

EXPLORING WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

LANDSCOPE EXPEDITION

The KIMBERLEY'S

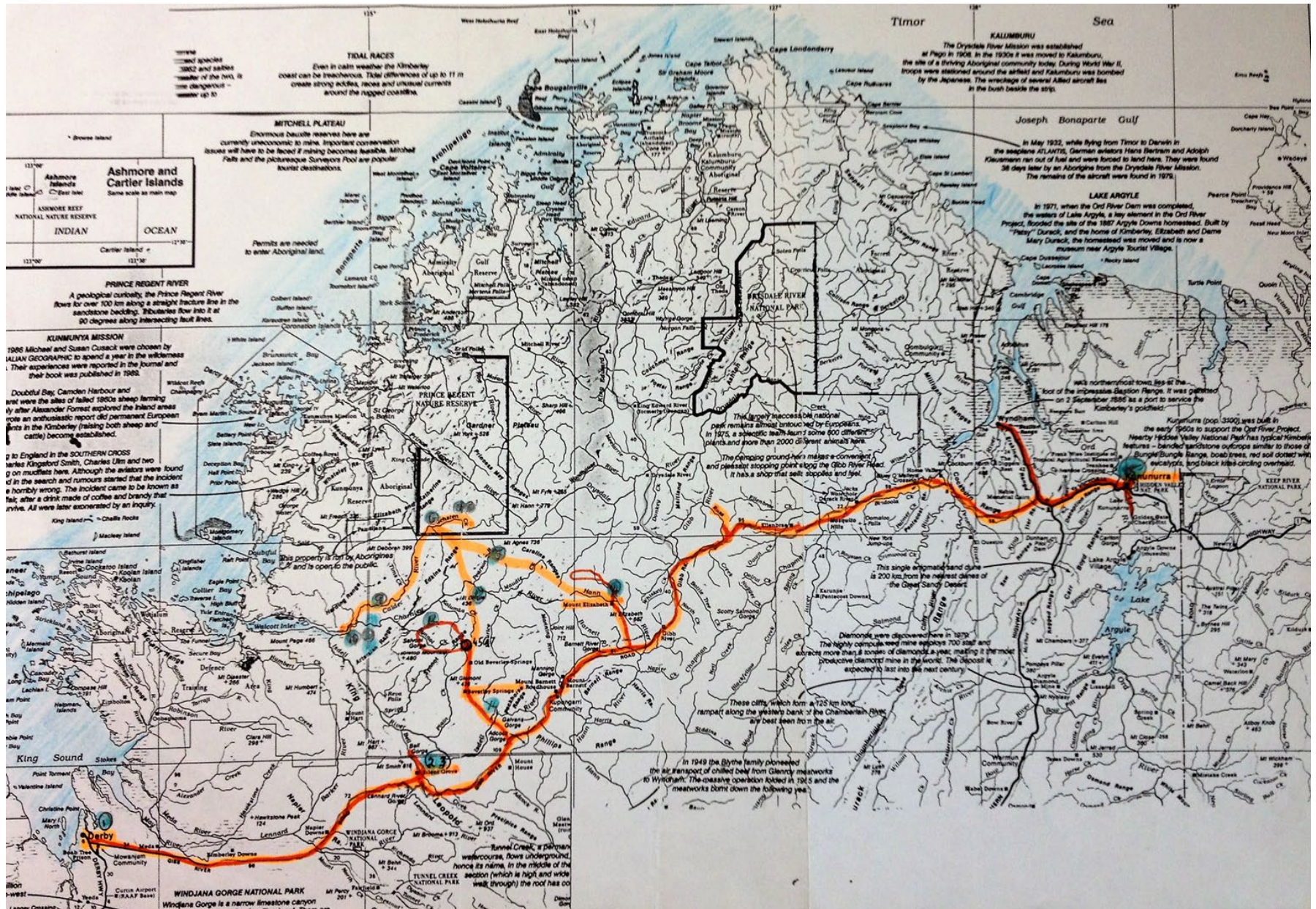
How many people have seen a black grass wren?
Well CALM decided to have a hunt for them in 1995 up in the Kimberley's as well as looking for new plant species. It was decided to check out the largely unexplored region near Bachsten Creek if it was accessible

