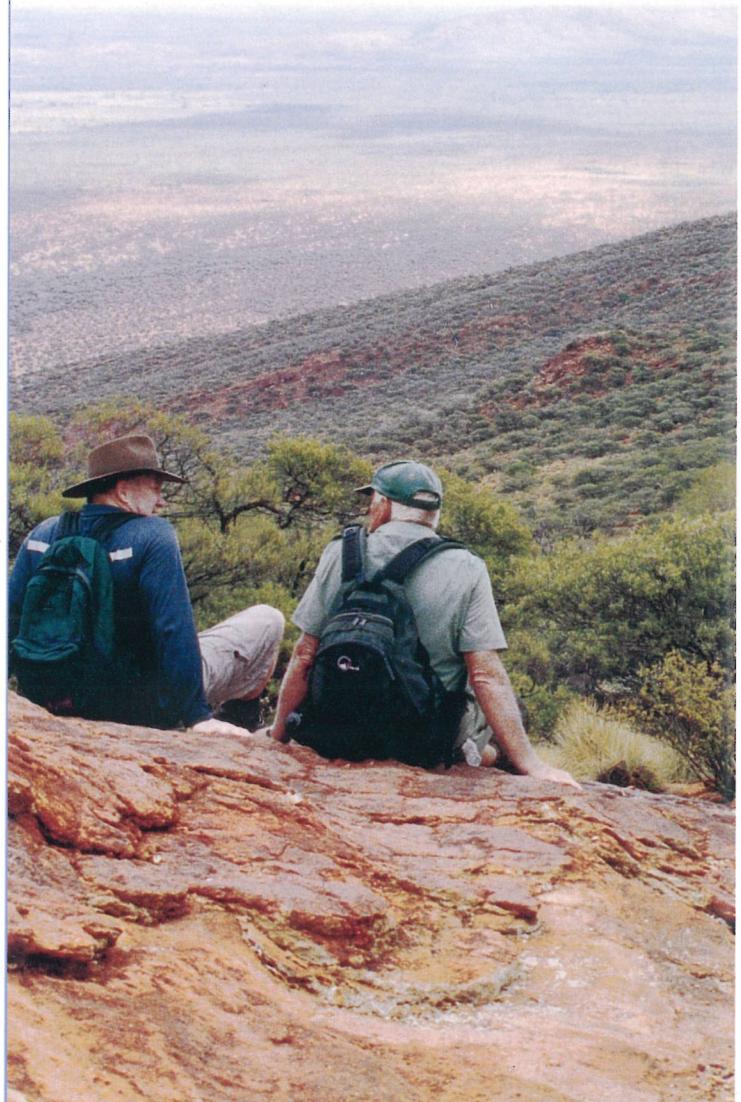


Below Hikers admiring the view from the Summit Trail.  
Photo - Sue Hancock/DEC



## Caring for the park

**Be careful** Your enjoyment and safety are our concern but your responsibility.

**Be cool** Always carry ample drinking water.

**Be clean** Please take your rubbish out of the park when you leave.

**Be responsible** Don't light fires. Use your portable gas stove. Dead wood is habitat for wildlife.

**Be kind** Do not disturb animals and plants. No firearms or pets are permitted in Mount Augustus National Park.

**Stay on track.** Follow signs in the park and stay on marked trails.

## Visitor information

### Access

Mount Augustus is 430 kilometres from Carnarvon via Gascoyne Junction and 360 kilometres from Meekatharra. Roads are gravel but suitable for two-wheel-drive vehicles. Roads may be closed or substantially damaged after heavy rain. Seek advice from the local shires.

Carry ample fuel, water and supplies to cope with all possible occurrences.

### Overnight

No camping or open fires are permitted within the national park or on Mount Augustus Station pastoral lease.

Accommodation, powered caravan sites, camping facilities, meals, fuel and water are available at Mount Augustus Outback Tourist Resort, phone (08) 9943 0527 and Cobra Bangemall Inn on (08) 9943 0565.

## Further information

Department of Environment and Conservation rangers or campground hosts are usually based at Mount Augustus throughout the winter months.

Department of Environment and Conservation  
Carnarvon Office

59 Olivia Terrace, Carnarvon, WA 6701

Phone: (08) 9941 3754

Fax: (08) 9941 1801

Shire of Upper Gascoyne

4 Scott Street, Gascoyne Junction, WA 6705

Phone: (08) 9943 0988

Shire of Meekatharra

Phone: (08) 9981 1002

Front cover Mount Augustus National Park. Photo - Samille Mitchell

# Mount Augustus National Park (Burringurrah)



PAM02660  
2009184-0509-6916

## Information and walk trail guide



Department of  
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future



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Above View from Goordgeela Lookout. Photo - Scott Godley/DEC

## Mount Augustus National Park

Mount Augustus (Burringurrah) rises abruptly 715 metres out of an extensive, stony, red sandplain of arid shrubland dominated by wattles, cassias and eremophilas. The mount is 1105 metres above sea level.

