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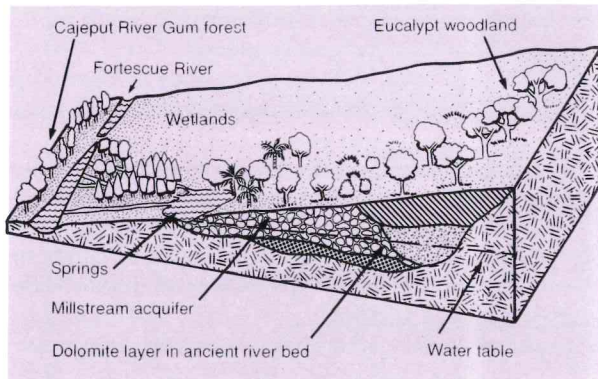
Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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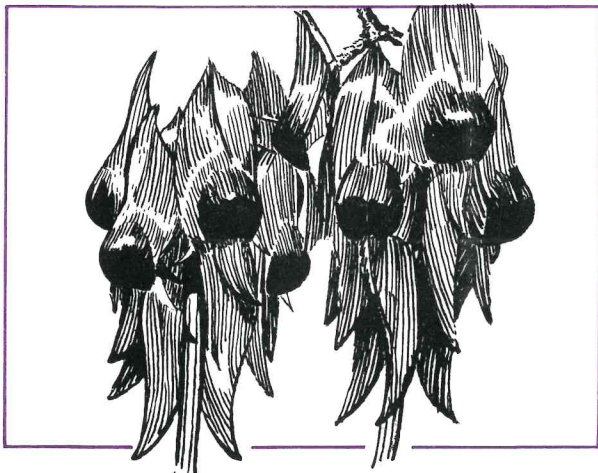
THE WAY OF WATER

The water which feeds the Millstream oasis springs from an aquifer, or natural underground reserve, contained in the porous dolomite rock. This aquifer is fed by the Fortescue River catchment area, which includes runoff from the Hamersley Range. The aquifer has an estimated area of 2000 square kilometres and is believed to contain 1700 million cubic metres of water.

Used in tandem with the Harding Dam the aquifer supplies water to people in the towns of Wickham, Dampier and Karratha. The water level is constantly monitored and, in times of low water, pumps can be used to keep the Millstream pools topped up and flowing, an essential safeguard for the long-term survival of the wetland and its dependent life.



A cross section of the Fortescue valley near Millstream



CARE FOR THE PARK

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

BE COOL: Avoid causing wildfires. Only light fires in the fireplaces provided. Use a portable gas stove whenever possible.

BE KIND: Do not disturb animals, plants or rocks. Pets and firearms are not permitted.

BE CAUTIOUS: Follow the signs in the park and stay on the roads marked on the map. Roads may be closed after heavy rain, check travel conditions with the Main Roads Department telephone (008 13316).

BE WISE: Leave the natural environment as you find it for all to enjoy. Several weeds threaten the park; please brush seeds from clothing and equipment before moving on.

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

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

Millstream-Chichester National Park
PO Box 835, Karratha WA 6714
Phone (091) 84 5144.
Facsimile: (091) 84 5146

Pilbara Regional Office
Department of Conservation and Land Management
Welcome Road
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50 Hayman Road
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MILLSTREAM -CHICHESTER

National Park



VISITOR AND WALK TRAIL GUIDE



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Most of the 200,000 hectare Millstream-Chichester National Park is a landscape of rolling spinifex hills, spectacular escarpments and winding tree-lined watercourses. In contrast is the lush oasis of the Millstream wetlands.

The arid-land plants and animals respond dramatically to infrequent rainfall events. The wetlands support many species of plants, birds and insects, some of which are related to species in the more tropical Kimberley.

