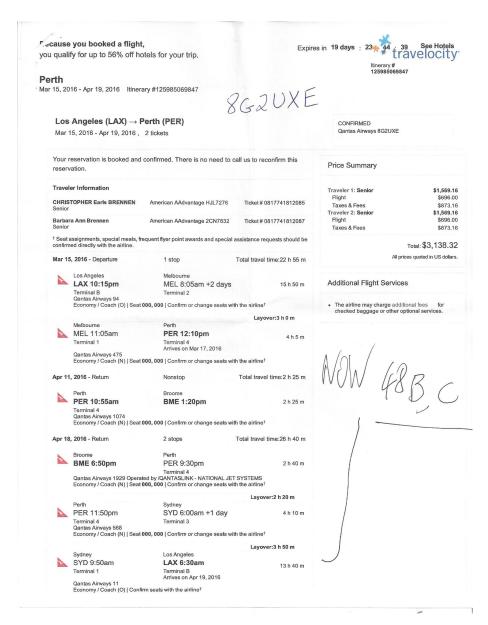
### TRAVELS NOW AND THEN

© Christopher Earls Brennen

## **AUSTRALIA 2016**



## Sun. Mar.23 Fly to ???





Albany





Albany





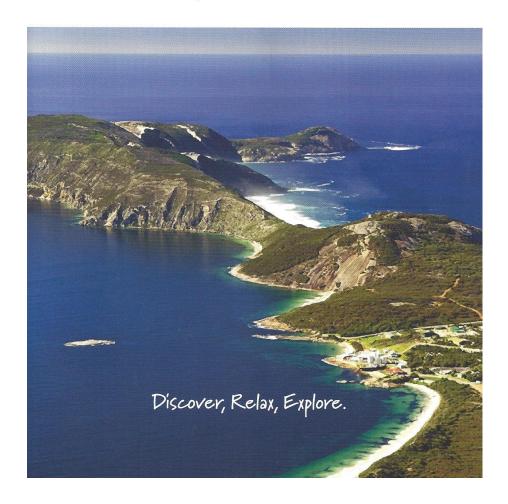
Albany



Albany



Historic Whaling Station • Australian Wildlife • Botanic Garden



# THE BRIG AMITY

#### BEFORE 1826

In 1816, in Saint John, New Brunswick in Canada, a small brig of 142 tons was constructed by shipbuilder Christopher Scott.

She was named the *Amity*-meaning Friendship. A brig carried two masts and was the smallest of the square-riggers, designed as the workhorses of the ocean.

The first master was Capt. Parker and she had a crew of six. She sailed first around Scottish and Irish waters, then journeyed to Hobart, Tasmania via Rio de Janiero in 1874.

Here, her Master, Matthew Ralston sold her to the colonial government for an undisclosed price, where, for seven years, she transported stores, livestock and men between Australian ports on the east coast and beyond.

Included in these years was a dramatic rescue of survivors from the convict ship, the *Royal Charlotte*, wrecked on the Great Barrier Reef.

She also played an important role in the foundation of the convict settlement of Moreton Bay, the forerunner to modern Brisbane in Queensland.

#### IN 1826

The Amity, under the command of Lieut. Colson Festing and Master Thomas Hansen, was contracted by the British Government to transport 21 soldiers, 23 convicts and a small support staff to King George Sound to construct a new settlement.

Also taken on board was a variety of domesticated animals and enough materials to build shelters and grow food crops.

She left Sydney on November 9, but was buffeted by storms and was forced to put into Georgetown in Tasmania for fresh supplies and repairs to damaged sails.

She finally arrived in King George Sound on December 25, a rough voyage of over six weeks. The stores, animals and personnel were unloaded onto a barren and rocky shore, and the convicts sat to work.

The garrison was under the command of Major Edmund Lockyer, whose even-tempered demeanour ensured a peaceful foundation to the new settlement.

The Amity left the settlement to return to Sydney, one month later, to resume her contracted tasks around the settlements in the eastern colonies.

#### **AFTER 1826**

Once the Amity resumed its usual supply duties, it did return at least three times to King George Sound, en route to the new west coast settlement of Swan River (now Perth).

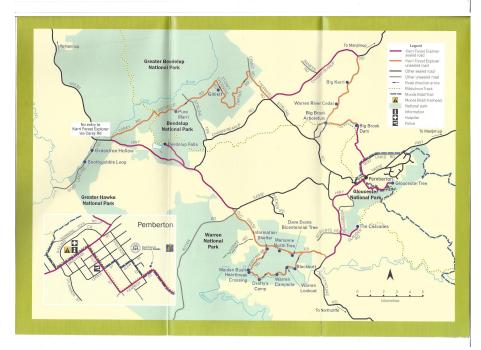
But she was again sold, this time back into private ownership in 1831, when the costs of government fleet ownership were questioned by Governor Ralph Darling.

