

## **Kimberley (and beyond) Crusaders – Part 7b**



*Bizarre rock formations line the beach front*



*This shark-safe rock pool begs for a dip!*



*80 Mile:  
Famous for  
its shells  
(millions!!)*

At **80-Mile** (Australia's longest continuous beach) we discover a range of hard core fishermen's quad-bike powered dream machines: Another classic example of Aussie ingenuity!  
We can't help thinking of one dear friend back at the East coast who fishes on despite debilitating back problems: *"Ian rejoice, your solution is at hand...☺"*



**80 Mile "beach-fishing-tragic's" convoy**



**Fisherman's chariot**



**Fish Mobile**

One of the hard-core fishers quips:

***“There is a fine line between catching fish and standing on a beach for hours, poking a stick up in the air and looking like an idiot”***



***Fishing Academy***



***A fishing creature's essentials***

***“Back up your chariot to the water line, cast your bait and kick back in stylish comfort!”***



*The 'ultimate sun protection' model*



*Couch for the missus and game chair for the lad*

*The Tandem*

*Can't get over these master pieces – just have to photograph them all!*



**Wry Aussie  
humour at its finest!**

Moving on to more serious subjects... **Port Hedland**

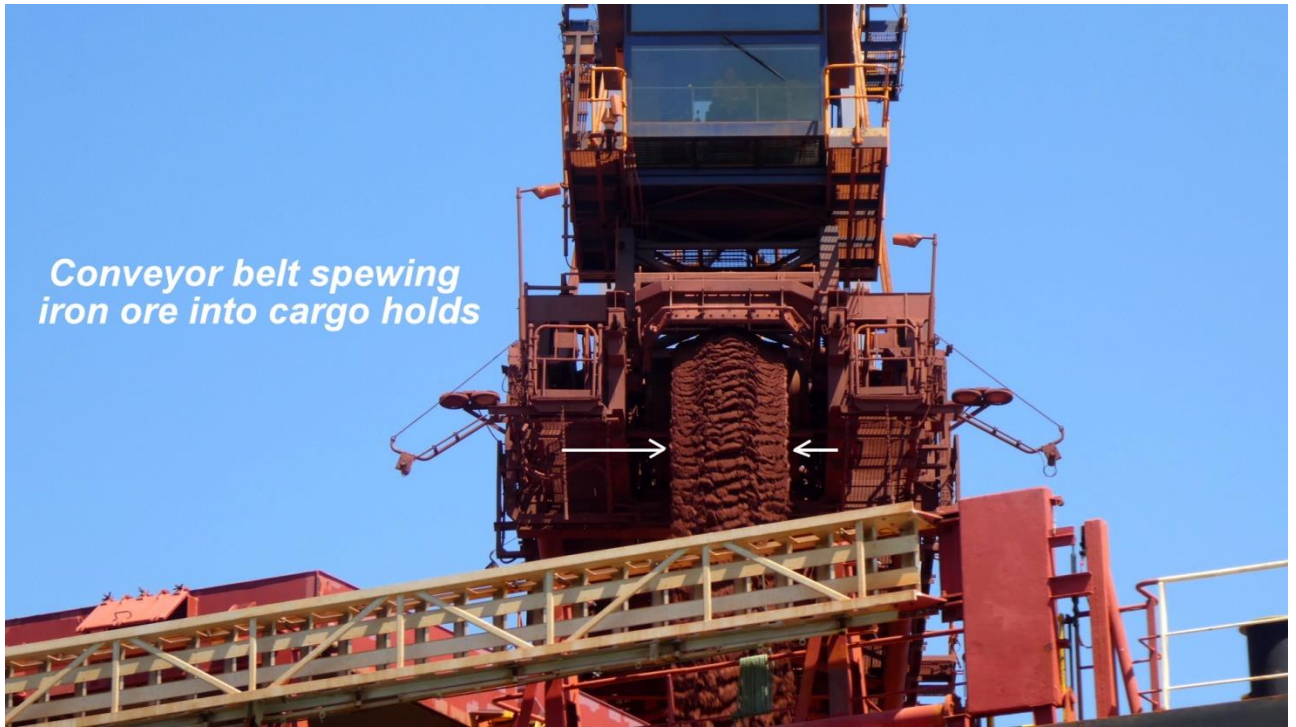
*Rio Tinto alone hauls approx. 290 million tonnes of iron ore per annum*



