

Alcohol, community action and the role of police: lessons from Northern Territory initiatives

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Northern Territory:

Pop 2006: 210,074

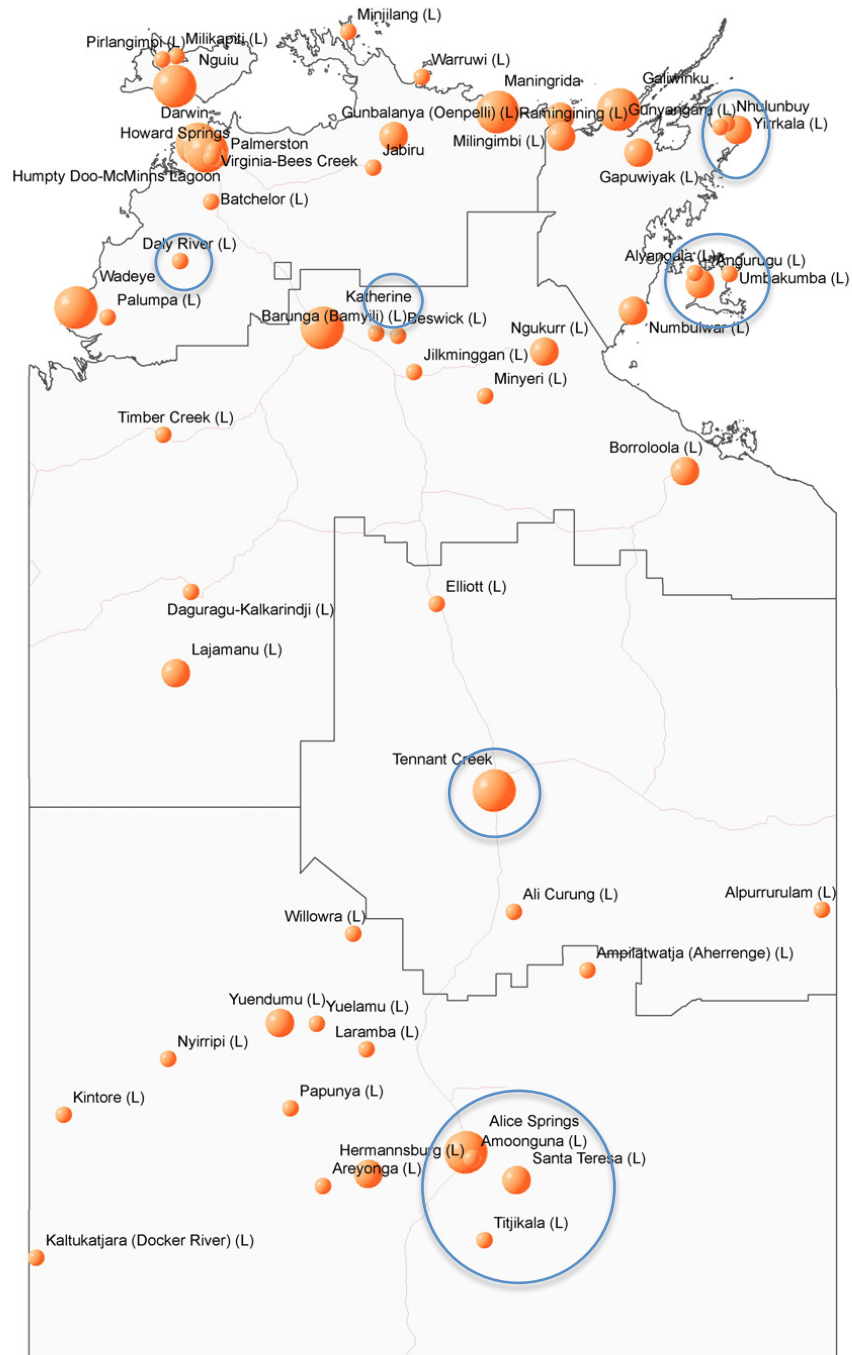
= 1% Aust Pop.

**Indigenous pop:
66,582**

**= 12.9% of Aust
Indigenous pop;**

= 31.7% of NT pop.