A succession of different owners followed, each struggling to maintain the aging brig and turn a profit. She was chiefly based in Hobart, and at one stage, was involved in the whaling industry. She was reported in Cloudy Bay, New Zealand, in 1832, with a tally of five sperm whales.

She also took cargoes of oil and whale bone to the South Pacific, as well as transporting sheep and cattle to new settlements.

Her final resting place was on a reef off Flinders Island in Bass Strait, when she was grounded after a heavy storm in June 1845. Capt. William Marr and all the crew escaped safely, after a harrowing rescue by a sealing party, but the Amiry was totally wrecked.

Her remains have never been located.





Broome





Broome and 4WD bus





Gieke Gorge





Tent at Fitzroy Crossing and ?? Wall





## Bungle Bungles



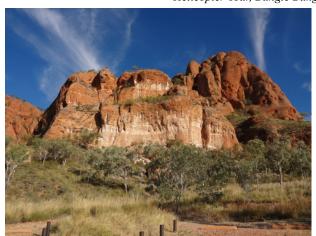


Cathedral Gorge, Bungle Bungles





Helicopter Tour, Bungle Bungles





Echidna Chasm, Bungle Bungles

Travels - Christopher E. Brennen



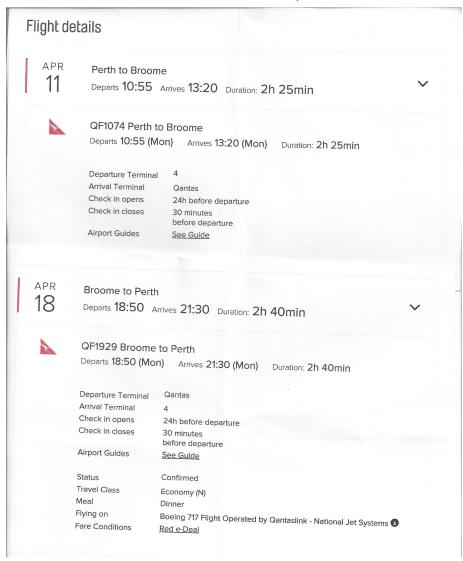


Croc Bait and kangaroo, Bungle Bungles

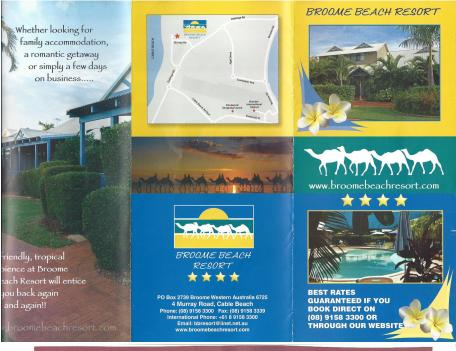




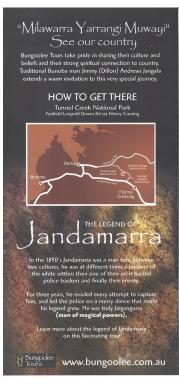
Minki Caves













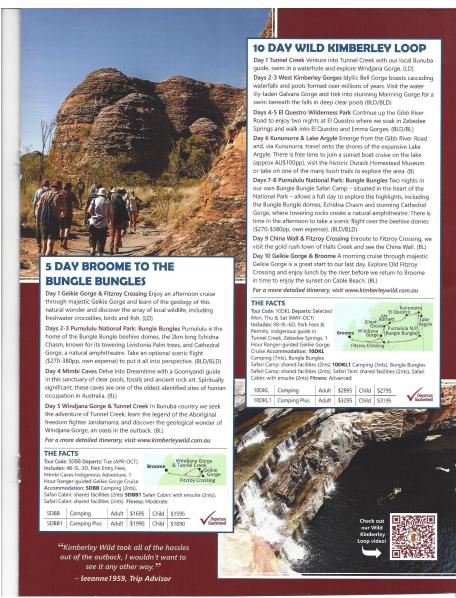
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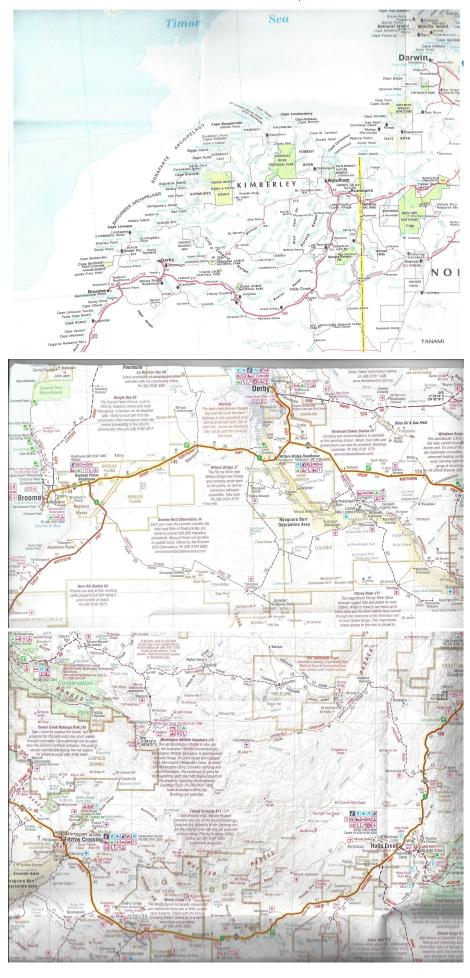


