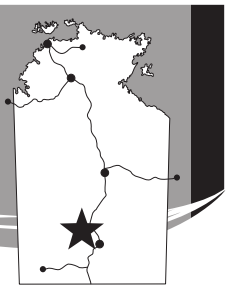
Anna's Reservoir Conservation Reserve



Fact Sheet

The first European person to discover, name and describe Anna's Reservoir was explorer John McDouall Stuart in April 1860. Stuart named the rockhole after the youngest daughter of one of his sponsors, Mr James Chambers. He visited Anna's Reservoir on each leg of his three attempts to reach the northern coast of Australia. Early travellers and the Overland Telegraph Construction team also drew water from the Reservoir.

Anna's Reservoir played an important part in the epic overland journey in 1879/80 by Alfred Giles, over-landing 8000 sheep and 4000 cattle to establish Springvale near Katherine. Giles took advantage of Stuart's description of the waterhole and forced the stock from Colyer Creek north to Anna's Reservoir, a distance of about 175 kilometres. In that dry year this was the only reliable water source between Colyer Creek and Ti Tree Well.

The homestead ruins within the Reserve are highly significant due to their association with the Barrow Creek Pastoral Company venture, the most ambitious enterprise of its kind in Central Australia. Early in 1884 Billy Benstead, manager of the venture, chose Anna's Reservoir as the site of the station homestead for their vast station (51,800 square kilometres) and commenced building a three roomed stone house and blacksmith's hut.

In August 1884 when only Harry Figg (head stockman) and Thomas Coombes (cook) were present at the homestead, the Anmatyerr people attacked, spearing Coombes and setting fire to the homestead. A new homestead for the Barrow Creek Pastoral Company was built at Stirling and the Anna's Reservoir homestead was abandoned.

Access

Located approximately 160 km north of Alice Springs, access to the Reserve is via the Stuart Highway and a private station road (see map).

Permission from Aileron Station is required before using this road and 2 weeks advance notice is necessary.

Sections of the unsealed track are loose, unstable and can be boggy after rain. 4WD is recommended.

What to do

The Reserve offers visitors recreational activities including short walks, nature appreciation and photography. The Reserve also provides an opportunity for European history appreciation.

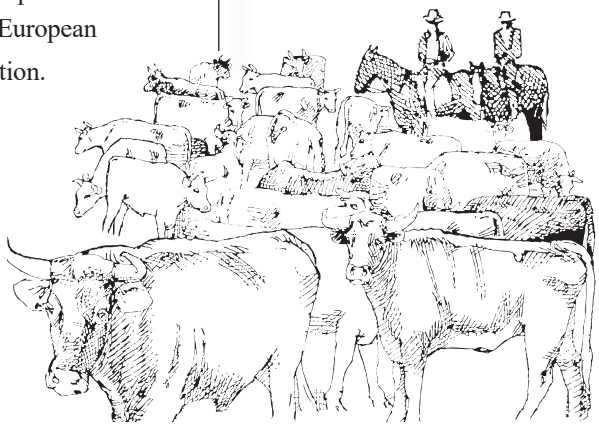
Safety and Comfort

- Observe park safety signs.
- Carry and drink plenty of water.
- Wear a shady hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, suitable clothing and footwear.
- Avoid strenuous activity during the heat of the day.
- Consider your health and fitness when choosing a walk.

Please Remember

- Keep to designated roads and tracks.
- All historic, cultural items and wildlife are protected.
- Firewood collection is not permitted in the reserve.
- Fires are only permitted in designated firepits.
- Bins are not provided, please take your rubbish with you.
- Pets are not permitted.
- Generators are not permitted.
- A permit is required for Drone use – conditions apply and it must be obtained prior to your arrival in the Reserve.

There are no facilities provided, however camping is permitted in the area shown on the map. Please do not camp near the waterhole or the historical ruins.



Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

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PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION NORTHERN TERRITORY

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

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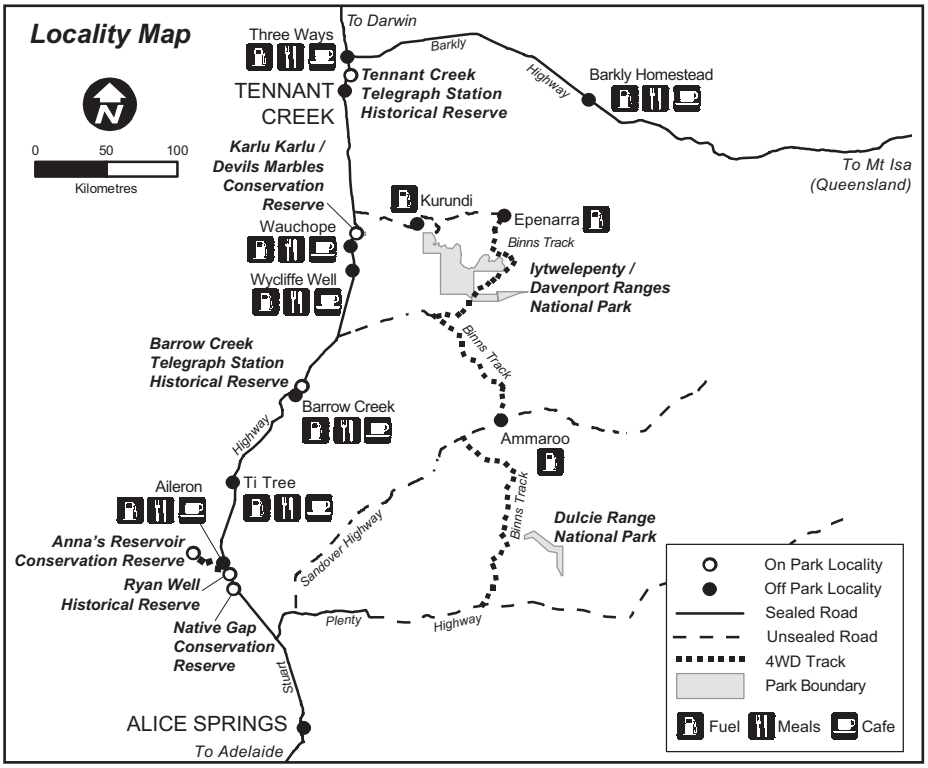

