

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Yuendumu

NAME[S] OF COMMUNITY:

YUENDUMU

'Yurntumu' is a better rendering of the name in the Anmatjerr language.

Yurntumu

Yuendumu is located 290km North West from Alice Springs along the Tanami highway which branches off the Stuart Highway 25 km north of Alice Springs

Outstations:

Mt Denison, the closest to Yuendumu, is frequently occupied all others are rarely visited.

Hazel Creek
Jilla (Chilla Well)
Julpugu (Atley Creek)
Jungarayi
Mt Denison
Wanu
Wakulpa (Rock Hill)
Wayililinyapa
Yajalu
Yaripilangu
Yumurrpa (Mala)
Yumurra (Caves Bore)
Yuwarli (Bean Tree)

Name or number of clan/groups:

Technically there are no clans in the desert. Groupings similar to clans are based on descent from mythological 'Dreaming' beings.

Most individuals in Central Australia Aboriginal society are members of a subsection of skin group. Membership of a particular subsection is normally determined by parents' skins, although there is scope for a skin to be assigned to an outsider of non Aboriginal. The skin system is essentially a broad grouping of kin, including many people who are only distantly or notionally related. Through the skin system it is together a particular set of relations. For example, a man's own skin group includes his brothers and sisters, father's father's (and his brothers and sisters), son's children and brother's son's children. The skin system broadly determines social relations: proper behaviour (avoidance, respect, familiarity, etc) rights, responsibilities as well as ceremonial and land tenure relationships. In Yuendumu the skin group is Warlpiri

Languages spoken:	Walpiri is spoken, and also Anmatyerre, Luritja, Kukatja and Pintubi
Population:	914 people
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • Outstations 	
Permit required:	Yes
Name of the local governing body:	<p>Yuendumu community currently has a community council but will shortly become part of the Central Desert Shire.</p> <p>c/o Yuendumu PO, Via Alice Springs 0872 Ph 8956 4000 Fax 8956 4070 Email councilceo@bigpond.com</p>

HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY:

The establishment of cattle stations in the area brought sustained contact with non Aboriginal people and resulted in competition for land. The conflict and reprisals that followed the Coniston massacre in 1928 resulted in the dispersal of people from their traditional country. When Yuendumu became a major ration depot in 1946, large numbers of people moved there from the Granites and Bullocky Bore.

The Yuendumu aboriginal Reserve was proclaimed on 1st May 1952 covering an area of 2199 square kilometres. The formation of the Reserve dates back to travels through this area by Baptist Missionaries in 1946. The Reserve is part of the Schedule 1 land that became aboriginal Freehold in 1976 under the Commonwealth Aboriginals Land Rights Act. Yuendumu is now in the Yuendumu Aboriginal Land Trust Area.

Day to day decisions and the general running of the community is vested in the Yuendumu Community Council (Inc).

Most of the inhabitants of Yuendumu are Warlpiri speakers with minor groups of Anmatyerre, Luritja, Kukatja and Pintubi speakers. Yuendumu is located near the south-eastern edge of the extent of traditionally owned Warlpiri land with Anmatyerre land to the east, Pintubi/Luritja land to the south and Kukatja land to the west. Yuendumu and Lajamanu /Hooker Creek (to the north) are the main population centres for most Warlpiri speaking Aboriginal people today. Willowra, Nyirripi and Ale Kerenge also have substantial Warlpiri speaking populations. Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Darwin all have so-called 'Warlpiri Camps'. Smaller groups are located at Balgo, Halls Creek and Ringer's Soak (Western Australia), Papunya, Napperby and Ti Tree.

There are several sites of significance near Yuendumu including the old cemetery and men's initiation grounds. The main Dreaming sites are just outside the settlement area and are Water/Rain and Honey Ant. The cemetery is the original one used for the settlement and it is estimated that use of this area was discontinued at the end of the 1950's. The cemetery now in use is located well to the north of the town site.

ACCESS TO COMMUNITY:

Road:

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

It takes 3 ½ hours to drive there from Alice Springs. The road is sealed for the first 180 km from Alice Springs and the rest of the way is formed and largely gravelled with some sections not gravelled. The road can be quite corrugated but is usually passable for ordinary vehicles except after heavy rains. The access to Yuendumu after the turn off from the Tanami road is 3 km, of which the first 1 km is gravelled and the balance is sealed.

Boat/barge

Plane:

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

It takes 5 minutes to drive to the closest airstrip in Yuendumu then 60 minutes to fly to Alice Springs.

It is a day/night airstrip, 1440m long, unlicensed and operated by the Yuendumu Community Government Council. It was sealed in 1986, is fenced and has a pilot activated lighting system. There is also an airstrip at Putulu outstation. The community members use the airstrip at Yuendumu for evacuation

TYPES OF FUEL AVAILABLE:

- Diesel, 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:

The community has 2 stores, 1 of which is known as the Social Club Store. The other is owned by Yuendumu Mining Co, Both stores are open 7 day a week

The Social Club Store:
Mon – Fri 08.30 -17.00
Sat – Sun 09.00-12.00

The Mining Co Store
Mon – Sat 09.00-14.00 & 15.00-17.00
Sun 13.00 -17.00

- What is for sale (general overview): Both sell fuel
- Fresh fruit/veg/milk/meat available: Yes

WATER:

Water for the Yuendumu supply system is obtained from 3 bores located approximately 10 km south west of the town. Water has been tested for high levels of radioactivity.

