

Pictures of

a Wilderness

Photographs by Clifford Young

Much of Western Australia's interior is occupied by desert — the Great Sandy Desert, the Little Sandy Desert, the Great Victoria Desert and the Gibson Desert making up the bulk of the land under this heading. However, contrary to many people's impressions, these desert regions are not wholly monotonous stretches of spinifex and sand dunes.

If nothing else, the desert is a land of contrast. Temperatures can sometimes range in the course of a single day from scorching heat to freezing cold. The landscape sweeps from rolling red sand dunes to abrupt breakaways of weathered rock, from dry and windswept salt lakes to lush pools of fresh water and from bare sand to carpets of magnificent wildflowers and stately trees.

The desert is a land of many moods and faces, no single one of which portrays the 'real desert'. The following photographs were not selected to show any particular aspect of the desert regions except, perhaps, their changeable nature. Instead they form a small selection of images fleetingly seen during the course of several journeys to these regions over a couple of years.