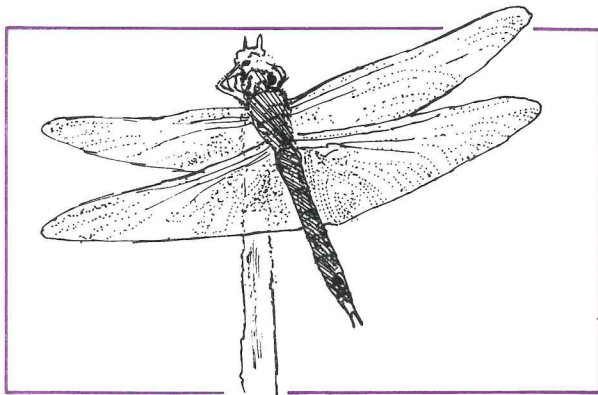
The area has an interesting cultural history. It was a focal point for the Yinjibarndi people and an active pastoral station for over 100 years. It is now recognized as a national park with significant natural, recreational and cultural values.

The park's shady camping areas near deep pools attract tourists and locals all year round, although winter is the best time to visit.

When you visit the park first call into the newly refurbished Millstream Homestead Visitor Centre, which will provide you with information on the many features of the park.

CLIMATE

The Pilbara is classified as the arid tropics. During the summer, between October and April, temperatures rise above 40 degrees Celsius, and cyclones and local thunderstorms can flood roads and watercourses. The cool season, between May and August, experiences little rain, with day-time temperatures around 26 degrees Celsius. Nights at this time of year can be cool, so don't forget to bring warm clothes.

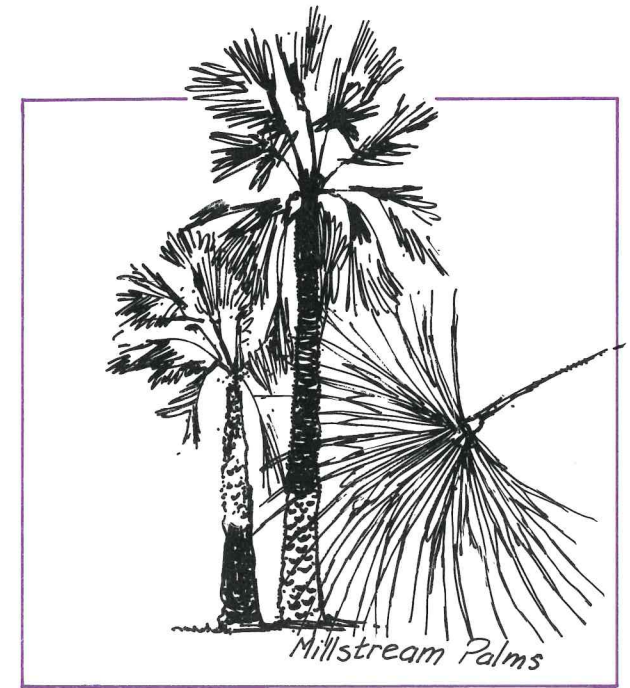
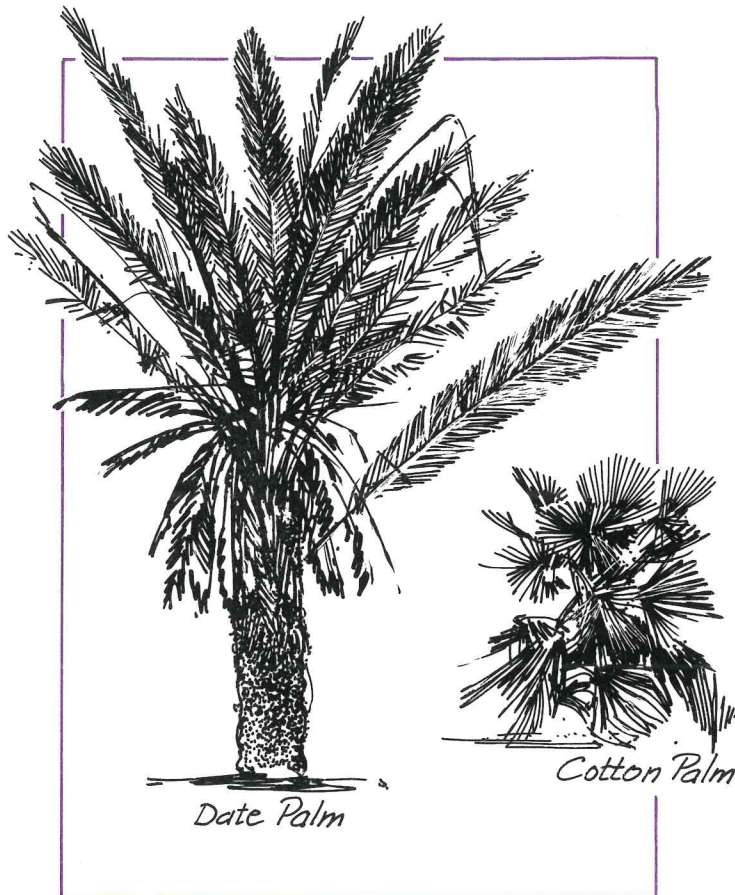


