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Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

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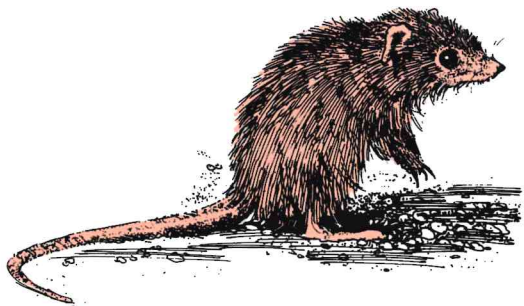
## FURTHER INFORMATION

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

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Tom Price WA 6751  
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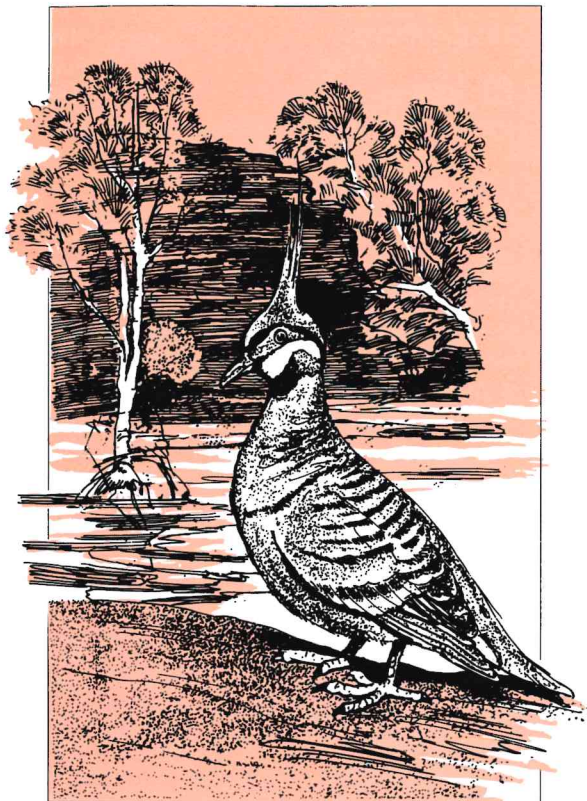
 Department of Conservation  
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# KARIJINI

*National Park*



## VISITOR INFORMATION & WALK TRAIL GUIDE



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND LAND MANAGEMENT

## TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Banjima, Innawonga and Kurrama Aboriginal people, the traditional owners, call the Hamersley Range *Karijini*. The name of the park recognises the historic and continuing significance of the area to these people, and their involvement in park management.

Evidence of their ancestors' occupation dates back more than 20 000 years. During that period, Aboriginal land management practices such as 'fire stick farming', resulting in a diversity of vegetation types and stages of succession, have helped determine the nature of the plants and animals found in the park today.

## CLIMATE

Situated just north of the Tropic of Capricorn, the park's climate can best be described as tropical semi-desert. A highly variable, mainly summer rainfall of 250–350 mm, often associated with thunderstorms and cyclones, is accompanied by temperatures frequently topping 40° Celsius. The ideal times to visit the park are winter and spring. Winter days are warm and clear, but nights are cold and sometimes frosty.

## GEOLOGY

The banded iron formations exposed in many of the rocks in and around the gorges originated more than 2 500 million years ago as iron and silica-rich sediment deposits that accumulated on an ancient sea-floor. Over millions of years, these iron-rich deposits were transformed by the pressure of further sediments laid down over them, forcing trapped water to be driven out and gradually turning the sediments into tough, well-bedded rock.