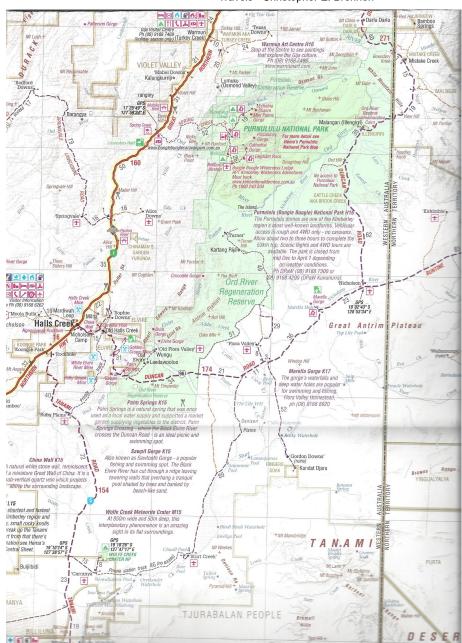
Our guided tours include tour commentary and we will take photo's on your camera plus feed your camel a carrot at the end of the sunset tour!

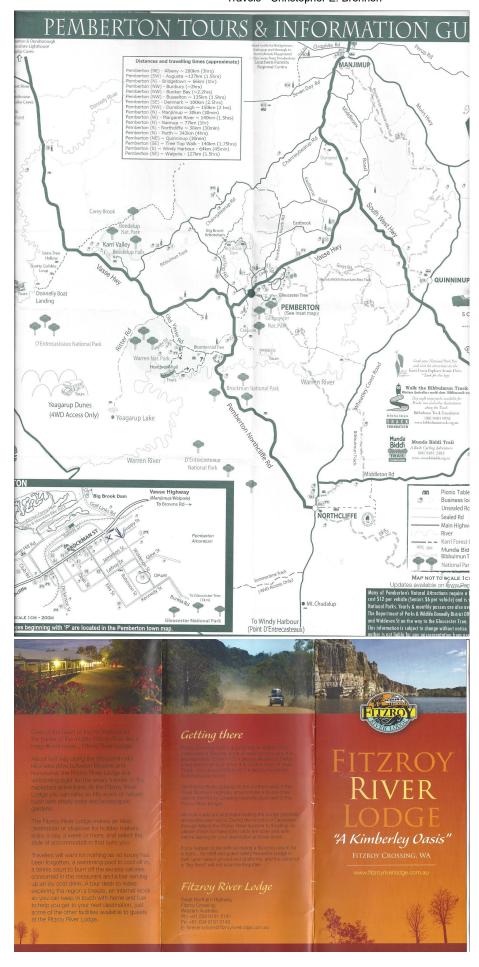
Broome's longest running camel company, whose staff with over 40 years experience delighting passengers everyday, will ensure your camel experience is safe, informative and above all fun!!!

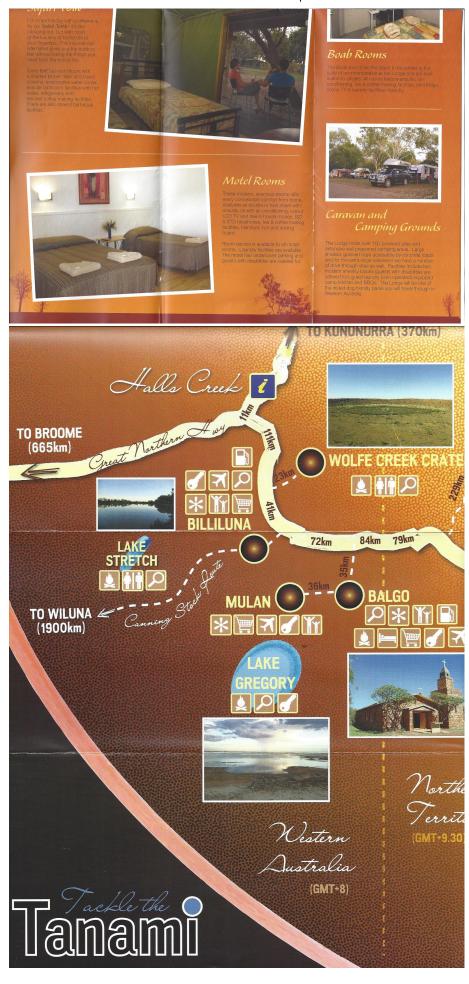
BROOME'S LONGEST AND ONLY AWARD WINNING CAMEL TOUR













## Formation of the Bungle Bungle Range

The sandstone and conglomerate which make up the Bungle Bungle Range were deposited 360 to 370 million years ago during the late Devonian period in a low-lying area known as the Ord Basin. The rocks which make up the range were deposited under non-marine conditions - not in a sea as is widely reported.

