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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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Millstream is part of a dynamic natural system, and continual changes are occurring in the vegetation that grows there, and consequently the wildlife that depends on it. Information shelters in the Park will tell you more about what's happening in the Millstream system and the Chichester Ranges.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

CAMPING

Camping areas, equipped with rubbish bins, bush toilets, and fireplaces, are located near major features in the Park. You may camp only in these areas (see map). A camping fee applies and will be collected by the Park ranger at the campsite. Generators are not permitted at one camping area at Crossing Pool. If you use a generator please turn it off before 9.00 p.m.

WATER

Water is available at the Park headquarters but always carry your own.

SWIMMING

Swimming is an excellent way to cool off, but take care with your children. The water is very deep.

BOATING

Row boats, canoes and sail boards are welcome on Deep Reach and Crossing Pool. Power boats are not permitted.

BUSHWALKING

Bushwalking along the river and watercourses can take you into the truly wild areas of the Park. If you are planning an extended trip tell either your friends or the ranger where you are going and when you intend to be back. For your own safety make sure you stick to the route plan you've given.

SUPPLIES

Roebourne: 150 km
Wittenoom: 180 km
Karratha: 190 km
Tom Price: 175 km

REMEMBER

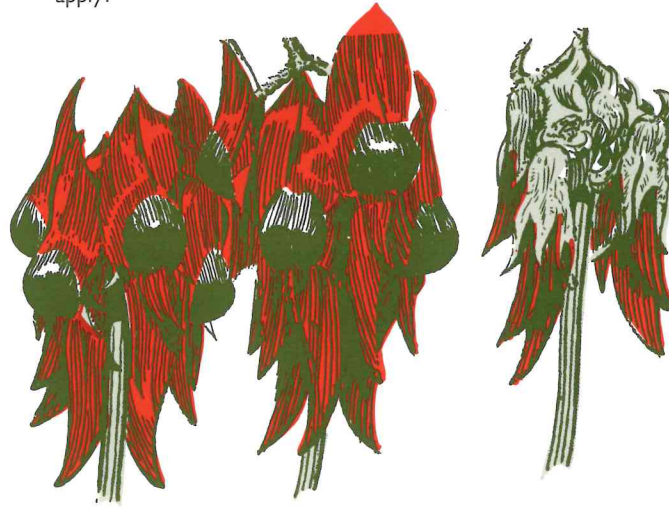
BE CAREFUL: Your safety in national parks is our concern, but your responsibility.

BE CLEAN: Put your litter in bins, or, better still, take it with you.

BE COOL: Only light fires in the fireplaces provided. Use your own portable gas stove whenever possible.

PROTECT ANIMALS AND PLANTS: Pets and firearms are not permitted in the Park.

STAY ON THE ROAD: Follow the signs in the Park, and stay on the roads marked on the map. Normal road rules apply.



FURTHER INFORMATION

National Park rangers are always glad to help make your visit more enjoyable and informative. Do not hesitate to contact them if you need information or assistance.

Department of Conservation and Land Management

Millstream-Chichester National Park
Phone (091) 84 5144. A/H (091) 84 5125.

Pilbara Regional Office
Welcome Road, Karratha 6717
Phone (091) 86 8288.

Department of Conservation and Land Management
50 Hayman Road, Como, W.A. 6152
(09) 367 0333
1987



MILLSTREAM - CHICHESTER NATIONAL PARK



Department of
Conservation and Land Management

Millstream–Chichester National Park protects nearly 200 000 ha of clay tablelands and sediment-capped basalt ranges that straddle the central Pilbara. Through the south-west corner of the Park runs the course of the Fortescue River.

At Millstream, on the Fortescue, natural fresh-water springs which overflow from the Millstream aquifer have created an oasis in this arid country. Cut off from the rest of the world by the semi-desert surrounding them an extraordinary variety of plants and animals, many of which are extremely rare, depend on the Millstream pools for their existence.

In the Chichester Ranges the landscape is dominated by rolling hills, hummocks of spinifex, white-barked snappy gums on the uplands, and along the usually dry watercourses, pale coolabahs.

The Pilbara is arid tropics. During the summer, between October and April, temperatures rise above 40°C, and cyclones crossing the coast in the latter part of the season can flood roads and watercourses. The cool season, between May and August, is usually the best time to visit, with day temperatures staying around 26°C. Nights at this time of year can be cool, so don't forget to bring warm clothes.



PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Near permanent water the tough little snappy gums and cork-bark hakeas give way, with the spinifex, to a lush forest of tropical paperbarks (cajeputs), belts of river gums, and in places the fanned leaves and smooth bark of a grove of Millstream palms. Millstream palms are extraordinary: a species apparently left behind in moist soils when an ancient vegetation retreated as the climate became more arid. These palms have been found at only two other places in the world – both of them in the Pilbara.