THE ENVIRONMENT

The Chichester Range rises sharply from the coastal plain and includes rocky peaks, tranquil gorges, and hidden rock pools. Scattered white-barked gums and pincushion spinifex clumps cover the stony plateau, which gradually slopes down to the bed of the Fortescue River before rising again to the vast bulk of the Hamersley Range.

Along the river lies the Millstream oasis with its string of deep spring-fed pools fringed by sedges, palm groves and paperbark forest.

Fires caused by lightning strikes do occur. Burnt areas recover quickly after rain and provide a variety of food and habitats for local wildlife.



WILDLIFE

Wildlife is seldom seen during hot, dry days, which are prevalent most of the year. Life is governed by the need to conserve water and keep cool. Plants flower after rain when blankets of mulla-mulla and Sturt's pea cover the landscape. The soft yellow flowers of wattles and the cockroach bush provide a dramatic contrast to the hard red earth. Generally the winter months, from June to August, are the best time to see Pilbara wildflowers.

Plants more typical of the tropical north grow near permanent water pools. Of special interest is the Millstream palm (*Livistona alfredii*) with its fanned, grey-green leaves and smooth bark. Introduced species such as date palms and cotton palms planted by pioneers have now spread throughout the Millstream Delta. Other weeds include the Indian water fern and the water lily.

Twenty two species of dragonfly and damselfly have been recorded for the Millstream wetlands and resident mammals include the black flying fox and the euro (the common kangaroo of the rocky country). A variety of spectacular birds can be seen during the cooler hours of the day, especially near water.

THROUGH THE PAST

Yinjibarndi People

The broad area of land straddling the Fortescue River from the Hamersley Ranges through to the Chichester escarpment is the homeland of the Yinjibarndi people. Ngarrari (Millstream) was an important camp site for inter-tribal meetings. Visitors camped beside Chinderwariner Pool. There they feasted on fresh fish and edible plant roots, harvested wood for spears and collected rocks for ritual purposes.



Millstream Pastoral Station

Millstream was named in 1861 by the explorer F.T. Gregory who reported its favourable grazing prospects. The pastoral lease first taken up in 1865, changed hands several times before it was taken over by Les Gordon in 1925. In its heyday the station covered over 400,000 hectares and ran 55,000 sheep. The present homestead built in 1914 housed the Gordon family until 1964. It was a tavern between 1975 and 1986 when the lease was purchased by CALM. It is now a visitor centre.

The National Park

Previously two separate parks, the area was expanded into one park in 1982. Yinjibarndi people have been trained and employed as rangers and contract workers.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

MILLSTREAM HOMESTEAD VISITOR CENTRE

Start your visit by calling into the visitor centre which features rooms dedicated to the Yinjibarndi people, the early settlers and the natural environment. Other displays inform you of the park's attractions and management issues. The park office is also in the centre.

CAMPING

Shady bush-style camping areas with pit toilets are provided at Crossing Pool, Deep Reach Pool and Snake Creek. The former two are equipped with gas barbecues or fireplaces (wood provided). You may camp only in these areas. There is a generator-free area at Crossing Pool. Elsewhere, if you are using a generator please turn it off before 9.00 pm.

PICNICKING

Gas barbecues are available in day use areas at the Homestead and Deep Reach Pool.

FEES

Fees are charged for camping or day use.

WATER

Drinking water is available in the Visitor Centre car park but always carry plenty of your own.

SWIMMING

Enjoy a swim in the cool, permanent waterholes but take care, especially with children; the water is deep and can be very cold in winter. Banks are steep and slippery so use embankment ladders for safe and easy access to and from the water.

