

COMMUNITY PROFILE

ATITJERE

NAME[S] OF COMMUNITY:

ATITJERE (HART'S RANGE)

The community of Atitjere has the alternative names of Harts Range and Hart Range. The region of Atitjere (pronounced %di-jera+) and its outstations is officially known as Arltarpilta. Atitjere is an important ceremonial area for peoples from Tobernorey, Ammaroo and Lake Nash, as well as Santa Teresa, Ammonguna and Alice Springs camps. Huckitta, Ambalindum, Alcoota and Mount Riddock

Outstations:

Name or number of clan/groups:

Languages spoken:

Population:

- Community -
- Outstations -

Eastern Arrente is spoken

250 (not including outstations)

Irrerlirre (No) . 50

Eagle Beak . 30

Foxall Well . 10

Unpaingke (Spotted Tiger) . 0

Engawala (Alcoota) - 85

Permit required:

Yes

Name of the local governing body:

Atitjere Community is in the ATSIC region of Aputula which is covered by the Papunya Regional Council.

The Arltarpilta Government Council is funded by the Dept of Lands, Housing and Local Govt and is responsible for general administration of the community. Nine members are elected yearly including 2 from each of the outstations. Council employees include a CDEP supervisor, a town clerk, an essential services officer, mechanic and a variable number of community workers who do general maintenance work.

Services provided by the council include garbage disposal, mechanical workshop, parks and gardens, roads maintenance, the Health Centre and maintenance of the airstrip

There is no health council at Arltarpilta

HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY:

At the turn of the century pastoral settlements were developed at Huckitta, Ambalindum, Alcoota and Mt Riddock. At the same time prospectors found mica and gems in Atitjere. During the 1930s Atitjere mica attained great significance and became one of the most important mica mines in Australia

Meanwhile pastoral settlement in the area had been proceeding since 1923. New pastoral country was opened up for settlement and occupied from the 1950s, ending the wholly traditional life of the Eastern Aranda who had not until then been affected by white incursion

Pressures against Aboriginal residence on stations built up from about 1995 and made the position of Aboriginal untenable. This caused their withdrawal to small living areas or to Crown Land such as that near the Atitjere police station.

The permanent and semi-permanent population in Atitjere is generally drawn from the Alice Springs Sandover area, the main family groups coming from Mt Riddock Station and neighbouring pastoral properties

In contrast to other Aboriginal towns and the urban camps, the permanent population of Atitjere includes only one Skin group, the Eastern Aranda. While people from the Alyawarra and Anmatjere District, having associations with the community, visit from time to time.

Atitjere community plays an important role as a centre for ceremonial functions in the Sandover area, drawing people from Tobernorey, Ammaroo, and Lake Nash. Ties with people from Santa Teresa, Amoonguna, and Alice Springs camps result in large increases in their population during ceremonial occasions.

ACCESS TO COMMUNITY:

Road:

- All year access?
- Bitumen, dirt, 4WD or 2WD

Atitjere Community is located 215 kms from Alice Springs by road and it takes 2 ½ hours to drive there. It takes 10mins to drive to the closest airstrips in Atitjere and 30 minutes to fly to Alice Springs.

The Plenty Highway is sealed and in good condition for the first 150 kms from the Stuart Highway, while the remaining 65 kms to Atitjere is a gravel formation with sealed floodways. The condition of this section of road is reasonable but requires constant maintenance.

The main access road from the Plenty Highway to the community (1.2km) is a gravel road in good condition.

Plane:

- Name of airline:
- Cost per adult:
- Frequency:
- RFDS/Airmed access:

There is a mail plane service on Fridays. It is a 10 minute drive from Atitjere to the airstrip; the flight to Alice Springs takes 30 mins

TYPES OF FUEL AVAILABLE:

- Diesel, leaded, unleaded, gas:
- Conditions of availability:
- Any mechanics available locally:

Petrol and diesel
7 am . 9pm at Mobil Service Station

Mechanic in community
Large workshop at Yulara

ALCOHOL:

- Conditions/restrictions on sale of alcohol/bringing alcohol into community:

SHOPS:

- Shop available:
- Hours of opening:
- What is for sale (general overview):
- Fresh fruit/veg/milk/meat available:

Yes. The community has 1 store which is owned by the community and is an incorporated body. It is managed by a contract manager with staff from the community. The price are set by the store committee. A variety of food and goods are available including take aways
Monday to Friday 09.00-12.00 & 13.00-15.00
Saturday . 09.00-12.00
Sunday . Closed

COMMUNICATIONS: Clinic/Home

- Phone access?
- Is there Internet/e-mail access? Any constraints on use?
- Is there a satellite dish? If so, who can access it?

