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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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Reminders

- Stay on the track. Walking on the track edges and cutting corners increases damage, erosion and visual scarring as well as causing confusion about which is the right track.
- Walk softly. Choose appropriate footwear for the terrain, sandals or solid but light walking boots.
- Keep the wilderness wild. Spread out in open country where there are no tracks. Spreading out (rather than following in each other's footsteps) disperses impact. A plant stepped on once has more chance of survival than if trampled by the whole party.
- Observe fire restrictions at all times. Open fires and fuel stoves may not be used on days of Total Fire Ban or Very High or Extreme Fire Danger.
- Use a safe existing fireplace rather than make a new one. If there are no existing fireplaces, remove a layer of groundcover and scrape a small depression for the fire. The cover can be replaced after the fire has been replaced.
- Keep fires small. (Under one metre square).
- Flammable material must be cleared to a distance of 3 metres.
- Don't build a fireplace with rocks. This scars the site and disturbs creatures that live under stones.
- Never leave a fire unattended. Your fire is your responsibility.
- Be absolutely sure that the fire is out before leaving. Use water to extinguish the fire and check that there are no hot coals underneath. Crush and scatter the coals when cool.
- Don't burn or bury rubbish. Rubbish is likely to be dug up and scattered by animals and may injure them. Digging disturbs soil and encourages weeds and erosion.
- If you've carried it in, you can carry it out. Carry out all your rubbish, including those easy-to-forget items like cigarette butts, tissues, silver paper, plastic wrappers, and orange peel which won't easily decompose. If you have the misfortune to come across other people's rubbish, please do the bush a favour and pick that up too.
- Don't feed the animals, especially around campsites. Native animals may contract diseases or become dependant on humans or become a nuisance if fed. Feeding causes unnaturally high and unbalanced animal populations.

We hope that this advice will enable you to plan your trip well and that you have an enjoyable and safe journey.

FURTHER INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND
MANAGEMENT

Kimberley Regional Office
Cnr Messmate Way & Konkerberry Drive
Kununurra WA 6743

(091) 680 200 Phone
(091) 682 179 Facsimile

DRYSDALE RIVER NATIONAL PARK

VISITOR INFORMATION - 1996

*This guide presents essential information for visitors wishing to go to
Drysdale River National Park.*

Drysdale River National Park is situated in the remote and rugged north Kimberley region of Western Australia and is the state's most northerly national park as well as the largest in the Kimberley, covering 448 264 hectares. The park is not manned and there are no visitor facilities and no authorised vehicle tracks. The 'wilderness' value of the park offers superb opportunities for bushwalking and nature observation. Drysdale River runs through the park.

VEGETATION & FLORA

The vegetation is predominantly open woodland and savannah. Fringing riverine formations occur along major rivers and creeks containing species such as *Melaleuca leucadendra*, *M. argenticornis*, *Sesbania formosa*, *Ficus* species, *Nauclea orientalis*, *Terminalia* species and *Pandanus* species. There are small pockets of rainforest scattered throughout the park.

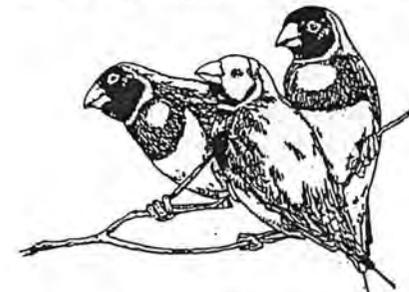
Biological surveys have recorded 594 plant species in the park. About 30 aquatic and swamp plants are known from permanent pools. The swamp plants include a number of bladderworts and trigger plants. Twenty five fern species occur, two of these have not been recorded anywhere else in Western Australia.

FAUNA

Twenty six species of native mammals have been recorded in the park, thirteen of which are bats. Terrestrial mammals include the Short-eared Rock-wallaby (*Petrogale brachyotis*), Sugar Glider (*Planigale maculata*), the Water Rat (*Hydromys chrysogaster*) and a recently described species of native mouse (*Pseudomys* sp).

There are 129 bird species, including the Purple-crowned Fairy-Wren, Gouldian Finch, Grey Falcon and Peregrine Falcon.

Forty seven reptile species, 13 frog species and 26 species of fresh water fish have been recorded.



Gouldian Finch



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

ACCESS

Access is via Carson River Station which borders the north west section of the park and requires the consent of the station manager.

Bulldust Yards is the only area on Carson River where visitors may camp. The only access to Bulldust Yards campsite is via the track passing the station homestead. Call in at the station homestead to let them know what you are doing and then follow the directional signs to the campsite - approx 29 kms. A small fee is charged to cover servicing of roads and the camp site. **It is important that you telephone Carson River Station before undertaking your trip as a gate across the entrance track is usually locked.**

Telephone (091) 614 330

No food, fuel or mechanical services are available.

Bulldust Yards Campsite

On the banks of the Drysdale River, visitors on Carson River Station can only camp at this campsite.

i) Rubbish

Visitors are to remove their own rubbish and leave their campsite clean. The station provides a signposted rubbish disposal pit, near the station homestead which visitors are welcome to use.

ii) Campfires

Fires are only permitted for the purposes of cooking. Dead wood is an important ecological resource in the Kimberley. Please keep your campfires small and use wood sparingly.

iii) Human Waste

All human waste and toilet paper is to be buried. It is recommended that campers erect a simple 'bush' toilet for this ie; drape a tarpaulin or sheet between 2 trees or posts and dig a 1.5 - 2 metre trench behind it which should be 30 - 40 cm deep. Human waste and toilet paper is buried in the trench.

VISITOR REGISTRATION

All visitors to Drysdale River National Park must register through the Kununurra office of the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

Advice can be in person, phone/fax or in writing of proposed dates in the park and itinerary.

OTHER SAFETY HINTS

Motoring on roads or tracks other than major highways in the Kimberley Region during the Wet Season (Nov - April) and for a period before and after is both hazardous and dangerous. Travel on the more remote and isolated tracks is hazardous all year.

Drysdale River National Park is remote, isolated and extremely rugged. Visitors should be experienced bushwalkers aware of the potential hazards that could be encountered.

FUEL, FOOD AND MECHANICAL SERVICES

Fuel, food and mechanical services, accommodation and meals are available from Drysdale River Station throughout the dry season.

Telephone (091) 614 326.

Fuel and food are also available from Kalumburu.

