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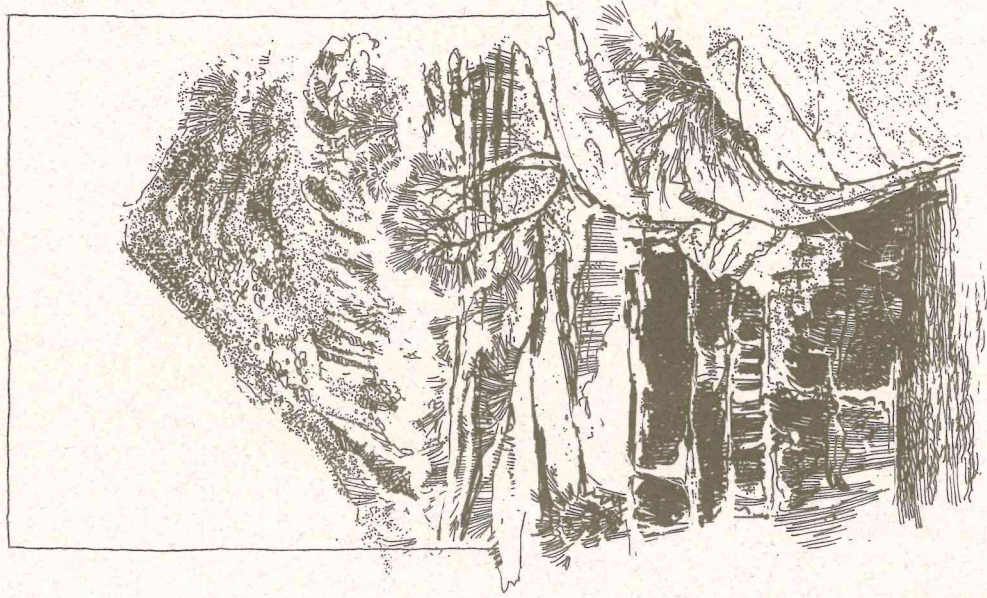
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CALM LIBRARY ARCHIVE

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BELL GORGE



*A feature of the
Ibis Aerial Highway*

PAM00615



Department of Conservation and Land Management

Bell Gorge is one of the most spectacular gorges in the Kimberley. Here, Bell Creek cascades down some 100 metres, through a series of falls and pools, finally flowing into a deeper and narrower gorge which continues through the Isdell Range for some distance. This area is part of the proposed King Leopold Range National Park and is one of the stops on the Ibis Aerial Highway, which links remote Kimberley tourist attractions.

A short walk takes you to a section of the creek just above the falls. Bell Gorge is popular for swimming, photography and just enjoying its beauty. There are spectacular views of the gorge and waterfalls from the cliff top. The rocks of Bell Gorge, like those of the nearby King Leopold Range, are sandstone. The waterfall follows a dolerite dyke that has intruded a fracture in the sandstone and eroded at a faster rate.

The gorge, creek and its surroundings are good places to see wildlife typical of the Kimberley. At the gorge you may see Merten's water monitor, which feeds on fish, frogs and carrion. This goanna spends most of its life in or beside water. It has nasal passages on top of its snout and a tail shaped like a paddle. Freshwater crocodiles and northern snake-necked tortoises can also be found in the area. Black bream live in the creek. They are a good eating fish, also named sooty grunners because they grunt when caught. On the walk to the creek you may see naitail wallabies in the bushland.

Pandanus species and melaleucas grow along the creekline. Terminalia trees, rock figs and cluster figs can also be seen.