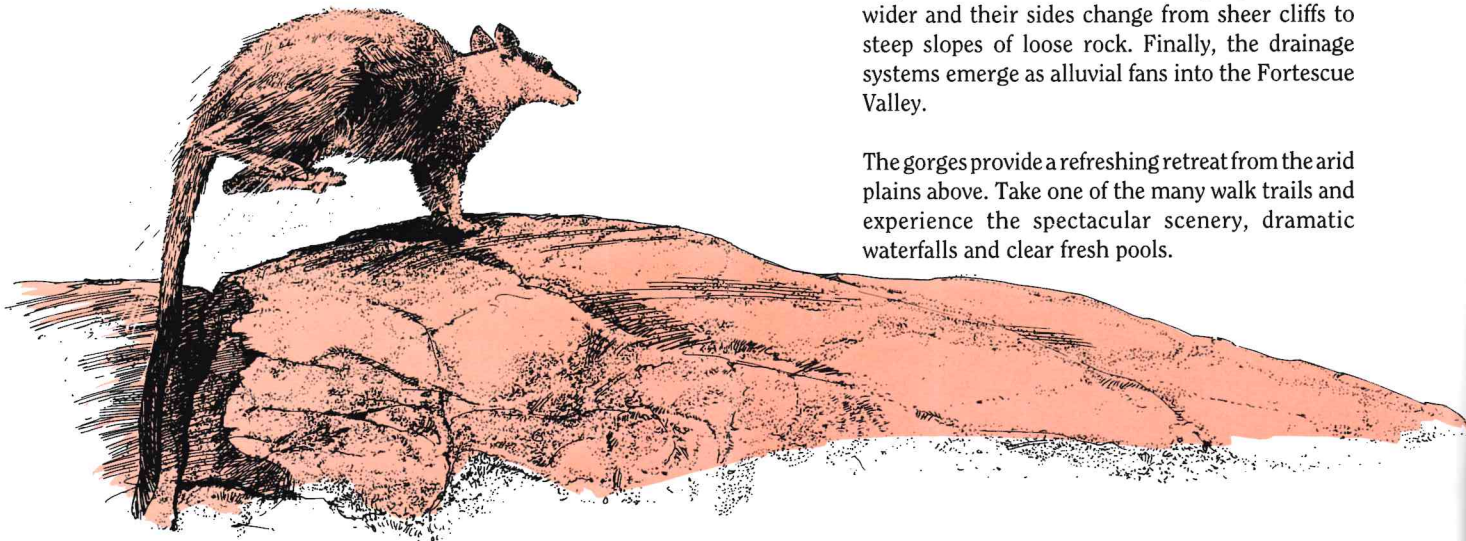
Horizontal compression later caused the rocks to buckle, developing numerous vertical cracks, before lifting to the surface to form dry land.

A sharp drop in sea-level caused the rivers to cut down rapidly through the land, creating sheer-sided gorges; this, combined with millions of years of erosion, has sculptured the rocks into the present landscape.

## THE GORGES

In the north of the parks, small creekbeds, hidden in the rolling hillsides and dry for most of the year, suddenly plunge down chasms up to 100 metres deep. Further downstream, the gorges become wider and their sides change from sheer cliffs to steep slopes of loose rock. Finally, the drainage systems emerge as alluvial fans into the Fortescue Valley.

The gorges provide a refreshing retreat from the arid plains above. Take one of the many walk trails and experience the spectacular scenery, dramatic waterfalls and clear fresh pools.



## WILDLIFE

Wildflowers vary in abundance with the seasons and from year to year, but there is always something interesting in flower. Many plants in the park bloom profusely after rains. In the cooler months, the land is covered with numerous yellow flowering sennas (cassias) and acacias, northern bluebells and purple mulla-mullas.

Birds are many and varied, especially in fringing vegetation along pools and streams. If you are observant, you may encounter red kangaroos, euros (kangaroos that are common to the rocky country), Rothschild's rock-wallaby, bats and dingoes.

Many species of native rodents and native marsupial carnivores such as the Pilbara ninguai are resident, but are nocturnal and shy. Reptiles such as frogs, geckoes, goannas, dragons, legless lizards, pythons and other snakes abound within the park.

Two interesting wildlife homes are the large termite mounds, scattered through out the hummock grasslands, and the rock piles of the pebble mound mouse. Look for mouse mounds on stony slopes, but please do not disturb them.

## THINGS TO SEE AND DO

### CAMPING

Camping is permitted ONLY at those sites indicated on the map. Caravan, bus and generator sites are available at Dales. Facilities include bush toilets, gas barbecues and picnic tables.

**RUBBISH:** Please take your rubbish with you. Money spent on rubbish collection can now be directed towards the improvement of visitor services and facilities.

**IMPORTANT:** Generators must be turned off overnight between 9.00 pm and 7.00 am. Please make sure your activities do not spoil the enjoyment of others.

### WATER

Drinking water is available from tanks located at those sites indicated on the map. Carry plenty of water at all times.

### LOOKOUTS

Lookout structures have been installed at Hancock Gorge, Knox Gorge, Joffre Gorge, Circular pool and the junction in Dales Gorge.

**BE CAREFUL:** Serious accidents have occurred! Please take extra care around gorge rims. Many areas are loose underfoot. Your safety is our concern, but your responsibility.

**Do not throw rocks as there may be walkers below.**

### BUSHWALKING

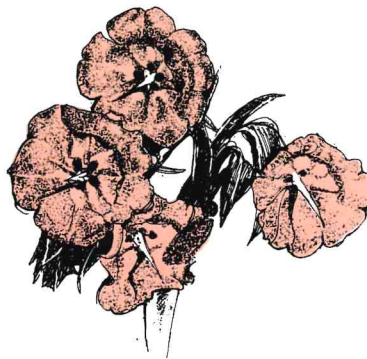
Choose an appropriate trail presented in the guide overleaf to help you to explore the gorges.