**Port Hedland harbour**



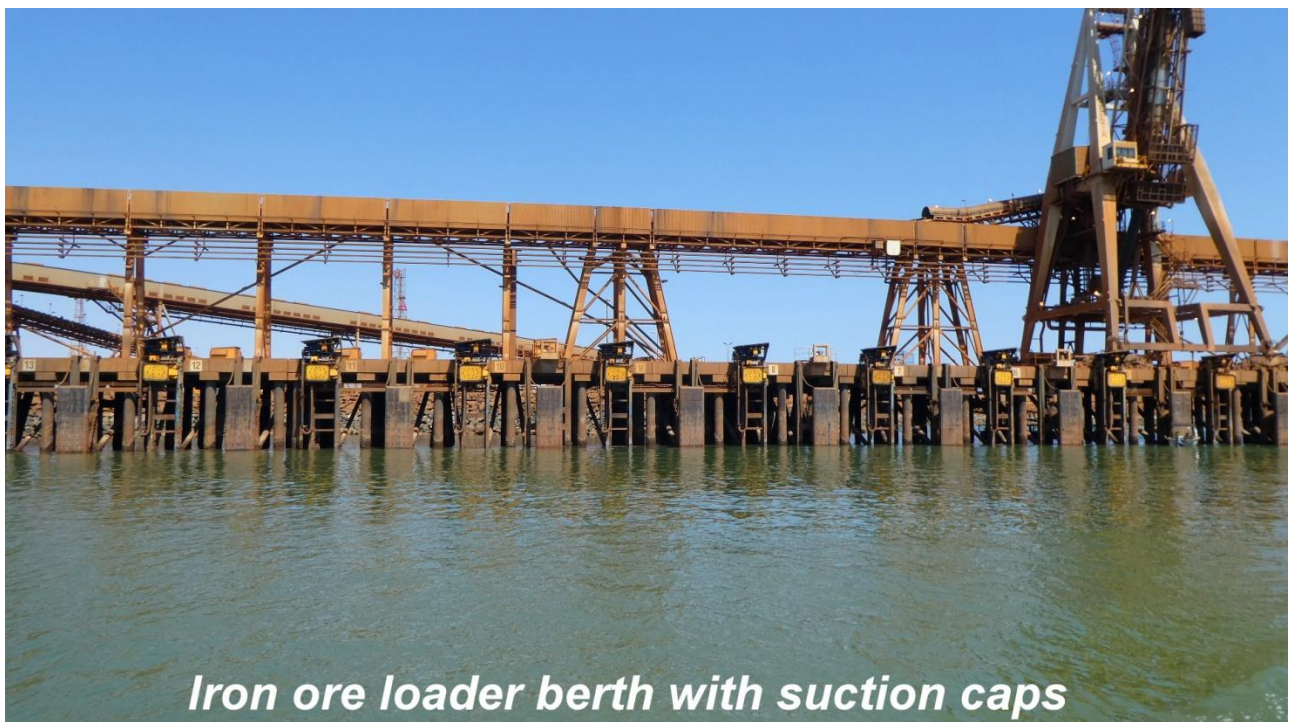
**Loading iron ore at Port Hedland**



At **10 thousand tonnes per hour** it takes approx. **23- 36 hours** to fully load a bulk carrier with iron ore. Our tour guide explains: “In the space of time it takes to say “**onethousandandone**” enough ore pours off the belt to build **one Toyota Landcruiser!**” At destination in China it takes **six days to unload** a ship. It is said, the Chinese stockpile a lot of the ore for the future - as part of a “**300-year plan**”!

Port Hedland’s operates the **world’s largest bulk-export port** for sheer tonnage and scale of activity. Mining magnates like Rio Tinto, BHP Billiton or Gina Rinehart pay shipping agents between 50- and 100 thousand dollars per day per ship waiting in queue, parked offshore to be loaded: Docking and loading must be swift and seamless with minimal delays; operations must run non-stop, 24 hours a day, seven days a week!

Australian ingenuity is at play here, too: Currently an innovative ‘suction cap system’ is being trialled – instead of roping ships into berth they are held in place by giant suction pads which can be employed speedily after tug boats pin the vessel into position.





*Suction caps hold ships firmly in place while adjusting automatically to tidal movements*

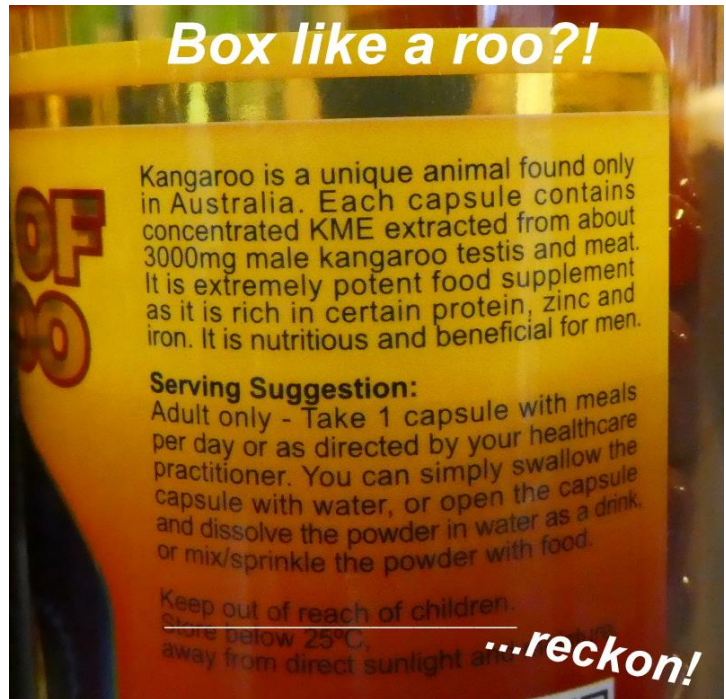


*Mission to Seafarers  
collecting sailors  
from their vessel*

The **Mission to Seafarers Centre** runs informative tours and takes visitors along on their daily harbour runs collecting workers from the boats to take them shopping and give them some on-shore relaxation time for a few hours. The mission operates a shop that sells anything from Aussie tourist trinkets to Asian packet food stuffs to navigating equipment and clothing. Some items seem somewhat dubious, like the testosterone boosting (?) '**Essence Of Kangaroo**'... (recommended to '*keep out of reach of children*' - !!)



Oh! Yeah?



**Box like a roo?!**

Kangaroo is a unique animal found only in Australia. Each capsule contains concentrated KME extracted from about 3000mg male kangaroo testis and meat. It is extremely potent food supplement as it is rich in certain protein, zinc and iron. It is nutritious and beneficial for men.

