

Iningai Park Nature Reserve

Iningai Park is named after the Iningai Traditional Owners who lived along the Thomson River from near Stonehenge to Muttaborra prior to European occupation. The park is part of the Longreach Town Common and includes sections of floodplain and waterholes along Gin Creek.

unique landscapes

The landscape is part of the Mitchell Grass Downs region - one of the most extensive natural grassland ecosystems in the world. The clay soil formed is from sediment that accumulated on the bottom of lakes and seabeds during the Cretaceous period, about 100 million years ago.

Ecosystems range from coolibah-fringed waterholes to the adjacent, flat, and sparsely vegetated cracking-clay floodplains and surrounding low, open gidgee woodlands.

boom & bust

Floods are highly variable and larger floods can occur every two to three years. Floodwaters break out from Gin Creek and can spread to the fringes of town. The wildlife seize on the opportunity to breed and make use of the bountiful floodplain wetlands.

grazing history

Each household had a wood burning stove or fireplace and many mature coolibah and gidgee trees near town were cut for firewood. Horses, cattle and goats were essential for transport and food up until the 1950s, so this area was allocated for grazing. Continuous heavy grazing by these animals degraded the grasses, shrubs and creek beds.

current uses

Today the vegetation has grown back and many native plants and animals can be seen in their natural habitat as locals and visitors stroll along the bushwalks.

**To enquire about a guided tour,
please contact Quenton Scott**

**(Scotty) on
07 4658 1819**



wildlife

Freshwater crabs and mussels are found in the creeks. Records to date show at least 13 mammals, 10 fish, 2 crustaceans, 130 birds, 11 frogs, 22 reptiles and 166 plant species occur in the various habitats, some of which are seasonal. These species are highly adapted to the arid climate and many live in the cracks in the clay soils for example the stripe-faced dunnart.



Gilbert's Dragon



Wedge-tailed Eagle



Priolus

locals take action

A management plan has been prepared by the Town Common Group to assist the Longreach Shire Council and community to manage the Longreach Town Common. The draft plan includes background on the natural resources and history of the area. It addresses issues and proposes actions that may be taken to better manage the Common for all for users whilst protecting the Common for the future.

Text: Vanessa Bailey. Graphics and images: Jeff Poole

Iningai Nature Reserve Locality and Distances

