

# COMMUNITY PROFILE

## NGUIU

**NAME OF COMMUNITY:**

**NGUIU**

**Outstations:**

Bathurst Island has 2 main communities, Nguiu being the largest and Ranku is an outstation.

Melville Island also has 2 main communities, that of Pirlangimpi (Garden Point) and Milikapiti (Snake Bay).

**Name or number of clan/groups:**

Ask when in the community

**Languages spoken:**

Tiwi is the main language spoken on the Islands but the majority of people have relatively good spoken English

**Population:**

All populations are estimates and fluctuate

- Community -
- Outstations -

Nguiu 1400  
Ranku 100  
Garden Point 400  
Milikapiti 400

**Permit required:**

Not for Govt employees

**Name of the local governing body:**

Tiwi Land Council

**HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY:**

Bathurst and Melville Islands together form the Tiwi Island group. Melville Island is the second largest island off Australia, second only to Tasmania.

Pre white settlement both islands were traditionally owned by the Tiwi people who traded with mainland Aboriginal people and the Macassan traders. The first attempt at white settlement came in the late 1800's with the establishment of a military outpost at Fort Dundas. This mission failed and within 9 years the Fort was closed. Tiwi Islands have always been a major defence point for coastal surveillance.

In the attempt to establish the Fort, horses and buffalo were released onto Melville Island. A trade of buffalo and crocodile skins was established with small settlements associated.

In the early 1940s Catholic Missionaries established mission stations at Nguiu and Garden Point. Many of the Stolen Generation children were forcibly moved from the mainland to these missions throughout the 1940's to late 1960s.

Whilst the missions no longer operate many descendants from the stolen generation now live with the traditional Tiwi owners in the various communities. There remains a strong Catholic presence on the islands.

## **ACCESS TO COMMUNITY:**

### **Road:**

N/A, island

### **Boat/barge:**

- Name of company
- Cost
- Frequency

Tiwi Barge

Deliver weekly on a Wednesday with orders needing to be at port in Darwin Fri pm.

Cost \$70/ square metre.

### **Plane:**

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

There are 3 strips servicing the Islands. The main tar strip at Nguiu, a dirt strip at Garden Point and a sealed strip at Milikapiti. All are night and day strips but Milikapiti may close with heavy weather. Tiwi Travel service Nguiu from Darwin-Flights daily.

Return airfare to Darwin \$190 ,

Flight time approx 20 mins

Evacuation of acute emergencies possible 24 hrs except in severe storms, rare that Nguiu strip will close. Ranku evacuation occurs via ambulance drive Ranku to Nguiu (1hr drive) with Airmed pick up in Nguiu. Evac possible from Garden Point and Milikapiti direct to Darwin.

## **TYPES OF FUEL AVAILABLE:**

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

No LPG for cars, otherwise all fuel available.

M-F 9-1.30, 2.30-5, Sat and Sun 1/2 day

Yes, local garage

## ALCOHOL:

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

These details need to be checked prior to travelling to the Tiwi Islands.

There is a licensed club/pub at Nguuu open from 4-7 pm daily. No take away available. No spirits sold. Permits can be obtained from the council entitling the bearer to import 1 carton or 1 cask of wine weekly from Darwin.

## SHOPS:

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

Bistro served at the club  
Grocery store with take away food outlet

8-12, 1-4.30 weekdays and 9-12 Saturday

Basic groceries, basic hardware, some whitegoods

Yes but limited range of fresh produce. Food orders can be placed via Woolworths Darwin to arrive on the barge or be flown over on one of the commercial flights

## 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

Yes

Yes, no restrictions

Yes at the clinic – no dish at the house resident GPs using NextG Wireless modems.

## LOCAL INDUSTRY/EMPLOYMENT:

- Is there a local industry?
- List any employment options for spouses of GP's:

Art centres of Tiwi designs and Bima wear textiles, museum

Child care centre, aged care facility, council, schools, Tiwi Health Board, store

## SCHOOL:

What schooling options are available locally?

- Primary

Tiwi schools run a bilingual education process and non- indigenous students cannot attend. Any schooling of non-

- Secondary and for what years of secondary?

indigenous students can be done through School of the Air for primary students requiring parental supervision. For high school NT Open Learning via correspondence, again requiring parental supervision.  
For Tiwi children schooling provided via a separate Catholic boys and girls school to yr 12.

## RECREATION/SPORTING:

What recreation and sporting opportunities/facilities are there?

Fishing , boat hire, inground swimming pool, basketball, AFL, hunting, golf course at Garden Point + small golf course at Nguiu

## MEDICAL:

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

Department of Health and Community Services

As above

9-12, 1-4.30 Mon-Fri.

There are two GP positions based at Nguiu – currently one vacant.  
No visits to Ranku, ambulance and health worker team bring patients to the doctor at Nguiu  
DMO from Darwin consults at Pirlangimpi on Melville Is 1 day per week.  
DMO from Darwin consults at Milikapiti two days per week.

Call as arranged with clinic manager.  
Doctors only ever 3<sup>rd</sup> on call backing up health workers and RNs for emergencies.

AirMed evacuations under instruction from Darwin DMO from Nguiu. Pirlangimpi and Milikapiti.

## Staffing at the clinic:

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

Two positions (one currently vacant)

Nguiu 3 , Ranku 1, Garden Point 1, Millikapiti 2

- number of Health Workers: Nguiu 2-3, Ranku 2-3, Garden Point 4, Millikarpiti 4

**Visiting health professionals:**

- type of service (eg dental)
  - frequency and duration of visits
- Paediatrician 6-8 weekly, physician 6-8 weekly, x-ray and ultra sound monthly, surgeon 3 monthly, obs/gynae 3 monthly, dental team fortnightly,

**GP ACCOMMODATION**

- Type of housing available: 4 bedroom, 1 bathroom, ground level home and 3 bedroom ,1 bathroom , ground level home
- Furnished – yes, no, partially: Fully
- Are whitegoods supplied, if yes, what: Yes, fridge, freezer, microwave
- Other facilities supplied [eg. TV,radio]: Tv video
- Linen & bedding Yes
- Electricity Paid for by DHCS
- Water Good quality bore water
- Laundry facilities Washing machine and drier provided
- Telephone/fax/ e-mail/Internet 2 lines to house to accommodate PC modem, must have own PC
- Air-conditioning Yes, in all rooms

**RELIGION**

Church services available in the community: Daily Catholic service, in English and Tiwi. At this stage resident Caucasian Catholic priest on Island.

**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].