Around the sandstone and quartz massif, a 49-kilometre drive provides access to rocky creek gorges, Aboriginal rock engravings (petroglyphs) and a variety of wildlife on the rocks, plains and water courses.

Drainage lines from the rocks seep beneath the surrounding sands to feed groves of white-barked river gums. Elsewhere mulga, myall, gidgee and other wattles are dispersed across the red sandplain. Here honeyeaters, babblers and galahs forage for food. Nearby emus seek fruits, and bustards snatch insects and small reptiles from the ground. Bungarras (goannas) and red kangaroos are common on the plain, while euros and birds of prey are found closer to the rock.

At Cattle Pool on the Lyons River, a tributary of the Gascoyne, permanent pools attract waterbirds such as black cormorants, swans and ducks. In the trees are corellas and blue-winged kookaburras.



Far right View of the north-east face of Mount Augustus from Emu Hill Lookout. Photo - Sue Hancock/DEC

Right Cattle Pool. Photo - Scott Godley/DEC

## Aboriginal history

The area around Mount Augustus is the traditional lands of the Wajarri tribe. Burringurrah is the Wajarri name for Mount Augustus.

In times of plenty, the Wajarri people would roam over a wide area of the Gascoyne. In times of drought, however, they would return to areas where water was available, such as the natural springs along the base of Mount Augustus. Aboriginal occupation is evident by the engravings on rock walls at Mundee, Ooramboo and Beedoboondoo visitor sites, and by numerous stone tools discovered in these areas. Burringurrah continues to be a very significant site to the Wajarri people, many of whom live at the nearby Burringurrah community.



## The Burringurrah story

In the Dreaming, a boy called Burringurrah was undergoing his initiation into manhood. The rigours of this process so distressed him that he ran away, thereby breaking Aboriginal law. Tribesmen pursued the boy, finally catching up with him and spearing him in the upper right leg as his punishment. Burringurrah fell to the ground; the spearhead broke from its shaft and protruded from his leg. The boy tried to crawl away but was hit with a mulgurrah (fighting stick).

Burringurrah collapsed and died, lying on his belly with his left leg bent up beside his body. You can see his final resting pose when you approach Mount Augustus from the south. The geological fracture lines at the western end of the mount indicate the wounds inflicted by the mulgurrah. Look for the spear stump in his leg that today is called Edney's Lookout.



