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HAMERSLEY RANGE NATIONAL PARK



Hamersley Range National Park contains a rolling landscape of spectacular mountains, breathtaking gorges, stoney watercourses and dusty plateaux. This is an ancient part of the Earth. The slow process of erosion has carved the shape of the land out of rocks 2,000 million years old to form an intriguing landscape and a complex ecology.

Set in the heart of the Pilbara, the Park covers 617,606 ha and is one of W.A.'s largest national parks.

The average rainfall for the Park is 250 to 300 mm, most of which occurs in the northern summer (approx. November to April). The days during this time of the year are very hot with temperatures frequently topping 40°C. The ideal time to visit the Park is winter and spring (May – October). Winter days are warm and clear, but nights are cold and sometimes frosty.

The Gorges

In the north of the Park, small creeks hidden in the rolling hillsides, dry for most of the year, suddenly plunge into sheer-sided chasms up to 100 metres deep. Further down stream the gorges become wider and their sides change from sheer cliffs to steep slopes of loose rock.

In most gorges you will find permanent pools of clear fresh water. Some are deep, shaded and very cold, while others, exposed to the sun, are pleasant places for a quick dip **BUT BEWARE** – wet rocks are slippery.

Dales Gorge, Circular Pool & Fortescue Falls

Tranquil sunken gardens for people who want to see a natural landscape of moisture-loving ferns.

Deep pools and waterfalls are one of the features of this area.



Dingo

Joffre, Red, Hancock, Weano & Knox Gorges

For those who feel they need an adventure. If you're fit and prepared to submerge in near freezing water, follow negotiable paths, or cling to rock ledges this is the place. Be careful, where there's rugged natural beauty, there are sure to be risks.

Kalamina Gorge

This gorge is easily accessible, ideal for walkers, and features fresh clear springs and deep shaded pools full of fish, ferns and river gums.

Yampire Gorge

Here Lang Hancock sited his first asbestos mine, and the old boilers, tram tracks, cuttings and tunnels can still be seen. Exposed minerals to be seen here include jasperlite and iron ore.

Wittenoom Gorge

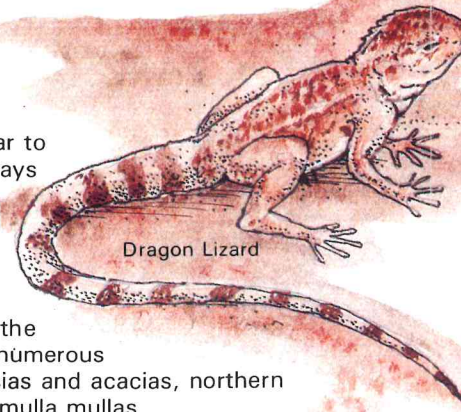
While not in the National Park this gorge has many spots tucked away under shady river gums near swimming holes and sheer cliffs. Easy vehicle access makes for pleasant lunch stops and refreshing swims.

Wildlife

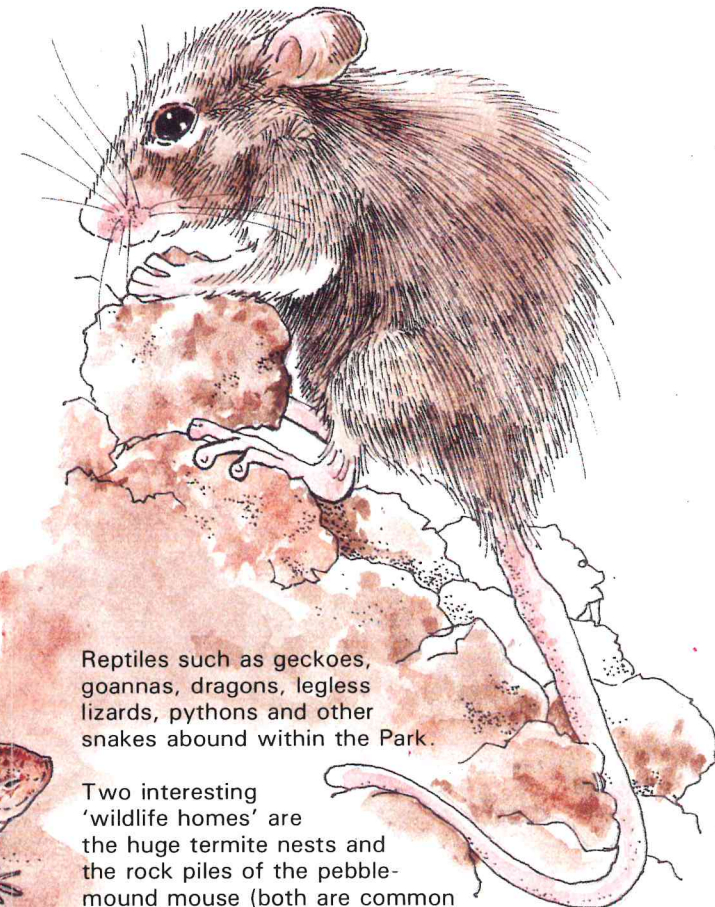
Wildflowers vary in abundance with the seasons and from year to year, but there is always something interesting in flower. Many plants in the Park bloom profusely after rains. In the cooler months the land is covered with numerous yellow flowering cassias and acacias, northern bluebells, and purple mulla mullas.

