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Wanjarri Nature Reserve



Wanjarri is a former pastoral lease that was established in 1920 by John Joseph Currie. Currie maintained the lease for 20 years and in 1940 he handed Wanjarri to his son-in-law, Tom Moriarty. Moriarty only partially developed the station and Wanjarri was only ever lightly stocked with 800 sheep. Moriarty was a keen birdwatcher and enjoyed prospecting. He preferred his hobbies over his sheep. Moriarty's interest in birdlife influenced his decision to sell Wanjarri to the government for conservation purposes, instead of allowing it to be included in surrounding leases.

The Department of Fisheries and Fauna purchased Wanjarri in 1971 as an 'A' class nature reserve. Today the nature reserve is managed by DEC. Wanjarri is an extremely important conservation reserve in the arid zone as it is the only reserve in the district.

DEC has preserved the homestead and various relics from the pastoral days and also continues to manage feral animals and weeds at Wanjarri.

Visitors to Wanjarri can experience the history, vegetation and landforms of the Murchison Bioregion and north-east Goldfields, part of the unique WA outback. Wanjarri is essentially a broad flat valley with breakaways on the east and west margins.

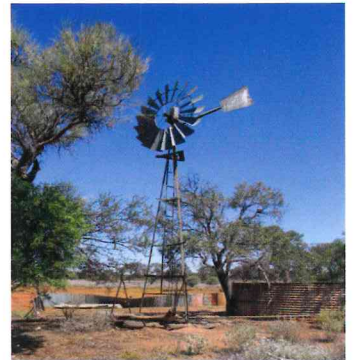
The vegetation consists of mulga communities and Spinifex sandplains with dunes and marble gums in several areas. To the west, the Barr Smith Range from which river red gum lined creeks flow, is rich in Aboriginal history and sites.

Many native animals inhabit Wanjarri. There are more than 60 species of reptiles including geckoes, legless lizards, dragons, monitors, skinks and snakes.



There are also 20 native mammal species in the area including several carnivorous marsupials. Such marsupials are the rare kultarr, hairy-footed dunnart, stripe-faced dunnart and the wongai ningau.

Wanjarri is well known for its abundance of birdlife. Over 100 species of birds have been recorded there. Species of interest include the regents parrot and the rare princess parrot, the uncommon striated grass-wren and the southern stone curlew.



Visitor Fees

It does not cost to visit Wanjarri although overnight camping fees apply. Bookings can be made through the Department's Kalgoorlie Office.

Things to do

- Explore the homestead and its surrounds.
- Birdwatchers will enjoy the abundance and diversity of bird life.

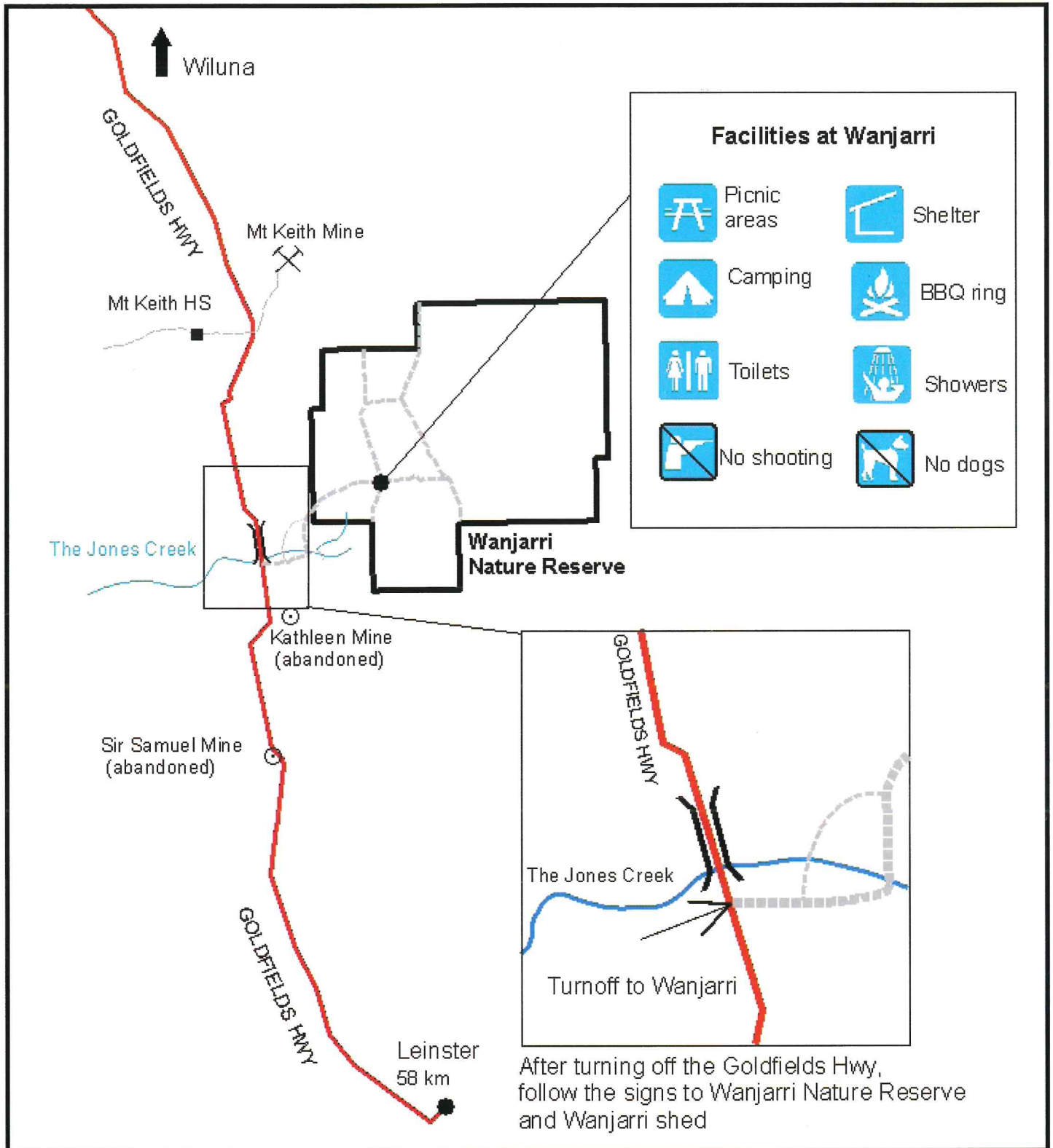
How to get there

58km north of Leinster and 15km east of the main highway- bush track access only.



Contact us:
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Wanjarri Nature Reserve Map



Department of Environment and Conservation

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