

COMMUNITY PROFILE

BATCHELOR

NAME OF COMMUNITY: BATCHELOR

Name[s] of outstations: N/a

Name or number of clan/groups: N/a

Languages Spoken: English

Population: 600

Permit required: No

Name of local governing body: Coomalie Council ph: 08 8976 0058

HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY: In the early 1900's Bachelor was established as a pastoral service town gazetted by the S.A. government. It was then a major WWII base and military service town. In 1950 the Rum Jungle Uranium Mine was started, with mining continuing until 1972. This led to a rapid expansion of services available in the town. With the closure of the mine the town became somewhat of a ghost town. The mine administration / housing was taken over by the then Department of Native Affairs and Bachelor Institute for Indigenous education was established. The town continues to be home away from home for up to 800 indigenous adult students from all over the Territory.

The town continues to explore mining possibilities with Woodcutter silver, zinc and lead mine having operated from 1980-1998. Two new mines are starting in the near future – a cobalt mine on the old Rum Jungle site and a manganese mine and smelter at Mt Grace.

ACCESS TO COMMUNITY:

Road: 100 km to Darwin

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

Boat/barge: N/A

Plane: N/A

TYPES OF FUEL AVAILABLE:

- Diesel, leaded, unleaded, gas: Yes
- Conditions of availability: N/a
- Any mechanics available locally: 2

ALCOHOL:

- Conditions/restrictions on sale of alcohol/bringing alcohol into community: No [Batchelor College is dry]

SHOPS:

- Shop(s) available: 3 shops
- Hours of opening: 7am - 7pm (main shop)
- What is for sale (general overview): Groceries
- Fresh fruit/veg/milk/meat available: Yes

COMMUNICATIONS: Clinic/Home

- Phone access? Yes
- Is there internet/email access? Any constraints on use? Yes; no intranet access
- Is there a satellite dish? If so, who can access? Yes; health clinic staff

LOCAL INDUSTRY/EMPLOYMENT:

- Is there a local industry? College/tourism
- List any employment options for spouses of GPs: Not many employment options locally

SCHOOL:

What schooling options are available locally?

- Primary Yes
- Secondary and for what years of secondary Yes – up to Year 10

RECREATION/SPORTING:

What recreation and sporting opportunities/facilities are there?

Swimming pool, bowls club, basketball, tennis

MEDICAL:

- Health Service operated by: DHCS
- GP employed by: Private
- Hours of operation/on-call: Mon & Thurs am, Fri all day, Tues 12-2, Wed 1-4

Staffing at the clinic:

- number of GP's: 1
- number of RN's: 3
- number of Health Workers: 1

Visiting health professionals

- type of service (eg dental): Paediatrician, ophthalmologist , referrals available to Darwin easily
- frequency and duration of visits: 3-6 monthly

GP ACCOMMODATION

- Type of housing available: N/a – private rental
- Furnished – yes, no, partially: N/a
- Are whitegoods supplied N/a
- Other facilities supplied N/a
- Linen & bedding N/a
- Electricity N/a
- Water N/a
- Laundry facilities N/a

- Telephone/fax/ email/internet N/a
- Air-conditioning N/a

RELIGION

Church services available in the community: Catholic; Anglican

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]