Birds are many and varied, but other animals are less often seen. If you are lucky, you may discover red kangaroos, euros (the common kangaroos of the rocky country), the very shy brush-tailed rock wallaby, echidna or several species of bats.

Many species of native rodents and native carnivores are resident but are nocturnal and shy.



Dragon Lizard



Reptiles such as geckoes, goannas, dragons, legless lizards, pythons and other snakes abound within the Park.

Two interesting 'wildlife homes' are the huge termite nests and the rock piles of the pebble-mound mouse (both are common on the walk to the junction of Knox and Red Gorges).

PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB THEM.

Pebble-mound Mouse

Facilities

All the main gorges in the north of the Park have facilities nearby (see map). The camping areas are marked on the map. Visitors may camp **ONLY** in these areas. Good gravel roads lead to all the facilities and most have walking paths, barbecues, tables, seats, rubbish bins and bush toilets.

West of the park ranger's headquarters is the State's second highest peak – Mt. Bruce. Visitors can drive to the foot of the mountain and climb by a path to the top (two hours approximately).

REMEMBER

PLEASE do not use soap in the pools as it kills aquatic life. Also do not throw rocks in the gorges as there may be people below.

BE CAREFUL: Your safety in national parks is your responsibility — rock climbing or long bushwalks, advise ranger.

BE CLEAN: Put litter in bins, or take it with you, particularly ring tops.

STAY COOL: Only light fires in fireplaces provided. Bring your own portable gas stove.

PROTECT ANIMALS AND PLANTS: No firearms or pets . . . please.

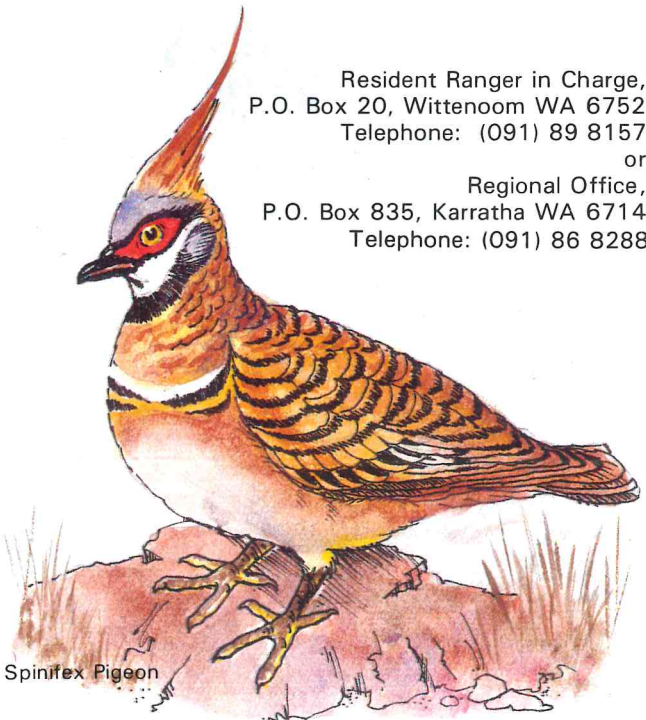
STAY ON THE ROAD: Follow signs in the park, and stay on the roads marked in this brochure. Normal road rules apply

No generators permitted at Weano Gorge and Circular Pool campsites.

Further Information

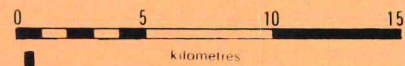
National park rangers are always glad to help make your visit more enjoyable and informative. Do not hesitate to contact them if you require any information or assistance.

