

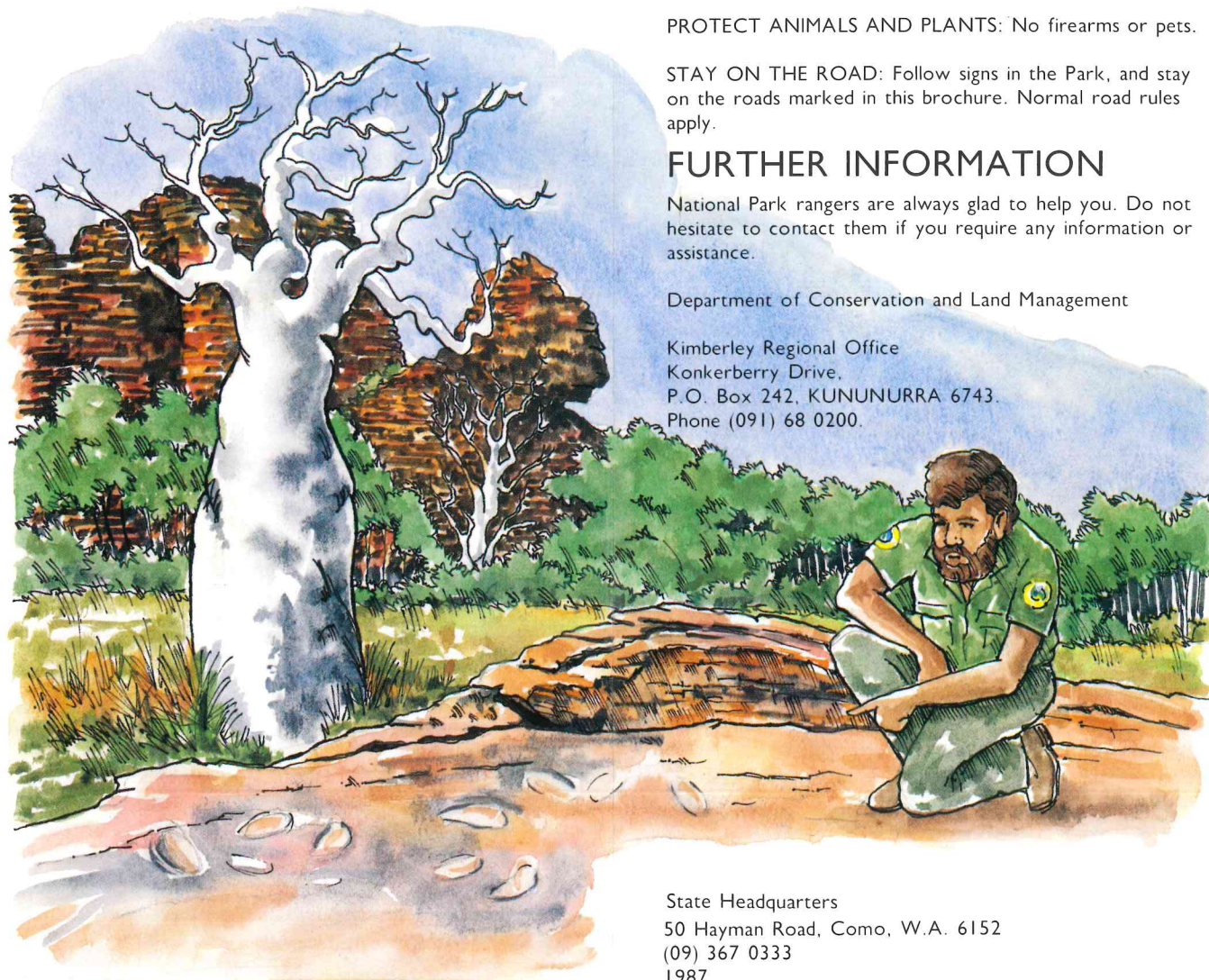
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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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WILDLIFE

Frogs, tortoises, geckos, goannas, snakes and other reptiles can sometimes be seen, especially near the waters of Lily Creek. The observant may encounter the agile wallaby or the short-eared rock wallaby, fruit and insectivorous bats, dingoes or an echidna. Birds of many types abound in the area and include the black kite, the seed-eating finches, quails, pigeons, including the white-quilled rock pigeon, and many more. A comprehensive bird list is available and further information on the fauna can be obtained from the ranger.



REMEMBER

BE WISE: Please don't remove stones, plants, artefacts or wood etc. from your national park.

BE CAREFUL: Your enjoyment and safety in natural environments is our concern, but your responsibility.

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

STAY COOL: No open fires permitted.

PROTECT ANIMALS AND PLANTS: No firearms or pets.