BOATING

Row boats, canoes and rafts are welcome on Deep Reach and Crossing Pools. Power boats are not permitted.

WALK TRAILS

MILLSTREAM

Homestead Walk (750 m, 30 minute circuit).

Let young Doug Gordon (aged 12) take you back through the homestead grounds as they were in the 1930s. The trail goes via the palms to Chinderwariner Pool.

Murlunmunyjurna Track (6.8 Km, 2 hrs return)

This trail, linking the homestead with Crossing Pool, traverses riverine vegetation, spinifex hills, wattle thickets, groves of Millstream palms and tall paperbark forest. Take care crossing the river. Trailside plaques interpret the importance of certain plants to the Yinjibarndi people.

CHICHESTER RANGES

Chichester Range Camel Track (8 km one way, allow 3 hrs). A Guide is available.

This Heritage Trail crosses the rugged sandstone terrain of the Chichester Range following along part of the old camel road and linking Mt Herbert and Python Pool. It is best to begin from Mt Herbert and follow the downhill gradient. McKenzie Spring, 2.25 km along the track, was a watering hole for the camels. An alternate trail up the camel track from Python Pool takes you to a ridge where the view and a seat provide the chance to ponder the pioneering spirit of the past cameleers.

TAKE CARE in this harsh environment, carry plenty of water and wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes.

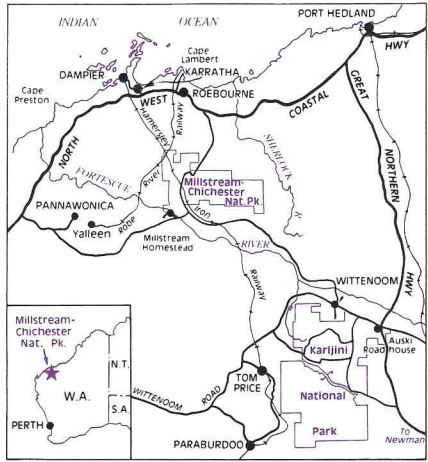
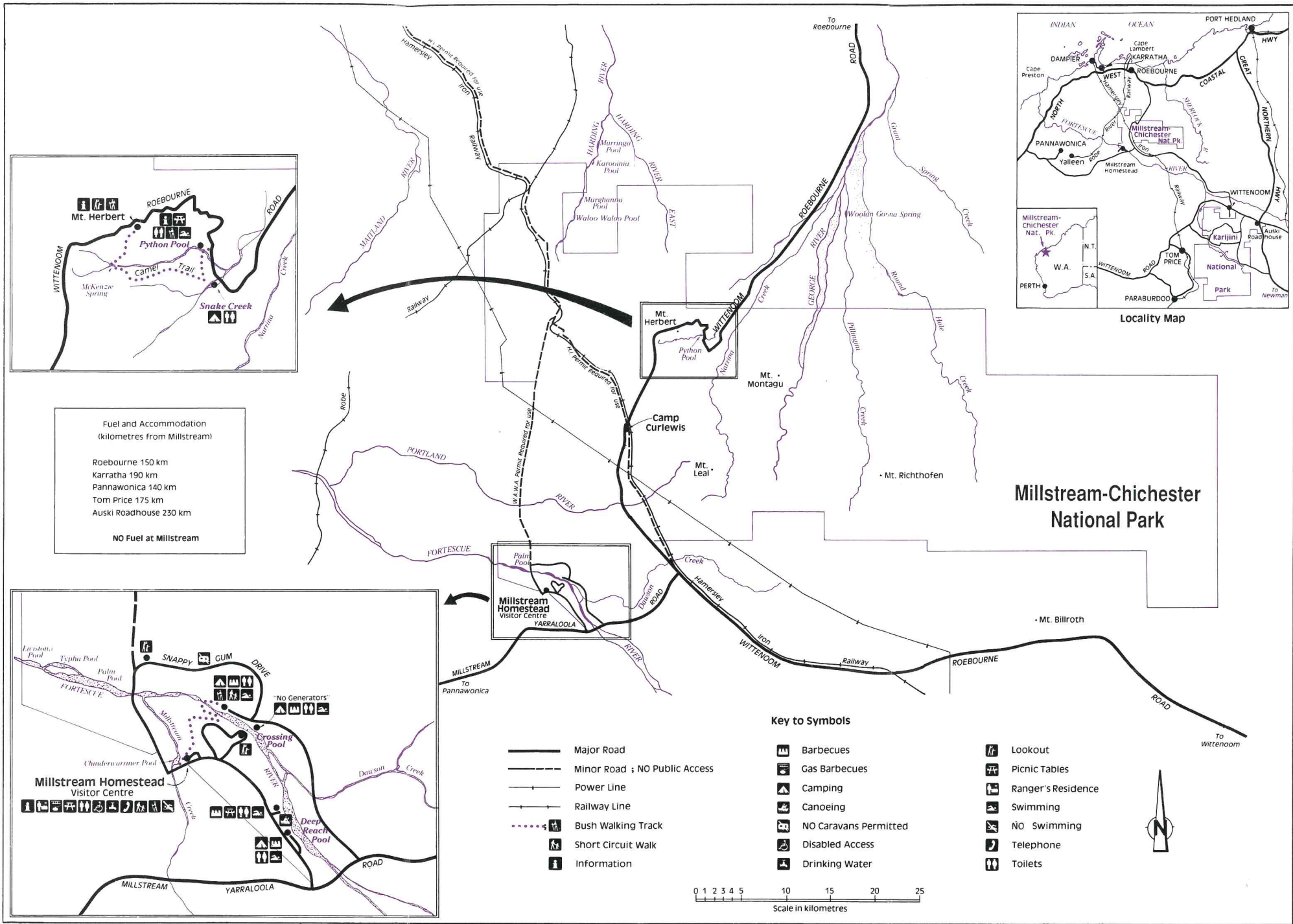
ROAD TRAILS