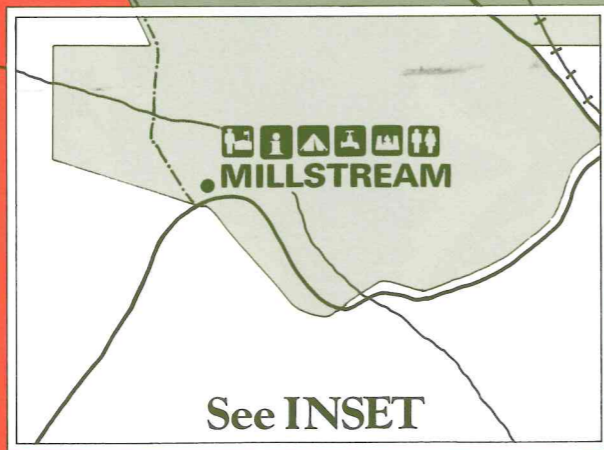
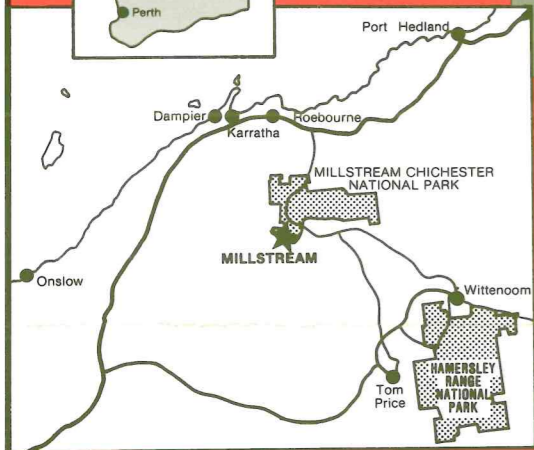
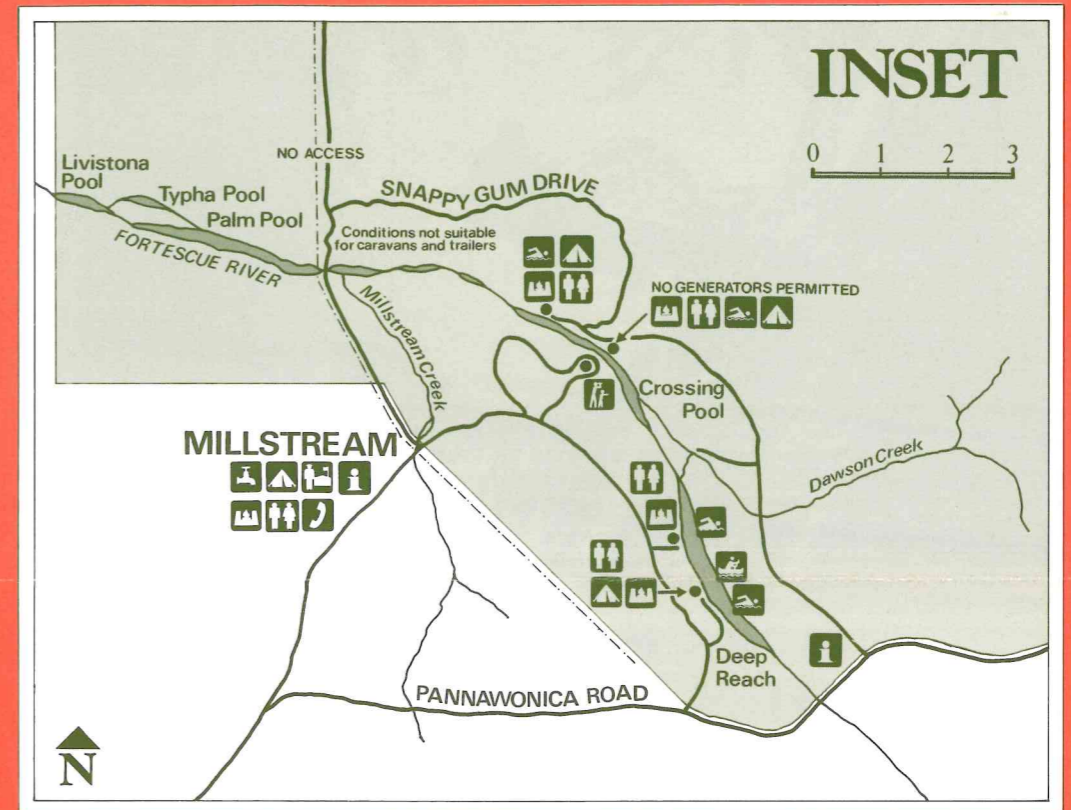
THE ENVIRONMENT

The Pilbara is dry and hot for much of the year, and during the day wildlife is seldom seen. Life is governed by the need to conserve water and keep cool. Many plants flower, not in spring as they do in more temperate regions, but after the rain. This may be cyclonic rain which falls in summer, or the gentler rainfall of the winter months. Those that follow the seasons usually flower in June, July and August, and this is the best time to see the Pilbara wildflowers.

In profile the Pilbara rises from the western coastal plain to the Chichester Ranges, drops away to the ancient bed of the Fortescue River, then rises again to the vast bulk of the Hamersleys. In this often dramatic landscape there are hidden pools of permanent water, usually fed by underground springs. Millstream is the largest of these, and some remarkable changes take place near its banks.



From Millstream to
Roebourne 140km
Karratha 180km



MILLSTREAM CHICHESTER NATIONAL PARK

KEY TO SYMBOLS

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| BARBECUES | RANGERS RESIDENCE |
| CAMPING | TOILETS |
| CANOEING | TELEPHONE |
| INFORMATION | SWIMMING |
| LOOKOUT | WATER(DRINKING) |



From Millstream to Wittenoom 180 km