

Carnarvon Gorge

Day 2 - back to nature



The long trek to the end and back

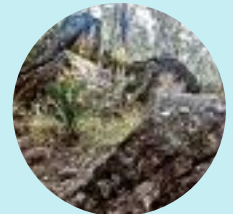
Away from the maddening crowds

The Takarakka Caravan Park is a large area set aside for camping, glamping and living in style if that is what you crave. The park has a cafe and shop with staple foodstuffs. There is a restaurant that serves wholesome meals. Kangaroos wonder around the grounds and the wild life seen in later evening include betongs, bush rats and a wide variety of bird life. Platypus and turtles can be found in the stream that circles the camping area. We arrived a day after a long weekend and it was packed with tourists - many from overseas. The ablution's block was very clean and tidy - great showers after a long day.



The Flats

The base of the gorge is very flat. Surrounding you on your walks are towering sandstone cliffs. It gets hot here.



The Rocks

Forebodingly dark basalt rock outcrops provide a surreal look while the creek is filled with pebbles and rounded stones.



The Plants

Our walks meandered through forests of ancient cycads, wirey grasses and lots of palm fans. Lovely.



Day Two

Boowinda Gorge, Cathedral Cave, Big Bend.

The gorge is lined with natural vegetation and fed by the waters of numerous side gorges. The main creek winds between towering sandstone cliffs. It is a cool and moist oasis lying within the very dry surrounding environment of central Queensland.

“Its all written on the rock”

Our first side track was Boowinda Gorge. Like so many other side gorges his awesome valley starts wide but narrows with sides that reach up into the bright sky. The floor was covered in river pebbles which crunched under our feet as we walked. There were many bends in the course.



A PLACE LOST IN TIME

Its not that the sites don't fill everyone with awe - they do, but we need aboriginal guides/ elders to help us interlopers interpret the simple red ochre motifs found painted all over the large area of rock face here in a number of places in Carnarvon Gorge. The sheer quantity of what some would call graffiti is mind blowing. When you imagine this art was painted over 3600 years ago you can only sit and admire and contemplate humanity.



There were times where individuals were left on their own to contemplate the serenity and the awesomeness of the place but our 6 member party kept changing its groupings as we walked the track. All combinations - pairs, triples, quads, or one big group. Talking, reminiscing, analysing, interpreting, joking and at times, silent and contemplative. We feel very privileged to have such amazing friendships.

Cathedral Cave was similar to the Art Gallery but without the crowds. The paintings were just as amazing. We lingered long in awe of what we were witnessing - 3600 years of history written on the rock. Astonishing. It was then further on to Big Bend where everyone sat down to rest and admire the beauty/grandeur of this spectacular place. When we finally returned to camp we all collapsed. A fab day.

