

Kurungal Communities

Information supplied by the employer

The Kurungal Communities include Wangkatjungka, Ngumpan and Kupartiya and they are located about 100km east of Fitzroy Crossing and about 200km from Halls Creek.

Wangkatjungka

Wangkatjungka is the largest of the three communities and is located approximately 20km from the Great Northern Highway along a well maintained dirt road. There are about 180 permanent residents and the people are Wolmatjarri, Wangkatjungka or Gooniyandi. They retain strong links to their desert culture.

Wangkatjungka is a dry community under section 175 of the *Liquor Control Act (1988)*.

Most community based services and agencies are based in Wangkatjungka. It is also the base for the majority of activities for the Kurungal Council. There is a store, Centrelink agent, health clinic, Home and Community Care, funded play group, school, administration office including community hall and kitchen, football ground and basketball court. In 2009, Wangkatjungka hosted the "no grog, no drugs" concert which was well attended and there are plans to hold this concert as an annual event.

Job Service Australia (ITEC) is also located in Wangkatjungka and a full time employee provides outreach services to nearby communities in the Outer Fitzroy Valley.

The landscape is hot and dry in summer, however there are nearby gorges, waterholes and caves where tourists, locals and school children enjoy excursions and family camping trips.

Community Development Projects

There is currently an Indigenous Community Volunteer (ICV) supported project underway in Wangkatjungka to construct a commercial nursery where indigenous plants will be propagated to provide shade trees, fruit trees and bush medicine for various community development projects. The ICV project commenced in October 2009 and the volunteer will be returning after the wet season to complete the nursery construction and install reticulation.

Visitor accommodation is currently under construction as a CDEP project.

Under the new CDEP regime there are also a number of new community development projects and initiatives waiting to be implemented

Ngumpan

Ngumpan is situated less than 1km from the Great Northern Highway and has a population of approximately 40 people. The Ngurra Art Gallery is based there and during the tourist season it attracts many visitors keen to purchase artworks produced by local residents. There is donga style accommodation in Ngumpan which is utilized by visiting contractors.

Kupartiya

Kupartiya centres around the Bohemia Downs cattle station, approximately 60km from Wangkatjungka and 20km from the Great Northern Highway. Its population is about 35. A 4WD school bus transports children to school in Wangkatjungka and occasionally transports workers who reside in Kupartiya, and who possess appropriate blue card certification, to worksites in Wangkatjungka.

Sport & Recreation

The people of the Kurungal communities are staunch football supporters and during the football season, they travel to Fitzroy Crossing every week to watch the Wangkatjungka Crows. Other sport and recreation facilities are available in Fitzroy Crossing.

Local Services

Fitzroy Crossing is the nearest service centre to Wangkatjungka. Services include post office, hospital, Aboriginal Health Services, womens resource centre, school, police station, the Fitzroy Lodge, two petrol stations, hardware store, and temporary supermarket (the Turunda Supermarket was destroyed by fire in 2009). There are numerous mechanics and other tradespeople who provide outreach services to the Kurungal communities.