

# LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

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## VISITOR INFORMATION

### ACCESS

The road to the eastern escarpment is suitable for two-wheel-drive vehicles. Vehicle access through the rest of the Park is not recommended as tracks are extremely hazardous and it is easy to get lost. Roads may be closed after heavy rain. Watch out for wildlife.

Flights and safari tours to Kennedy Range are available through tourist centres at Carnarvon, Denham and other local towns.

### OVERNIGHT

Bush camping is permitted at designated sites at the base of the eastern escarpment (see map). Accommodation is available at Gascoyne Junction (about 50km from Park) and station accommodation can be arranged by contacting the Shire of Upper Gascoyne.

Always carry ample supplies of fuel and water. Sheep stations surround the Kennedy Range National Park and access through private properties is only permitted with the managers' approval.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

CALM Gascoyne District Office  
Knight Terrace  
Denham WA 6705  
Phone (099) 48 1208

Shire of Upper Gascoyne  
4 Scott Street  
Gascoyne Junction WA 6701  
Phone (099) 43 0988

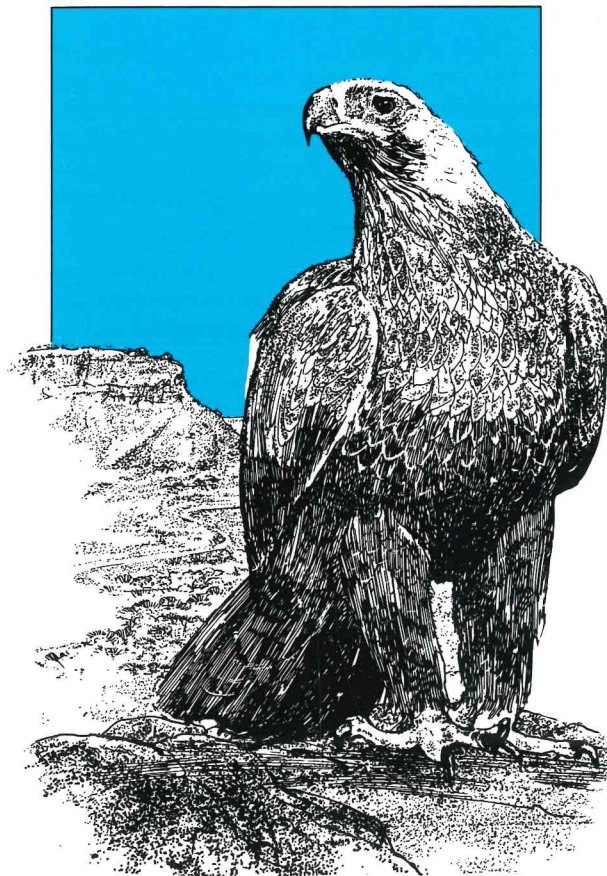


DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND LAND MANAGEMENT

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## KENNEDY RANGE







*N a t i o n a l   P a r k*

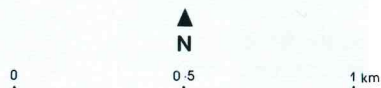
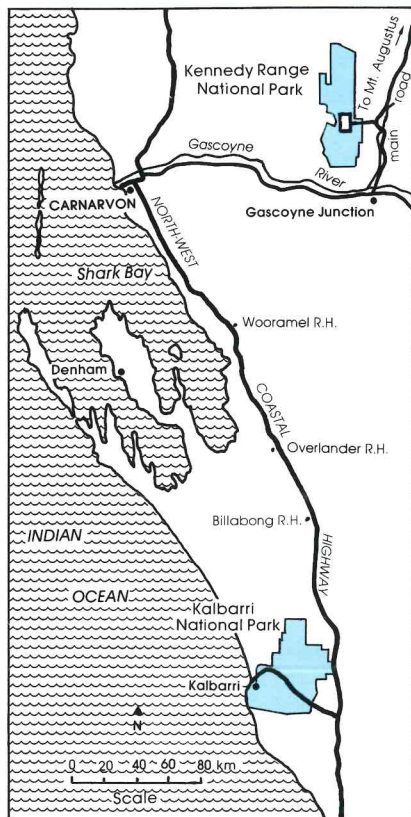