Pebbles, sand and other sediments were washed by streams and rivers from mountain ranges to the north, where the Osmand Range is today. The larger and heavier sediments were deposited out of the fast flowing currents first. Sand and finer sediments were carried further downstream to be deposited as the currents slowed.

Sandstone in the Echidna Chasm area is coarse with pebbles forming conglomerate which geologists have named "Boll Conglomerate".

On the southern and eastern sides of the Bungle Bungle Range such as in the Piccaninny Creek area, the sandstone has finer grained sediments and has been named "Glasshill Sandstone".

Some of the boulders in the Echidna Chasm area show scratching characteristics of glacial weathering. They are thought to be derived from earlier 680 million year old glacial deposits in the mountain ranges to the north.

As sediments accumulated the older layers were compacted to form the sandstone of the Bungle Bungle Range. Subsequently the range was uplifted and subjected to intense weathering 65 to 250 million years ago.

Contrary to its solid appearance, the sandstone is extremely fragile. This is due to the almost complete absence of cement, such as silica or clay, between individual sand grains. Despite being so friable, the sandstone is able to maintain relatively stable vertical cliffs because the individual sand grains touch and interlock.

#### The banding

The orange and grey banding seen on the domes in the southwest of the range is due to differences in clay content and porosity of the sandstone layers. The dark grey banding on the domes is from cyanobacteria (formerly known as 'blue-green algae') growing on layers where moisture accumulates. The orange bands are due to the colour of oxidized iron compounds in layers, which dry out too quickly for the cyanobacteria to grow.

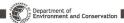
#### The Halls Creek Mobile Zone

The oldest rocks in the area are metamorphic rocks evident to the west of the park in an area known by geologists as the Halls Creek Mobile Zone. Sedimentary and volcanic rocks deposited around 1850 million years ago were deformed and metamorphosed under intense heat and pressure inside a mountain range up to 25 kilometres beneath the earth's surface. The Spring Creek track leading into the park crosses this area of rugged ridges covered by varying rock types such as tonalite, marbles, schists, gneisses and amphilbolites.

A major fracture known as the Halls Creek Fault System has formed in the earth's crust extending more than 850 kilometres from the edge of the Great Sandy Desert northeast to Darwin. While not presently active, movements have occurred along this fault system several times over the past 1830 million years, with the results still evident today at Calico Springs.

#### **Glaciers**

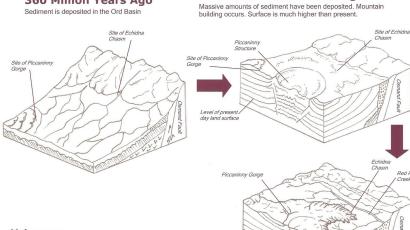
About 680 million years ago the Halls Creek Mobile Zone and the area now occupied by the Osmand Ranges formed a mountain range with active glaciers. Tillites are sedimentary rocks formed from debris picked up by ice sheets or glaciers and deposited during the melting of the ice. Glacial deposits can be seen along the last section of the park access road, west of the park visitor centre.



180 - 300 Million Years Ago

#### 360 Million Years Ago

Sediment is deposited in the Ord Basin



#### Volcanoes

Around 530 to 560 million years ago a phase of volcanic activity occurred. Lava was ejected from a series of fissures forming basalt rocks which underly much of East Kimberley region. They are thickest near the Halls Creek Fault suggesting that the East Kimberley was a major eruptive centre. These volcanic rocks are found in the west of the park

#### Limestone

In the middle of the Cambrian period, 520 to 530 million years ago, sediments were deposited over the volcanic rocks when a warm shallow sea covered the area. These deposits were predominantly limestone, but shale and sandstone were also present. Today the exposed relic of this formation is the reef-like limestone ridge on the western side of the Bungle Bungle Range, which also overlooks Kurrajong camping area.

This limestone contains fossils of trilobites, small conical shells and algae, these being simple life forms, which existed during Cambrian times. Fossils such as fish and shells typically seen in much younger limestone deposits like the Devonian reef ranges in the West Kimberley are not found in the Cambrian limestones.

## erosion have resulted in the landscape we see today. The Piccaninny Structure

**Today** 

Hundreds of millions of years of

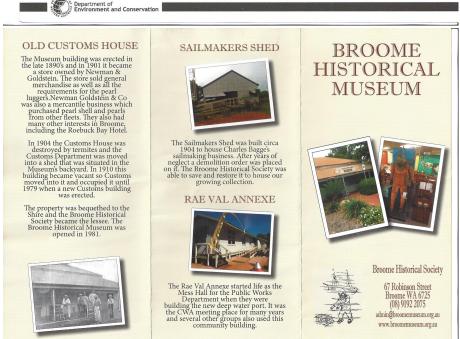
The Piccaninny Structure is located in the centre of the range northeast of Piccaninny Gorge. About seven kilometers in diameter, this ancient impact crater thought to be formed by a meteorite, can be seen from the air. Erosion has changed the appearance, only the lower parts of the impact structure survive. The meteorite is believed to have collided with the earth sometime between 300 million and 180 million years ago.

