

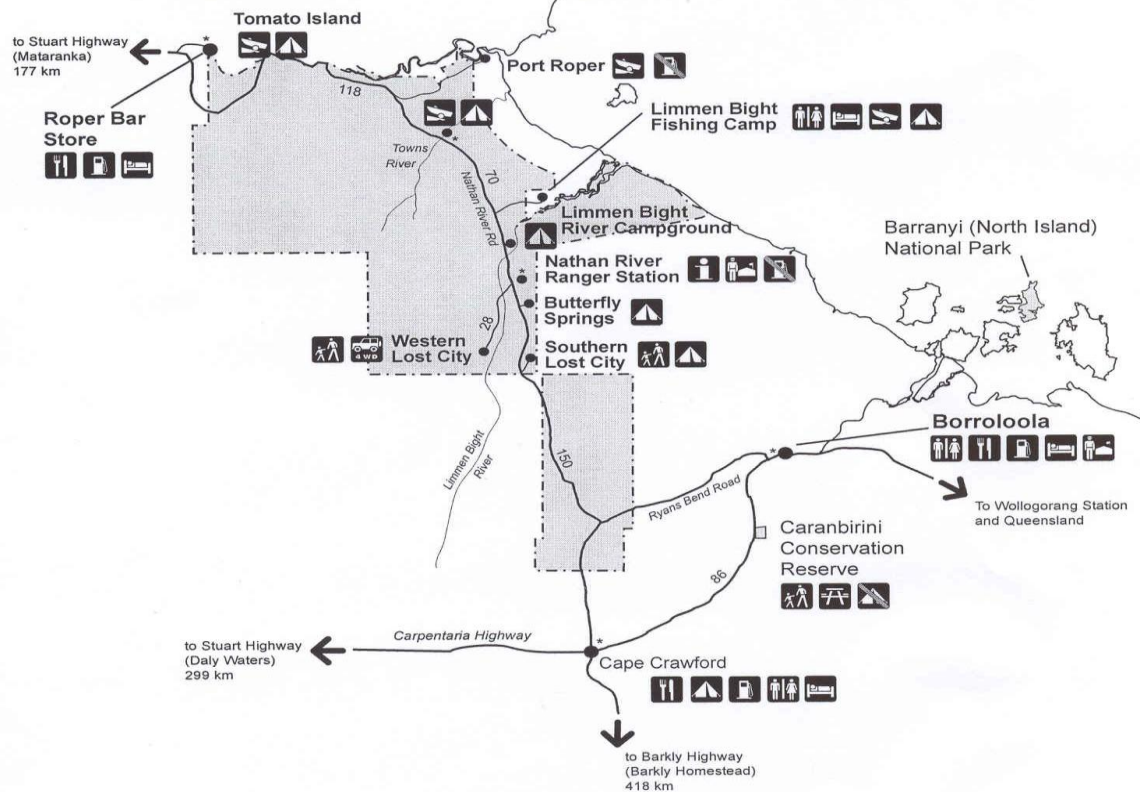
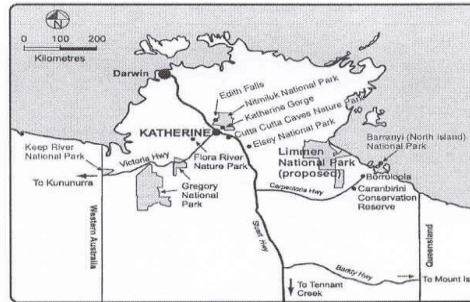
## HSNT ANNUAL FIELD TRIP 22-24 JULY 2005

### LIMMEN PARK INCLUDING ROPER RIVER, ST VIDGEON, BORROLOOLA & CAPE CRAWFORD, BY BEV PHELTS

## Limmen National Park (proposed)

### Fact Sheet

- |  |               |  |                |
|--|---------------|--|----------------|
|  | Information   |  | Ranger Station |
|  | Toilets       |  | Boat Ramp      |
|  | Food          |  | Walking Track  |
|  | Accommodation |  | Picnic Area    |
|  | Fuel          |  | No Camping     |
|  | 4WD Track     |  | No Fuel        |



K/12/2004PWCNT

For more information see our website: [www.nt.gov.au/ipe/pwcnt](http://www.nt.gov.au/ipe/pwcnt) or contact Katherine Region Tourist Association on (08) 8972 2650.

