Borroloola
Katherine Region

Community Profile

Pronunciation: Borra-loo-la
Alternate names: Burrulula
Location: 380km east of Stuart Highway from turn-off near Daly Waters and 850km south east of Darwin
NT region: South East Top End
Population: Approximately 1100. Dept. of Health figure is 1609 in 2011
Access: Carpentaria Highway and Savannah Way from Hi-Way Inn near Daly Waters (Stuart Highway). North from Barkly Homestead on the Tablelands Highway, joining Savannah Way at Cape Crawford. Both highways are sealed
Language groups: Yanyuwa, Karawa, Mara and Kurdanji

Climate (Barkly)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Temp. Range</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winter dry season (June to August)</td>
<td>Cooler and dry</td>
<td>8°C to 23°C</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The temperature can drop below 0°C overnight in winter. Please ensure you are equipped for these extremes. Humidity Range 20% - 50%.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fine weather with no rain and the possibility of getting quite cold by Territory standards during June/July.</td>
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<td>Spring (Sept-Nov) and Autumn (Mar-May) in Central Australia see warm days and cool evenings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer wet season (October to April)</td>
<td>Hot and humid</td>
<td>22°C to 37°C</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Humidity can rise to 95%. Please ensure you are equipped for these extremes. Humidity Range 30% - 95%.</td>
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<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>

* Although part of Barkly Tablelands, Borroloola’s climate is tropical

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

RAHC
REMOTE AREA HEALTH CORPS

Remote Area Health Corps | Community Profile: Borroloola, Katherine Region
**Governance**

**Local Government**
Roper Gulf Regional Council  
**Telephone** (08) 8975 8762  
**Web** [www.ropergulf.nt.gov.au](http://www.ropergulf.nt.gov.au)

**Outstations**
26 outstations, serviced by Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Centre. Population 400  

**Permit System**
Borroloola is a gazetted township so no permit is required for town itself. A permit is required to go to the outstations. Permit application is through Northern Land Council (NLC).  
**Web** [www.nlc.org.au](http://www.nlc.org.au)

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**Infrastructure, facilities and services**

**Community**
School: Borroloola CEC  
**Telephone** (08) 8975 8780
Contains pre-school, primary and secondary (to middle years) schools  
321 Robinson Road, Borroloola, NT -854

Banking: There is an ATM located in Malandari store and another near the Post Office.

**Community store**
Malandari Store:  
**Telephone** (08) 8975 8875
Gulf Mini Mart:  
**Telephone** (08) 8975 8790
Red Dirt:  
**Telephone** (08) 8975 8772

Malandari Store is the largest of all three stores and is very well stocked. Take-away mid strength beer can be purchased here, however there is a limit per person. Fuel is also sold here and is open until 6pm weekdays. Opening hours on weekends are less.

All groceries can be purchased from the Gulf Mini Mart. Delivery trucks usually arrive on a Wednesday. Fresh food including meat, vegetables and milk are available. The mini mart serves as a service station, supermarket, takeaway, alfresco coffee shop, mechanical workshop, tyre centre, BOC gas agent and freight depot for Eastern states trucking company.

The Gulf Mini Mart also operates fishing charters using a state of the art custom built alloy fishing boat. Powered by twin 90hpp motors, this vessel can take passengers to the farthest reaches of the Gulf Of Carpentaria.

Red Dirt has a butcher that cuts fresh meat and has a good range of both fresh fruit and vegetables. There is also a takeaway store attached.

• **Opening hours**

  **Malandari Store**: Monday to Friday 7am – 6pm, Saturday and Sunday - less than weekdays

  **Gulf Mini Mart**: Monday to Sunday 7am – 7pm

  **Red Dirt**: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday 7am – 7pm, Thursday and Friday 7am - 9pm

**Other food outlets**
Takeaway (at Gulf Mini Mart and red Dirt), The Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation (ALPA)Store and Paperbark Café.

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¹ RAHC HPs are not required to obtain permits for their placement as they are exempt under legislation related to Emergency Response
Food orders

Food orders must be placed by Thursday night and needs to be phoned through to Pandion Haulage. This will arrive the following Thursday in Borroloola. You will need to pay for freight on delivery. These orders come from Woolworths in Darwin.

**Woolworths Darwin:**
- **Telephone:** (08) 8995 9308
- **Web:** www.woolworthsonline.com.au

**Coles Darwin:**
- **Telephone:** (08) 8941 8055
- **Web:** www.coles.com.au

**Pandion Haulage:**
- **Telephone:** (08) 8947 4040
- **Web:** www.pandionhaulage.com.au/schedule

Recreational facilities

Swimming pool at school is available for use, fishing in and around Macarthur River / King Ash Bay, football, AFL, soccer and basketball.

Commercial accommodation

Borroloola Guest House, Borroloola Hotel Motel, Savannah Way Motel (won NT Tourism award 2012).

