



Below from left Blue cornflower; spinnifex pigeons. Photos – Babs and Bert Wells/Parks and Wildlife
Left Approach to The Temple on the Temple Gorge Trail. Photo – Scott Godley/Parks and Wildlife



The Kennedy Range separates the traditional lands of two Aboriginal language groups: the Maya to the west of the range and the Tharrgari to the east. The Maya people occupied about 12,000km² from just north of Carnarvon to the western slopes of Kennedy Range, where freshwater springs would have been a source of food and water. The Tharrgari tribal lands covered a similarly large area from the eastern escarpment of the range, across the Lyons River (known to Aboriginal people as Mitherring) and east to the boundary with the Watjerri tribe. To the south of both these tribal areas was country occupied by the Ingardda (Yinggarda) people. The Ingardda name for the range is Mandatharra.

Artefact scatters found in many parts of the park provide evidence of the long history Aboriginal people have with the area. The range, as a very distinct landform, also plays an important part in the mythological history of the region.

All Aboriginal sites in Western Australia are protected under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*. Visitors finding artefacts should leave them where they are found and inform Parks and Wildlife or the WA Museum of their location.

Aboriginal history

Francis Thomas Gregory explored areas of the Gascoyne and Murchison and named the Kennedy Range in 1858 in honour of the then Governor of Western Australia, Arthur Edward Kennedy.

Within 20 years, pastoral leases were taken up along the Gascoyne and Lyons rivers. Jimba Jimba was the first station established near the range in 1878. Lyons River Station was first taken up in the 1880s and developed into a prosperous wool-producing station.

Sections of what is now the national park were progressively taken up as pastoral lease. Much of this area is waterless and during the period under pastoral operations, heavy sheep-grazing did not occur over large areas of the park leaving its natural systems relatively intact.

In 1977 the unviabale Bithalva pastoral lease was acquired by the State, which led to the formation of Kennedy Range National Park in 1993. Additional lands have since been added to form the current area of 319,037ha.

European history

Above Native figs (*Ficus* sp.) grow along the rocky water course of Drapers Gorge. Photo – Scott Godley/Parks and Wildlife



Below The imposing sandstone cliffs of Kennedy Range. Photo – Janine Guenther



Visitor information

Access

The unsealed road to the eastern escarpment is usually suitable for two-wheel-drive vehicles. Access to the western side of the park via the Gascoyne River is recommended only to those with a high-clearance four-wheel-drive vehicle. There are no marked walk trails and the track is rough. There is one information shelter located on the southern side of the Gascoyne River and one located about 35km north of the Gascoyne River (on the track entering from the west). Roads may be closed after heavy rains. Watch out for wildlife.

Flights over Kennedy Range are available on request through visitor centres at Carnarvon and Denham. Seasonal day trips are available through the visitor centre at Carnarvon.

Overnight

Camping is available at Temple Gorge campground at the base of the eastern escarpment (see map). A communal fire pit is in place. Parks and Wildlife encourage visitors to use this facility to minimise the use of wood. Caravan access is possible, but with limited space for manoeuvring. Accommodation is available at Gascoyne Junction (about 60km from the park) and station accommodation can be arranged by contacting the Shire of Upper Gascoyne.

Always carry ample supplies of fuel and drinking water. Pastoral stations surround the park and access through stations is only permitted with the manager's approval.

Further information

Parks and Wildlife campground hosts are usually based in the park at the Temple Gorge campground from April to October.

Department of Parks and Wildlife Carnarvon Office
 59 Olivia Terrace, Carnarvon, WA 6701
 Phone: (08) 9941 3754, Fax: (08) 9941 1801
 Postal address: PO BOX 500, Carnarvon, WA 6701

Shire of Upper Gascoyne
 4 Scott St, Gascoyne Junction, WA 6705
 Phone: (08) 9943 0988

dpaw.wa.gov.au

Information current at September 2014.
 This document is available in alternative formats on request.

Front cover View from the escarpment walk.
 Photo – Rory Chapple/Parks and Wildlife



Department of Parks and Wildlife



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More than 400 plant species have been recorded in the park, including 80 species of annual wildflowers such as the mulla mulla and everlasting daisies. After good rains, wildflowers flourish in August and September.

Euros are the most visible native animal within the park, but there are 19 other mammal species, including nine bat species. More than 100 bird species have also been observed, including the splendid fairy-wren and the rufous-crowned emu-wren. Some 33 reptile species have been recorded.

The Kennedy Range is an eroded plateau located on the rim of the Gascoyne River catchment about 160km from the coast. The range experiences a desert climate.

