Greyhound coaches pass daily each way through Timber Creek, travelling between Darwin and Broome. Please contact Parks and Wildlife on (08) 8975 0888 for information regarding road closures.	
<b>Air</b>	<b>Facilities:</b> There is a dirt strip for emergency evacuation of patients. The airstrip is 7km west of town and can be closed at times during the wet. Airstrip is also closed at night as there are no lights. In an emergency, aircraft are able to use the army runway at Bradshaw which is sealed. <b>Darwin:</b> Charters available <b>Katherine:</b> Charters available	
<b>Regular passenger transport</b>	None	

<sup>2</sup> 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/>

<sup>3</sup> It is an offence to consume or bring alcohol into a dry community in the Northern Territory

<sup>4</sup> Approximate travel time one-way

## Health Centre

### Health service

Katherine West Health Board (KWHB)

Telephone (08) 8975 0727

Web [www.kwhb.com.au](http://www.kwhb.com.au)

Email [lyn.archer@kwhb.com.au](mailto:lyn.archer@kwhb.com.au)

### Staff

- |                               |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| • Manager                     | 1            |
| • Remote Area Nurses          | 4            |
| • Medical Practitioners       | locum visits |
| • Aboriginal Health Workers   | 0            |
| • Aboriginal Community Worker | 0            |
| • Administration Officers     | 0            |
| • Drivers/Gardeners/Cleaners  | 0            |
| • Other.                      | 0            |

### Facilities

Four consult rooms and one ED room.

### Operating hours

Monday, Thursday and Friday	8.00am – 4.30pm
Monday - Wednesday	Outstation visits to Kildurk and Bulla

### On call

No rostered on-call although expected to be second on-call in an emergency.

### Services

- Elderly Screening
- Well Women's Screening
- Under 5's Screening.

### Medical Records System<sup>5</sup>

Communicare

### Vehicles

The health centre maintains a Toyota Troop Carrier that has been converted for use as an ambulance.

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

### GP

The doctor in Timber Creek provides services to eight communities over 30,000km<sup>2</sup>, with approx. 800 patients. 80% of patients are Indigenous. Four communities have clinics with nurses or Aboriginal Health Workers.

The doctor spends five days a fortnight at Timber Creek, three at Yarralin, one at Amanbidji and one at Bulla. The doctor is one of three doctors working for the Katherine West Health Board. The other two doctors are at Kalkarindji and Lajamanu.

If there is no doctor in the clinic, there is always a District Medical Officer (DMO) on call for advice and to instruct the nursing staff.

### Visiting services

- |                   |                                 |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Paediatrician   | • Pharmacy                      |
| • Physiotherapist | • AIDS/STD screening            |
| • Physician       | • Mental health                 |
| • Optometrist     | • Audiologist                   |
| • Dietitian       | • Women's Health Nurse          |
| • Ophthalmology   | • Environmental Health Officer. |

### Acute care

Careflight evacuate to Katherine and Darwin depending on the situation.

### Other

Pregnant women birth in Katherine or Darwin.

<sup>5</sup> Training should be arranged before your arrival in the community

## Accommodation

<b>Accommodation</b>	Standard two bedroom homes <b>**Note: Sharing of facilities may be required</b>
<b>Facilities</b>	Fully furnished accommodation including air conditioning, fridge, bed, stove, microwave, kettle, toaster, TV and basic cooking utensils.
<b>Linen</b>	Provided

## Vehicles

<b>Vehicle</b>	Toyota 4WD for work purposes only
<b>Policy</b>	As per KWHB policy document

## What to pack for placement

<b>Clothes</b>	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. <a href="http://ntgpe.org/wp_site/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Appropriate-Clothing-2.pdf">http://ntgpe.org/wp_site/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Appropriate-Clothing-2.pdf</a>
<b>Supplies</b>	Bring any specialty foods and a small quantity of fresh food <b>**Note: Please be mindful of weight restrictions on plane travel</b>
<b>Personal effects</b>	Bring a hat, sturdy shoes, insect repellent, sunscreen and toiletries.

## Other tips or relevant information

<b>Other tips/relevant information</b>	Be prepared for variable standard of accommodation in communities. A sleeping bag sheet insert is a good idea for protection against biting insects.
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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. Updated January 2014.

### Canberra Office

Suite 17J, Level 1, 2 King St, Deakin ACT 2600  
T 02 6203 9588 F 02 6203 9598

### Darwin Office

Level 4, Darwin Central Offices, 21 Knuckey Street, Darwin NT 0800  
T 08 8942 1650 F 08 8942 1676