

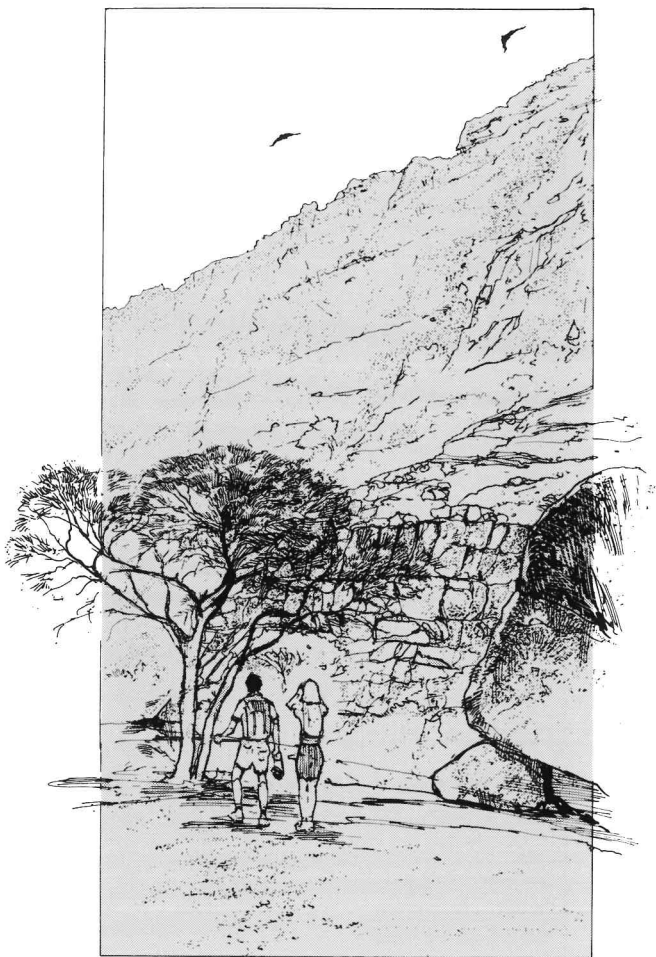
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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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MT AUGUSTUS

National Park



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND LAND MANAGEMENT

MOUNT AUGUSTUS NATIONAL PARK

Mount Augustus rises abruptly 858 metres out of an extensive, stony, red sandplain of arid shrubland dominated by wattles, cassias and eremophilas. The mount is 1 105 metres above sea level.

Around the sandstone and quartz massif, a 49-km drive features rocky creek gorges, caves, Aboriginal rock engravings (petroglyphs) and a variety of wildlife on the rock, plain and water courses.

Drainage lines from the rock seep beneath the surrounding sands to feed groves of white-barked river gums. Elsewhere mulga, myall, gidgi 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.

GEOLOGY

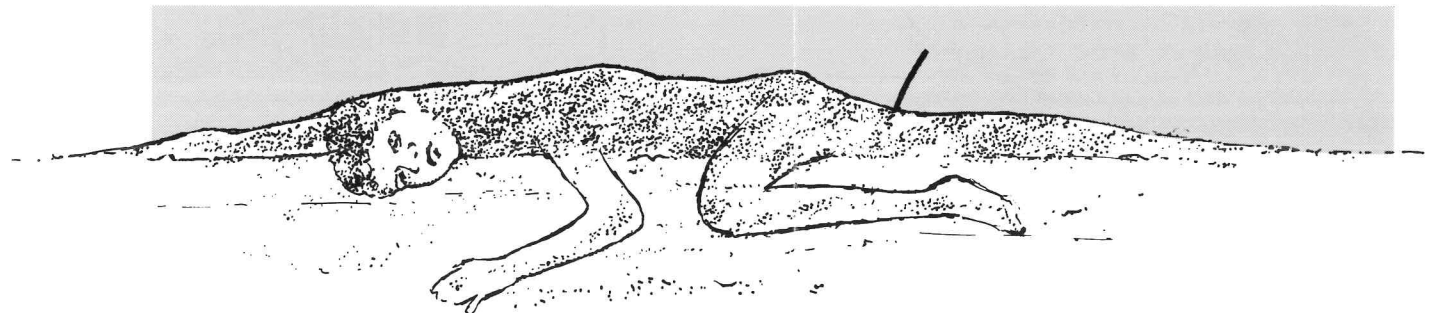
Mount Augustus is a monocline, i.e. rock strata which dip in one direction. The rocks are of Upper Proterozoic age; they were deposited on an ancient sea floor as sand and boulders some 1 000 million years ago. These deposits consolidated to form sandstone and conglomerate strata which eventually, with movement in the earth's crust, folded and uplifted. Sandstone and conglomerate cover a wide area, including Mt Phillip 35 km to the west-south-west. Granitic rock which lies under the rock strata of Mount Augustus is 1 650 million years old.