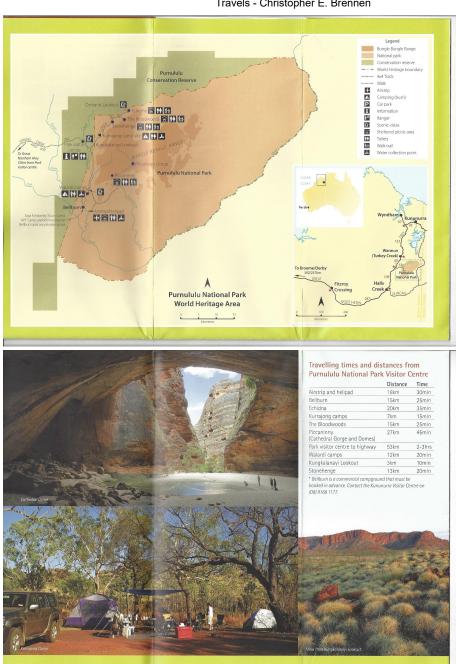
#### The plains

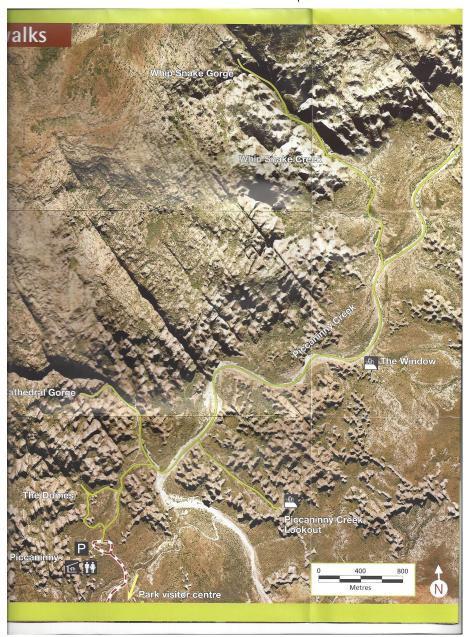
Surrounding the remnant plateau of the Bungle Bungle Range are wide plains mostly of sand, derived from millions of years of weathering. All creeks and drainage channels in and around the range lead to the Ord River, the major river of the east Kimberley.

Further reading: Bungle Bungle Range, Purnululu National Park, a guide to the rocks, landforms, plants animals, and human impact. Hoatson, D.M. & others, Australian Geological Survey Organisation, 1997



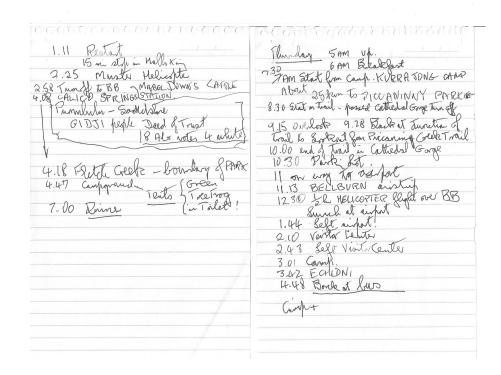


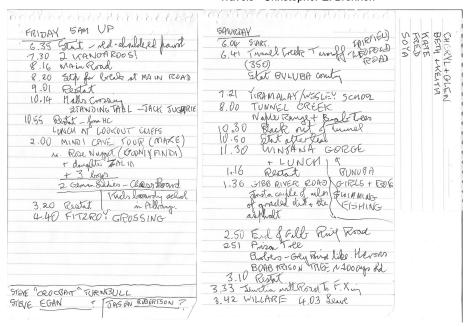






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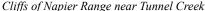
#### From: Jandamarra:

It is Friday night outside the bar at the Lodge in the town of Fitzroy Crossing in the Kimberley region of northwestern Australia. Many of the local residents of the town (who are mostly aboriginals or native Australians) are gathered at the bar for the party that takes place every Friday and Saturday night. Only light beer (no other liquor) is served by the bar and even this cannot be taken out onto the patio. The night is young and sultry, the party is already lively and there is a growing tension, a sense of confrontation. I decide to take my leave, to make my way across the wide camping area to my tent. As I pass the security guard sitting at the side of the patio, another lodge employee approaches him and warns him to keep an eye on ''Mick" because he, Mick, is already too lively. Apparently many such evenings end in fights among the local residents, fights most likely fueled by the continuing frustrations of the local native Australians. This is the ancestral land of the Bunuba who, along with other local tribes, have been edged off their ancestral lands that surround Fitzroy Crossing. With nowhere else to go, they have taken up residence in this poor and desolate town. While such scenes are commonplace in aboriginal communities throughout the Australian outback, this place has special poinancy for me since I have journeyed a long way to honor the memory of one Bunuba who, in the late 1800s, stood up with legendary and heroic resistance to the European hegemony and abuse. The young man's name was Jandamarra, though he was also called ''Pigeon' because of his small stature and lively carriage.