LOCAL INDUSTRY/EMPLOYMENT:

- Is there a local industry?
- List any employment options for spouses of GPs:

SCHOOL:

What schooling options are available locally?

- Primary
- Secondary school
- If the school is bilingual, can non-indigenous students attend?

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Gemstone . a service station and caravan pack located at the end of the bitumen of the Plenty Hwy (65km from Atitjere). Also has a golf course, runs fossicking tours in the gem fields and sell gems> Has limited store

Beautiful surrounding country

RECREATION/SPORTING:

What recreation and sporting opportunities/facilities are there?

- Women's Centre

Basketball and softball courts, AFL oval. Harts Range has a Racecourse (annual race are held)

Only began running again in January 2004. Provides meals for school children, coin operated laundry facilities, community transport, infant playgroup, artwork programs

MEDICAL:

- Health Service operated by: The Health Service is part of THS services and is in the Central Australian Services Network.
Contact:
Harts Range Health Centre
Atitjere via Alice Springs NT 0872
08 8956 9778
08 8956 9947
- GP employed by:
- Hours of operation/on-call: Clinic Hours ; Monday to Friday -08.00-17.00pm
- Outstations serviced
Irrelirre (also spelt Yerrarlwe) . Also known as no 5 Bore. Located 25-30km NE of Atitjere, 30 min drive. Has a clinic room waiting the now-closed school. Diesel generators provided power (often not functioning). The road into the community may be inaccessible during rain.
Eagle beak. Also known as Mount Eaglebeak. Located 30km east of Atitjere, 30 min drive. No clinic. The highway to the community may be inaccessible during rain.
FoxallꞤ Well. 20min drive SW of Atitjere, small population
Unpaingke. Also know as Spotted Tiger. 8 km from Atitjere, 10 min drive. No permanent population.
The nurse from Atitjere also provides one day a week of clinic time at the Engawala (or Alcoota) community. This community of approximately 100 people has no permanent nurse. It is anticipated that Engawala will be handed over to Ti Tree Clinic during 2004, but it is likely Harts Range will continue to provide after hours emergency services, as it is physically closer than Ti Tree. Engawala is an hourꞤ drive from Atitjere, West along the Plenty highway (towards the Stuart hwy). it has an airstrip that can be used at night.

Staffing at the clinic:

- number of GP's: None
- number of RN's: One RAN . This person runs the clinic, visits the outstations and Engawala once weekly, and provides after hours on-call for emergencies
- Number of Health Workers: There are a number of Aboriginal Health Workers living in Atitjere, but do not work at the clinic. One is currently being trained for clinic work (Mar 04)

Visiting health professionals:

- type of service (eg dental) The DMO visits the community for approx 3 days every 3 weeks, with 2 days spent in Atitjere and 1 at Engawala.
 - frequency and duration of visits: Various specialists also visit at intervals, including a Chronic Disease Physician, Cardiologist, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist and a Paediatrician. Part time role . 12 Admin and 12 hours cleaning per week
- One 4WD troop carrier which is fitted as an ambulance

Contact Details

The health Centre has one phone line and another fax. Internet is via satellite.
Atitjere (Harts Range) Health Centre
Atitjere Via Alice Springs NT 0872
Ph 08 8956 9778
Fax 08 8956 9947

Clinic Layout

The clinic currently has two examination room (called men's and women's rooms, but not used in that way), a waiting room, office, pharmacy, and bathroom and staff room. It is hoped June 2005 the clinic will be extended to include an emergency room and a larger office.