ABORIGINAL HISTORY

Historically, the Aboriginal people who inhabited the area around Mount Augustus were known as the Wadjeri tribe. In times of plenty, the Wadjeri people would roam over a wide area of the Gascoyne. In times of drought, however, the Wadjeri 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, Oorambo and Beedoboondou visitor sites, and by numerous stone tools discovered in these areas. Unfortunately the Wadjeri custodians have advised that the meanings of these engravings are lost in history.

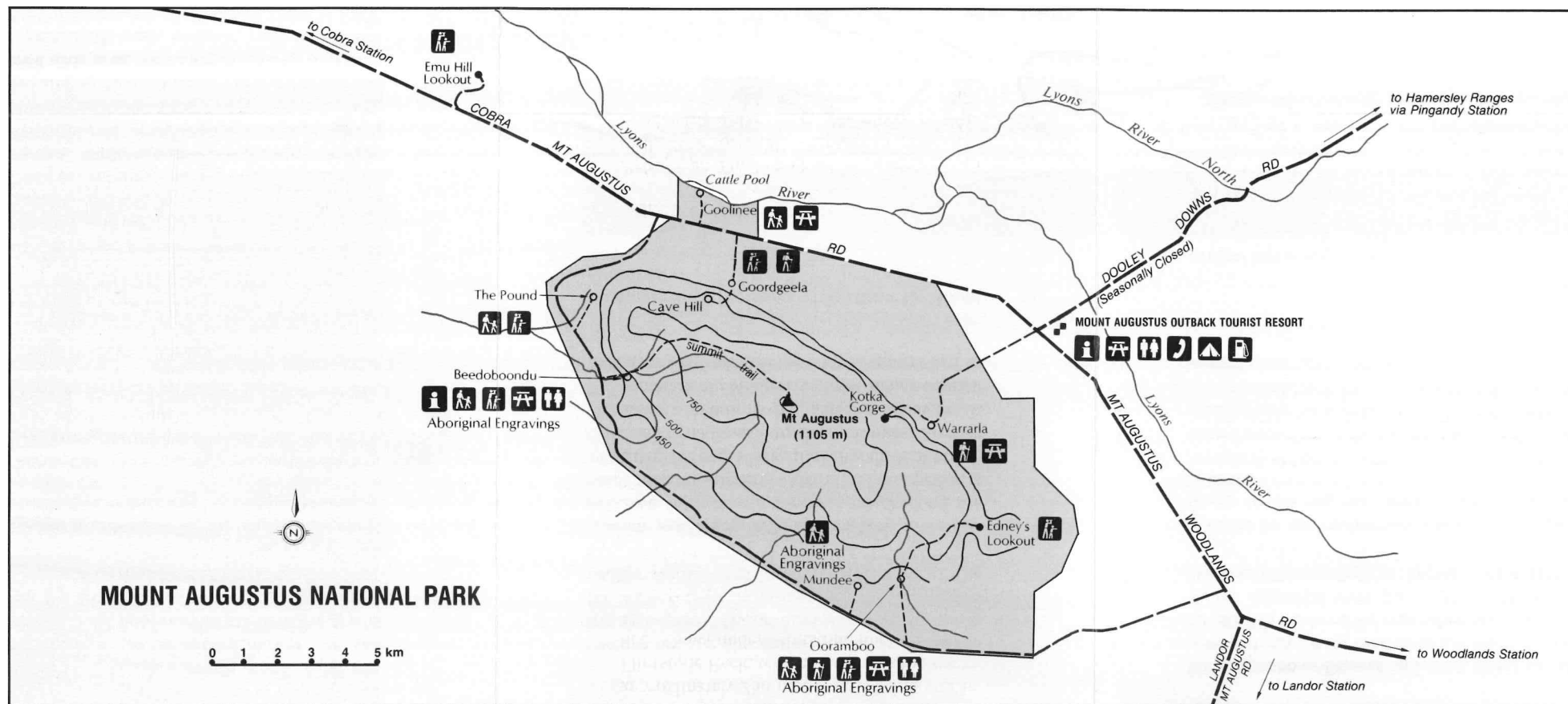
Burringurrah is the Wadjeri tribe name for Mount Augustus.



