



bushfire&natural
HAZARDSCRC

BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO NATURAL HAZARDS IN NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

Dr. Jackie Gould – The Northern Institute, Charles Darwin University

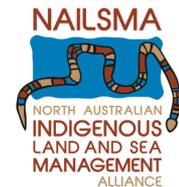
Dr. Bev Sithole – ARPNet, Charles Darwin University



An Australian Government Initiative



original Research Practitioners' Netw



OUTLINE

- 1) Overview of the Northern Hub
- 2) The Scoping Resilience project
- 3) Hazards in North Australia and
- 4) Disaster resilience in remote communities
- 5) Process and participation: methodology and approach
- 6) Local views and perceptions of disaster response
- 7) Models of emergency response





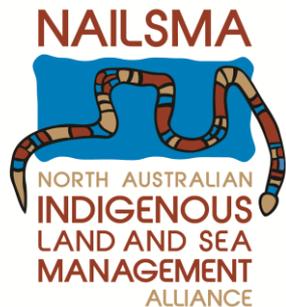
RIEL (Research Institute for Environment and Livelihoods) at CDU is hosting the project.



ARPNet

Original Research Practitioners' Network

ARPNet research practitioners are community based Aboriginal researchers who use a variety of PRA tools and questionnaires to conduct research.



NAILSMA is an Indigenous led not-for-profit company operating across north Australia who work to assist Indigenous people manage their country sustainably for all future generations.

PROCESS, PARTICIPATION AND METHODS IN THE STUDY

RIEL and Northern institute

Interviews with
government and other
stakeholders

Focus group
discussions

Coordination and
synthesis

ARPNNet

Community
consultations using
Dilly bag tools

Community
Questionnaire

Organizations
questionnaire

NAILSMA

Literature review

Asset mapping

Community
consultations to build
governance models

CASE STUDY COMMUNITIES



GUNBALANYA



Population: 1174

Location: 300km east of Darwin in Arnhem Land.

Services: school, health clinic, service station and convenience store, supermarket, police station, crèche facilities, sports and social club, butcher and community arts centre.

[\(http://westarnhem.nt.gov.au/gunbalanya/\)](http://westarnhem.nt.gov.au/gunbalanya/)

NGUKURR



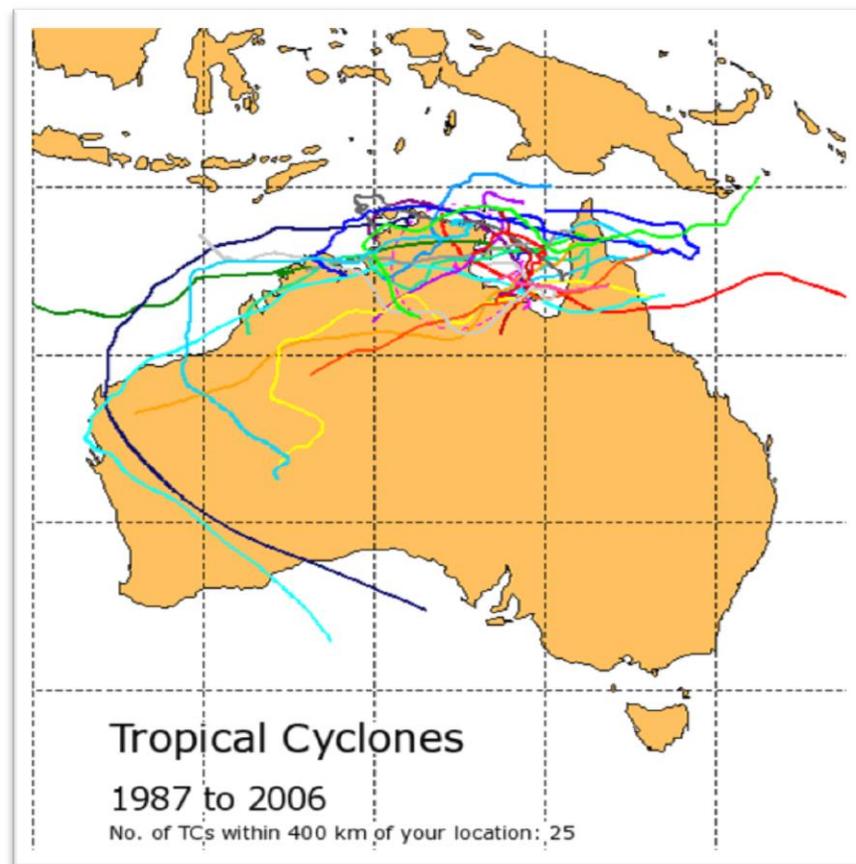
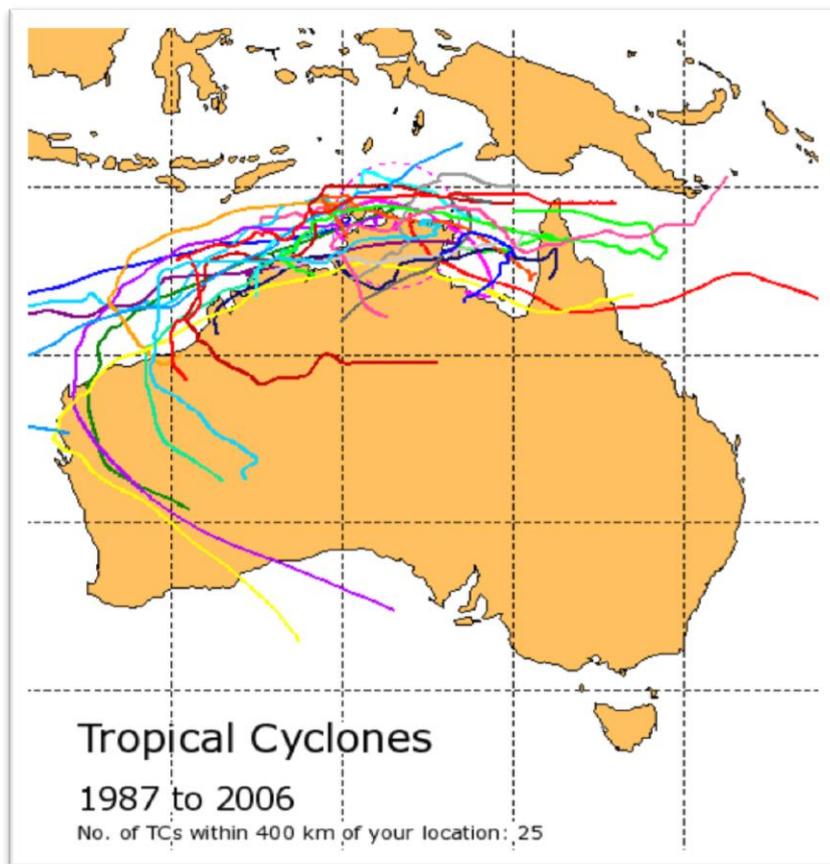
Population: 973