LEPH 2012 D'ABBS

Alice Springs, 1975

‘I think Alice Springs was a culture shock as far as the Aboriginals were concerned. The type of dealings we had with the Aboriginals, as you probably appreciate, the alcohol issues and concerns there, it was a very depressing relationship with Aboriginal people.

You know, we would probably lock up on any one shift, twenty to fifty people, and they'd go into the cells. You'd deal with those sorts of issues, and you saw a very poor side of Aboriginal people’.

Alice Springs 2012

But that it is necessary at all is because of the effects of alcohol, violence and the poverty and generational disadvantage on people, mainly Aboriginal. It has been going on for a long time. It is a stain on the character of the whole community of the Northern Territory. It is seen at every level of the community and, dare we say it, government, as a problem incapable of solution, and it might be said that the broader Territory community has turned off, shut it out, wishing it would go away. It is in particular, a problem at the very heart of Indigenous disadvantage. It is a problem so deeply entrenched that it leaves a large proportion of our community locked permanently into a spiral of hopelessness and the rest of the community, which remains largely well-intentioned, overcome with a sense of futility and helplessness ([Northern Territory Police Association 2012](#)).

NORTHERN TERRITORY



POLICE SERVICE

AGREEMENT ON PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES

BETWEEN THE

JULALIKARI COUNCIL

AND THE

NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE

CONCERNING THE

JULALIKARI COUNCIL NIGHT PATROL



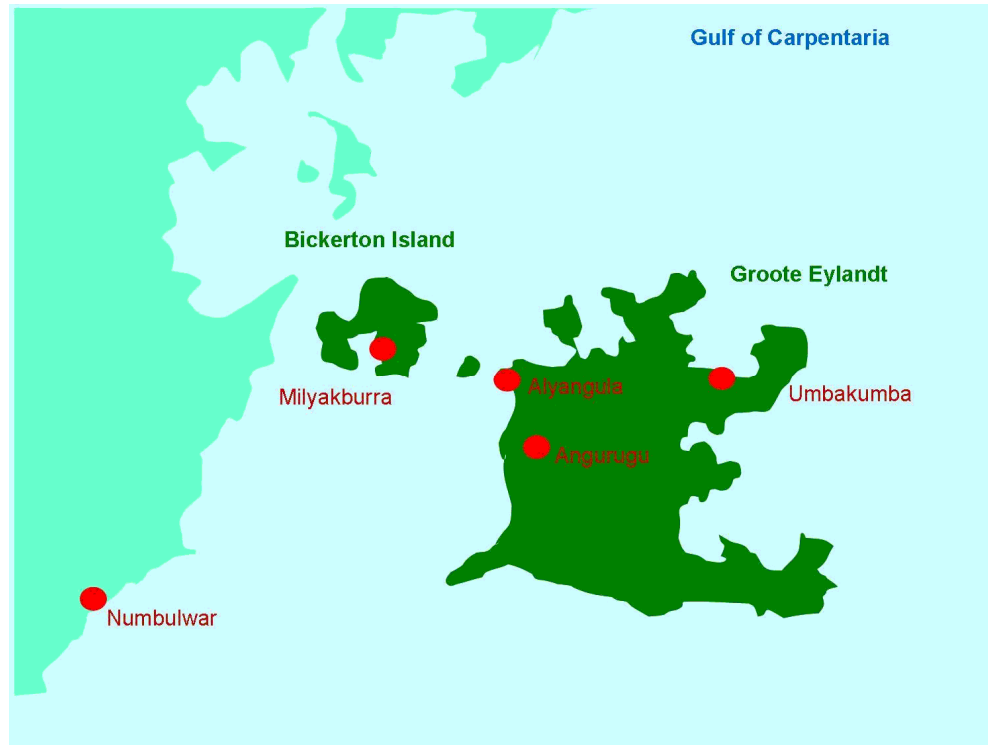
JULALIKARI



COUNCIL INC.



