



# HANDS UP!

FOR ARNHEM LAND



On the morning of Friday, 20th February, 2015, the full force of Tropical Cyclone Lam was felt across Arnhem Land in the communities of Galiwin'ku, Ramingining, Milingimbi and Gapuwiyak. The Cyclone, which reached speeds of up to 230kph, left a trail of devastation in its wake.

Many homes and buildings on Elcho Island were destroyed when Cyclone Lam tore through the community in the darkness early Friday morning. Milingimbi and Ramingining communities were also badly damaged, with further damage at Gapuwiyak community. Trees were uprooted, powerlines came down and supply of essential services such as Electricity and Water ceased.



A fundraising initiative from:



In the wake of this tragedy, ALPA sent a support team out immediately after the Cyclone, and were first on the ground to begin the huge job of cleaning up. Here is a brief timeline of ALPA's initial response:

- Within 6 hours of the storm passing stores were open on generator power and delivered aid vouchers to all residents for food and other needs ensuring food security.
- Within 12 hours we had additional support personnel on the ground to assist in Milingimbi, Galiwin'ku and Ramingining
- Within 24 hours \$120,000 of aid vouchers had been distributed by ALPA
- Within 36 hours we had communications back up and trading almost as normal.
- Within 72 hours all stores had mains power and water back thanks to Power Water corp.
- At no time did the stores run short of food and essentials for residents.

All of ALPA's Yolngu staff reported for work, even with their houses damaged and having had no sleep. All our managers worked enormous hours to keep the stores trading or ready to trade to meet community needs.

RJCP staff and participants at Milingimbi and Ramingining have given huge efforts in the aftermath cleaning up and assisting wherever they can. Supporters such as Toll Marine, Independent Grocers, G&R Wills, Hardy Aviation, and Schweppes assisted in making this initial recovery effort possible.

But the crisis is not over yet, with up to 300 people homeless on Galiwin'ku alone, ALPA has identified the need for support for people living on these communities. We need your help to help them.



ALPA is currently seeking donations to support Arnhem Land residents affected by Cyclone Lam. Funds will be used to provide help where needed and to purchase essential items identified by the community, such as mattresses, beds, bedding material and sheets. These items will provide much needed support for Yolngu people, whose homes were destroyed in the Cyclone.

Bedding is in short supply due to rain damage and we are concerned that damp and mouldy bedding will lead to respiratory and skin issues. Activities and support for youth during school closure, and the lack of shade due to damaged or fallen trees, have also been identified as issues. We will also tackle other public health issues as they arise.

ALPA RJCP teams at Milingimbi and Ramingining continue to work tirelessly cleaning up the community in intense heat and humidity, clearing debris from fallen trees and damaged buildings.

The cleanup after Cyclone Lam is not over, recovery could take months. Your help is urgently sought to assist people living on the communities of Galiwin'ku, Milingimbi, Ramingining and Gapuwiyak to rebuild their lives in the wake of this tragedy.



## How do I donate?

Visit the ALPA webpage at:

[www.alpa.asn.au](http://www.alpa.asn.au) and click the Donate Now button to make an online donation.

Donations can also be accepted via EFT to an account specially setup by ALPA for this fundraising effort. Below are the account details:

Account Name:	Cyclone Lam
BSB:	085 933
Account Number:	734 865 089
Please quote :	Donor name in details field
Email:	<a href="mailto:rabin.timsina@alpa.asn.au">rabin.timsina@alpa.asn.au</a>
	To obtain a receipt to claim your tax deduction for all donations over \$2

All funds received by ALPA for this appeal will be applied directly to this effort, with no charges applied for administration.