Location: 320km east of Katherine on the Roper Hwy.

Services: school, health clinic, store with fuel available arts centre, motel, airstrip, boat jetty, government office, and police station.

[\(http://ropergulf.nt.gov.au/our-communities/ngukurr/\)](http://ropergulf.nt.gov.au/our-communities/ngukurr/)

Cyclones over 20 years within 400km of:
Gunbalanya (left)
Ngukurr (right)

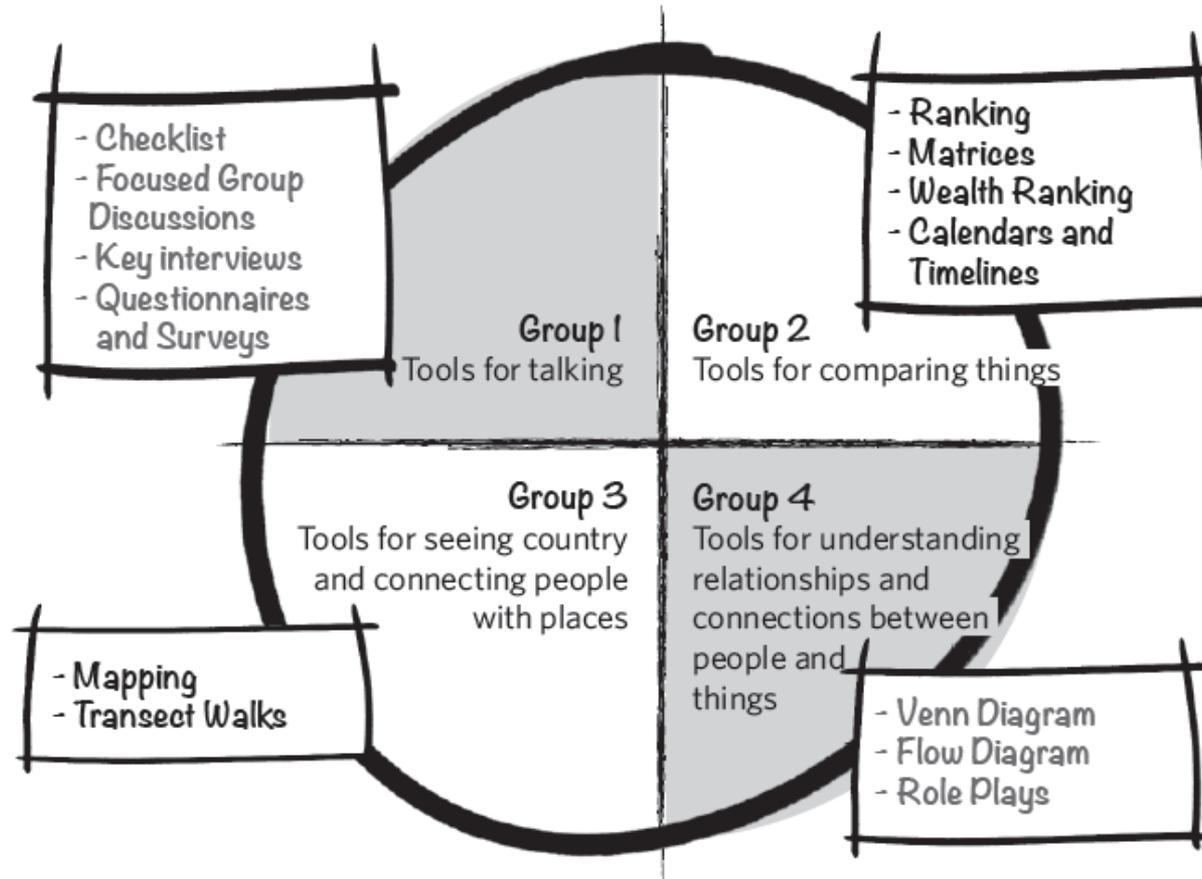


THE HAZARDS OF DAILY LIFE...

“them mob government worrying for natural hazards when being in a community is hazardous itself” (Focus Group participant)

“Social situations such as excessive substance abuse/misuse, domestic violence, suicide, pandemic-type diseases, mental illness, poverty and theft are considered emergency situations in many remote Indigenous communities.” (Keeping Our Mob Safe, p12)

ARNPET PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH TOOLS



For more information on ARPNets methods see 'ARPNets Dilly Bag in Ngukurr' [<http://vimeo.com/73684355>]

ANALYSIS AND REPORTING

- 1) Link to other projects
- 2) Sharing data
- 3) Synthesis across a wider project
- 4) Feedback to communities

IN THE COMMUNITY

- 1) 10 ARPnet researchers plus experienced field supervision
- 2) Pre-project training
- 3) 10 days in the community
- 4) Data entry and analysis
- 5) Report preparation
- 6) Feedback to community

THANKS FROM THE TEAM...

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Glenn James – Project leader, North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance.

Dr. Stephen Sutton – Researcher, Darwin Centre for Bushfire Research, RIEL, Charles Darwin University

“Emergency response is important to community living in remote areas. As Indigenous people we look first to our knowledge, to our stories to find out what to do. Our elders, they know about hazards and in Old man time we have stories about how our people responded to hazards. Most families in outstation still follow the old ways, but in the community it is different story. That’s one way, but we also know there is another way, the government way. It is important that the story come out, Aboriginal people look at bushfire and natural hazards different way from Balanda and government mob.

