

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Utju

NAME[S] OF COMMUNITY:

UTJU

The Utju community is also called Areyonga

Utju is located 240km west form Alice Springs by road in rocky valley of the James Range. It takes 2.5 hours to drive there.

Outstations:

Name or number of clan/groups:

Languages spoken:

Pitjantjatjara language is spoken

Population:

It has an estimated population of 175

- Community
 - Outstations
- Permit required:

The area does not have outstations
Yes

Name of the local governing body:

The Areyango Community council Incorporated has eight members who are elected every 12 months.

Utju is within the Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust area.

HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY:

Utju lies on the western limit of the traditional tribal lands of the Western Aranda and north of the limit of Pitjantjatjara land. The people of Utju are of the Pitjantjatjara tribal group with a few Aranda and Warlpiri who have joined the community through marriage. During the 1920's drought, a group of Pitjantjatjara people from the Petermanns moved north east into the Yankunytjatjara country of Uluru and the Walara-Watarka area and up the Palmer River. They crossed the Palm Valley ridges and continue up the Finke into the Hermannsburg area, in the heart of the Western Aranda country. From Hermannsburg they retreated as a group to the Utju area. Initially, their occupancy of this area was at the head of an easement created to permit access to Hermannsburg. The people of Utju now believe this to be Pitjantjatjara land due to their belief that previously nobody lived on the land and only Pitjantjatjara people have used the land, and have been born there and have died there.

A Lutheran mission was established in the mid 1920's. A dramatic decrease in the population occurred during the early 1970's when much of the population moved back to the Pitjantjatjara country of Docker River, the Petermann Ranges and to Mutitjulu.

In

ACCESS TO COMMUNITY:

Road:

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

The access road to Utju consists of 130kms of sealed road from Alice Springs to Ntaria, then 90 kms of dirt road. From the turn off to Utju there is a further 20kms of gravel sheeted road. The road is often quite rough with corrugations and sand and "bulldust" patches are not uncommon. A few creek crossings make the road impassable in fairly extreme wet conditions.

All internal roads are sealed.

N/A

Boat/barge

Plane:

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

There is a day airstrip at Utju which is licensed but unsealed. The mail plane flies in on Thursdays. The length of the runway is less than generally provided but the proximity of Utju Creek restricts extension. Access to the site is subject to flooding.

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:

The community has 1 store that is owned by the community.

The store is open 6 days per week

Hours:

Monday – Friday

09.00-12.00 & 14.00-16.00

Saturday

09.00-11.00

- What is for sale (general overview):

Prepacked, cooked and fresh food is

available. A take away facility has also opened.

- Fresh fruit/veg/milk/meat available:

WATER:

The system includes 4 bores with an effective output capacity of 5.0 L/s (litres per second) sufficient to supply 430 KL/day (kilo litres per day). The storage tanks can hold 540 KL, excluding the disconnected eastern tank.

The bores are located 1 km north east of the town and are automatically controlled and electric motor driven. Three of the four bores are adequate for human consumption. When breakdowns occur, water from No 4 bore is used. This has very high mineral content, though it is just within the guidelines.

SEWERAGE:

The sewerage treatment is by way of septic tanks at existing dwellings throughout the town. A new sewerage system has been completed which consists of a full waterborne system with sewerage ponds out near the airport.

POWER

The community is provided with power via diesel generators. The powerhouse is three and a half kilometres west of Utju

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Community members collect house hold rubbish two times per week. The community has a rubbish tip four kilometres west of Utju which is bulldozed regularly by contractors.

The community has plastic wheelie bins chained to steel posts designed to not allow dog entry. A key is needed to open them.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

There are community facilities:

- Women's Centre
- BRACS
- Laundry
- Service to old people
- Community hall
- Children's playground
- 2 Ablution blocks
- 3 Public phones

- Centre link
- Post office service
- Orchard
- Guest house
- Water bubblers have been installed for easy access to drinking water
- There is a women's Troop Carrier available
- School bus

HOUSES

There are 34 houses and 2 ablution blocks in Utju. Two older houses have been demolished and replaced by new ones. Nearly all buildings are of brick construction and are maintained by the Essential Services Officers. All 34 houses have air conditioners.

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

There is 1 primary school that has 5 full-time teachers, one of which is a teacher linguist. There are 3 assistant teachers. There is a total of 12 staff of which 8 are Aboriginal.

Education is available in the community up to Yr 6 level with a secondary age studies program also available. The school has a speaker system to help students with hearing problem

The school runs a Health Kids program for each class. The school keeps hens and sells their eggs at the school tuckshop. A

breakfast program provides weetbix, porridge and Milo each morning. The school uses the swimming pool to teach about scabies, ear problems and general health and hygiene. There are also visits from time to time from the Department of Sport and Recreation; and sport is a regular part of the school program

- If the school is bilingual, can non-indigenous students attend?

The school is two way learning with lessons in Pitjantjatjara and English. There is an Adult ESL Literacy Centre which produces material in Pitjantjatjara. Each Wednesday each class is taken out for culture program. This might include looking for bush tucker, learning how to track animals and hunt in different seasons, and learning about bush medicine. The elders in the community are involved in this program.

RECREATION/SPORTING:

What recreation and sporting opportunities/facilities are there?

- Swimming pool
- 2 football ovals
- A recreation area
- Community hall (a disco or recreation activities are held on Friday nights)
- Concrete outdoor basketball court
- 2 Children's play grounds

MEDICAL:

- Health Service operated by:

Utju Community has a Health Service called Utju Anangu health service. It is an independent health service facility. The Health Service is in the Alice Springs District. The Health Centre is permanent and has approximately 8 rooms. The facilities are adequate.

The area does not have outstations

Address:

Utju Anangu Health Centre

Areyonga, via Alice Springs NT 0872

Phone : 8956 7308

Fax : 8956 7308

Evacuations are by air from Utju by day with second option being by road. This entails a half way meeting with

Hermannsburg Health Centre staff by night and then a half way meeting by Alice Springs Ambulance Services

- GP employed by:
- Hours of operation/on-call:

Hours:

Monday – Friday

08.00-12.00 & 13.00-17.00

AHW's are on call after 16.00 weekdays and for weekend emergency services

Staffing at the clinic:

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

No GP, 1 DMO visits once per fortnight

1

2

"Utju Mai Wai"

The project aims to reduce the number of children who are not growing well and/or have anaemia. Teaching mums and carers how to plan budgets and cook easy, nutritionally sound and inexpensive meals helps to achieve this. The project is community owned and facilitated by two Utju community women working with the Alice Springs Remote Health Services, Nutritionist and the Growth Assessment Action Coordinator and health worker. The women conduct health promotion activities at the community store, school and general community

Local Health Activities:

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

There is 1 house for local Health Centre staff which comprises of 3 bedrooms. There are no separate facilities available for visiting health staff at present.

RELIGION

Church services available in the There is a Lutheran Church in Utju that is

community:

administered by the Aboriginal Minister
from Utju

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].