

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Ali Curung

NAME[S] OF COMMUNITY:

ALI CURUNG

The community of Ali Curung was formerly known as Warrabri. Ali Curung is a Kaiditch word meaning country of the dogs or dog dreaming. The ancestral dogs, which travelled near Ali Curung are believed to have created the landscape in their travels. The dogs that visited this area created the shallow watercourses and flood plains in this region.

The community of Ali Curung is located about 380kms north east of Alice Springs in the Southern Barkly region, just south of the Devils Marbles.

Outstations:

Name or number of clan/groups:

The four main tribal groups are

Warlpiri

Warumungu

Kaiditch

Alywarr

Languages spoken:

Warlpiri

Warramungu,

Kaytete

Alywarr

Population:

500 residents in the area

- Community

- Outstations

Permit required:

Council welcomes visitors but asks visitors to obtain entry permits.

These permits can be obtained through the Central Land Council in Alice Springs or by directly contact the Ali Curung Council prior to visit.

Name of the local governing body:

Ali Curung Council Association

Incorporated

PBM 31

Via Alice Springs NT 0871

Phone 8964 1955 or 1956

Fax 8964 1975

HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY:

New government settlements were commenced at Hooker Creek (1949) and Warrabri (1954). From time to time Tom Fleming visited these settlements and ministered to the people, many of whom had lived previously at Yuendumu. In 1957 Rev and Mrs Burton became the first resident missionaries at Warrabri, ministering to Warlpiri, Alyawarr, Waramungu, Kaytij people. In March 1960 Rev and Mrs Laurie Reece replaced the Burtons who resigned due to illness. Laurie had a particular linguistic gift and also had a wide ministry to surrounding cattle stations. On January 19th 1964 Tony Jupurrula Coombes was the first person baptized at Warrabri. On Sunday September 20th 1964 a growing group of Christians formed the Warrabri Baptist Church. With the encouragement of the Reeces, who ministered until July 1970, the Church continued to grow. Laurie Reece was later awarded membership of the Order of Australia for services of Aboriginal people.

The Reeces were replaced at Warrabri by Rev and Mrs John Bridges from 1972 until 1976. Malcolm and Joyce Murdoch ministered for several months in 1977/78 and helped revitalize the church. Rev and Mrs John Whitbourne commenced ministry at Warrabri (now renamed Ali Curung) in 1978 and continued an effective ministry there until they moved to Alice Springs to commence an aboriginal ministry in association with the Alice Springs Baptist church in 1981. Rev and Mrs Lloyd Ollerenshaw ministered at Ali Curung from 1982-85. Rev and Mrs Chris Boland replaced the Ollerenshaws in 1986 and continued until 1990 when they supported the Ali Curung Church with a visitation ministry from an Alice Springs Base until 1993. In 1995 Ed and Kath Kingston commenced a new ministry at Ali Curung and are currently ministering there.

In more recent years the missionaries at Yuendumu and Ali Curung, and the churches have continued this ministry.

ACCESS TO COMMUNITY:

Road:

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

Boat/barge

Plane:

- Name of airline(s)
- Cost per adult
- Frequency
- RFDS/Airmed access

TYPES OF FUEL AVAILABLE:

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

ALCOHOL:

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

SHOPS:

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

WATER:

SEWERAGE:

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Tennant Creek Town Council through the Tennant Creek Public Library was proud to offer a new and exciting service to the community of Ali-Curung. A library developmental grant was received from the Northern Territory Library and Information Service to start up a mobile library service to both the communities of Ali-Curung and Warrego.

The official launch of the Ali-Curung Mobile Library was held on 17 June 1999 at Ali-Curung. A special community meeting was held on the council lawns where Ali-Curung Council Clerk Mr Bruce McRae introduced the service and welcomed Tennant Creek Town Council CEO, Mr Ali Khan, Deputy Mayor, Mr Barry Sharples (who was invited to launch the mobile library) and Tennant Creek Public Library staff, Jacintha Scaife and myself. I spoke to the community telling them about the library and what it offers and held a storytelling session for the

school children in the year 1 class at Alkerenge School. After the storytelling, Barry Sharples and I then presented each child with a certificate and a small treat for attending. Special thanks goes to the teachers of the Year 1 class for allowing the students to attend the storytelling. The opening of the mobile library was well received with 61 people visiting the library including 18 children.

Ali Curung Police Station

Community Programs:

Women's Art and Craft Centre

Safe House

Home Makers Centre

Respite Centre

Community Housing program

Sports and Recreation Program

Parks and Gardens

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 GP's:

SCHOOL:

- What schooling options are available locally?
- Primary school
- Secondary and for what years of secondary school
- If the school is bilingual, can non-indigenous students attend?

RECREATION/SPORTING:

What recreation and sporting

opportunities/facilities are there?

MEDICAL:

- Health Service operated by:
- GP employed by:
- Hours of operation/on-call:

Staffing at the clinic:

- number of GP's:
- number of RN's:
- number of Health Workers:

Visiting health professionals:

- type of service (eg dental)
- frequency and duration of visits

GP ACCOMMODATION

- Type of housing available:
- Furnished . yes, no, partially:
- Are whitegoods supplied, if yes, what:
- Other facilities supplied [eg. TV,radio]:

- Linen & bedding
- Electricity
- Water
- Laundry facilities
- Telephone/fax/ e-mail/internet
- Air-conditioning

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].