**BE PREPARED:** Go with at least two other people, wear protective clothing, sunscreen with a SPF of 15+ and sturdy walking shoes, and take plenty of water. Consult rangers where necessary.

### SWIMMING

In most gorges you will find permanent pools of clear, fresh water. Some are deep, shaded and very cold, while others, exposed to the sun, may be pleasant places for a quick dip.

**BEWARE:** Wet rocks are slippery. Water is extremely cold from April to September and hypothermia can occur.



Set in the Hamersley Range in the heart of the Pilbara, the expansive Karijini National Park offers spectacular rugged scenery, ancient geological formations, a variety of arid-land ecosystems and a range of recreational experiences.

This is the State's second-biggest national park, encompassing some 627 445 hectares.

Massive mountains and escarpments rise out of the flat valleys. The high plateau is dissected by breathtaking gorges, and stony, tree-lined watercourses wind their way over the dusty plain.

This is an ancient part of the Earth. The slow process of erosion has carved the shape of the land out of rocks that are 2000 million years old, to form this intriguing landscape and complex ecology.

A variety of ecosystems are represented in the park. These range from precipitous gorges that shelter a remarkable range of plants and animals to hills, ridges and plateaus covered with spinifex hummocks and scattered eucalypts. Low mulga woodlands and blankets of seasonal wildflowers bloom on lower slopes, valley plains and in drainage lines.

Most of the southern half of the park is largely inaccessible. Visitors concentrate on the spectacular gorges in the north—with their rock pools, waterfalls and unique wildlife. Lookouts, walk trails, camping areas and information shelters are provided to make your visit safe, enjoyable and informative.

## VISITOR FEES

Park visitor fees apply in Karijini National Park and help maintain and enhance the park. Please pay your entry fees at the entrance stations or, before visiting the park, at Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) offices, or the local tourist bureau. At the camping areas, please deposit your camping fees in the collection boxes provided.

## VISITOR CENTRE

Start your visit by calling into the Park Visitor Centre, where information is provided on the Park's features, and products such as t-shirts and Aboriginal artefacts can be purchased. This temporary facility is open over the main visitor season, usually from April to November. A new, year round centre is planned for 1998. Information shelters are in place at sites indicated on the map.

## CARE FOR THE PARK

**Driving or walking on spinifex kills plants, upsetting an important habitat. Please drive, walk and camp only on the hard pan surfaces signposted for this purpose.**

**BE CAUTIOUS:** Stay on roads marked on this map. Wet roads are slippery; for your safety wait until roads dry out. Roads may be closed after heavy rain. Watch out for wildlife.

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

**BE GENTLE:** Do not use soap in the pools as it kills aquatic life. Avoid pool contamination with sun cream. Stay on formed trails.

**BE COOL:** Avoid causing wildfires. Use a portable gas stove or the gas barbecues provided.  
**Ground fires are not permitted.**