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

FURTHER INFORMATION

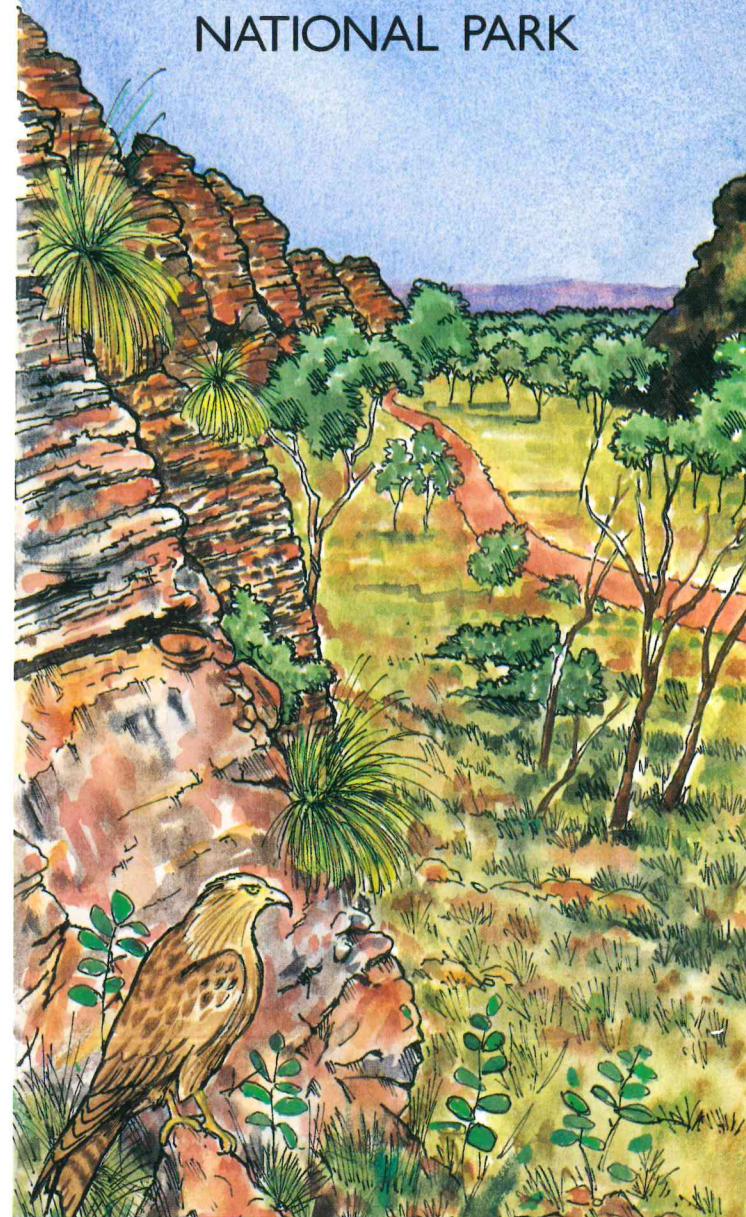
National Park rangers are always glad to help you. Do not hesitate to contact them if you require any information or assistance.

Department of Conservation and Land Management

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MIRIMA HIDDEN VALLEY NATIONAL PARK



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT W.A.

A stone's throw from Kununurra, and yet a world away, is a valley with rugged cliffs forming amphitheatres, gullies and ridges. In this secluded spot Aboriginal people have lived for thousands of years.