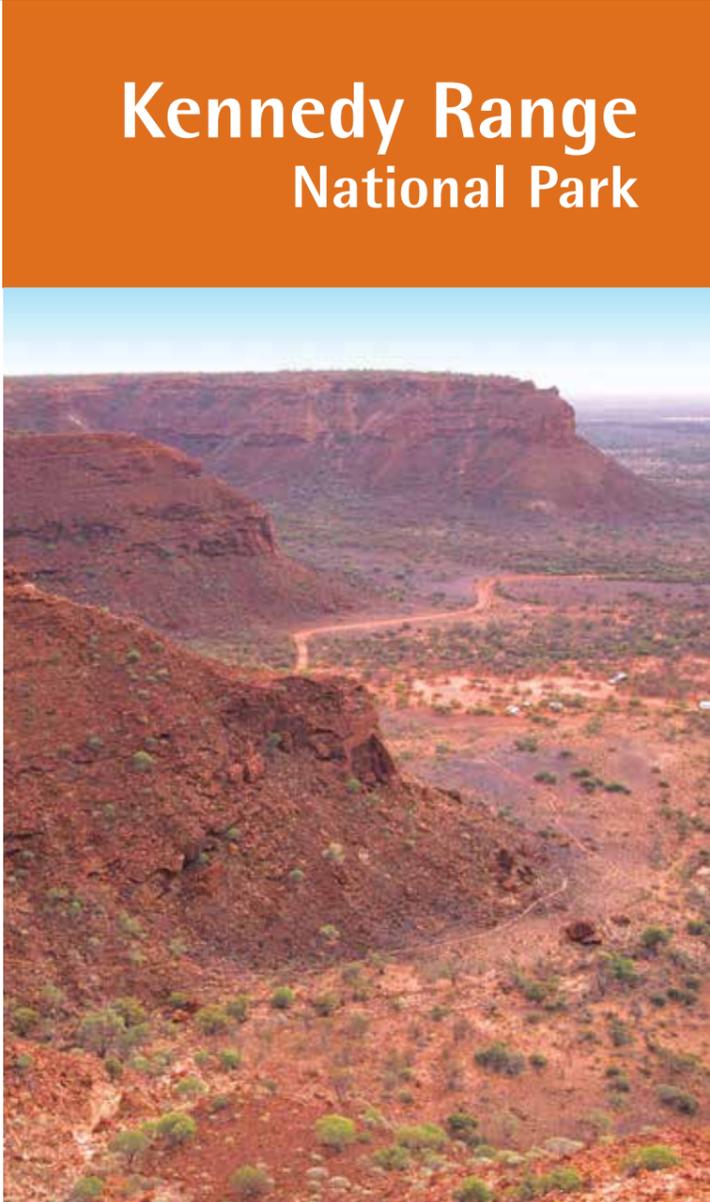
Around 250 million years ago, the Gascoyne region was a shallow ocean basin off the edge of the ancient Australian continent. It filled with sediment, which later became compressed to form layers of sandstone and shale. Movements in the Earth's crust brought these above the sea level where erosion has stripped away much of the rock. Today, marine fossils can be found in the range's sandstone strata.

The Kennedy Range is a remnant of the land surface that elsewhere has been worn away but here forms a mesa some 75km long and up to 25km wide, and oriented north-south. The southern and eastern sides of the range have eroded to form spectacular cliffs that rise 100m above the Lyons River Valley plain. These are dissected by a maze of steep-sided canyons, which have short-lived streams after rain. Much of the range's western boundary has a substantial geological fault system and springs are common along its base.

Rows of red sand dunes dominated by spinnifex with scattered Acacia, Grevillea and Banksia are found on the top of the plateau.

Natural history

Above Mulla (Acacia aneura) dominates the base of the escarpment. Photo – Scott Godley/Parks and Wildlife



Visitor guide



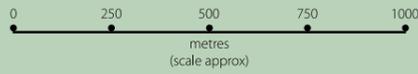
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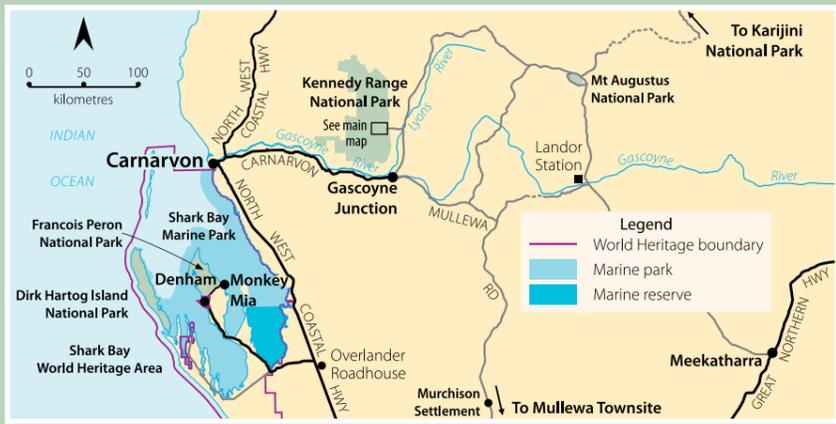