When Janadamarra was born about 1870, the wide, lightly-populated desert landscape of the Bunuba was witnessing a major upheaval. The white European settlers from the south had finally pushed into this remote corner of western Australia bringing their cattle and sheep to graze on the flatlands, the huge flood plain of the Fitzroy River. This remarkable river had created a landscape with few equals anywhere in the world. Each year the torrents of rain that fell in the tropics to the north would funnel south into this broad desert and the flow of the Fitzroy would temporarily exceed that of any other river system in the world. Some years the lower reaches of the Fitzroy would be 100 miles wide. The sediment transported created a vast, flat plain stretching some 500 miles westwards to the Indian Ocean. The only features not submerged by this sediment were the remains of some ancient Devonian reefs left starkly protruding from the otherwise pancake landscape. The white men called them by names such as the Napier Range or the Oscar Range though the label 'range' seems too exalted. These rugged protrusions were not very high or broad; they typically stood only 300 feet above the flat plain and were only half a mile wide though lengthwise they extended great distances across the plain. Despite their modest proportions, the precipitous cliffs and jagged rocks and gullies represented substantial barriers to the new arrivals and their cattle as they ventured to spread across the Fitzroy floodplain. A few tributaries had worn passages through these ranges and one such gap that features in this story is the beautiful Windjana Gorge cut through the Napier Range by the Lennard River. Unlike the white pioneers, the Bunuba knew every niche and crevice of these ranges and for generations had used this knowledge to protect their ancestral lands and now to stop the advances of the white men. The Bunuba particularly revered the lovely glen they called Windjana.

As a boy Jandamarra had been adopted by a grazer named William Lukin and his sheep station, called the Lennard River Station, close to the Napier Range. There the boy had learned English and been taught to ride horses, to shear sheep and to use a rifle. Indeed he became an excellent shot and grew up to be recognized as the finest aboriginal stockman in the whole region. William Lukin called him "Pigeon" because he was small, fleet-footed and had a cheeky but endearing personality. At the age of 15, Jandamarra returned to his Bunuba roots for his traditional rites of initiation. However, late in 1889 he and a close friend, Ellemara, were arrested in Windjana Gorge on suspicion of killing sheep. As had become the practice of the local police, they were placed in chains and marched about 70 miles to the gaol in Derby, the nearest town at the time. The charges were dropped when Jandamarra agreed to take care of the police horses. A year later when he had gained the trust of the local police, he went back to his homeland. However, as a lively young man he allegedly violated local Bunuba law, probably in consorting with a young woman whose company he was not permitted to keep. To avoid punishment, he returned to the ranch lands and took up residence at the Lillimooloora stock station, not far from the Lennard River station. Like so many native Australians, he had become trapped in the netherland between two very different cultures and sets of laws.







Ruins of Lillimooloora Station with Napier Range behind

As he settled down again to station life at Lillimooloora, Jandamarra formed a relationship with a capable and experienced stockman called Bill Richardson. In 1894 Richardson was recruited by the local police and he, in turn, recruited Jandamarra and another Bunuba named Captain as trackers. Despite an official prohibition against using tribal members against their own people, Jandamarra and Captain accompanied Richardson in a systematic roundup of Bunuba outside of and not attached to the stock stations. On one occasion Jandamarra saved Richardson's life when they were attacked by a group of Bunuba. One of the first Bunuba captured was Ellemarra, an elderly and highly respected Bunuba leader who had been involved in many conflicts and skirmishes with the white men. He had been captured several times before, dragged in chains to the Derby gaol but eventually escaped and found his way back to the Napier Range. He was a man whose commitment to the Bunuba cause was deeply admired by others in the tribe including his captor Jandamarra. His capture was followed by that of several other important Bunuba leaders and warriors including Jandamarra's brother-in-law and longtime companion, Lilamarra. Soon the 17 Bunuba who had been rounded up were shackled, accused of killing stock and readied for the march back to the gaol in Derby. However, Richardson delayed his departure probably because his remuneration increased as the days passed. Meanwhile, Jandamarra's discomfort deepened especially as his fellow Bunuba suffered in their chains. The captives, especially Ellemarra and Lilamarra, worked on Jandamarra's conscience, reminding him of his tribal obligations and promising him reprieve from his earlier tribal transgressions if he was to help them.



Aboriginal prisoners posing with a policeman



Looking out at entrance to Windjana Gorge

Almost inevitably, Jandamarra snapped and, on the night of Oct.31, 1894, he entered the Lillimooloora homestead and killed the sleeping Richardson with a single shot. Then, he and Lilamarra released the other prisoners, collected all the firearms they could find and with the Bunuba families who had taken up residence around Lillimooloora headed for their traditional hideouts in Windjana Gorge, just a short distance away. There they planned to ambush the posse of policemen and deputies who would inevitably follow them.