Our expedition began in Derby with its boab tree jail



Low tides are a feature of this region

The expedition route in a land of rivers and mountains



A motley collection of explorers



We started the expedition from Derby on Sunday 4th of June with 4 vehicles including two OKAS. Discovered a new species of *Stylidium* at Police Camp Bore. Drove through Napier Range and onto King Leopold Range where the obvious stress zones and folds were evident in the banded rock. Plant specialists were delighted with the wide range of carnivorous plants they found and preserved and the flowering trees such as the Kimberley rose (kurrajong) and kapok tree were in full colourful bloom. Many brolgas, straw necked ibis, jabirus and budgerigars were sighted.



King Leopold Ranges

Rifle Point Lookout in King Leopold Ranges



Expedition members at
Rifle Point Lookout
from the Gibb River
Road in the King
Leopold Ranges



Kimberley rose blooms



Kapok blossom

First night campsite at Silent Grove, 20 km north of the Gibb River Rd at Bell Creek. Did a bird survey in the morning and in the afternoon drove to the Bell Creek falls for a swim. The Falls are an eight layered cascade with a deep dark pool below.







**Waterfall at Bell
Creek Gorge**



**Explorer Frank Hahn
carved this boab with this
large H in 1889**



Getting to Beverly Springs station was proving to be very difficult. We had to cross the Isdell River and in trying to find a camping spot close to the Grevillea creek the OKA with the trailer bogged





A large fat frog observing our dilemma



A Rosella plant growing in wet conditions

The Beverley Springs station owner had a grader and was able to pull us out, but driving anywhere was going to be difficult so we would need to explore on foot. A group of 10 of us agreed to explore down the Grevillea Gorge for the next 4 days, lead by the station owners young son Russell, who had explored some of the region before. Would we sight the elusive black grass wren?



The adventurous 10 ready to back pack into the wilderness



Water bottles, sleeping gear, food, binoculars, cameras, hats, first aid, navigation maps and good sturdy boots all ready to go



Difficult terrain so a helping hand is often needed



Boots off, you are going to get wet feet wading across the river, a helping hand may be needed



**Climbing down
a waterfall can
be tricky, but
with ropes and
helping hands
we made it
unscathed to
the bottom to
carry on our
explorations**



**A rocky plateau in the gorge and we find some
Aboriginal rock art**



What are they? Crocodiles, goannas?



**Difficult to
see but
certainly
reptile
looking**



**Time for a swim
before we leave
Grevillea Gorge**



**Leaving Grevillea Gorge
we head for the dry
Salvoni Gorge and lunch**

**Try walking with
your back pack
on this dry
creek bed to
sort out how
capable you are**





**We found a lily covered pool
so its time for lunch**



**Further up
Synnot Creek 3
of us managed
to be enticed by
the sound of
the falls and
stumbled over
the many
boulders to
cool off
beneath Fiona
Elisabeth Falls**





Our next task was to get to the top of the falls in the Synnot Mountain range



**Banyan tree
growing out of
rock**



**At the top of Fiona
Falls another gorge
and rough going**



Gorges everywhere time for a rest



Time now to look down on the falls, not up at them



**The beautiful flowering
*Eucalyptus phoenicia***

Botanists happy with discovery of herb fields

**From Beverley Springs we now journey
along the Gibb River road past Mt Barnett
to Mt Elizabeth Station**



Repainted Aboriginal art?