**Serving Suggestion:**

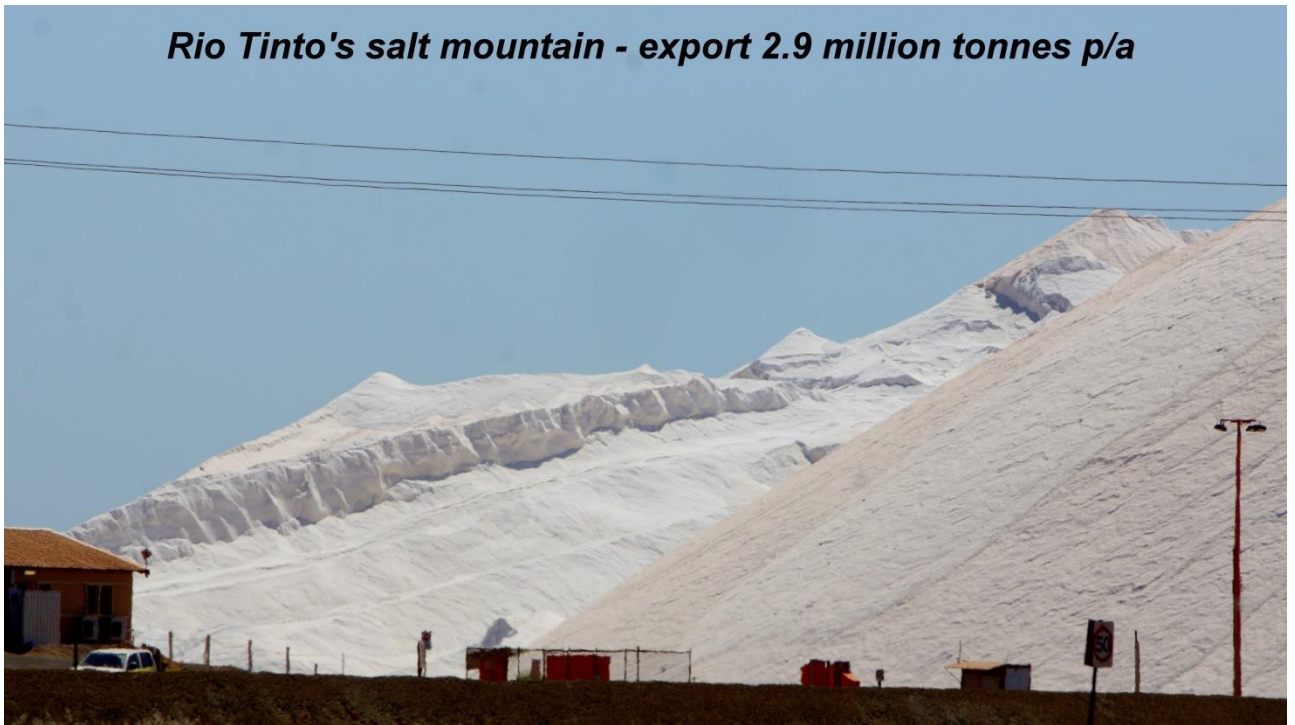
Adult only - Take 1 capsule with meals per day or as directed by your healthcare practitioner. You can simply swallow the capsule with water, or open the capsule and dissolve the powder in water as a drink or mix/sprinkle the powder with food.

Keep out of reach of children.  
Store below 25°C,  
away from direct sunlight and

**...reckon!**

Rio Tinto also deals in salt...

**Rio Tinto's salt mountain - export 2.9 million tonnes p/a**



Our visit's timing here turns out perfect as we get to watch a Rio Tinto sponsored harbourside event:

**Fireboat's water wars**







End of school holidays celebrations:

**Rio Tinto's annual show of appreciation** – a full two-hour choreographed tug boat dance ballet... complemented by a free sausage sizzle and drinking water for the crowds, free icecream for the kids and a fire boat 'hose-down' for those who venture into the designated "Wet Zone".

Hundreds of children squeal with delight – everyone in the zone gets soaked to the bone!

*(sorry – no pictures of this one as the camera gets quickly sealed in a dry-bag – safe from the saltwater shower's reach!).*

**The boys driving the boats must have as much fun as the spectators** as they're let loose showing off extraordinary handling skills with their 7200HP Dutch-built **Rotortug** toys!

These advanced tug boats have a pulling power of 84 tonnes each...

Enter country **Pilbara** south of Port Hedland...

A land of extremes, of bright copper sunsets and wide open tropical semi-desert wilderness.

**Karijini National Park**, set in the Hamersley Range, offers an abundance of stunning gorges, waterfalls and breathtaking scenery open for exploration by following the many walking trails around the park.

Encompassing almost 630-thousand hectares it is WA's second largest park presenting the visitor with spectacular rugged vistas, a variety of arid-land ecosystems and ancient geological formations.



**Dales Gorge - Karijini NP**







Most of the gorges at Karijini involve very steep descents. Hiking along the bottom frequently means going for a swim – some of them lengthy (600m or more).

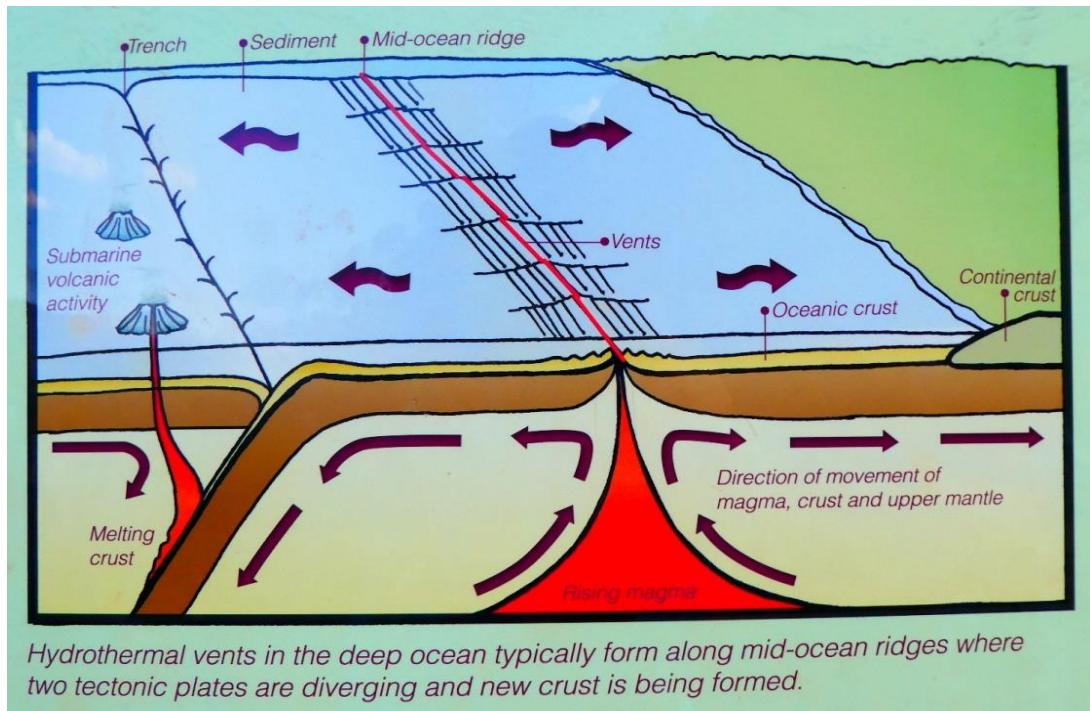
Though in the heat of the day one of the best parts is... actually getting in the water 😊



There are spectacular, wavy rock folds at **Hamersley Gorge**, a distinctive feature that provides clues to the rock's ancient origins.