**Itinerary** - Down the Stuart Highway to Roper River, through Limmen National Park-Nathan River Road - visiting Roper Bar Store & Old Police Station, south to Hodgson River / Mountain Creek waterhole. North to Nathan River Road to Port Roper (*Young Australian* wreck), St Vidgeon homestead ruins, Little Towns River, Cox River, Southern Lost City, Ryans Bend Road out to Cape Crawford. On to Borroloola stopping at Police Museum and Caranbirini Conservation Reserve, back along Carpentaria Highway stopping at Heartbreak Hotel (Cape Crawford), turn north at Stuart Highway visiting Daly Waters Pub, Larrimah Pub and last night at Mataranka Homestead (Sunday 24th) ending at Darwin.

Four ladies were in my group and we shared the car hire, cooking, washing, food and good wine. Brisbane, Dr Ruth Kerr who is a Federation of Australian Historical Societies Executive Member, joined myself and fellow HSNT Council Members, Yvonne Forrest and Janie Mason.

There was too much to see and do between Darwin and the Roper Bar Store (where the group were meeting), so we set off a day earlier and spent the night at Mataranka Homestead. Next morning (Show Friday 22nd), we looked at the Elsey Homestead replica and took a small bush walk at Bitter Springs before setting off to Roper Bar Store to meet the others. At Roper Bar Store we had lunch and walked around the old Police Station ruins.



At Bitter Springs, from left: Bev Phelts, Yvonne Forrest and Ruth Kerr



Old Roper Bar Police Station interpretive signs. From left: Bev Phelts, Yvonne Forrest and Ruth Kerr



Old Roper Bar Police Station, the Ludwig Leichhardt memorial



Old Roper Bar Police Station elevated water tanks



Old Roper Bar Police Station



Old Roper Bar Police Station cells. From left: Ruth Kerr, Yvonne Forrest and Bev Phelts,



Leaving south from Nathan River Road towards Hodgson River where we set up camp for the night. When nine vehicles descended upon the tranquil scene, the people already there must have regarded it busier than "Bourke Street" and soon evacuated



Hodgson River



Kate Senior and David Carment at Hodgson River



Brian Reid and Fiona ? collecting wood for the bonfire



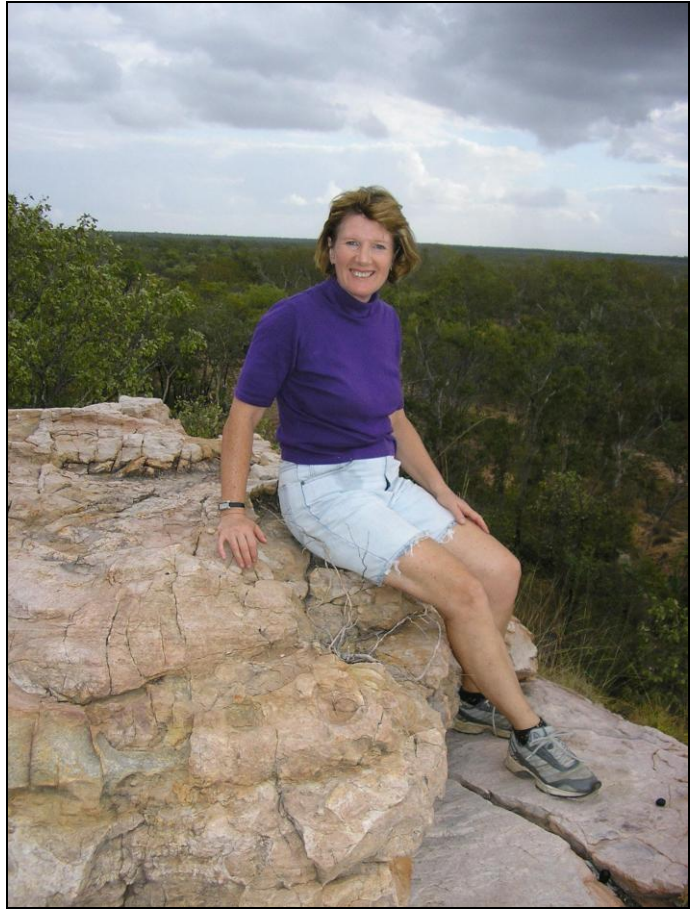
After setting up camp for the night, Anthropologist, Kate Senior who had spent six years at Ngukurr took us to Mountain Creek about 60kms away to view an Aboriginal rock art site and interment. We had to a bit of rock climbing to get to it and most of us made it to the top!



