

# Caranbirini Conservation Reserve



Caranbirini is a remarkable reserve, protecting a large number of habitats within its small area. Featuring different sandstone habitats, such as the spectacular “lost city” formations and less dramatic hills and ridges, it also includes examples of woodland, wetland and riverine areas.

This 1200 hectare reserve is located within the ecological transition zone between the sub-tropical and semi-arid regions and protects flora and fauna from both these regions.

## Access

The Reserve is reached via the Carpentaria Highway, 46 km south of Borroloola, and 64 km east of Cape Crawford. It is only 500 m to the carpark from the Highway and the gravel road is suitable for 2WD drive vehicles. The gate at the entrance is not locked.

The most comfortable time of the year to visit is during the drier months, between May and October.

## What to See and Do

Caranbirini's walking tracks and bird hide provide stunning views and great bird watching opportunities within easy reach of the highway.



**Caranbirini Waterhole -** this walk leads to a birdhide overlooking a semi-permanent waterhole. A bird-watcher's delight, particularly late in the dry season when surface water in the region becomes scarce.

Distance: 200 m return

Time: 10 mins

Grade: 2 - easy



**Barrawulla Loop Walk** - a short walk that takes you into another world exploring the impressive sandstone spires of the ‘lost city’ formation.

Distance: 2 km loop

Time: 1 - 2 hours

Grade: 2 - easy



**Jagududgu Loop Walk** - this walk traverses the different habitats of Caranbirini, reveals changes within each habitat and offers many spectacular views. Alternatively, you can walk up to the first lookout and back (about 1 km return).

Distance: 5 km loop (approx)

Time: 3 hours

Grade: 3 - moderate



**Camping is not permitted in the Reserve.** Commercial camping and accommodation are available at Borroloola and Cape Crawford (Heartbreak Hotel).

## Geology

Two distinctly different types of sandstone are found in the Reserve. One forms low stony ridges while the other has weathered to form interesting sandstone pillars known as ‘lost city formations’. The pillars are up to 25 metres high and contrast strongly with the surrounding countryside. They also provide great shelters for wildlife.

## Flora and Fauna

The semi-permanent Caranbirini Waterhole is a refuge for wildlife as the surrounding landscape dries out through the long dry season.

Species of special interest include the Gouldian Finch, Borroloola Gecko and the *Calytrix mimiana* shrub.

Species that you are likely to see during your visit include Brolga, Jabiru, whistling ducks, kingfishers, egrets, herons, various finches and honeyeaters. Other wildlife you may see include Euros, Agile Wallabies, water monitors and turtles.

The relatively cool early mornings and late afternoons are the best times to see wildlife.

## Safety and Comfort

- Observe park safety signs
- Carry and drink plenty of water
- Wear a shady hat, sunscreen and insect repellent
- Wear suitable clothing and footwear
- Carry a first aid kit
- Avoid strenuous activity in 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 Reserve
- Nets, traps and firearms are not permitted
- Generators are not permitted in this Reserve
- A permit is required for Drone use - conditions apply and it must be obtained prior to your arrival in the Reserve.
- Check that your vehicle is not transporting pests like weeds and cane toads.

## Aboriginal History

For thousands of years the area has been a favourite place for the local Aboriginal people, the *Gadandji*. They call the area *Garambarini*. For the *Gadandji* the waterhole is an important source of food like turtles, fish, mussels and waterlilies.

Two important dreaming beings, *Jagududgu* the emu and *Barrawulla* the white cockatoo, form part of a dreaming trail that passes through the area.

*Barrawulla*, who was born and still lives at *Garambarini*, never travels far from this site. *Barrawulla* is present as a pale stone high up on the escarpment overlooking the main waterhole. You can see *Barrawulla* from the first lookout along the *Jagududgu* Walk.

## Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

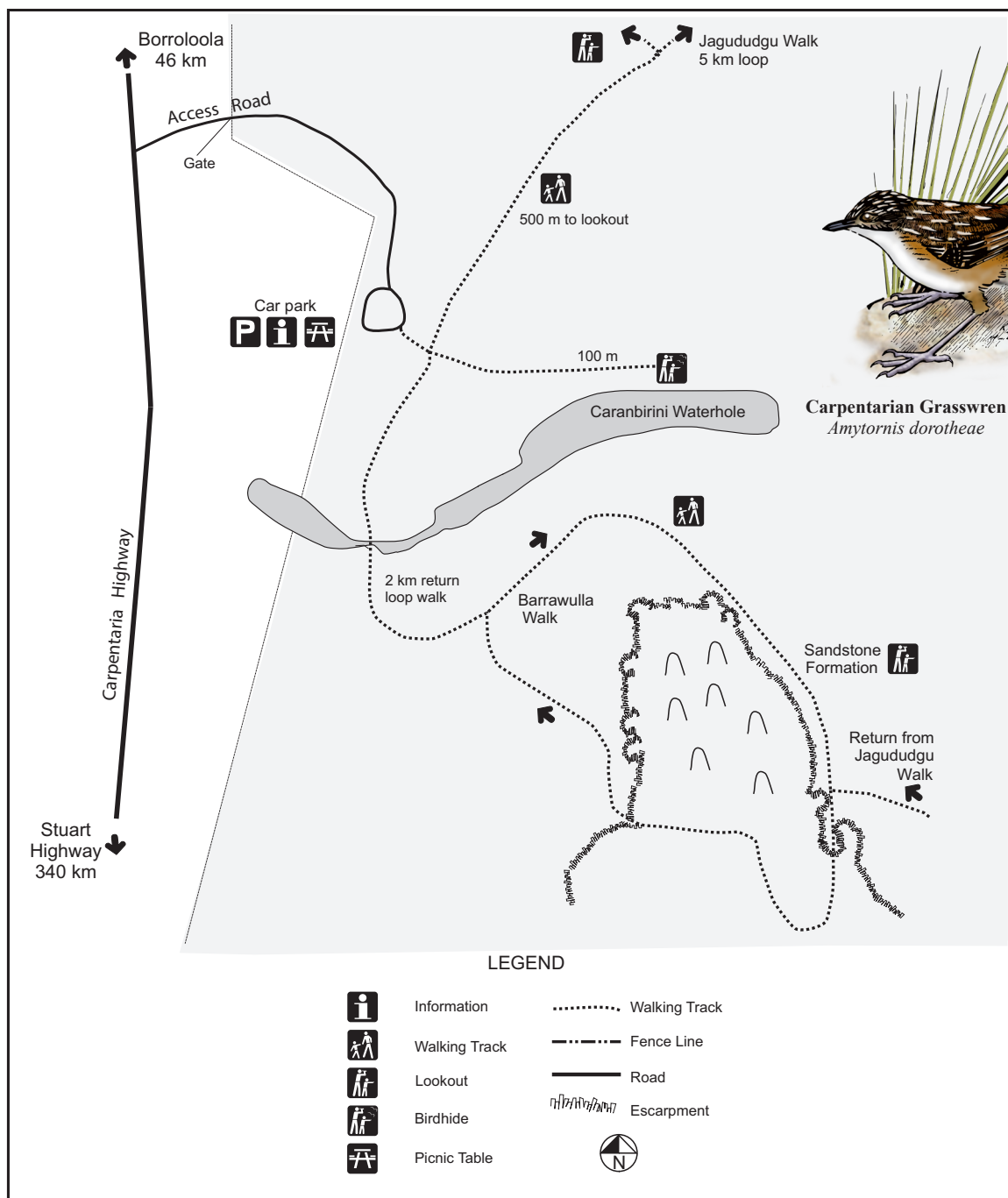
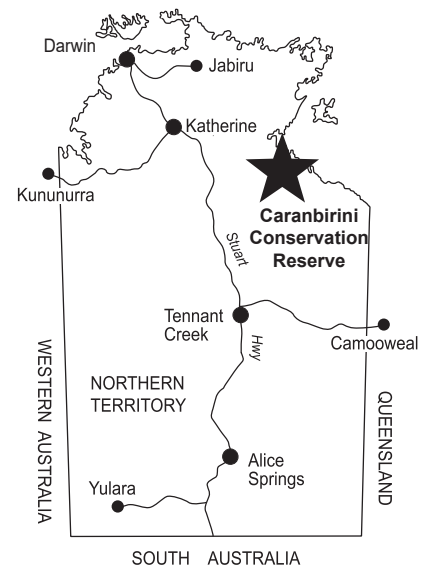
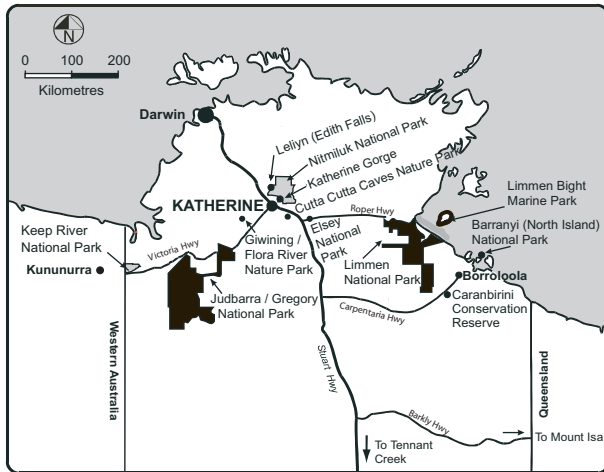
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**Carpentarian Grasswren**  
*Amytornis dorotheae*