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



















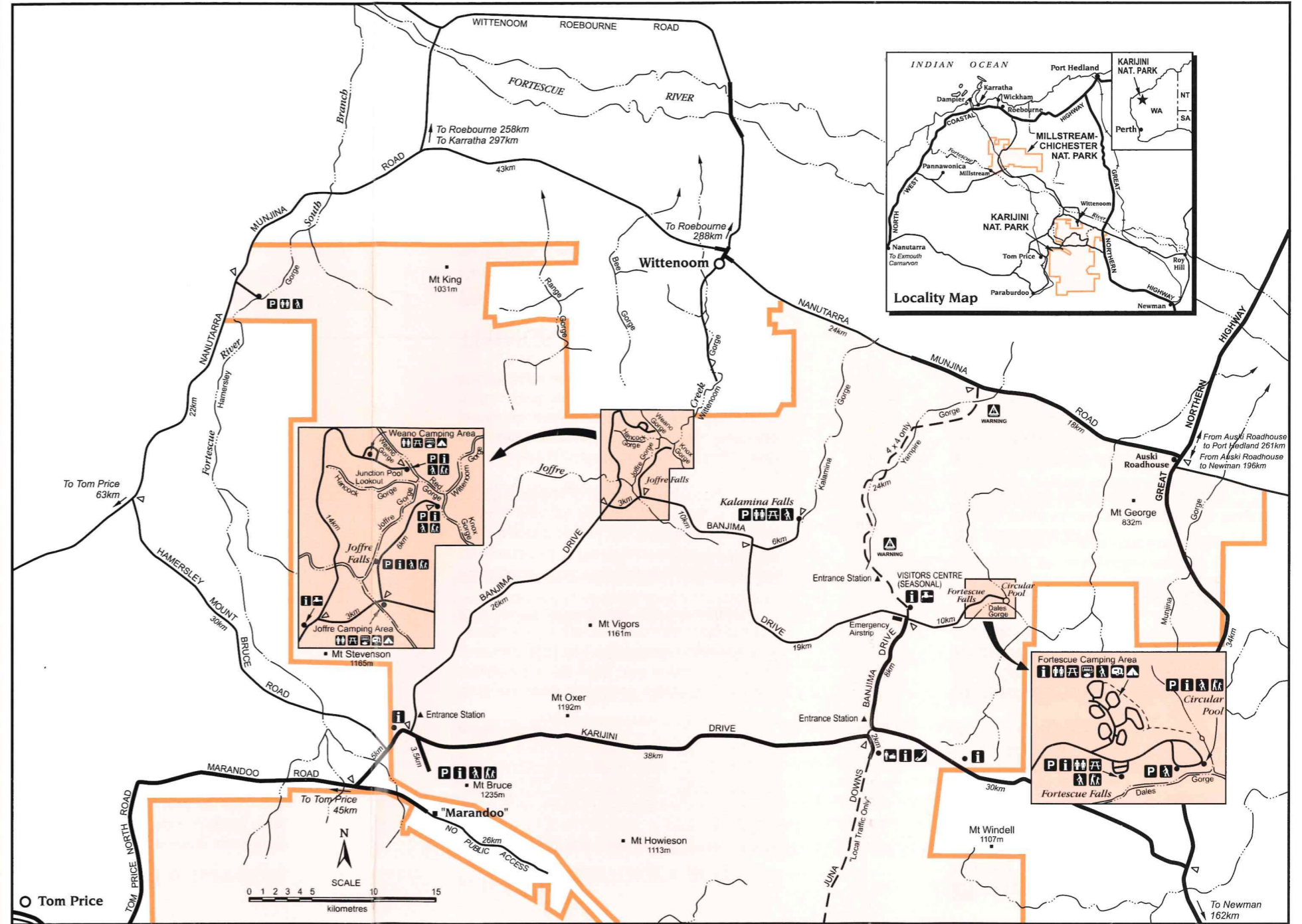
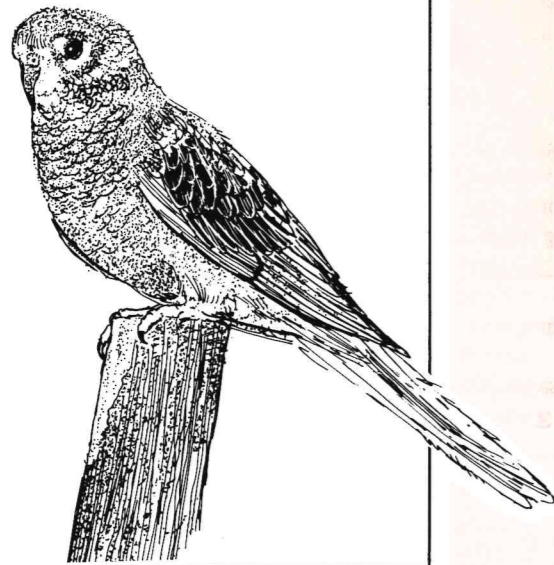
**WARNING**  
**BLUE ASBESTOS PRESENT**  
**IN YAMPIRE GORGE**

Asbestos dust when inhaled may cause cancer. Refer to the *Blue Asbestos Present* warning brochure. Alternative park entry/exits are available.

# KARIJINI NATIONAL PARK

## KEY TO SYMBOLS

-  NATIONAL PARK
-  SEALED ROAD
-  UNSEALED ROAD
-  CAMPING
-  CARAVAN CAMPING
-  GAS BBQ'S
-  INFORMATION
-  LOOKOUT
-  PARKING
-  PARK OFFICE
-  PICNIC FACILITIES
-  TELEPHONE
-  TOILETS
-  WALKTRAIL
-  DRINKING WATER
-  ASBESTOS WARNING



## WALK TRAIL GUIDE

### **MOUNT BRUCE (Punurrunha)**

The second-tallest peak in WA lies about 36 km west of the Park Office. A great opportunity to view the Marandoo Mine Site.

### **DALES GORGE**

Tranquil sunken gardens, deep sedge-fringed pools, and permanently cascading waterfalls.