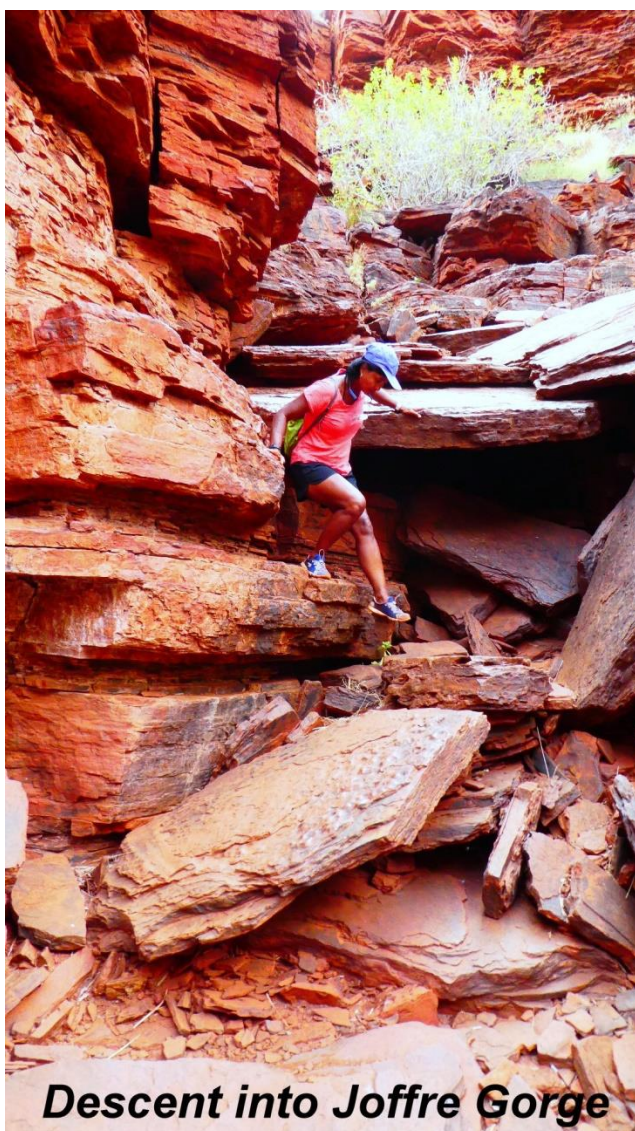
The rock is called sedimentary **Banded Iron Formation (BIF)**, which is made up of minerals originally deposited as fine mud in a deep ocean basin about two and a half billion years ago.

These minerals entered the ocean in hot solutions from vents formed along mid-ocean ridges. Iron-rich layers alternating with iron-poor layers in the sediments created the distinctive bands in the rock.