Today, Windjana Gorge is part of a National Park of the same name. Over geological time it was carved diagonally through the Napier Range by the Lennard River that flows freely during the wet season but dries to a series of pools during the dry season (between May and September). Only about two miles long it is a beautiful glen with abundant vegetation nourished by the river and the shade. Paperbarks, cadjebuts, native fig and leichhardt trees abound while freshwater crocodiles laze in the river and along the banks. The entrance from the south side is particularly impressive, a narrow opening only about 150 feet wide with vertical cliffs over 100 ft tall on both sides.





Jandamarra's Rock

The author with the group of Bunuba schoolgirls

Our group was on its return journey to the coastal town of Broome after a five-day tour of the Kimberley that included a visit to the strange and wonderful Bungle Bungles. We had driven from Fitzroy Crossing along the dusty dirt of the Fairfield-Leopold Downs road to the parking area on the flat lands just outside of Windjana Gorge. From there, we hiked the few hundred yards along the trail into the Gorge. Looking up we could see the many nooks, crannies and caves that permeate the cliffs on both sides of the sandstone entrance and provided the Bunuba with endless refuges. A little over 100 yards inside, the gorge widens and a sandy beach provides a convenient spot for a reflective pause. While I looked around at the cliffs a large 10ft crocodile that was basking on the beach decided it might be safer to float and so swam lazily away. At the head of this beach stands a very prominant and solitary boulder that figures large in the Bunuba memories. For reasons to be described it is now known as Jandamarra's rock though it was notorious for other reasons in ancient times. Specifically, it was one of those prominent places that had special significance for women. The Bunuba believed that a woman who climbed to the top of the rock would get pregnant. As I stood near it a group of young Bunuba high school girls with several consorts entered the gorge laughing and cavorting. One of them climbed to the top of the rock only to be severely admonished by one of the consorts. They seemed a lively and happy group so I introduced myself and they allowed our photograph to be taken. Despite the many remaining difficulties faced by the aboriginals it seemed to me an extra-ordinary contrast with the interactions that took place at this very spot just over a hundred years ago.

The fleeing group of Bunuba warriors and their families secreted themselves in the nooks and crannies of the cliffs on the south side of the entrance to Windjana Gorge. There they patiently waited for the white authorities to arrive. The ambush was set. However, the first white men to enter the Gorge were two stockmen unwittingly driving their cattle to water in the Gorge. As they lounged near the rock, Jandamarra appeared on top with his Winchester rifle and opened fire killing one of the stockmen. Then, with other Bunuba, he followed the second stockman on horseback as he fled from the gorge. They killed the second stockmen and ransacked the weapons and provisions stored in a cart outside the gorge. This incident provoked a massive response from the white authories who mounted a multipronged attack on the Bunuba stronghold in Windjana Gorge. Under the cover of darkness, one contingent entered the gorge from the other, eastern end and took up position looking up at the cliffs on the south side where the Bunuba were holed up. Another group approached from the plateau above the Bunuba position. Dawn brought a round of gunfire that lapsed into a stalemate that lasted for hours until a Bunuba mistake. Ellemarra attempted to vault down from his small foxhole to Jandamarra's cave and, in the process, was picked off by a rifleshot that killed him. This caused great shock and consternation among the Bunuba for Ellemarra was a legendary figure in their tribe. The black troopers in the police units sensed this shock and prepared to advance on the Bunuba position. However, Jandamarra grabbed his Winchester and emerged from his cave with his rifle blazing and thus to repelled the police forces. Under this cover most of the 100 plus Bunuba, warriors, women and children, were able to slip away through the tunnels and escape. Inevitably Jandamarra was shot several times. Though severely wounded, he was able to escape through the maze of caves and perhaps with the help of his mother and his wife. He made it all the way along the Napier Range back to his hideout in Tunnel Creek Cave, about 20 miles away. So ended the Battle of Windjana Gorge that figures large in the legends of the Bunuba.

At some time about 20 million years ago the stream known as Tunnel Creek penetrated a crack in the 350-million-year-old limestone Devonian reef known as the Napier Range. Erosion enlarged that passage to the size it has today, one of the oldest cave systems in Western Australia. Though just over half a mile long, the cave spans the entire breadth of the range. It is, of course, best known today as the hideout used by Jandamarra. But the many aboriginal rock paintings and speleothems that decorate the walls indicate extensive ancient use of the cave by local aboriginals. The entrance on the north side is well hidden by fallen rock and foliage and so is difficult for the uninitiated to find.