Aboriginal rock art and interment



Janie Mason



This gives you an idea how high we climbed up the rock face to view the art  
Bev Phelts and the fantastic scenery



Jan Hills, Strife and Janie Mason



Looking across towards the Aboriginal rock art



Geological sculptures



more geological monuments!



The group



Breakfast at Hodgson River (Sat 23 July)  
 From left: Ruth Kerr, Janie Mason and Yvonne Forrest



Returning north to Nathan River Road and on our way to Port Roper and St Vidgeon homestead ruins David is the second to get a flat tyre. Kate Senior with spare & David Carment



Inspection time - and yes, almost done  
 From left: Brian Reid, Ruth Kerr, Kate Senior, David Ritchie & David Carment



A flat also means an opportunity to have a stretch and chat with others



We arrive at Port Roper boat ramp. *Young Australian* wreck is situated about one kilometre away and cannot be seen from the ramp.



How fresh food and provisions are delivered at the camping ground. And yes, the thong is holding up the sign on the tree.



Roper River

A kind fisherman offered to take three people in his dingy to see the *Young Australian* which is situated just around the bend from the boat ramp. The *Young Australian* was used for transporting supplies and the posts for the Overland Telegraph Line. Myself, Helen Haritos and her partner Brian jumped at the opportunity.



Wreck of the *Young Australian*. It was a two metre tide which is about the highest for Roper River. Consequently all that could be seen were the boiler & crankshaft.



Wreck of the *Young Australian* showing the boiler and crankshaft from different angles.

The three of us had diverted from the others so we speed down to St Vidgeon homestead ruins to catch up with the rest of the group.



St Vidgeon homestead interpretative sign



St Vidgeon homestead ruins



Stopping at Little Towns River Xing  
Dennis Stanbury



Little Towns River Xing  
From left: Yvonne Forrest and Ruth Kerr on right



Little Towns River Xing



Lunch at Cox River Xing  
From left: Yvonne Forrest, Ruth Kerr & Janie Mason

The Lost City, Limmen National Park





A selection of photos from Southern Lost City



Southern Lost City  
Left: Ruth Kerr and Bev Phelts



Southern Lost City  
Left: Ruth Kerr and Janie Mason





Just to show how horrendous the flies were - look at Janie's back !



Lunch at Heartbreak Hotel, Cape Crawford (Sunday 24th)  
From left: Ruth Kerr and Janie Mason



Daly Waters Historic Pub  
From left: Ruth Kerr, Yvonne Forrest and Janie Mason  
(Sunday 24th)



Inside Daly Waters Historic Pub  
Bev Phelts (Sunday 24th)



On the return to Darwin, we stopped along the way to view the Alexander Forrest memorial, the Elsey Cemetery and National Park, the Mataranka Museum, Katherine Tourist Bureau and lunched at Edith Falls.

Explorer, Alexander Forrest's memorial approximately 40 kms south from Larrimah on the Stuart Highway. Forrest and his party had almost perished from lack of water when they reached an Overland Telegraph well near this memorial. Prior to then the party had killed a horse and hawk to drink their blood. Ruth Kerr in photo.



A selection of photographs on Elsey Cemetery and National Park



Elsey Cemetery and National Park, Jennie and Aeneas Gunn memorials  
From left: Ruth Kerr, Yvonne Forrest, Janie Mason & Bev Phelts  
(Sunday 24th)



Cairn marking the site of the original Elsey homestead 300 metres from the Elsey Cemetery



Lunch at Edith Falls

From left: Ruth Kerr, Yvonne Forrest & Janie Mason  
(Monday 25th)

The tally was three flat tyres, one bogged vehicle and one lost thong.

# Limmen National Park (proposed)



Fact Sheet

This isolated park features spectacular sandstone formations, numerous river systems and associated wetlands, and is steeped in culture and history.

