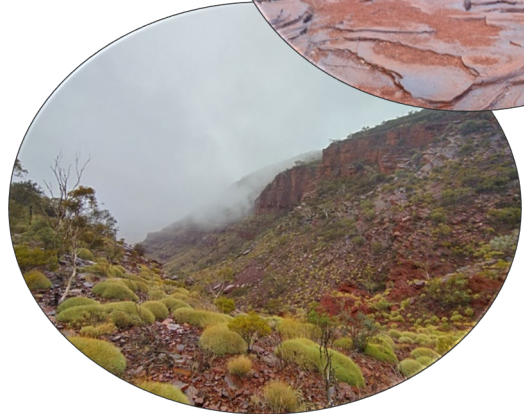


KARAJINI NATIONAL PARK

PREVIOUSLY HAMMERSLEY RANGE PARK



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

[Karajini National Park](#) is in the Pilbara region, near Mount Tom Price in Western Australia. Two billion years ago the inland oceans receded and left oxidised iron rich rock formations, gorges and pools of extraordinary colours. The park contains many sacred sites such as birthing places and is managed by three indigenous groups.

The nearby blue asbestos mines have ceased operations.

THE RESULT

This was a learning experience. I learned a good deal of the local mining history.

It was also a breath-taking experience, the sky was so blue, the rock pools were very reflective, and the spinifex rather prickly. It was like tapping into nature as we listened to the sounds within and around the trees.

The guide referred to the balancing act which exists between the park and the mining industry. Within eyeshot from the summit of Mount Bruce huge trains transporting iron ore from Marandoo Mine are visible. Each train carrying billions of dollars of ore. Prior to being a mine, this area had been within the National Park. The park benefits from the roads and other infrastructure built by the mines.

THE INITIATIVE

Bridgette, a member of the Josephite Laudato Si' Action Plan Team, wanted to experience hiking in an isolated area with people who enjoy the same activities and appreciation of the natural world.

THE GOAL

Walk among the ancient rock formations and to complete the climb up Mount Bruce, the second highest mount in Western Australia.

REFLECTION

Immersed in Karajini for several days on a guided tour increased my appreciation of the geology and the ongoing connection of country and the indigenous custodians.

On reflecting on her experience of climbing Mount Bruce, Bridgette said, "It was like God was coming down as the clouds and fog gradually descended around us" – an ethereal experience.

This was further enhanced by the guide who had done this walk many times but never experienced these weather conditions and was enthusiastically photographing.