Police station

Yes

**Telephone:** (08) 8975 8770

Alt. police contact

Emergency only

**Telephone:** 000

Other

None

Telephone/internet/mail

**Mobile phone:**
Telstra 3G service is available. Please check with your provider before heading out to Community. Landlines are provided in staff accommodation. 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/

**Internet:**
Personal usage at the clinic is limited. Please check with the Health Centre Manager (HCM). Own personal 3G internet dongle if applicable.

**Mail:**
Mail comes in on a regular basis – Post Office:
Opening hours Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm

**Telephone:** (08) 8975 8797

Alcohol

The Savannah Way Motel with the Carpentaria Grill Restaurant and the Borroloola Hotel Motel are licensed premises for dining. The hotel sells mid-strength beer – the only take away alcohol sold in the town. Mid-strength beer is the only takeaway alcohol sold in Borroloola. Restrictions apply on quantity sold and where it can be consumed. There is also a licensed premise at the Amateur Fishing Club at Black Rock Landing, King Ash Bay 41 km from town on the Macarthur River. No wine or spirits are available for takeaway – beer only.

Takeaway mid-strength beer is available from Malandari Store.

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2 Telstra 3G/Next G are typically the only mobile services that work in more remote parts of the Northern Territory.

3 It is an offence to consume or bring alcohol into a dry community in the Northern Territory.
## Access

### Road

**Darwin (7 to 8 hours):** From Hi-Way Inn near Daly Waters on the Stuart Highway, turn onto single lane Carpentaria Highway, Savannah Way after Cape Crawford. Sealed road, but may be closed after heavy rain for up to a week in the wet season.

**Barkly Homestead (6 hours):** Tablelands Highway north to Cape Crawford, join Savannah Way to Borroloola. Sealed roads, but may be impassable in time of heavy rain.

**Other services:** Barge landing 40 km away, at Black Rock, but not in all weather.

### Air

**Facilities:** The airstrip at Borroloola is a sealed night and day strip, and is used by smaller planes, the RAAF and the RFDS Mail plane services town three times weekly with seats available. It is a half day trip from Katherine due to frequent stopovers on the mail run. Main strip, at McArthur River Mine 60 km away is used by Airnorth, which runs a daily service, Monday to Friday from Darwin. Book well in advance, as the planes fill up with fly-in-fly-out mine workers.

**Darwin (2 to 3 hours):** Charters and Airnorth

### Regular passenger transport

Airnorth has several flights per week to McArthur River.

## Health Centre

### Health service

- **Department of Health (DoH)**
  - **Telephone:** (08) 8975 8757
  - **Web:** www.health.nt.gov.au
  - **Email:** borroloola.clinicmgr@nt.gov.au

### Staff

- **Manager:** 1 (and RAN)
- **Remote Area Nurses:** 6
- **Medical Practitioners:** 2 (including DMO)
- **Aboriginal Health Workers:** 4
- **Aboriginal Community Worker:** 1
- **Administration Officers:** 4
- **Drivers/Gardeners/Cleaners:** 5
- **Other - Mental Health Nurse:** 1

### Facilities

- Two bed Emergency, five treatment rooms, x-ray available, radiology every Wednesday.

### Operating hours

- **Monday to Wednesday and Friday:** 8.30am – 4.30pm
- **Thursday:** 1pm – 4.30pm

### On call

- 1st and 2nd RN on call, plus a driver every night

### Medical Records System

- **PCIS**

### Vehicles * Vehicle Policy

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

No vehicle is provided for personal use. NT DoH has a strict policy on vehicle use. Any non-clinical use is not acceptable.

### GP

- Two resident GP positions filled by combination of visiting District Medical Officer, two weeks on and two weeks off, plus locums.

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* Training should be arranged before your arrival in the community
### Visiting services
- Paediatrician
- Surgeon
- Physician
- Gynaecologist
- Dentist
- Ophthalmology
- Commonwealth Rehab Service.

Most visit three monthly on average, some six monthly

### Acute care
Care Flight evacuations are available almost all through the year, with the possible exception of heavy cyclonic weather.

### Other
Pregnant women birth in Darwin or Katherine depending on their history and needs.

### Accommodation
**Accommodation**
Either a freestanding house or single occupancy demountable “Donga” style with shared facilities or the Savannah Way Motel.

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

**Linen**
Provided

### 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.

For advice on what to wear while on placement, please refer to www.ntgpe.org/sites/default/files/media-library/documents/Appropriate%20Clothing%20in%20Indigenous%20Communities%202017%20Jun%2006.doc.pdf

**Supplies**
Bring any specialty foods and a small quantity of fresh food.

**Note: Please be mindful of weight restrictions on plane travel**

**Other tips or 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. Bring a hat, sturdy shoes, insect repellent and sunscreen.

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

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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 May 2017.