Kennedy Range National Park



Legend			
	National park		Fuel station
	Escarpment		Information shelter
	Sealed road		Parking
	Unsealed road		Picnic tables
	4WD track		Scenic vistas
	Walk trail		Telephone
	Seasonal waterhole		Toilets
	Accommodation		Walking class three
	Camping		Walking class four
	Caravan site		Water available

Advice to walkers - Take care on escarpment slopes and cliff edges as the rock surface can be crumbly and unstable.
 To avoid dehydration, drink 3-4L of water per day when walking. There is no drinking water in the national park.



Walking in Kennedy Range National Park

There are several trails in the park that give you the opportunity to explore the park's range country and its plants and animals. Most of the walk trails follow creek lines and are often rocky. Rock pools are seasonal and not fit to drink from. Walkers should read the information signage on each trail, taking particular note of the difficulty rating.

These walk trails have been graded according to the Australian Standards for Walking Tracks. Look for the different coloured markers indicating the trail class. The following two classes apply to the walks described here:

- CLASS 3** - Users require a moderate level of fitness. Trails may be slightly modified and include unstable surfaces.
- CLASS 4** - Trails are in relatively undisturbed environments and are often rough with few if any modifications. A moderate to high level of fitness is required. Users should be prepared and self-reliant.

Far right View of the eastern scarp of the Kennedy Range. Photo - Scott Godley/Parks and Wildlife

Below Sand goanna. **Below right** Western euro. **Below left** Highly nomadic budgerigars are often seen in large flocks. They feed almost exclusively on grass seeds. Photos - Janine Guenther



Visitor sites and trails

Temple Gorge Trail (Class 3 and 4) 2km return, 1-2 hours

Starting at the Temple Gorge day-use site, the first part of the trail is Class 3 and leads to a fork in the creek under a prominent rock face referred to as The Temple. The left fork is a short picturesque walk, and apart from a few step-ups, is relatively easy. The right fork is rated at Class 4 and is a longer, tougher, boulder-strewn walk up to a small seasonal rock pool. Care should be taken scrambling up and around large boulders on this section.



Honeycomb Gorge Trail (Class 3) 600m return, 20-40 minutes

This fairly easy, but rocky trail takes walkers to a large amphitheatre containing a seasonal waterfall and pool. Marvel at the honeycomb cavities that have been eroded into the cliff face.

Drapers Gorge Trail (Class 4) 2km return, 1-2 hours

A progressively harder route that features a series of seasonal waterfalls and small rock pools along its length. Walkers completing the whole walk will have to scramble up escarpment slopes and along rock ledges in some areas. Caution should be applied in these areas because of loose and crumbly rock.



Sunrise View Trail (Class 3) 300m return, 15 minutes

This raised viewing area, a short walk from the car park, has a good view of the battlement-like face of the range. Sunrise is a particularly good time to experience the view.

Escarpment Base Trail (Class 3) 5.8km return, 3-4.5 hours

This walk links Temple Gorge Campground with Honeycomb Gorge and Sunrise View walk trails. There is interesting geology as well as sandalwood (*Santalum spicatum*) to observe between Temple Gorge Campground and Honeycomb Gorge Trail. A lookout area is a feature of the section between Honeycomb Gorge and Sunrise View trails.

Escarpment Trail (Class 4) 3.4km return, 1.5-3 hours

Start at either Drapers Gorge car park or Temple Gorge campground. The trail leads into a narrow gorge that ascends to the top of the range for spectacular views. This trail is steep with loose rocks and traverses near exposed cliff edges. Take care.



Caring for the park and your safety

Be kind Do not disturb animals, plants or rocks. No firearms or pets are permitted in the park.

Be responsible Use your portable gas stove. Dead wood is habitat for wildlife.

Be clean Take your rubbish out of the park when you leave.
Be careful Stay on the paths and help prevent erosion. Look out for falling rocks. Your safety is our concern but your responsibility. **Take care on escarpment slopes and cliff edges as rock surfaces can be crumbly and unstable.**

Be prepared The trails are rough and steep in places. Wear sturdy footwear and carry drinking water at all times. **To avoid dehydration, drink 3-4L of water per day when walking. There is no drinking water in the park.**

Be considerate Fossicking and collecting rocks, gemstones and fossils is not permitted.