You need to be fully self-reliant when you travel in this remote Park.

### Access (see map overleaf)


The Park is situated in the Gulf region, about 475 km south-east of Katherine and 182 km north-west of Borroloola. It can be accessed from the Stuart Highway via the Roper Highway (turnoff 10km south of Mataranka), or via the Carpentaria Highway that runs through the Gulf region from the Highway Inn (near Daly Waters) into Queensland.

Please drive carefully. All roads within the Park are unsealed and can be closed due to seasonal flooding from November to May. Roads leading to the Park may also be affected by flooding at this time. Find out Park road conditions by phoning the Parks and Wildlife offices listed below. Other road conditions are available by phoning 1800 246 199, or checking the road conditions website: [www.nt.gov.au/ipe/roadconditions](http://www.nt.gov.au/ipe/roadconditions)


### Climate


The Gulf region is in a transition zone between the wet tropics and the arid zone. While the south-easterly breeze keeps temperatures comfortable between April and August, from September to January they can reach the 40's. Most of the 800mm average rain falls between December and April, causing flooding and road closures throughout the region.

### What to See and Do


 **Camping** - Short-term camping areas are provided at Towns River and Butterfly Springs. Tomato Island and

Limmen Bight Fishing Camp are also popular, although not within the Park.


 **Fishing** - With the Roper, Towns and Limmen Bight Rivers flowing into the Gulf of Carpentaria to the east, there are plenty of opportunities to enjoy fishing. Boat ramps are provided at Towns River, Limmen Bight Fishing Camp and Tomato Island.

 **Sightseeing** - The many lagoons close to the main road are a bird watchers delight and the intriguing pillars of the lost city formations host some of the Park's more notable wildlife.

The **Southern Lost City** is 35 km south of the Nathan River Ranger Station. At the end of the 3 km track you can enjoy a 2 km walk among the rock formations.

 Access to the **Western Lost City** formations is by 4WD vehicle only.

You will need a key from the Ranger Station to unlock the gate at the start of the 28 km track to the **Western Lost City**. It begins just north-west of the Nathan River Ranger Station and ends at a 300 metre walk and short climb to views over the O'Keefe Valley. Call and organise the key prior to your visit, as the Ranger Station is not always attended.

 **Swimming** - The rivers and creeks within Limmen National Park are inhabited by Estuarine (saltwater) Crocodiles.

**Do not swim** in any of the rivers or creeks in the Park. Butterfly Springs is the only place in the Park considered safe for swimming, although not suitable towards the end of the Dry as the pool becomes stagnant.

### Visitor Facilities

Make sure you have enough fuel and food for your sojourn within

### Safety and Comfort

- Ensure your vehicle is well maintained and equipped
- Ensure that you have enough fuel
- Keep to designated roads and tracks
- Swim only where recommended, observe warning signs
- Observe park safety signs
- Carry and drink plenty of water
- Wear a shady hat, sunscreen and insect repellent
- Carry a first aid kit
- Avoid strenuous activity during the heat of the day

### Please Remember

- Put your rubbish in the bin or take it away with you
- All cultural items and wildlife are protected
- Pets are not permitted in the Park
- Nets, traps and firearms are not permitted in the Park
- Avoid using soaps and detergents near waterways
- Take care with fire, light fires only in fireplaces provided
- Camp only in designated camping areas
- Collect fallen timber for firewood on the way to your picnic or campsite
- The use of chainsaws is not permitted within the Park
- Observe all fishing regulations
- Quad and trail bikes are not permitted off-road within the Park
- Turn generators off by 8.30pm

the Park. There are no services for 338 km between Roper Bar and Cape Crawford, although limited fuel and supplies are available at Limmen Bight Fishing Camp.

At Nathan River Ranger Station you can collect the key to access the Western Lost City, get more information about the Park, or contact a Ranger in an emergency.

### Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

Nathan River Ranger Station  
Ph: (08) 8975 9940  
Borroloola Ranger Station  
Ph: (08) 8975 8792

Head Office  
32 Giles St KATHERINE NT 0850  
PO Box 344 KATHERINE NT 0851  
Ph: (08) 8973 8888

