

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Papunya

NAME[S] OF COMMUNITY:

PAPUNYA

Papunya is 250km west of Alice Springs on sealed and unsealed roads. The current population is about 350.

Outstations:

Name or number of clan/groups:

Pintubi and Luritja

Languages spoken:

Population:

- Community
- Outstations

Permit required:

Papunya is restricted Aboriginal land and requires a permit to enter of travel through

Name of the local governing body:

HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY:

In the 1930's Pintubi and Luritja were forced from their traditional country to the missions and government ration depots of Hermannsburg and Haast's Bluff. The extensive cattle-grazing in these areas was straining the water-source and food and there were frequent tragic confrontations between the cattle station owners and the Aboriginal people.

In the 1950's the government built another water-bore and housing at Papunya to accommodate the increasing numbers of Aboriginal people forced into reliance on settlements. Originally Papunya was run like an army barrack with frequent housing inspections, food cooked and served en-masse in large kitchens and lifestyle strictly regimented. At its peak in the early 1970's Papunya had a population of 1000-1200, a mixture of Pintubi, Luritha, Walpiri and Arrernte people. Morbidity and mortality were extremely high so many people left to settlements further west.

Papunya, where the desert painting movement all began back in 1971, was a community created for the Aboriginal people who were forcibly settled by the Australian government during the 1960's. Aboriginals up until that time continued to exist as nomadic hunter-gathers wandering the desert in small groups, occasionally assembling in larger aggregates at important ceremonial times of the year. Members of a variety of tribes including the Aranda, Pintupi, Walpiri, Luritja, and Pintjatjara all lived uneasily together there during a time of profound and unhappy social change. The painting movement is an outgrowth of their need to have something to say about who they were

as people, before they were swallowed up by the outside world.

In the early 1980's the Papunya movement began to be noticed by the Australian art world and art market. Some younger artists joined the Papunya Artists. Their works helped to define the Papunya art as both contemporary painting and as a valid cultural expression. Papunya had also began to break up as the homeland movement saw artists moving back out bush to fixed communities closer to their traditional territories, splitting up among tribal and clan lines. The success of then Papunya Tula movement allowed for the continued support of the re-settled artists despite the immense distances involved.

Papunya Tula art works were rapidly acquired by major public galleries and museums, and high profile private collectors. The National Gallery of Victoria presented "Face of the Centre" in 1985, and New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago hosted "Dreamings" 1988-89, exposing a national and international audience to these unique paintings. In the early 1990's the Papunya Tula Artists expanded their profile into North America, New Zealand, Japan and Russia.

ACCESS TO COMMUNITY:

Road:

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

All roads within the district are sand (unsealed) and become extremely slippery and boggy after the rain. The dry rivers flow very quickly after heavy rains and will flow for days and up to weeks dependent upon the heaviness of the rainfall.

Boat/barge

NA

Plane:

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

TYPES OF FUEL AVAILABLE:

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

All fuels are available at the local community supermarket.

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:

Established small supermarkets for general consumer items but primarily members have the ability to shop through a bush order system at the larger supermarkets in Alice Springs.

WATER:

The water supply is bore water with a heavy concentration of calcium but fit for human consumption

SEWERAGE:

POWER

A diesel fuelled power station supplies power to the community and has minimal interruptions

POLICE STATION

Papunya Police station was established in 1971, prior it was policed by patrols from Alice Springs. The police station was the first on an Aboriginal settlement. Initially a one man station, it is now staffed by one sergeant and two constables, with two ACPOs based at Kintore

The policing district covers five Aboriginal communities – Papunya, Haasts Bluff, Mount Liebig, Mount Wedge and Kintore and a number of outstations and 6 cattle stations.

- accommodation housing

There are three 3-bedroom houses, which

are fully air-conditioned with reverse cycle units. All the houses have a minimum of one refrigerator and chest freezer, gas stove and large yards with well established gardens. One of the houses has a sacred tree (desert oak) within its boundary. The houses are connected to the sewerage system and town water. Drinking water is supplied from tanks located at OIC's house and the station. The other two houses have no rainwater as they are to be re-fitted with tanks or remotely fed by the tank situated at the station. The complex is surrounded by two metre metal clad fence providing security and privacy for the member living within. A heated spa has been installed as an improvement to the living conditions of the station.

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:

Papunya School
PMB 77 Via Alice Springs NT 0842
08 8956 8515

Papunya School is a Northern Territory Department of Education remote Aboriginal community school of approximately 160 students. The school has approximately 40 secondary school age students who undertake an enriched curriculum program including:

- music tuition
- song writing
- performance and recording

- visual art painting
- publishing layout and design
- radio broadcasting and video camera use and editing
- Multimedia design including computer and Internet use.

The school-wide curriculum focuses on a holistic, authentic model, involving a wide range of overlapping content in both the Luritja and English languages.

The strategy of the school is to develop a range of appropriate educational experiences for students in a wholly Indigenous community school in a remote Western Desert community.

Innovative curriculum resource development and production, with holistic, integrated, culturally appropriate learning strategies and a unique portfolio assessment model, mark the approaches taken by the staff and community in the school. A balance of social, cultural and academic aims guide all programs. A site-based professional development program informs and trains staff and community through a two-way language learning scheme.

The secondary program concentrates on interrelating the many learning opportunities and provides pathways to learning, technology, work or further training.

Special seeding development support from the ECEF Wadu project and a DETYA Full Service Schools Music and Travel Project, with a Northern Territory Department of Education (NTDE) computer project and a Curriculum Development project, support the school-wide involvement in Learning for Life.

Description of Wadu project

Learning for Life is a school and community partnership for employment and training at Papunya. It aims to establish a VET program in computer literacy and information technologies for remote learning and multimedia, using the existing adult learning facility and links with the local Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) project. A multimedia computer centre, connected to the Internet, has been installed by the school for the implementation of this seeding project.

Specifically, the Learning for Life project aims to:

- employ specialists to implement the teaching of multimedia and computer technologies for remote learning as required by VET in Schools and adult learning
- extend and develop local initiatives in industry areas already begun in visual arts, publication, broadcasting, music performance and recording, video production and multimedia
- investigate appropriate workplace experience and learning
- Link with further training for secondary and adult students.

In 2000, the project concentrated on three main parts: Publishing, Broadcasting and Accessing computer communication. Specialists in each field taught aspects of the industry skills.

All students were enrolled in modules of the Certificate II in Arts (Interactive Multimedia) with the National YMCA Institute of Education and Training, in cooperation with the YMCA Deadly Skills/Future Skills Wadu project.

A portfolio presentation assessment methodology developed along the lines of work-related interviews and a round-table discussion, evaluate competency and work readiness, linking learning to life for the Papunya community.

RECREATION/SPORTING:

What recreation and sporting opportunities/facilities are there?

Minimal recreation facilities are available but in poor condition

- Basketball court
- Tennis court

MEDICAL:

• Health Service operated by:

A health clinic staffed by 3 nurses is available and emergency can will be flown to Alice Springs with the RFDS

• GP employed by:

• Hours of operation/on-call:

Staffing at the clinic:

• number of GP's:

• number of RN's:

3

• 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 Lutheran church 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].