

# LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.

MILLSTREAM-CHICHESTER NATIONAL PARK  
Millstream Facilities Area

In ancient times the Fortescue River followed a course to the south of Millstream and flowed to the sea via the present course of the Robe River. That route was diverted when a (then) small river eroded back to capture the Fortescue near a point where Deep Reach is today.

The original valley has filled with porous sediments to form an aquifer from which water is pumped to nearby coastal towns (this supply is now augmented by the Harding Dam).

All the pools at Millstream are fed by spring flow from this aquifer. The springs that fill Chinderwarriner Pool (also called Crystal Pool or the Lily Pond) are located at the head of the pool.

The Chinderwarriner Pool area was once an important campsite of the Indjibundi people who lived along the Fortescue Valley. Millstream is still of great significance to Aboriginal people.

The first Europeans to visit the area were members of an expedition led by F.T. Gregory. They passed through on 6th and 7th June, 1861. Gregory comments in his journal (7 June) "A quarter of a mile up the river brought us to a fine tributary from the south, running strong enough to supply a large mill --- it was found to take its rise in several deep pools, fed by springs issuing out of the plains ---".

The area was taken up as a pastoral lease by Alex McRae about 1866. Part of this former pastoral lease has been incorporated into the Millstream-Chichester National Park. The remainder is a water reserve. The Millstream Tavern was once a station homestead.

The natural vegetation around Chinderwarriner Pool was dominated by Rivergums, Cajeputs (northern paperbarks) and Millstream palms. Early pastoralists dammed the springs and developed a water garden and a vegetable garden. Survivors of those Developments include Date palms, Cotton palms, Oleanders, Bamboo and probably Waterlilies.

Crystal Pool (Chinderwarriner) has been used as a domestic watersupply, and as a source of water for irrigation. Even a bathhouse was built over one of the channels.

The lower end of the pool has silted up and bullrushes have dominated the attractive lily pond site. Rushes will be cleaned out to favour the waterlilies.

Swimming is discouraged in Crystal Pool as it will muddy the pool, damage the aquatic plant growth and disturb the resident birds and animals.



MILLSTREAM FACILITIES AREA