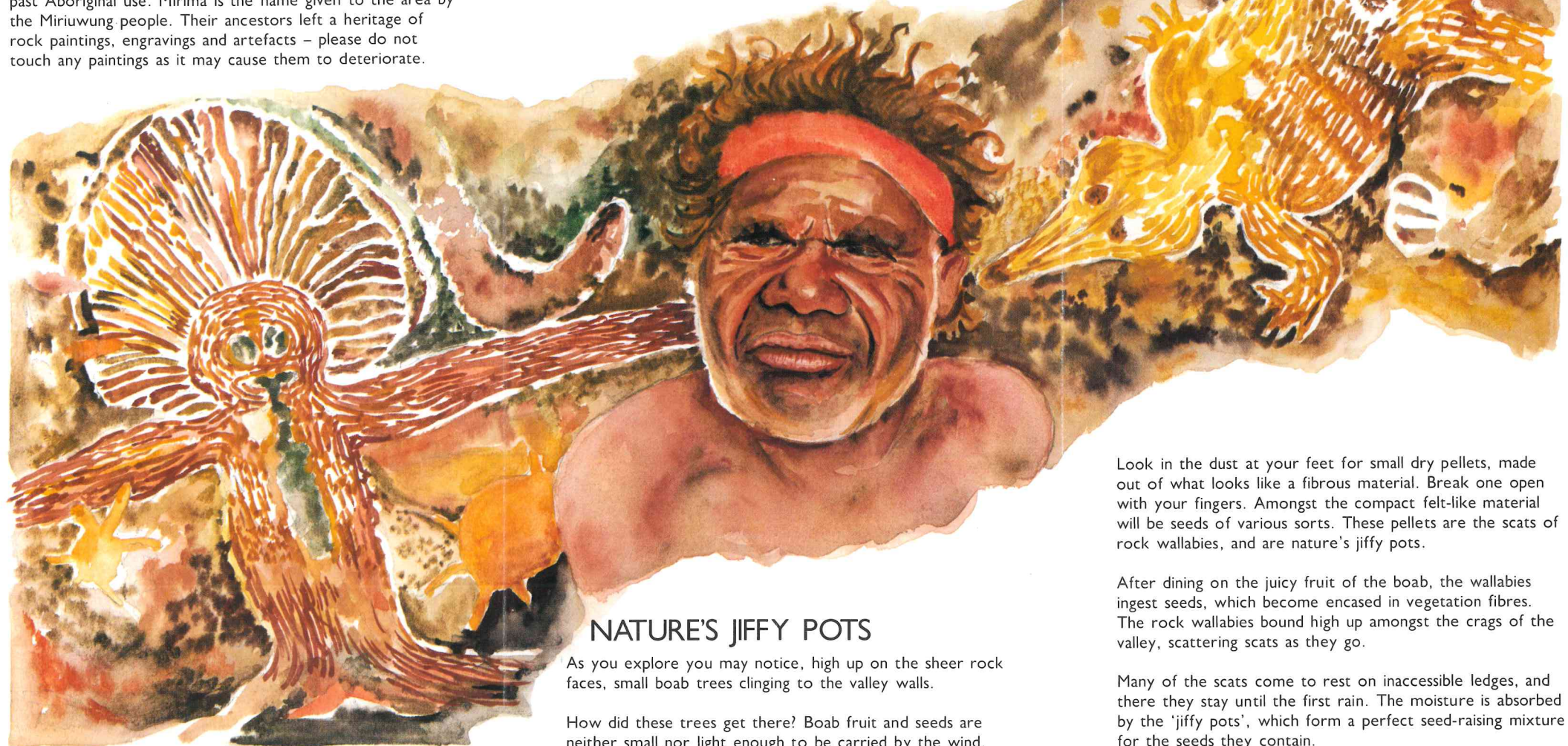
In daylight the steep and broken walls of rock come alive as they reflect in tones of changing colour. In the late afternoon, shadows form imaginary faces which stare in silence as birds of prey wheel in the sky over this intricate maze.

This is the Hidden Valley of Mirima National Park. Within the Park you will find the rugged scenery of an eroded sandstone range, varied plant and animal life adapted to the seasons of wet and dry, as well as fascinating evidence of past Aboriginal use. Mirima is the name given to the area by the Miriuwung people. Their ancestors left a heritage of rock paintings, engravings and artefacts – please do not touch any paintings as it may cause them to deteriorate.

Most of the 750 mm annual rain in the area falls during the wet season from January to March. Daytime temperatures are hot most of the year, the coolest months being June, July and August.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Gradual erosion of the quartz sandstone by the waters of Lily Creek and its tributaries has created a large number of cul-de-sacs, amphitheatres and twisting valleys. The rock is some 300 million years old and its sedimentary nature can be seen in the layers or strata in which it has been laid down. Several species of eucalypts dominate the area and these include the aptly named woollybutt close to the cliff bases, and the long fruited bloodwood which grows in the moister areas of the main valleys within the Park.



NATURE'S JIFFY POTS

As you explore you may notice, high up on the sheer rock faces, small boab trees clinging to the valley walls.

How did these trees get there? Boab fruit and seeds are neither small nor light enough to be carried by the wind.

Look in the dust at your feet for small dry pellets, made out of what looks like a fibrous material. Break one open with your fingers. Amongst the compact felt-like material will be seeds of various sorts. These pellets are the scats of rock wallabies, and are nature's jiffy pots.

After dining on the juicy fruit of the boab, the wallabies ingest seeds, which become encased in vegetation fibres. The rock wallabies bound high up amongst the crags of the valley, scattering scats as they go.

Many of the scats come to rest on inaccessible ledges, and there they stay until the first rain. The moisture is absorbed by the 'jiffy pots', which form a perfect seed-raising mixture for the seeds they contain.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

CAMPING

Camping available at caravan parks nearby.

BUSHWALKS

Views to Kununurra and over surrounding areas can be seen from a number of scenic vantage points. Try one of these signed walks, or ask the ranger about other points of interest.

Walk 1. Lily Pool: A 100 metre return easy walk featuring examples of stone axe grinding grooves above the Lily Pool. Here the use of water, sand and repetitive rubbing established a cutting edge on stone implements. Please stay on the defined trail. The area is fragile.

Walk 2. Wutuwtutubin Track (meaning short and narrow in the Miriungung dialect). A 500 metre return walk within a steep-sided gorge offering a view through to Kununurra.

Walk 3. Didbagirring Track (lookout). A difficult walk of 1 km up steep slopes with some loose rock, but the adventurous walker is rewarded with views of the area and the Bungle Bungle-like rock formations of Hidden Valley.

CAUTION

Much of the rock in Hidden Valley is brittle and crumbly. Do not stand on or walk close to cliff edges. Stay on marked tracks or, if venturing further, ensure that someone knows your proposed route and time of return.

BEFORE WALKING – Go prepared. Wear a hat and sunscreen and wear sturdy shoes or boots. Take drinking water with you.