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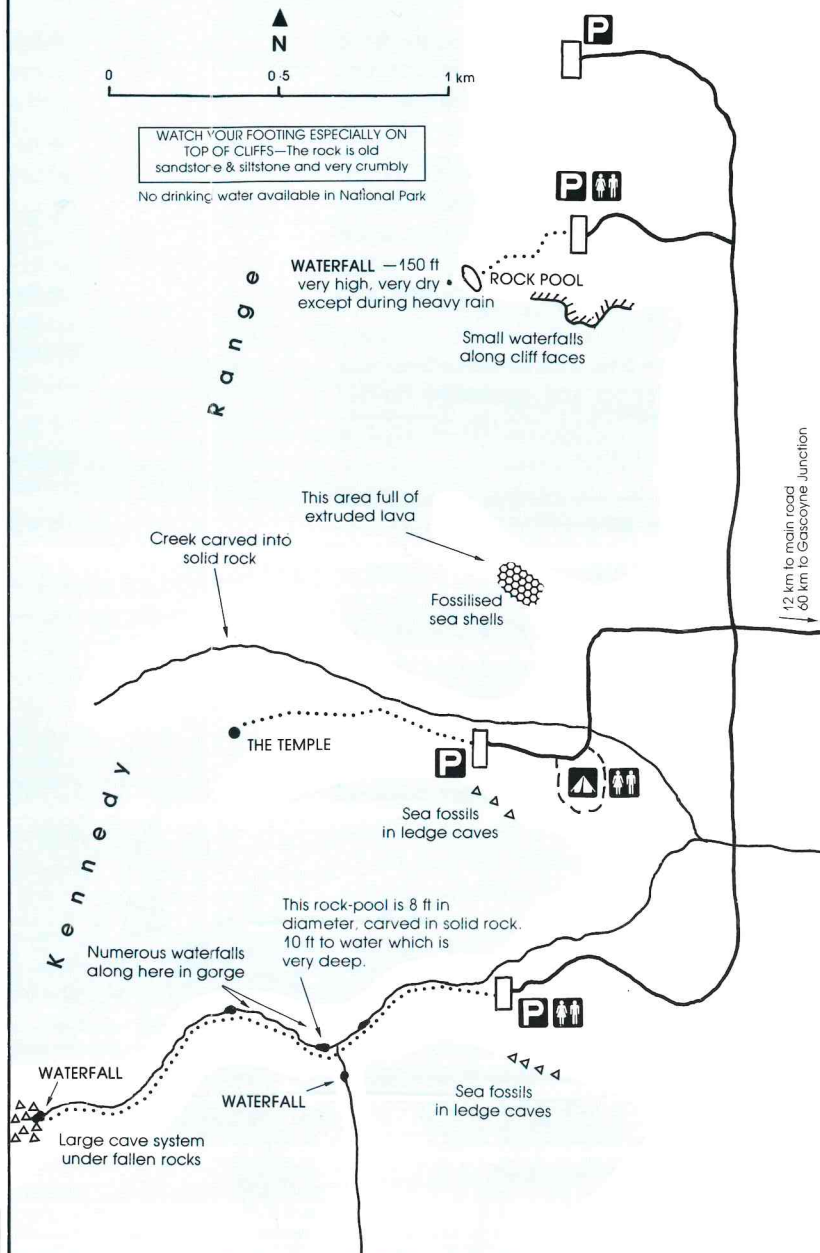
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## KENNEDY RANGE NATIONAL PARK

-  Sealed Road
-  Unsealed Road
-  Camping Area
-  Car Park
-  Toilets
-  Walk Track



WATCH YOUR FOOTING ESPECIALLY ON  
TOP OF CLIFFS—The rock is old  
sandstone & siltstone and very crumbly  
No drinking water available in National Park



## NATURAL HISTORY

The Kennedy Range is an eroded plateau located just south of the Tropic of Capricorn on the rim of the Gascoyne River catchment about 160km from the coast. The range experiences a desert climate.