The tank is situated on the hill to the south of Yuendumu and water is conveyed from the bore field by electric pumps

SEWERAGE:

The system of septic tanks has been replaced by a sewerage system which covers the entire town. All houses were connected by a full gravity feed system in 1999

ELECTRICITY:

The community is provided with power via 3 diesel generators. The units are connected to the distribution system through a full automatic control system. Fuel storage facilities are located adjacent to the power house. The power house is a steel framed, steel clad building in sound condition. 40% of Yuendumu's power is supplied by solar.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES:

- Walpiri Media & BRACS
- Adult Education Centre
- Public Phone : 08 8956 8724
- WYN Health A.C.
- Women's Centre
- Youth Centre (Mt Theo Programme)
- Old people's programs
- Child Care
- Police Station
- Council Housing Officer
- Post Office
- Council Guest House
- Warlukurlangu Artists Association
- ADSL Broadband
- Tanami Network
- Morgue

COMMUNICATIONS: Clinic/Home

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

LOCAL INDUSTRY/EMPLOYMENT:

- Is there a local industry?
 - Mining Company : gravel and shale
 - Mining royalties: Granite and
Tanami Gold mines
 - Mining company store and
community store
 - Council workshop
 - BRACS – local radio
 - Men's Museum
 - Women's Museum
 - Road plant
 - Warlukurlangu Artists
- List any employment options for
spouses of GP's:

HOUSES

Yuendumu has 104 occupied community houses of which 100 have Indigenous residents. There are also a number of shelters and humpies and 2 ablution blocks. Most buildings are of brick construction and are maintained by the Environmental Service officer

SCHOOL:

- What schooling options are available locally?

There is 1 school that has a total of 27 staff including 10 teachers of whom 6 are Aboriginal. There are 18 Aboriginal people working in the school. Apart from the 6 Aboriginal teachers there are another 12 aboriginal people who work as assistant teachers and part time instructors.

There is around 150-200 students enrolled. Education is based on a "cradle to grave" philosophy and encompasses pre school, primary, post primary and secondary study to Year 10 by correspondence.

- Adult Education

The school runs a lunch program for kids, and provides an orange to each child daily. Adult education is linked to Bachelor College which has an on site person to run individual programs. The Northern Territory Education and Training Department is responsible for other training programs.
- If the school is bilingual, can non-indigenous students attend?

The school is a two way learning school with lessons in Warlpiri and English.

RECREATION/SPORTING:

What recreation and sporting opportunities/facilities are there?

- 3 Ovals
- Youth Centre
- 4 basketball courts

There are plans to build a park and playground

MEDICAL:

- Health Service operated by:

The Health Centre is located in the Yuendumu community. The Health Service is in the Alice Springs district. The Walpiri Primary Health Care Zone services Yuendumu, Willowra and Nyirrpi communities and their outstations.

Mt Theo has been integral part of the Petrol sniffing program but this is not running at present

Yuendumu Health Centre
Via Alice Springs NT 0872

Phone : 8956 4030

Fax : 8956 4051

There are 2 vehicles allocated to the Zone. Evacuations are almost always by air from Yuendumu with the second option being by road. Patient Assisted Travel is available to patients from Yuendumu Health Clinic

- 2 GPs employed by:

WYN Health through Central Australian Aboriginal Congress

- Hours of operation/on-call:

Clinic Hours

Monday – Friday

08.30- 16.30

At Yuendumu, the RN's are on call locally after 17.00 weekdays and on weekends and public holidays. AHW's are sometimes also on call

Staffing at the clinic:

- number of GP's: 2 positions (WYN)
- number of RN's: 5 (DHF)
- number of Health Workers: 3 (DHF)
- Public Health Nurse 1 (WYN)
- Health Service Manager 1 (WYN)
- Community Health Workers 2 (WYN)
- Mental Health Counsellors 2 (WYN)
- ALO 1 (WYN)
- Reception/Admin 2 (DHF and WYN)

Health Programs:

- Petrol sniffing program
- A meal, washing, laundry, day care and respite care service through the Old People's programs
- Night patrol run by senior women
- Women's safe house

ACCOMMODATION FOR HEALTH STAFF

- Type of housing available: New 2 x 3 bedroom houses and 2 x 2 bedroom duplex. Of intermediate age, 1 x 3 bedroom house and 1 x duplex with two bedrooms each side. Old complex of 8 flats for local clinic staff of which 2 have 2 bedrooms and 6 have 1 bedroom. Visiting specialists stay in the old flats or the flats attached to the new houses.

RELIGION

Church services available in the community: There is a Baptist Church in Yuendumu. Service times are 10.00am
There are also 3 representatives from the Roman Catholic Order of Nuns, " Little Sisters of Jesus" who live in the community and hold regular services

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].