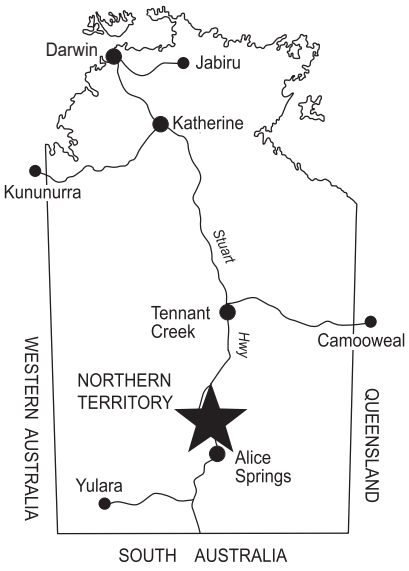

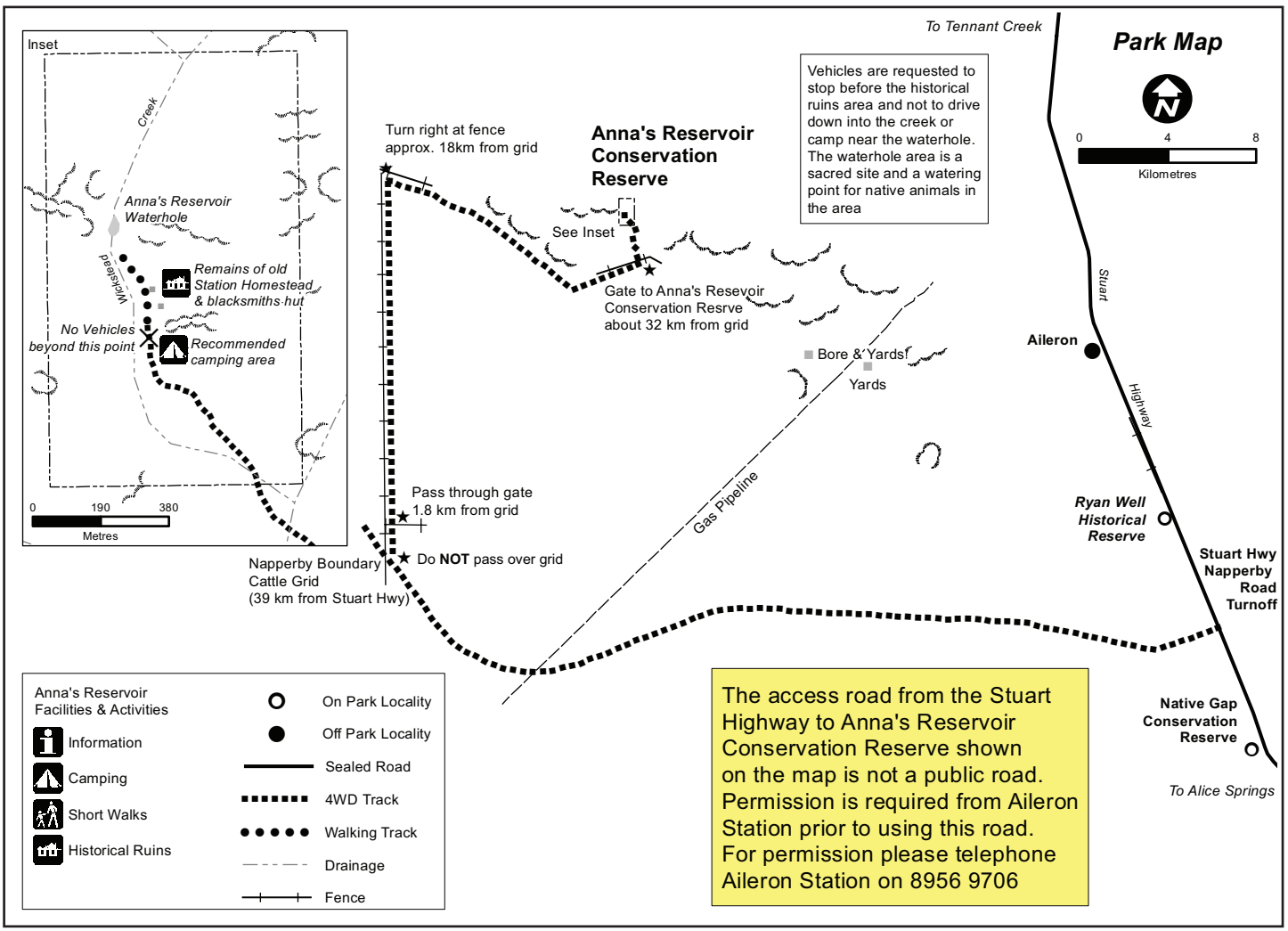

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