

GapuWiyak



About

Gapuwiyak is a mainland Community located on the shore of Lake Evella near the upper reaches of the Buckingham River.

It is 60 air km south east of Galiwin'ku and 115 air km west of Nhulunbuy (220km by road). There is almost year round road access to Nhulunbuy.

Gapuwiyak lies close to the ancient track that crosses the Arafura swamp to Ramingining & Milingimbi. The Community was established in 1969 by Mr & Mrs Geoff Davey as an outstation of Galiwin'ku as a centre for Cyprus timber.

Fast Facts

Gapuwiyak means place of brackish water (Gapu water - Wiyak salty).

Estimated Population: 1100

Clan Groups: 11

The lake was first seen by Harold Shepherdson from his aeroplane the Miles Hawk in 1935 - he named it Lake Evella after his wife Ella and Evelyn, the wife of a fellow missionary Rev. T.T. Webb.

Did You Know?

A traditional elder of the region says the creation story around the area started off with two people trying to decide what to do with bones of a deceased person. The creators of the region decided to have a ceremony. "They thought about cutting down a hollow coffin made out of a tree, so that they can do the paintings and have a ceremony where they crushed all the bones and make a proper burial for the deceased."

When they dug the hole in the ground, the water started to rise and that's how the fresh water lake was born.



'Pathways Programs' Youth, Sport and Recreation



Why do we have Youth, Sport and Recreation?

The Youth, Sport and Recreation programs have been established in Communities where there was previously a void, to develop and implement a range of projects and programs catering for a wide cross section of all the Community from 6 years of age to over 70 years of age.

These projects, programs and activities provide a diversion from destructive behavioural patterns and substance misuse and provide opportunities for fun, Community engagement and personal development. They increase the opportunity for the general population of the Shire to participate in sporting and recreational activities, regardless of age, gender or skill level.

The activities encourage pathways to elite sports levels in a range of sports and build the capacity of both individuals and Communities alike by supplying programs that are culturally appropriate whilst being physically, mentally and emotionally stimulating.

Youth Sport and Recreation program is active in all nine of the East Arnhem Shire Council Communities and employs 40 people, 28 of whom are Indigenous local people.

Funding

The various Youth, Sport and Recreation Programs are funded by the following Federal Departments: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), Department of Health and Ageing (DOHA), Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), Australian Sports Commission (ASC), Festivals Australia and the following Northern Territory Government Departments: Northern Territory Sport and Recreation, Arts NT and Police Fire and Emergency Services.



'Pathways Programs' Creche and Early Childhood



Why do we have a Crèche?

To provide access to childcare and early childhood programs in a safe, nurturing, educational environment to help support families while parents and carers access employment, skills training and parenting support services.

Crèches are designed to support young mums and to help the Community look after children. Children aged birth to three years attend the crèche with their parents and children from four years of age are encouraged to attend school.

The crèche is a venue that can be utilised by the Community and visiting service providers as a place to run parent and early childhood focused programs and services.

We provide a comfortable environment that belongs to the parents and children, providing an unthreatening, friendly venue where other service providers can conduct programs, provide wellness checks, deliver information and offer parenting support programs with associated services.

The EASC Library 'Born To Read' early literacy program for the 0-3 years age group is based at the creche and creates a pathway to school for children by developing skills and interest of children and families.

Funding

The Creche is funded by the Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