### **JOFFRE, KNOX & RED GORGES**

Appreciate the power of water shaping the landscape. Impressive waterfalls, deep, cold pools. See for yourself how the gorges were formed.

### **HANCOCK AND WEANO GORGES**

Spectacular views, precipitous cliffs and narrow passages. Banded iron rock formations tower over the valleys far below.

### **KALAMINA GORGE**

A great introduction to the gorge system. A delightful trail and picnicking area.

### **HAMERSLEY GORGE**

Quite different again. Dramatic colours, textures and reflections.

### **TRAIL GRADES**

#### **WALKS**

are short, easy and well formed, suitable for people of all ages and fitness levels. Some improvements have been made to the terrain.

#### **Marandoo View 500 m – 30 min return**

Follow the path to view the Marandoo Mine Site. Excavation of ore for overseas markets began in July 1994.

#### **Gorge Rim 1 km – 1 hr return**

Follow the rim of the gorge between Circular Pool Lookout and Dales Gorge carpark. Wonderful views.

#### **Joffre Lookout 100 m – 10 min return**

Rock steps take you down to the lookout to view this spectacular curved waterfall forming a natural amphitheatre—especially impressive after rain.

#### **Junction Pool 100m – 10 min return**

Take the walk to this lookout, for fantastic views into Hancock Gorge and junction pool, 100 metres below, truly awesome.

#### **Kalamina Gorge 3 km – 3 hr return**

Walk out to the rock platform overlooking the pools and waterfall. Descend the steps into the gorge to explore the waterfall upstream, or stroll quietly down the stream filled with lemon-scented grass; you may see fish in the rock pools. The trail ends at Rock Arch Pool.

#### **TRACKS**

are suitable for people with a moderate level of fitness as they have some short uneven stretches that may be loose or slippery underfoot.

#### **Honey Hakea Track 4.6 km – 3 hr return**

From the carpark at the base of Mt Bruce, take the path to Marandoo View. From here, follow the track to another vantage point further up the mountain. Notice the vegetation patterns of the mulga on the flats surrounding Mt Bruce.

#### **Callitris Track 1 km – 1 hr return**

Proceed from Dales Gorge car park around the gorge rim to Fortescue Falls car park above shady groves of native cypress sheltering on the cliff face below.

#### **Knox Lookout 300 m – 15 min return**

As you take this rough track down to the platform, watch the view spread out in the distance. Spectacular in the early morning or late afternoon light.

#### **Handrail Pool 600 m – 1 hr return**

Follow a steep, winding track past gnarled, white snappy gums: Soon, high walls of rock tower above you as you climb down to the chilly pool in Weano Gorge.

#### **Hamersley Waterfall 400 m – 30 min return**

This track begins as steps, allowing access for most visitors. Everchanging light, amazing colours and reflections highlight the complex geological forces in this spectacular landscape.

#### **Fortescue Falls 800 m – 1 hr return**

Reached by descending a steep trail from the carpark and following a narrow path. Refreshing swim in the spring-fed permanent falls.

#### **ROUTES (LEVEL 1)**

are for experienced, fit walkers. Trails may be unmarked and go over steep, slippery and unstable surfaces. Few if any improvements.

#### **Mt Bruce Summit 9 km – 6 hr return**

Use the early morning hours to take the route that leads up the western face of the mountain, past Marandoo View. This challenging walk will reward you with spectacular views of the landscape.

#### **Circular Pool 800 m – 2 hr return**

After a steep descent, ramble along the gorge floor to the fern-framed pool. Take a dip before retracing your steps.

#### **Knox Gorge 2 km – 3 hr return**

As you climb down and scramble along the gorge, notice the fig trees clinging to the richly coloured walls. Skirt several pools and return from the 'Gorge Risk Area' sign.

#### **Hancock Gorge 1.5 km – 3 hr return**

Journey to the 'centre of the Earth' down this steep, narrow gorge. Feel the highly polished rocks on the way down to 'Kermit's Pool'.

#### **Hamersley Gorge 1 km – 3 hr return**

Follow this route past still pools and polished boulders to 'The Grotto', a fern-lined chasm partly hidden in the side of the gorge.

#### **ROUTES (LEVEL 2)**

are for very experienced, well-equipped, fit bushwalkers. These trails extend into Weano, Hancock, Red, Joffre and Knox Gorges. Details must be obtained from the ranger before starting.

#### **Dales Gorge 1.5 km – 3 hr return**

Experience gorge life at close quarters from this creek-side trail between Fortescue Falls and Circular Pool Trail.

#### **Joffre Falls 3 km – 3 hr return**

Follow the marked route into the bottom of the gorge to the first pool downstream of the waterfall.