

JUMP UP COUNTRY

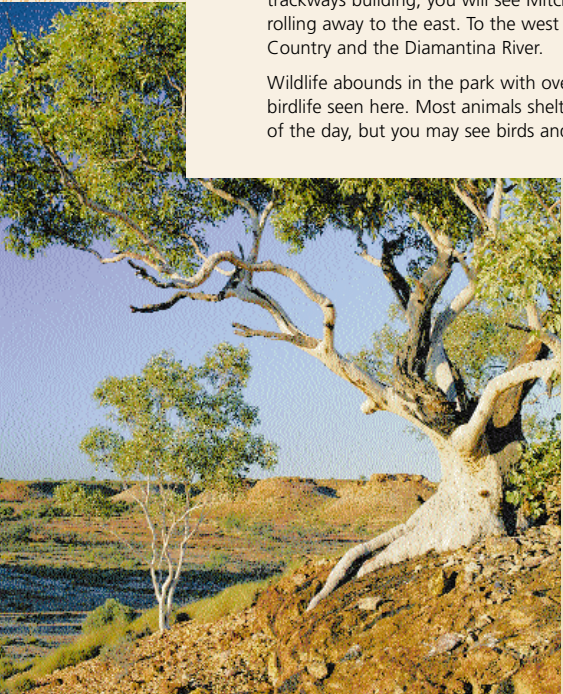
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the traditional owners, the Koa People, welcome you to Lark Quarry Conservation Park. This is Jump Up Country — a landscape of mesas, gullies and steep escarpments.

CREATED BY WATER

This dry and dramatic landscape has been created by water. Geologists call this landscape “dissected residuals” — the sediments laid down by ancient lakes and seas have been carved over the millennia by runoff from countless summer storms.

If you climb to the lookout on the mesa behind the trackways building, you will see Mitchell grass downs rolling away to the east. To the west are the Channel Country and the Diamantina River.

Wildlife abounds in the park with over 90 species of birdlife seen here. Most animals shelter during the heat of the day, but you may see birds and lizards.



Spinifex Pigeon
These birds live on seeds from spinifex and other grasses. They live in these lands all year round, but need access to water.



Netted dragon
You might see these lizards scuttle to safety as you walk along the tracks.

*This is a harsh, but beautiful and peaceful landscape
I can look at its rugged features day in, day out,
it is nature untouched
The hills are the colour of the Earth, changing all the time
Bright, strong colours, turning deeper
as the sun goes down.*

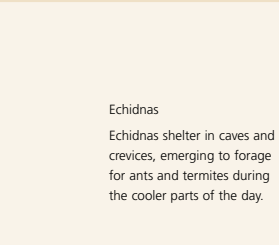
Vince Keirnen QPWS, Ranger in charge,
Bladensburg National Park and Lark Quarry National Park



Black kites
On the trip out, you'll have seen groups of kites roosting in trees beside the road or soaring high on the thermals. They eat carrion as well as rodents, reptiles and insects.



Wallaroos
These large, shaggy-haired kangaroos snooze during the day in caves under the escarpment, coming out to graze in the evening. Wallaroos have evolved to be extremely water- and energy-efficient in this dry landscape. They graze on spinifex, as well as herbs and grasses.



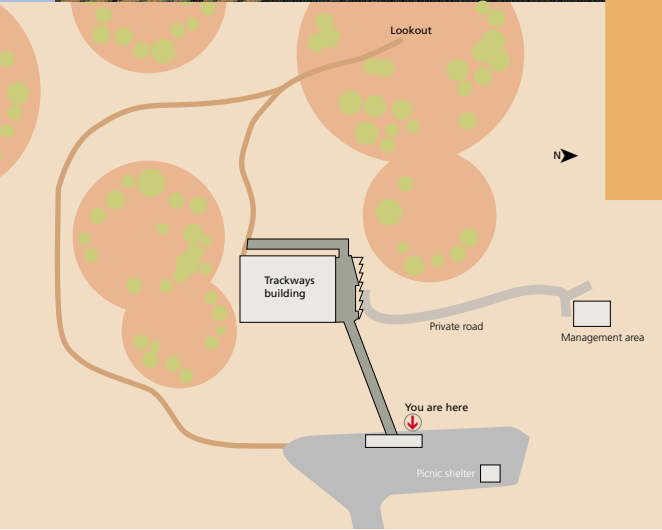
Echidnas
Echidnas shelter in caves and crevices, emerging to forage for ants and termites during the cooler parts of the day.



Rufous-crowned emu-wren
These tiny birds, weighing five grams or less, nest and shelter within the spinifex. They forage for insects in the low shrubs and tussocks.

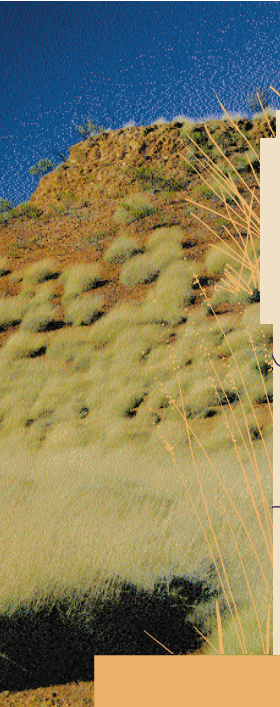


Spinifex
Prickly spinifex grows from the centre out — the tussocks often have an older dead centre. Spinifex tussocks efficiently hold soil from being blown away by the wind. Wallaroos find it tasty. Take care — spinifex leaves irritate the skin.



WHEN WALKING IN LARK QUARRY CONSERVATION PARK, ALWAYS:

- Carry water
 - Wear a hat, sunscreen and walking shoes
 - Stay on the tracks
- Note: the tracks are steep in places.



GO BUSH

Visit the other regional national parks and explore the diversity of the Outback landscapes.

Bladensburg National Park
Features creeks and waterholes, Mitchell grass downs, mesas and sandstone ranges. Scenic Route of the River Red Gums.

Diamantina National Park
Features floodplains, braided channels and waterholes of the Diamantina River, sandstone ranges, Mitchell grass plains and desert dunes. 4WD access only.

Lochern National Park
On the Thompson River, features channels and waterholes, mulga lands and Mitchell grass downs. Rough roads, impassable in wet.

QPWS information: call 4652 7333.

Normanton Box
These eucalypts grow on the lower slopes along waterlines. They are a mallee gum — their multiple stems reshoot after fire.

Lancewood
These tough wattles survive in shallow infertile soils on the drier hillsides.