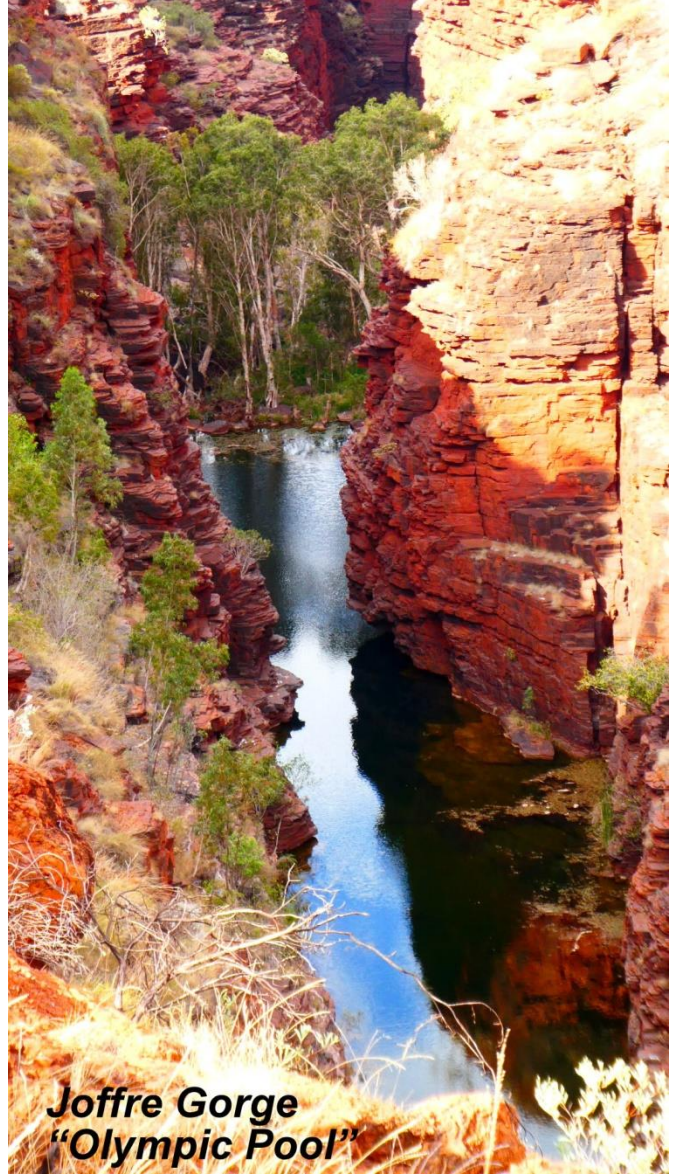
**Joffrey Gorge**



**Descent into Joffre Gorge**



All the way at the bottom: Enter the 'Olympic Pool' for an 800 swim



**Joffre Gorge  
"Olympic Pool"**



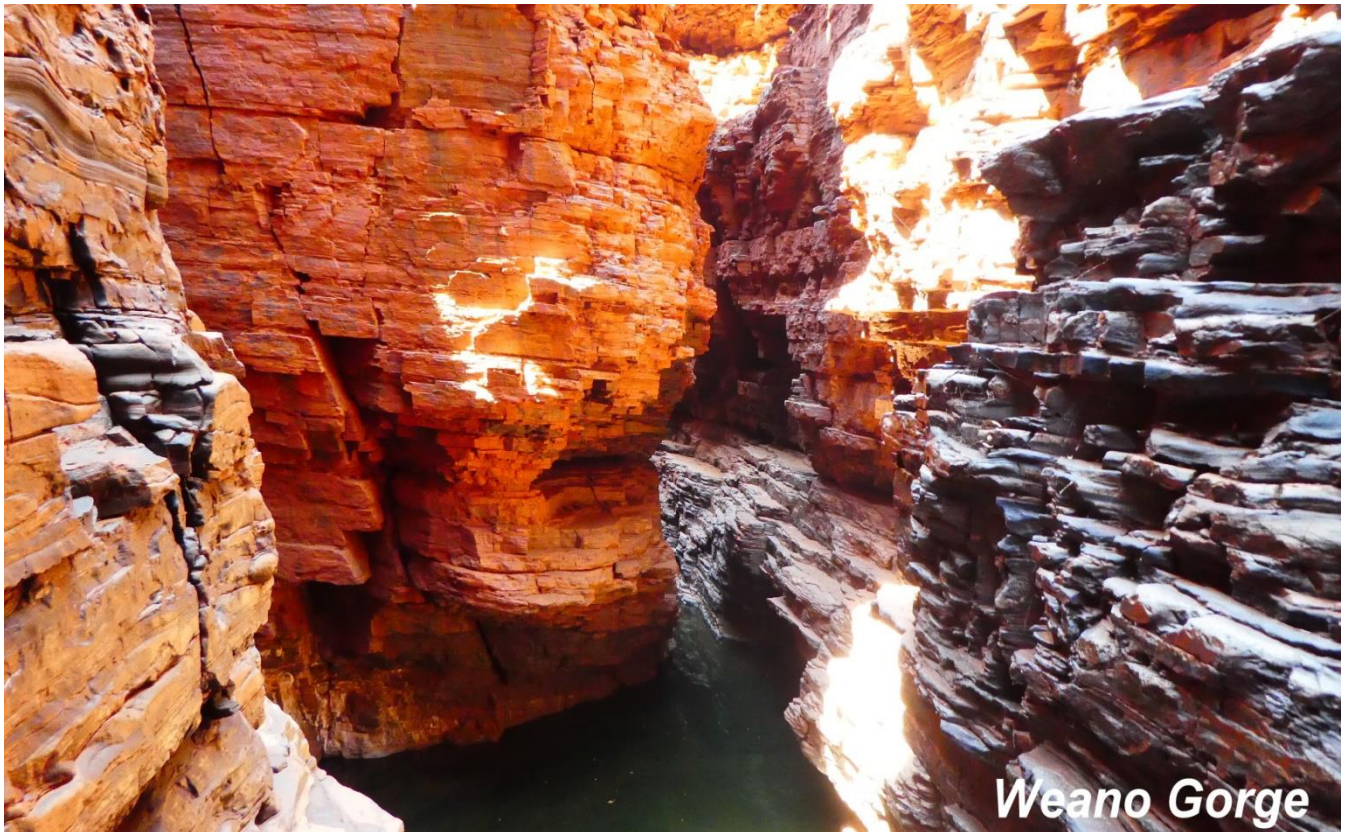
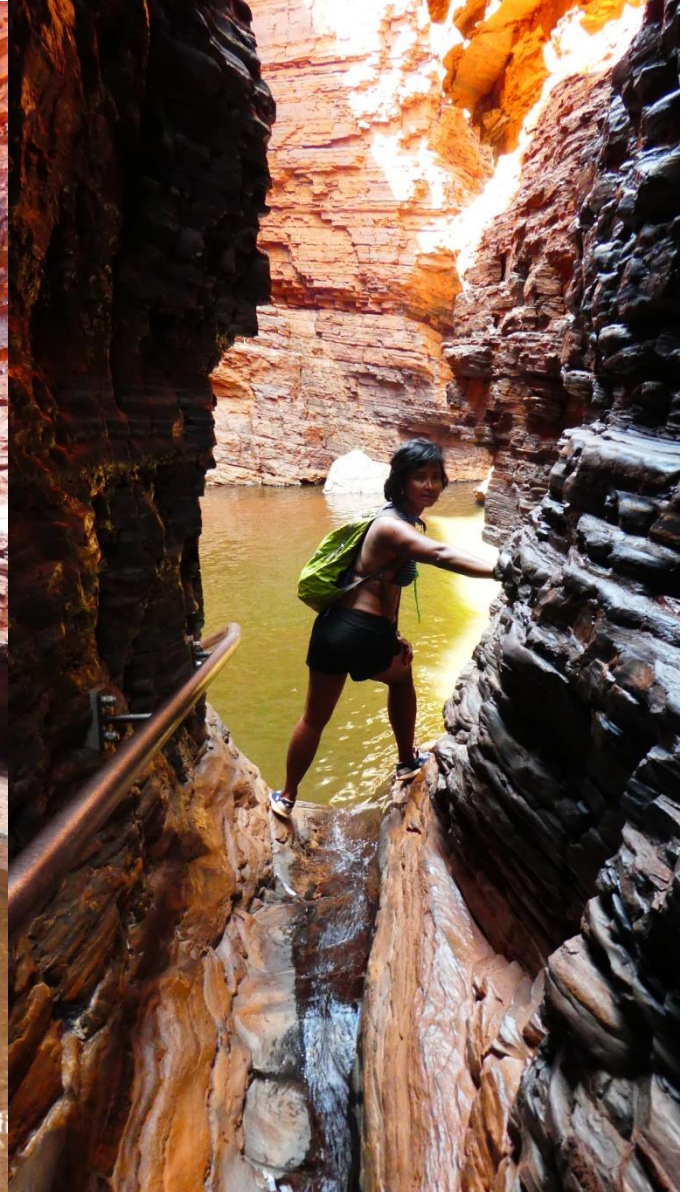
**Joffre Gorge**