In Permian times, some 250 million years ago, the Gascoyne region was a shallow ocean basin off the edge of the ancient Australian continent. It filled with sediment, which later became compressed to form layers of sandstone and shale. Movements in the earth's crust brought these above the sea level where erosion has stripped away much of the rock. Today, marine fossils can be found in the Range's sandstone strata.

The Kennedy Range is a remnant of the land surface that elsewhere has been worn away but here forms a huge mesa some 75km long and up to 25km wide that runs north to south.

The southern and eastern sides of the Range have eroded to form spectacular cliffs that rise up 100 metres above the Lyons River Valley plain. These are dissected by a maze of steep-sided canyons which have running streams after rain. Much of the Range's western boundary is a strong fault system and springs are common along its base.

Endless rows of waterless red sand dunes dominated by spinifex with scattered wattle, mallee and other small shrubs are found on the mesa.

Large areas of the Range are inaccessible and the plants and animals that inhabit the ranges have not been explored. Of the 295 plant species recorded, 40 percent are annual wildflowers such as the mulla mulla and everlasting daisies. After good rains wildflowers flourish in August and September.

Euros and rock wallabies shelter in caves along the eastern escarpment, and many of the 50 bird species recorded in the Park congregate at permanent water pools. On the mesa numerous tracks indicate the presence of a large number of reptiles.

## ABORIGINAL HISTORY

Freshwater springs on the western side of the Kennedy Range support wildlife and also provided food and water for the Aboriginal people who occupied this land for more than 20 000 years before European settlement.

Chert outcrops in the Park were ideal for making stone tools. A large number of artifact scatters testify to the area's use by Aboriginal people.

Kennedy Range was also an important meeting place for Aboriginal people and has a rich ceremonial significance.

All Aboriginal sites in Western Australia are protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972. Visitors finding artifacts should leave them intact and inform either CALM or the WA Museum of their location.

## EUROPEAN HISTORY

In 1858 an expedition into the Gascoyne Region by the Gregory brothers led to the discovery of the Kennedy Range, which they named after the then Governor of Western Australia.

Within 20 years of its discovery, pastoral leases were taken up along both the Gascoyne and Lyon rivers and the region was developed into a prosperous wool-producing area.

Fortunately, much of the Kennedy Range National Park is waterless and grazing did not occur over most of its area, leaving its natural systems relatively intact.





## MINING EXPLORATION

The Kennedy Ranges were explored for their mineral potential as early as 1861 by FT Gregory, 1883 by W H Huddleston and 1901 by A G Maitland.

Interest in the hydrocarbon potential of the Carnarvon Basin began in the 1920s. WAPET drilled five holes in the Kennedy Ranges in the 1950s and two shallow wells were drilled outside the Park's north-east boundary by Hartogen Exploration in 1972.

In the early 1980s Esso took out tenements over the Kennedy Ranges and conducted limited seismic exploration, which included the drilling of two exploration wells.

Since the mid 1960s, the area has been explored for uranium, coal, diamonds and base metals.

A geological report prepared for the Department of Minerals and Energy in 1992 indicates that the mineral potential of the Kennedy Range National Park is low.

Amateur lapidary enthusiasts seek the semi-precious coloured chert (which is locally called Mookaite), fossil wood, and teredo (marine worm) borings that have filled with other coloured minerals.

## CARE FOR THE PARK

- ❖ **Be kind:** Do not disturb animals, plants or rocks. Pets and firearms are not permitted in the Park.
- ❖ **Be responsible:** Avoid causing wildfires by using portable gas stoves.
- ❖ **Be clean:** Take your litter out of the Park when you leave.
- ❖ **Be careful:** Stay on the paths provided and help prevent erosion. Look out for falling rocks. Your safety in natural areas is our concern but your responsibility.
- ❖ **Be prepared:** The trails are rough and steep in places. Wear sturdy footwear and carry your own water at all times.
- ❖ **Be considerate:** Fossicking and collecting rocks, gemstones and fossils are not permitted.