Resident Ranger in Charge,
P.O. Box 20, Wittenoom WA 6752
Telephone: (091) 89 8157
or
Regional Office,
P.O. Box 835, Karratha WA 6714
Telephone: (091) 86 8288

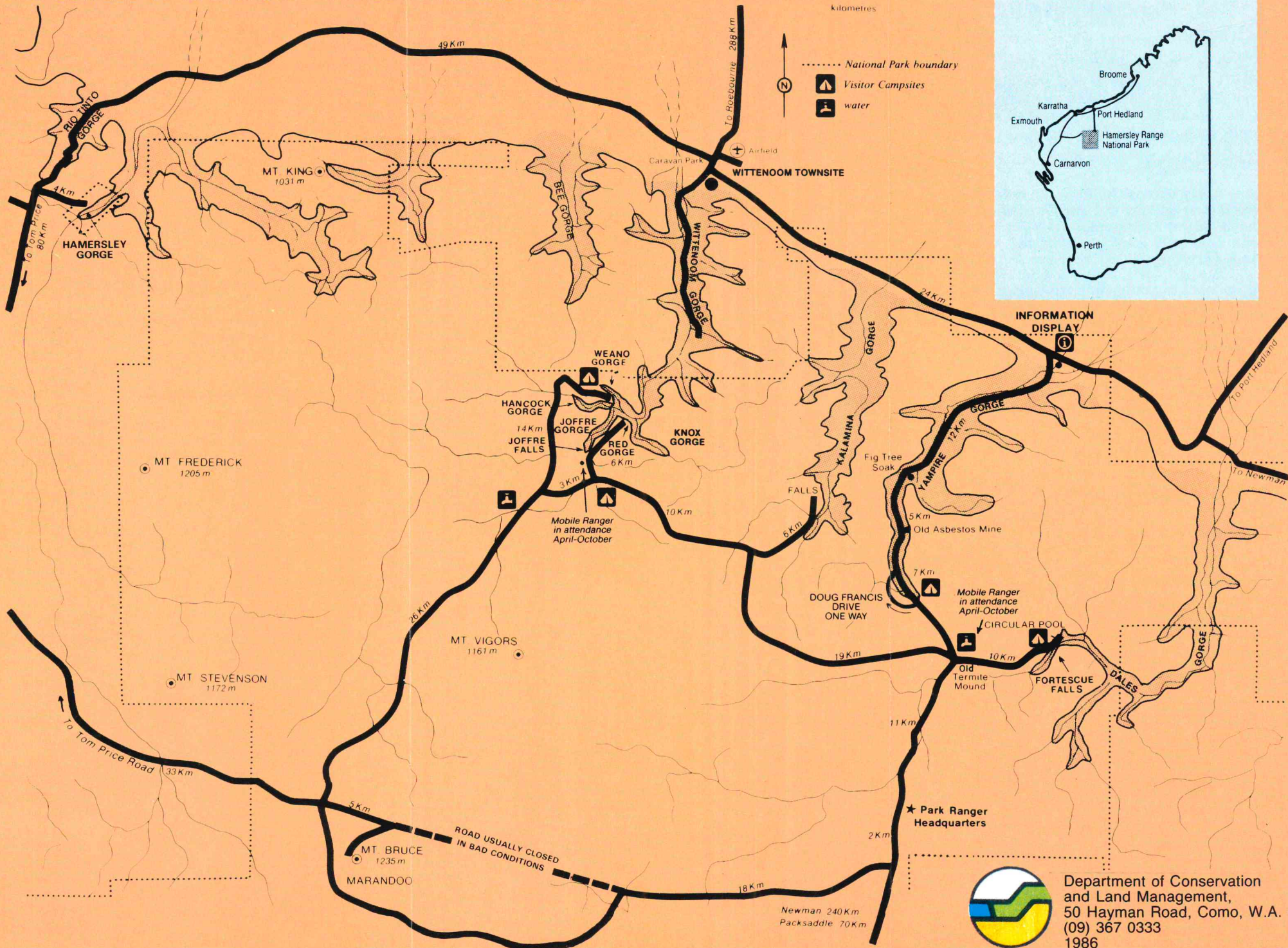


Spinifex Pigeon

THE GORGES OF HAMERSLEY RANGE NATIONAL PARK



- National Park boundary
- ▲ Visitor Campsites
- water



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