**Climb thru to  
'Olympic Pool'**

**At the  
bottom**



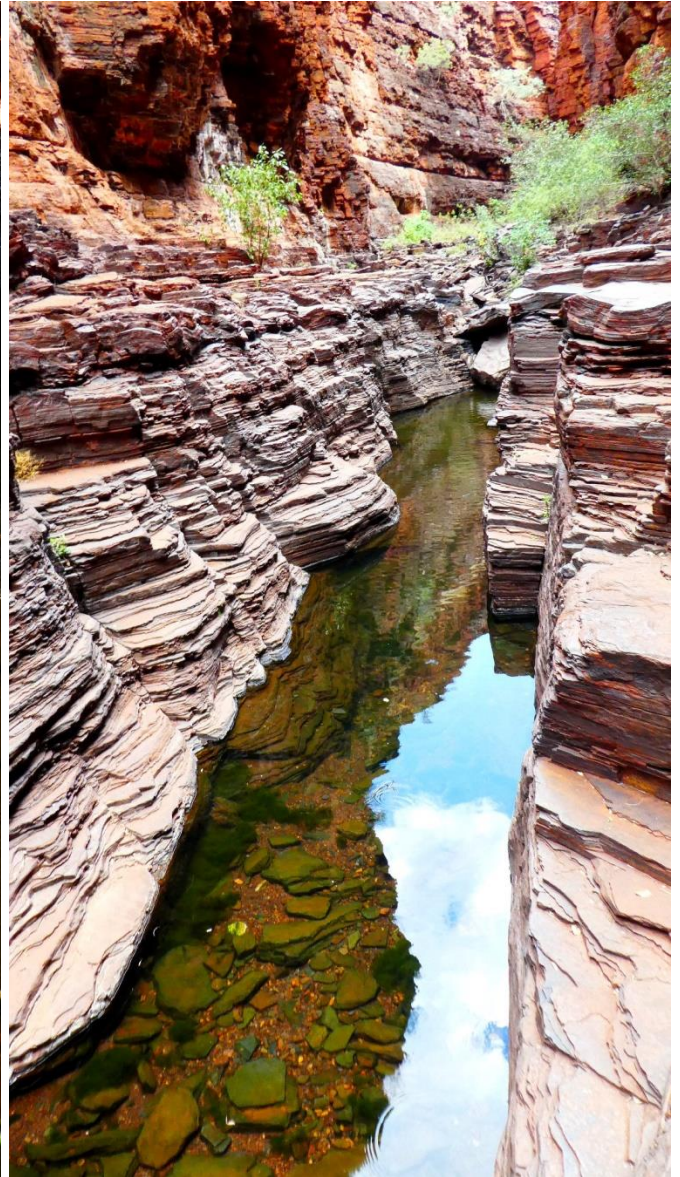
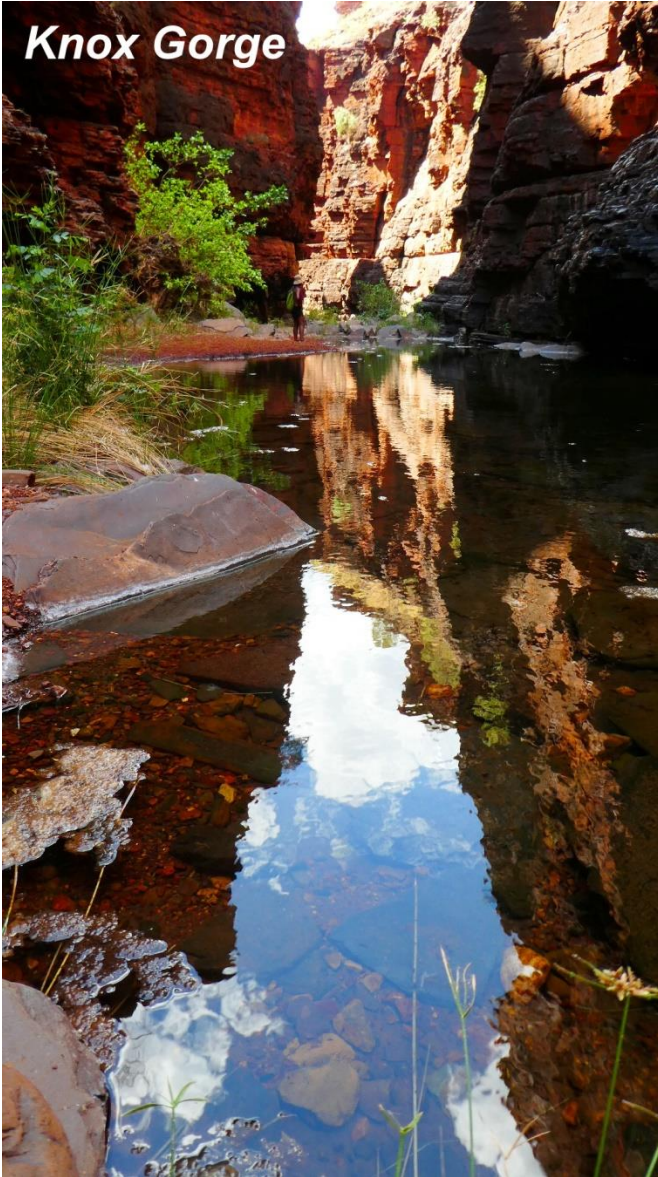
Weano Gorge