Millstream Circuit via Snappy Gum Drive (30 km).

This trail links the Visitor Centre with Crossing Pool, Deep Reach and Cliff Lookout. The drive derives its name from the robust snappy gums that dominate the hilltops. *It is not suitable for caravans or trailers.*

Cliff Lookout Drive (6 km circuit).

The lookout provides a picturesque view of Crossing Pool and the extensive riverine forest dominated by paperbarks.

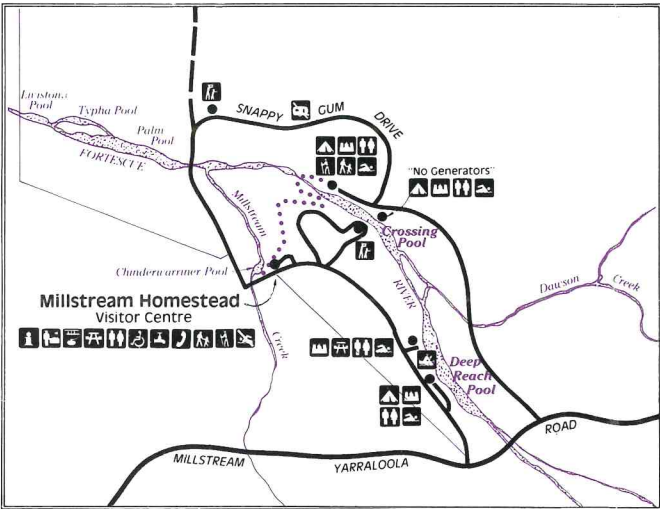


Locality Map

Fuel and Accommodation (kilometres from Millstream)

Roebourne 150 km
 Karratha 190 km
 Pannawonica 140 km
 Tom Price 175 km
 Auski Roadhouse 230 km

NO Fuel at Millstream



Key to Symbols

- | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|--------------------|
| | Major Road | | Barbecues | | Lookout |
| | Minor Road ; NO Public Access | | Gas Barbecues | | Picnic Tables |
| | Power Line | | Camping | | Ranger's Residence |
| | Railway Line | | Canoeing | | Swimming |
| | Bush Walking Track | | NO Caravans Permitted | | NO Swimming |
| | Short Circuit Walk | | Disabled Access | | Telephone |
| | Information | | Drinking Water | | Toilets |