(Aboriginal Focus group meeting, March 2014)



Dean Yibarbuk - ARPNet Director



Dean Yibarbuk –
Gunbalanya team
leader



Cherry Daniels - ARPNet Direc



Cherry Daniels –
Ngukurr team leader

“Factors that can influence disaster resilience include remoteness, population density and mobility, socio-economic status, age profile, and percentage of population for whom English is a second language. Within individual communities, certain members are more vulnerable and may need tailored advice and support.” (COAG, 2009:2)

“Application of a resilience-based approach is not solely the domain of emergency management agencies; rather, it is a shared responsibility between governments, communities, businesses and individuals...” (COAG, 2009: ii)

PROJECT AIMS

- Describe the types of natural hazards and **impacts of greatest concern** to Indigenous communities in remote northern Australia;
- Summarise the **aspirations** of participating communities for social and economic development and meeting cultural obligations, and identify those aspirations that appear most vulnerable to natural hazards;
- Describe **present approaches** to dealing with natural hazards and outline Indigenous views of their appropriateness and effectiveness, including eliciting suggestions for improvements;
- Describe **human capability**, including skill sets and experience, formal institutions and social networks, presently available within participating communities.

HISTORIES OF BROKEN PROMISES...



'The Redbank Mine Agreement' by Jacky Green

(from) Sick Country: Poisoning Garawa With Mining And Politics (Kerins 2014)
<https://newmatilda.com/2014/07/23/sick-country-poisoning-garawa-mining-and-politics>

“...two months after the Ministers had fronted Garawa people and made promises, the NT EPA issued... a licence to release waste water from the mine into Hanrahan’s Creek...”