Weano Gorge

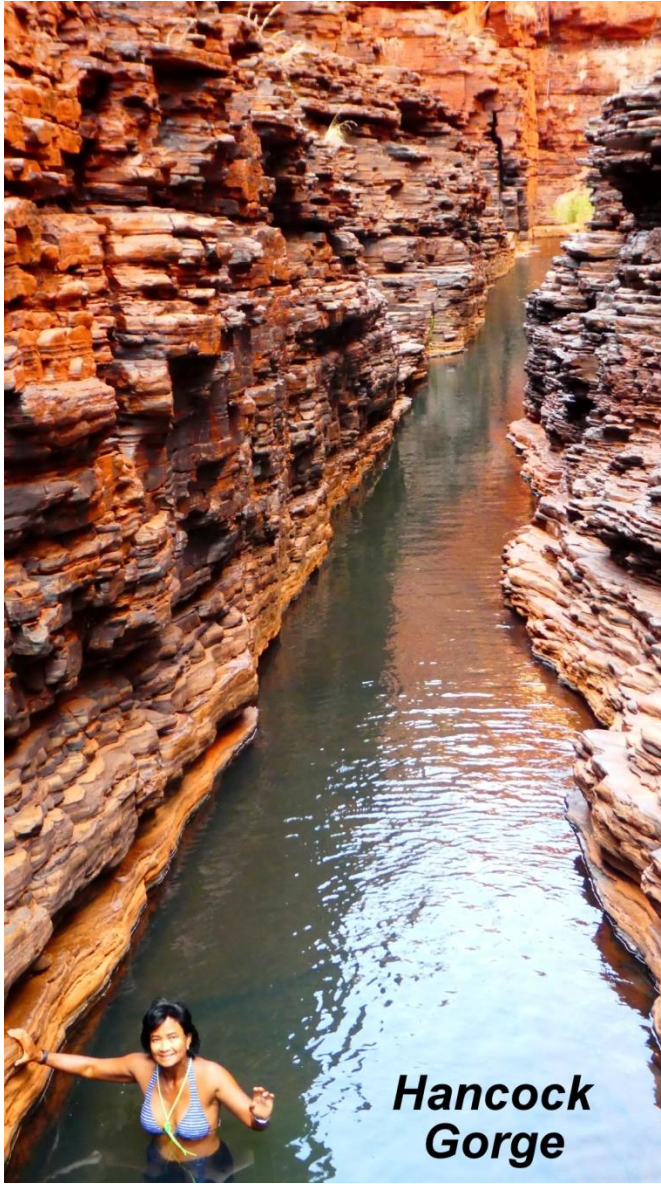


**Knox Gorge**

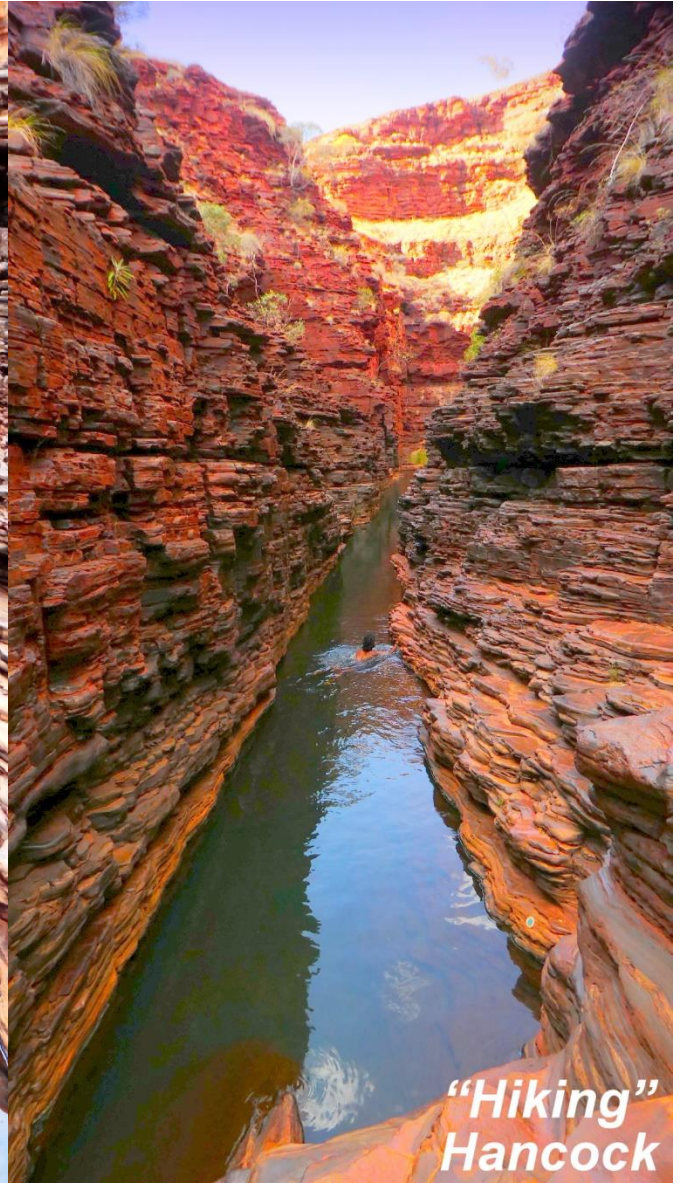


***We spend four awesome days hiking the Karijini National Park!