THE BURRINGURRAH STORY

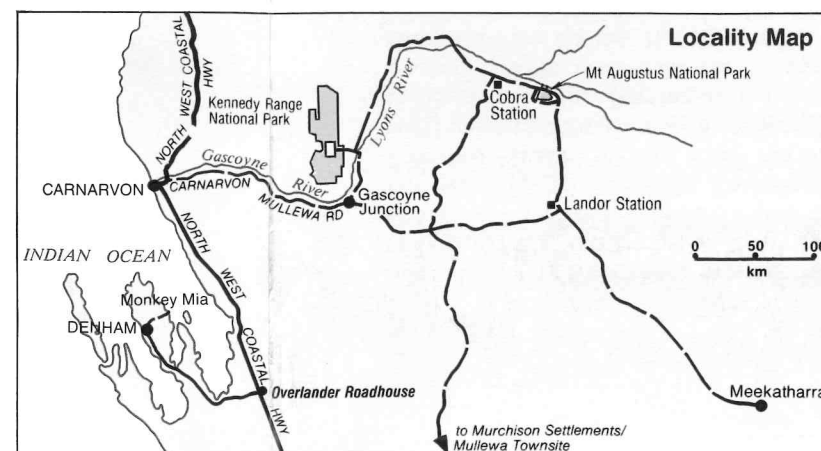
In the Dreaming a boy called Burringurrah was undergoing his initiation into manhood. The rigours of this process so distressed him that he ran away, thereby breaking Aboriginal law. Tribesmen pursued the boy, finally catching up with him and spearing him in the upper right leg as his punishment. Burringurrah fell to the ground; the spear head 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 on Mt James Station. 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.



KEY TO SYMBOLS

	National Park		Lookout
	Unsealed Road		Toilets
	Walk Trail		Camping
	Track		Fuel
	Hike		Telephone
	Picnic Table		Information
	Easy Walk		



VISITOR SITES AND TRAILS

- **Burringurrah Drive**


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

- **Emu Hill Lookout**

Turnoff north approximately 5 km west of the park boundary on the Cobra Station road, and drive 1.5 km along a track suitable for two-wheel drive vehicles. The lookout is a good location from which to take photographs of the Mount; at sunset it is usually most colourful.

- **Goolinee - Cattle Pool**


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

 **WARNING** - Reeds in the pool make swimming hazardous.

Corella Trail - 2 km return (1 hour). Trail begins mid-way along the pool. A short, easy stroll. Quiet observant walkers are rewarded with tranquil scenes of waterbirds. Corellas and other species forage in the river gums.

- **Goordgeela - Cave Hill**

Cave Hill Trail - 4 km return (2 hours). A short, steep trail. From the cave, there are good views of the Lyons River meandering through the sandplain and the Godfrey Ranges to the north. The trail is not marked from the cave to the top of the mesa.

 **WARNING** The cave ceiling is unstable and rock falls do occur.

- **The Pound**


Earlier this century this natural basin was used for holding cattle prior to moving them on the hoof to Meekatharra. Droving to Meekatharra would take 10 to 12 days.

Saddle Trail - 2 km return (1 hour). This short walk to the saddle provides views back into The Pound and over the Lyons River valley to the north.

- **Beedoboondy - Flintstone**

A short walk along the creek bed of approximately 250 metres will bring you to Flintstone Rock, which lies across the stream bed. Crawl under Flintstone Rock to observe Aboriginal engravings. After heavy rain water cascades over the rocks forming several waterfalls.

Summit Trail - 12 km return (6 hours). Only for the prepared and experienced bushwalker. This climb to the top of the mount provides extensive views over the surrounding plain and drainage basin to distant ranges. An early start is recommended, and please advise someone of your plans. Seek advice from a ranger or the Mount Augustus Outback Tourist Resort.

 **CAUTION** - Wear sturdy footwear and protective clothing and carry at least two litres of water per person.

- **Mundee**

Petroglyph Trail - an easy 300 metres return walk. The rock wall is a place to quietly ponder the distant past. Aboriginal people engraved the rocks for a purpose lost in time.



- **Ooramboo - Edneys**

A short, easy stroll of approximately 150 metres to view Aboriginal engravings along an escarpment. A further walk of 100 metres will bring you to 'Edney Spring'.

Edney's Trail - 6 km return (2.5 hours). A well defined trail will lead you to Edney's Lookout (a peak which is clearly seen from the Tourist Resort; it is at the south-east of the mount). Trail suitable for those seeking elevated views but who do not wish to tackle the more strenuous Summit Trail.

- **Warrarla - Gum Grove**

A pleasant grove of large river gums and a popular picnic site.

Kotka Gorge Trail - 2 km return (1 hour). This trail is a ramble and rock hop along the usually dry creek bed. There you can discover the variety of rock shapes textures and types exposed in the creek bed. There is no marked trail up Kotka Gorge.

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: place litter in bins, or take it with you.

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

Be kind: protect animals and plants. Pets and firearms are not permitted.

Stay on track: follow signs in the park and stay on marked trails.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Access

Mount Augustus is 430 km from Carnarvon via Gascoyne Junction and 360 km from Meekatharra. Roads are gravel but suitable for conventional 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 (099) 430 527 and Cobra Station, (099) 430 565.

FURTHER INFORMATION

CALM rangers are usually based at Mount Augustus throughout the winter months.

CALM Gascoyne District Office
67 Knight Terrace
DENHAM WA 6537
Telephone: (099) 48 1208

Shire of Upper Gascoyne
4 Scott Street
GASCOYNE JUNCTION WA 6701
Telephone: (099) 43 0988

CALM acknowledges the provision of land by Mount Augustus and Cobra Stations which allowed the establishment of this National Park.