GP ACCOMMODATION

- Type of housing available: 3 bedroom + 1 office transportable house with spectacular views of Uluru from your front steps. Reticulated gardens.
- Furnished: Yes

- Are whitegoods supplied, if yes, what: Fridge freezer, microwave
- Other facilities supplied [eg. TV,radio]: TV video

- Linen & bedding

No

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ATCO

Located in the community, an easy walk (less than 5 minutes) from the Health Centre. Fenced with a large yard, including a washing line and wood BBQ. Room for parking a car. Concreted covered area outside the front door.

Work force Development Atco . is also used by the Arltarlpilta Council for visiting staff etc. If not available, student may be accommodated in the health Department Atco which is located 4 km from Atitjere on a site where the nurse and teachers live.

- Facilities

Main bedroom . double bed, bedside table, desk and chair, 2 reading lamps, electric heater, air conditioning, large wardrobe, linen and 2 pillows

Second bedroom . Single bed, bedside table iron board and iron, clothes rack and coat hangers, reading lamp, air conditioner, clothes basket and pegs, vacuum, cleaner, broom, mop and bucket.

Bathroom . washing machine, septic toilet, shower, 1 towel

Living area . futon sofa bed double), TV (limited reception, ABC only) VCR, table and four chairs, air conditioning, phone (STD barred)

Kitchen . saucepans and fry pans, fridge, utensils, stove and oven, microwave, kettle, toaster, crockery, bin and minimal cleaning products

- Things to bring

Food (store has limited supply and is more expensive than Alice Springs, opening hours are also quite limited)

Toilet paper

Washing powder

Other cleaning products

Towel

Entertainment (eg CD player, books)

Phone card if you wish to make STD phone calls

- Other useful information

It is quite safe to go walking during the day. The walk to the airstrip is popular with visiting health staff and doctors. Be cautious going walking at night . the camp dogs are quite feral and roam in large numbers

There are wild horses and a donkey that move through the community as well. The donkey regularly empties rubbish out of the 44 gallon drum that serves as a rubbish bin for rubbish collection. Rubbish collection is carried out by the CDEP workers and can be quite sporadic. (Rubbish from the community is buried, except for the clinic which burns rubbish) Community members go hunting regularly. Be sure to ask if you'd like to try some bush tucker.

Artwork is being produced by the community to be sold to tourists who pass through the town in the Down Under Tours Bus. They are yet to begin selling paintings, but those that I saw were quite beautiful and very reasonably priced.

This community is a very safe place. There are no petrol sniffers in town. Domestic violence is rare (4 incidents in the past 121 months, 3 of these involving the community.). Little trauma was seen in the clinic. It is also quite a clean community (except when compared to Engawala . which is immaculate).

- Waste management

While some household rubbish is burnt, the main method of waste disposal is the garbage tip. Household rubbish is currently disposed of through the community's established rubbish collection system and is the responsibility of the council.

- Sewerage

The system is septic tanks and pit latrines. The blockwork houses have septic tanks. The older and informal housing areas are serviced by an ablution block, Ventilated Improved Pit Latrines (VIP) and standard pit latrines.

- Electricity
- Water

The power station is located 1.2 km North of the community. Power consumption is at full capacity.

Water comes from 3 bores located approx 150 metres east of the Police Station. Two bores are metered. There is also an existing capped bore which is available for equipping should it be required. Drilling for a new bore is taking place north of the highway opposite existing bores.

The water storage facility, which is located at the bore-field approx 1.5 km to the west from the centre of the community includes:

1. One galvanized steel ground storage tank with a capacity of 146kL.
2. One pump shed containing two electric pumps.
3. One chlorinator shed with on Advance Series 200 gas chlorinator.
4. One galvanized steel elevated storage tank with a capacity of 49 kL atop a 15 meter steel tower.

- Laundry facilities
- Telephone/fax/ e-mail/Internet
- Air-conditioning

There is no mobile phone service in Atitjere and in some places the satellite phone does not work either.

RELIGION

Church services available in the community:

OTHER THINGS FOR THE INCOMING GP AND FAMILY TO CONSIDER:

- Ask the GP & the clinic staff of any dominant local health & social issues to be aware of.
- On arrival in the community, ask an appropriate person to advise you of locations to avoid [eg sacred sites].