

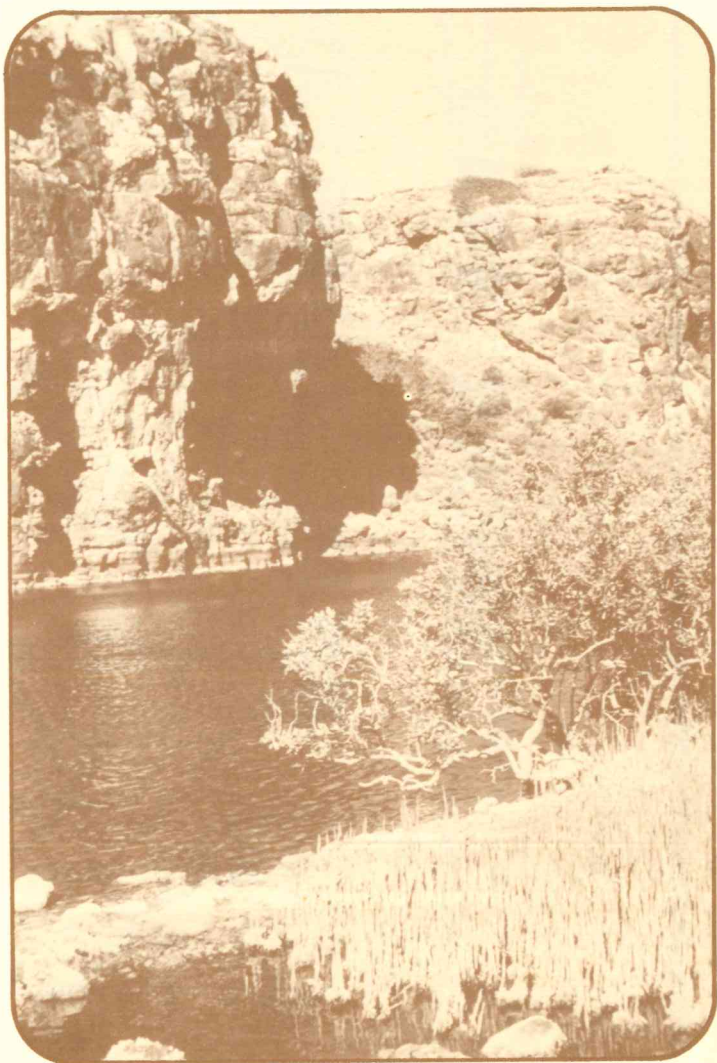
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Department of Biodiversity,
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CAPE RANGE NATIONAL PARK



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comprises tranquil beaches, rugged ranges and magnificent canyons and is situated on the western side of the North West Cape. The Cape Range, backbone of the Cape, is a huge upward fold of limestone originally formed below the sea. Erosion of the limestone has gouged vast canyons in the sides of the range and subsequent deposition of the eroded material along each side of the range has helped build up coastal plains. These have been modified over the ages by various processes such as wave action at times of higher sea levels and the formation of dunes made from wind blown sand along the coast.

Two roads run from the Learmonth-Exmouth highway into the range from the eastern side. Shothole Canyon Road winds along the bottom of Shothole Canyon while Charles Knife Road runs along a razor back ridge between two canyons to the crest of the range where WAPET drilled a well in search of oil. The capped well head is at the end of the road. Both roads are well signposted from the highway. A 5 Km walking trail connects the two roads picnic areas (see map over and separate brochure). *We regret that camping is not permitted in this area.*

The road from Exmouth around the end of the cape passes close to the U.S. Navy's communication tower (Tower Zero being the highest man-made structure in the southern hemisphere at 387.5 m), Vlaming Head Lighthouse and continues down the western coast for the full length of the national park. *However the crossing over the mouth of Yardie Creek near the southern boundary can be treacherous and we recommend that you do not attempt to drive across it.*

Short spur roads take you to numerous picnic spots and campsites along the coast and one track leads to the mouth of Mandu Mandu gorge. Walking up the gorge in the early morning or the evening makes a very pleasant excursion.

A highlight of any visit to this Park is Yardie Creek where deep blue water cut off from the sea by a sandbar on the coast, lies imprisoned between vertical cliffs giving one the impression of a semi-tropical fjord. Take time to walk along the cliff tops and keep an eye open for Rock wallabies; they are sometimes seen here.

The following notes will be useful for you.

CAMPING AND CARAVANS

There are numerous camping spots along the coast. These are depicted on the map. The Rangers will always be glad to offer advice on suitable spots. *Camping fees are \$3.00 per night for one or two people and 50¢ per additional person. Camping is limited to seven nights in any one spot and 28 nights in the Park each calendar year.*

The road south of Neds Camp may be rough and you are advised not to take your caravan south of that Point.

CAMPING FACILITIES

Camping facilities are rudimentary. You are advised to bring your own chemical toilet. If you require modern facilities, we suggest you camp in Exmouth or at one of the *other* excellent caravan parks in the area (information from the Tourist Bureau, Exmouth) and visit the Park from there. There is no charge for day visitors to the Park.

WATER

Fresh water is available at Mangrove bore near the northern park entrance. The road is signboarded.

COOKING

Please use portable cooking appliances. Because of the lack of firewood BBQ's are not generally provided. Ground fires are not permitted. By complying with this request you will help to reduce the risk of bushfires and avoid leaving unsightly piles of ashes. In addition you will be furthering the cause of conservation. Remember even dead logs are homes to many animals.

PETS

As in all National Parks we regret that pets are not permitted, so please, no dogs.

WILDLIFE

The National Park abounds in wildlife. Two areas of special interest to naturalists, especially ornithologists, are Yardie Creek and Mangrove Creek. There are a number of plants unique to the Cape and Botanists will be surprised to find plants normally associated with the south west of the State growing here. Examples are *Hibbertia* and *Banksia*; the former often growing amongst spinifex tussocks. Needless to say *all plants and animals are protected.*

DRIVERS

The kangaroos are common and very tame. They often lie in the shade of shrubs alongside the roads. By driving slowly, you will avoid damage to your car and the possibility of death and injury to these animals.

BUSH WALKERS

Cape Range is very rugged and waterless. Temperatures in the gorges can be much higher than elsewhere. Many experienced bushwalkers have been overcome by exhaustion because they underestimated the harsh conditions. *Ensure you have adequate footwear and clothing, take plenty of water; LET SOMEONE KNOW where you intend to go and keep to that plan.*

RANGERS

The Ranger in Charge lives in Exmouth (Telephone 099 49 1428, address Nimitz Street, Post Box 55, Exmouth 6707). During the months from May to October a Mobile Ranger lives near the northern entrance to the Park on the west coast. The Ranger will always be glad to offer you any assistance or advice you may require.

OTHER INFORMATION

Additional information on this and other National Parks can be obtained from the Ranger in Charge (address as above), the Regional Superintendent, Northern Region, P.O. Box 119, Karratha W.A. 6714 or National Parks Authority Head Office, Hackett Drive, Nedlands. 6009.

Information on other aspects of the North West Cape is available from the Tourist Bureau in Exmouth.

NATIONAL PARKS AUTHORITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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