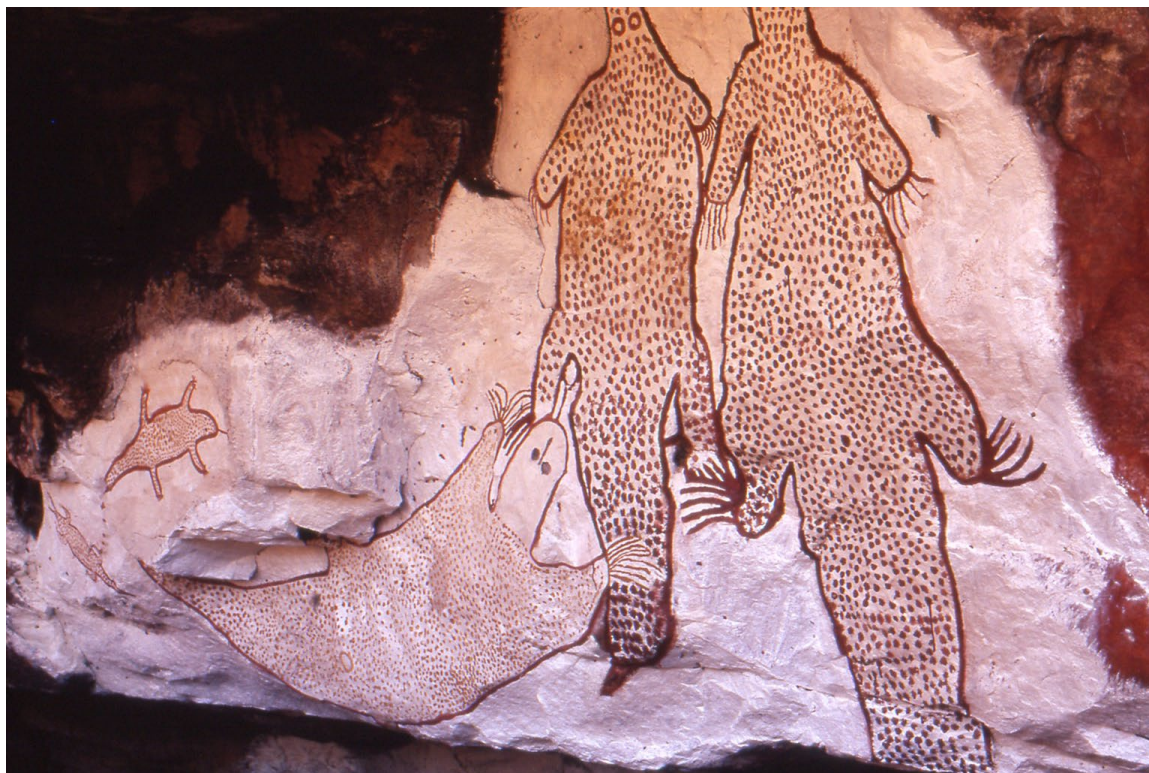


I found these beautiful rock paintings on a steep hillside





Not sure what they are, but very interesting animal forms. Notice the human skull in top left corner of upper picture





What are they?

**We now journey further on to cross the Pentecost River
and explore the Cockburn Range**



Pandanus fruit







Time to cool off in this weird country at 7 Miles Falls



Cockburn Ranges



Crossing the Pentecost River

The Pentecost river flows into the Cambridge Gulf and the harbour of Wyndham which we visit for the extraordinary waterbird life at Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve.



**Vast tidal flats as
five rivers drain into
the Cambridge Gulf**

From Wyndham we head back to Kununurra and Hidden Valley National Park



Hidden Valley landscapes

**Quite a view from
the top of this peak
in Hidden Valley
National Park**





Ord River irrigation and food production



KUNUNURRA



**The baob
trees,
deciduous
with bare
limbs in the
evening light**

An adventure with CALM



Kevin Kenneally and Beryl Chapman collect aquatic plants in Grevillea Billabong

Collecting water plants



**Farewell to this
ancient land of
50,000 years
human
habitation still
largely
unexplored**

The End