Above View from Goordgeela Lookout. Photo - Scott Godley/DEC

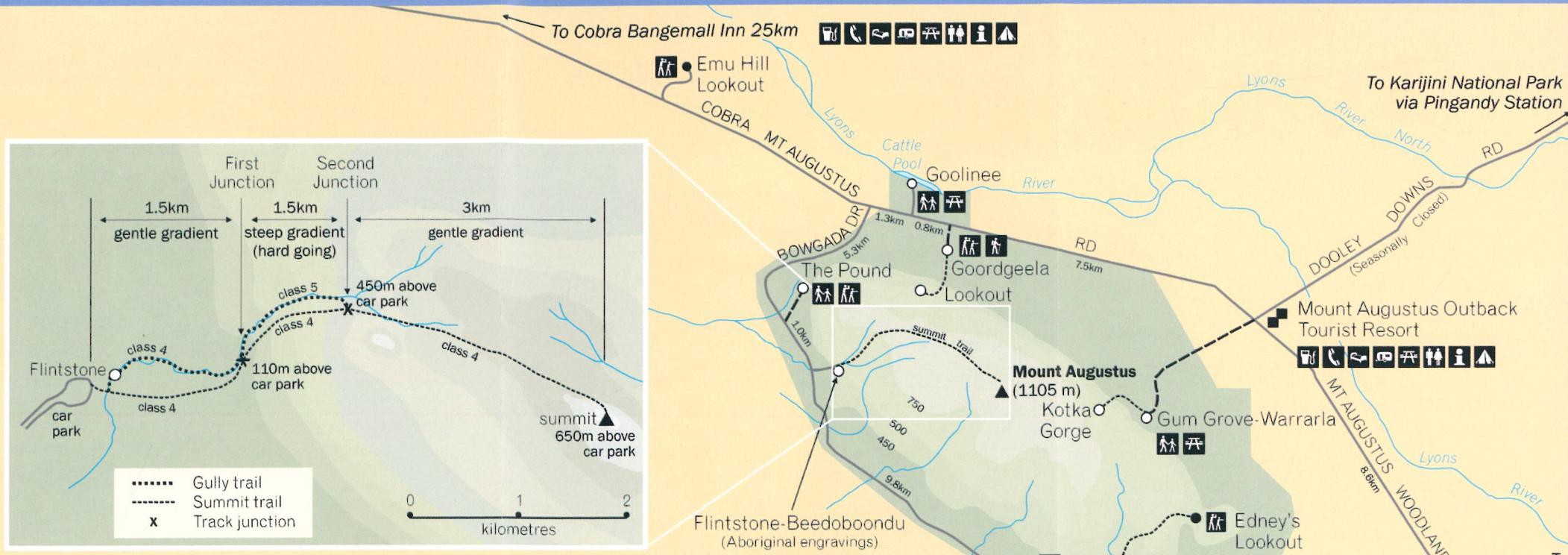
## Geology

According to the Geological Survey of Western Australia, Mount Augustus is an asymmetrical anticline (rock layers that have been folded into an arch-like structure) which is steeper on its north-eastern side than the south-west.

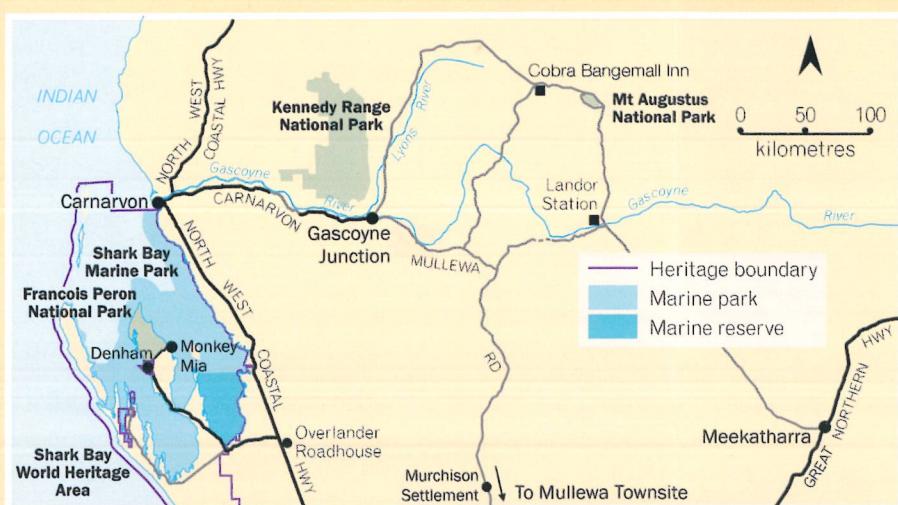
The rocks consist of sand and gravel that were deposited by an ancient, south-easterly flowing river system that drained the region about 1,600 million years ago. This river system flowed over a faulted and eroded surface of 1,800–1,620 million year old granitic and metamorphic rocks. The river deposits consolidated to form sandstone and conglomerate, and were then buried beneath younger marine sediments, which were laid down when shallow seas covered the region between 1,600–1,070 million years ago.

The rocks were buckled into their present-day structure about 900 million years ago when movement along faults in the underlying granitic and metamorphic rocks caused localised, strong, north-east directed compression. The marine sedimentary rocks that overlay the sandstone and conglomerate have since been eroded from Mount Augustus, but now form the hills around Cobra and Mount Augustus homesteads. Erosion has also removed sandstone and conglomerate from the north-western end of Mount Augustus to expose the underlying granitic rocks at The Pound.





Enlargement of summit trail with shaded areas showing variation in contours in greater detail



Notice to walkers - To avoid dehydration, drink three to four litres of water per day when walking.  
There is no drinking water in the national park.

## Mount Augustus National Park Burringurrah

0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometres



Legend	
	National park
	Track
	Unsealed road
	Walk trail
	Walk trail
	Accommodation
	Camping (bush)
	Caravan park
	Fuel station
	Hiking trail
	Information
	Picnic tables
	Telephone
	Toilets
	Vistas
	Walking track

This trail incorporates the Gum Grove Trail. Walkers then continue along a dry, rocky creek bed before moving above the creek line until reaching the main opening of Kooka George. This marks the end of the trail and provides views to the east of Mount Augustus. More adventurous hikers who want to continue further up the gorge should be prepared for a CLASS 5, unmarked trail that involves rock scrambling.