Figure 1: Map of Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island, Gulf of Carpentaria, showing the nearest mainland Northern Territory town of Numbulwar

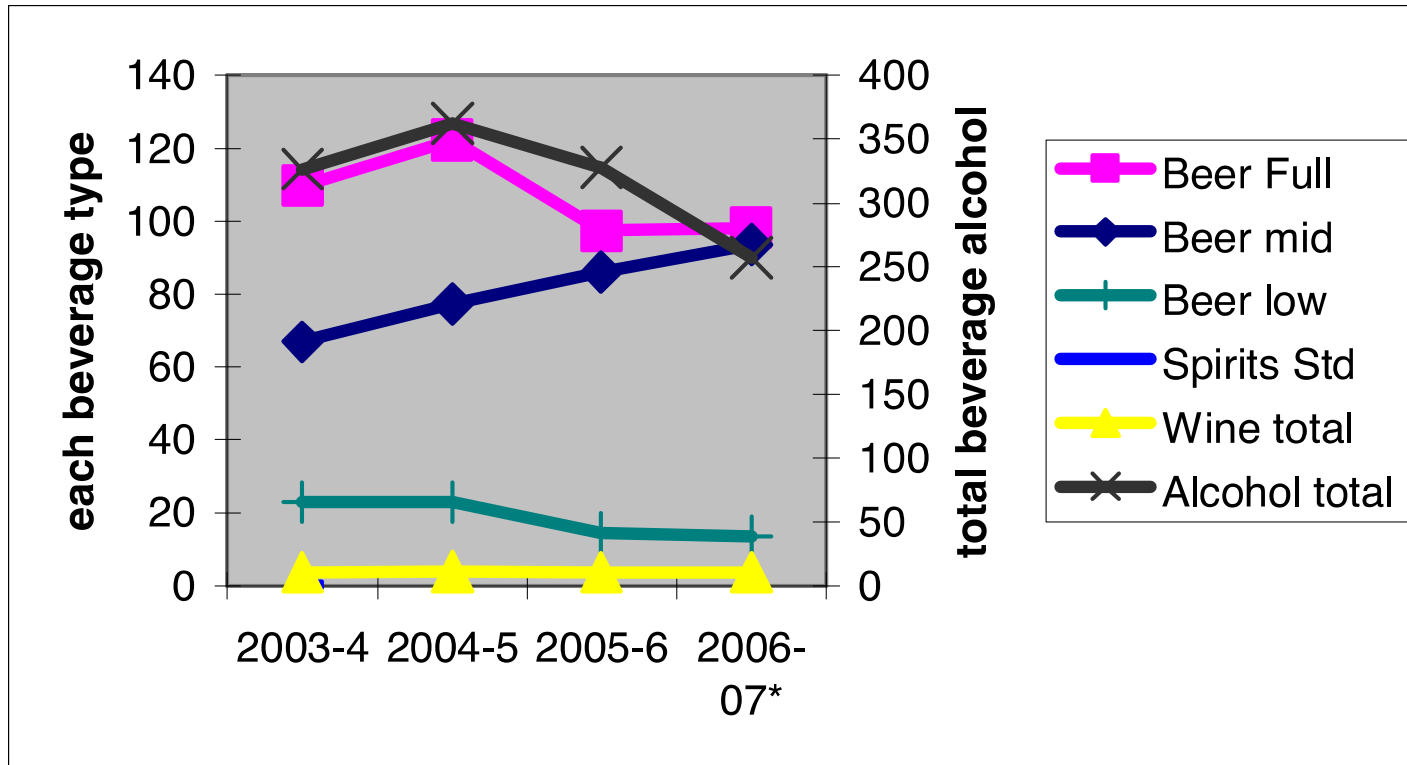


Source of Map above: 'Groote Eylandt and Milyakburra Youth Development Unit Strategic Plan 2005-2006', Alyangula, March 2005.

Evaluation

- YEAR FOLLOWING PLAN'S INTRODUCTION:
 - AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS: DOWN 67%
 - BREAK-INS: DOWN 88%
 - ADMISSIONS TO CORRECTIONAL CENTRES FROM GE AND BICKERTON ISLAND, LOWEST IN FOUR YEARS
 - PUBLIC DRUNKENNESS, DOWN 75%
 - ABSENTEEISM AMONG INDIGENOUS MINE EMPLOYEES FELL FROM 7.8% TO 2.4%

Figure 14: Wholesales volume in thousands of litres of beer, wine and spirits for Groote Eylandt, 2003-07



Source: Racing, Gaming and Licensing Division, Department of Justice NT. Note that these figures do not include alcohol brought in by barge or charter plane. *The figures for 2006-07 are extrapolated from the July 2006 to March 2007 period.