Tunnel Creek entrance from outside

Looking back at the entrance

The cave is a half mile in length and reaches from the southern side of the Napier Range to the northern side. It has a maximum height of about 40ft and a maximum width of about 50ft. It was once known as ``The Cave of the Bats" with at least five species of bat inhabiting the cavern, including ghost bats and fruit bats. Stalactites hang from the roof in many places. The floor of the cave is mostly flat and sandy since it gets washed through during the rainy season. There are large pools of water on the floor in which freshwater crocodiles reside (freshwater crocodiles are smaller and less aggressive than saltwater crocodiles; they are only a danger if you happen to step on one). Water only flows through the cave after heavy rainfall but the pools indicate that the water table is just below the present floor surface. Halfway through the cave the roof has collapsed providing another entrance and exit. Legend has it that, at one point, the police thought they had trapped Jandamarra in the cave and stationed people at both ends judging that he had to emerge one way or the other. However, Jandamarra escaped by way of this midway entrance/exit.





Midway tunnel exit/entrance

Tunnel exit

Like Windjana Gorge, Tunnel Creek is a National Park and the tunnel cave is a popular tourist destination alongside the Fairfield-Leopold Downs road. The turn-off is 35 miles south of the Gibbs River Road and 43 miles north of the Great Northern Highway. The Fairfield-Leopold Downs road and parts of the Gibbs River Road are only passable during the dry season (April 1 to November 1), consequently Tunnel Creek and its cave are inaccessible during the wet season. We had come to this ionic destination early in the dry season of the year 2016, to experience the place and to recognize the contributions and sacrifices that Jandamarra made for his people. The story reminded me of the sacrifices my Irish ancestors made for their people in their struggles against tyranny and how the legends created by their efforts underpin the modern nation of Ireland.

After the Battle of Windjana Gorge, a severely wounded Jandamarra somehow made it back to his Tunnel Creek cave hideout, probably with much help from his family. There he remained hidden for many months while he recovered and while his legend grew. Among the Bunuba and other local tribes, he had transcended mortal status. He had become a person with magical powers; in the Bunuba language he became a ``Jalnggangurru". This helped explain his ability to appear and disappear, his remarkable recovery powers, his apparent ability to defy death. Moreover, when he recovered from his wounds, Jandamarra used this reputation to conduct a reign of terror against his now terrified white enemy, raiding and then disappearring, spreading fear among the white agressors that dissuaded them from infringing further on tribal territory. Occasionally he would misjudge his ability to escape, as when he, his wife, mother and Captain were taking their ease in Windjana Gorge and were surprised by a group of black police deputies. He was successfully able to bargain for his mother's release but he never saw his wife again. Captain spent the rest of his brief life in gaol.

In November 1895 Jandamarra and his gang raided Lillimooloora police station, shocking the white men who had thought him dead. Again, in late 1896, they humiliated the police at Lillimooloora. Jandamarra and twenty others attacked Oscar Range homestead. A

number of his party were killed and wounded, but their leader escaped. By this stage most of his gang had been captured or killed. He was almost alone.

The end was inevitable. Police presence in the region had been substantially enhanced. In particular it had been decided not to employ local aboriginals but, instead, to recruit black deputies from further afield so as to avoid conflict of interests. One particular, black deputy recruited from much further south was a skilled tracker and shot known as ''Micki" or ''Minko Mick". Minko Mick tracked down Jandamarra to a spot on the south side of the Napier Range some miles away from Tunnel Creek. There Minko Mick managed to shoot and badly wound a lone Jandamarra who struggled to get back to his tunnel refuge. There he crawled into his sanctuary under cover of darkness. As the sun rose the next morning, April 1, 1897, Jandamarra collected his Winchester and few remaining bullets and walked out to face his adversary. He climbed to the top of a limestone pillar in front of the Tunnel Creek entrance and stood there defiantly facing his lone adversary hidden behind a boab tree. The bullet that killed Jandamarra toppled him over side and he fell 100ft to his death.

The entrance to the Tunnel Creek cave is obscured and almost blocked by large boulders. It is necessary to clamber over and around these boulders and to wade through several pools of water to make it into the cave where the hiking becomes much easier due to the sandy bottom. Once inside the cave opens up to well above head height but you need a headlamp or flashlight to find your way. There are extensive shallow pools to wade through (freshwater crocodiles live in these pools but present little danger provided you make sure not to step on one). After several hundred yards you will see the light from the entrance/exit midway through the cave and, when you reach this point, it is a serene place to sit and rest. Resuming the hike it is just a few hundred yards before you will see the light at the exit from the tunnel on the north side of the Napier Range. Once there, it is another lovely place to sit and enjoy the wooded glade into which you have emerged. There is a shaded pool just downstream of the exit where you can enjoy a swim if you are willing to forget the freshwater crocodiles.

It is said that Jandamarra's body was buried here at the exit at a secret and highly revered location. His head, however, had been chopped off by his adversaries and sent to Perth to frighten the aboriginal population. Such might have been the temporary effect of his demise. But the much larger and lasting effect of his heroic resistance against grievous wrongs and overwhelming odds was to make him a legend among the aboriginal people and among repressed native peoples everywhere. Still to this day he represents the possibility of redress against those wrongs. His story will live forever not just in the land of the Bunuba but in every corner of the globe where might thinks it is right.

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