#### Kooka George Trail (CLASS 4) 2km, 2 hours return

This return point for this trail is at the Kooka George sign. The easy trail takes walkers through a shady grove of river red gums.

#### Gum Grove Trail (CLASS 3) 1km, 30 minutes return

This trail incorporates the Gum Grove Trail. Walkers then continue along a dry, rocky creek bed before moving above the creek line until

reaching the main opening of Kooka George. This marks the end of the trail and provides views to the east of Mount Augustus. More

adventurous hikers who want to continue further up the gorge should be prepared for a CLASS 5, unmarked trail that involves rock

scrambling.

The return point for this trail is at the Kooka George sign. The easy trail takes walkers through a shady grove of river red gums.

This trail is suitable for people seeking elevated views but who don't want to tackle the more strenuous Summit Trail.

This well-defined trail will lead you to Edney's Lookout (a peak that is clearly seen from the tourist resort, south-east of the mount). The

trail is relatively easy from the lookout (CLASS 4) 6km, 3 hours return

Edney's Trail (CLASS 4) 6km, 3 hours return

A relatively easy walk to view Aboriginal engravings along an escarpment. An extra walk of 100 metres will bring you to Edney

Summit Trail (CLASS 3) 500m, 30 minutes return

Edney's - Darambo

This relatively easy walk to an engraved wall is a place to quietly ponder the Wallari culture.

Petroglyph Trail (CLASS 3) 300m, 20 minutes return

This relatively easy walk to an engraved wall is a place to quietly

across to the Summit Trail and return down to the car park.

Trail from Flinstone Rock for a shorter loop walk. Walkers continue up the Gully opportunity for a shorter loop walk. Walkers provide an

The first junction between the Summit and Gully trails provides an opportunity for a shorter loop walk. Walkers continue up the Gully

across to the Summit Trail and return down to the car park.

standard six-hour summit walking time. For further information refer to the inset map.

Gully Trail option in either direction should add an extra hour to the standard six-hour summit walking time. For further information refer to the inset map.

Steeper as walkers approach the lookout. From the lookout there are views of the Lyons River meandering through the sandplain and the Gully Trail option in either direction should add an extra hour to the standard six-hour summit walking time. For further information refer to the inset map.

This trail follows a rocky creek for part of the way, becoming steeper as walkers approach the lookout. From the lookout there are views of the Lyons River meandering through the sandplain and the Gully Trail option in either direction should add an extra hour to the standard six-hour summit walking time. For further information refer to the inset map.

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Photo - Scott Gooley/DEC  
Left Gully Trail.



Photo - Scott Gooley/DEC  
Below - Gully Trail.  
Below - Gully Trail.

These walk trails have been graded in difficulty according to Australian Standards for Walking Tracks. The following three classes apply to the walks described here.

CLASS 3 Users require a moderate level of fitness. Trails may be slightly modified, and can include unstable surfaces.

CLASS 4 Trails are in relatively undisturbed environments and are often rough with few, if any, modifications. A moderate to high level of fitness is required. Users should be self-reliant, because there are few encounters with others. Whether can affect safety.

CLASS 5 Mostly indistinct trails through undisturbed natural environments. Terrain is rough. A high level of fitness is required. Users must be prepared and self-reliant. Whether can affect safety.

CARING FOR CULTURE - Petroglyph sites in the park are culturally significant to the Warlpiri people. Please enjoy the privilege of visiting these sites, but treat them with respect.

BOWGADDA DRIVE A 49 kilometre circuit provides views of the changing faces of the rock and access to all feature sites. Suitable for conventional two-wheel drive vehicles.

EMU HILL LOOKOUT Turn off north about five kilometres west of the park boundary on the Cobra Station Road, and drive 1.5 kilometres along a track suitable for two-wheel drive vehicles. The lookout is a good location to take photographs of the mount; it is usually most colourful.

GULLINNEE - Cattle Pool A 49 kilometre drive about five kilometres west of the park boundary on the Cobra Station Road, and drive 1.5 kilometres along a track suitable for two-wheel drive vehicles.

GOOLINNEE - Cattle Pool Particular picturesque after rains have filled the pool to capacity. A permanent pool on the Lyons River. A day-use area only.

OUTBACK TOURIST RESORT Outback Tourist Resort. Seek advice at the Mount Augustus basin to distant ranges. An early start is recommended, and please advise someone of your plans. Seek advice at the Mount Augustus

provides extensive views over the surrounding plain and drainage basin a difficult bushwalkers. The climb to the top of the mount still a difficult walk, so it should only be undertaken by prepared

stills a difficult walk, so it should only be undertaken by prepared

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## Walking in Mount Augustus National Park