***

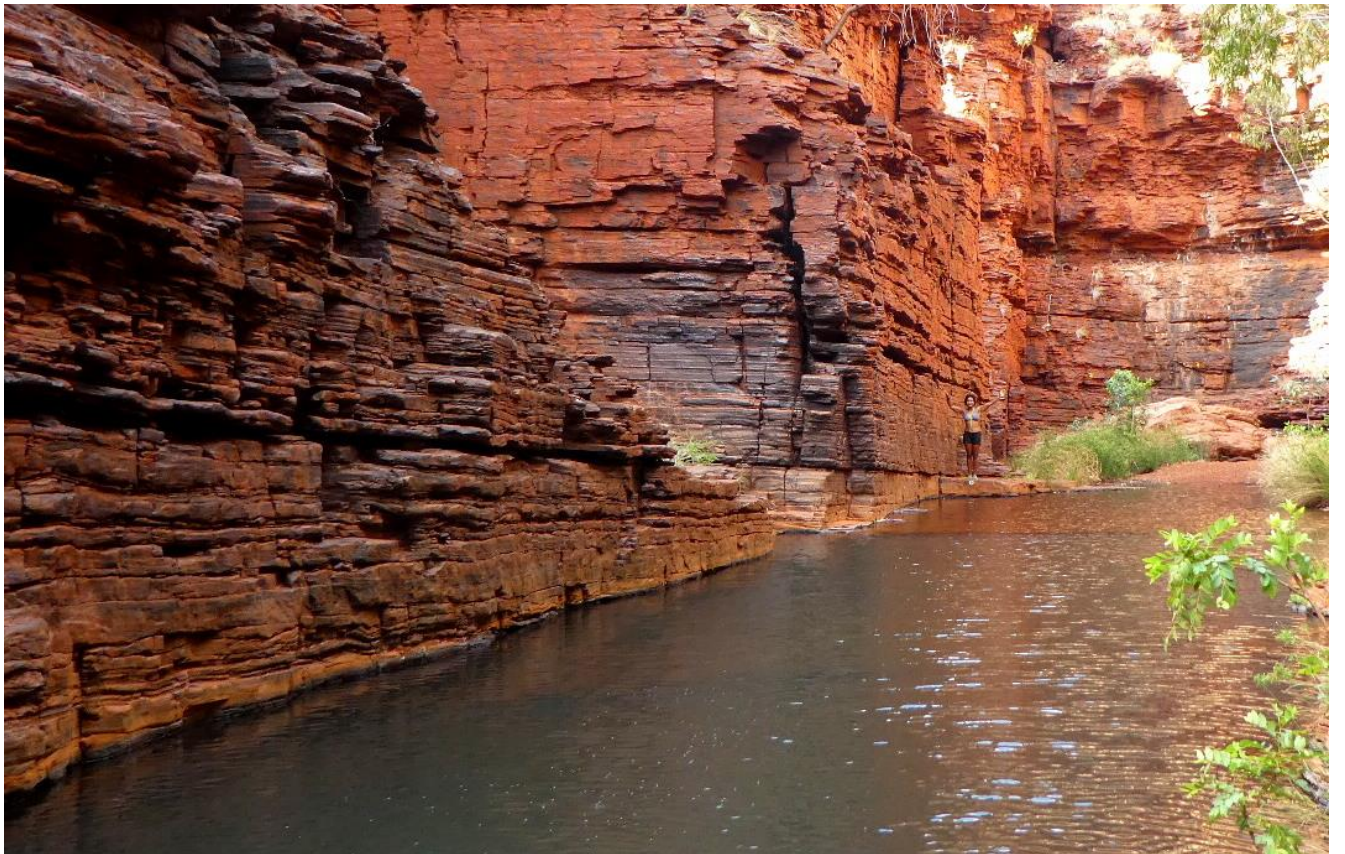




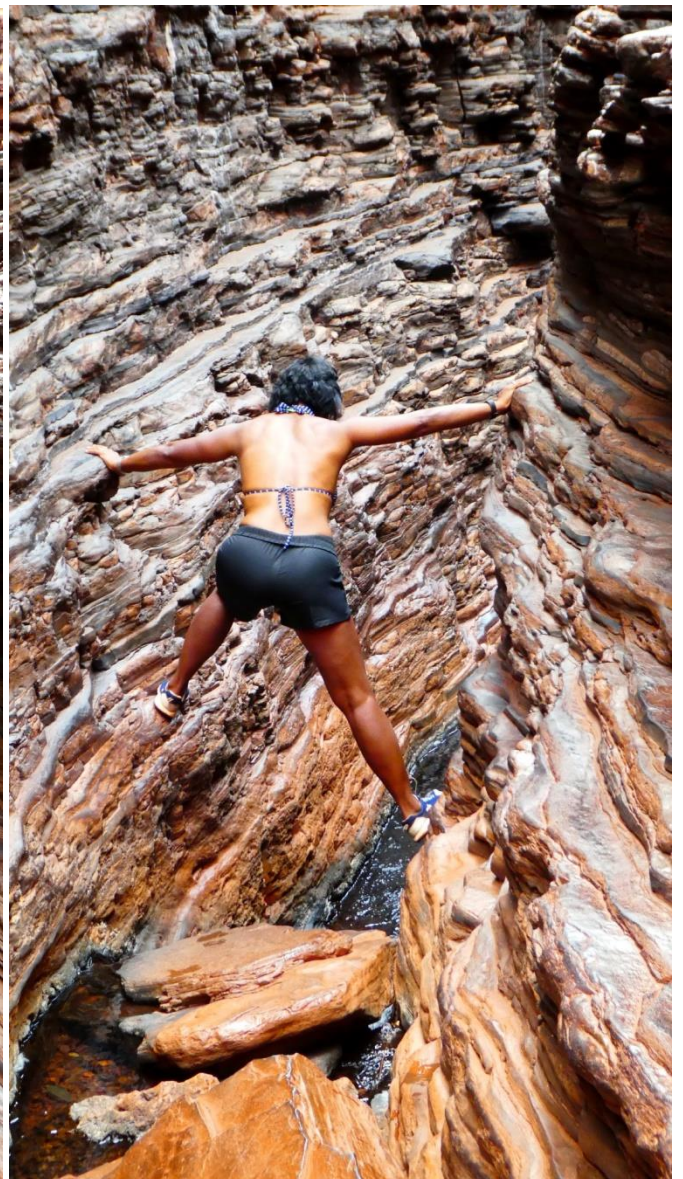
**Hancock  
Gorge**



**"Hiking"  
Hancock**



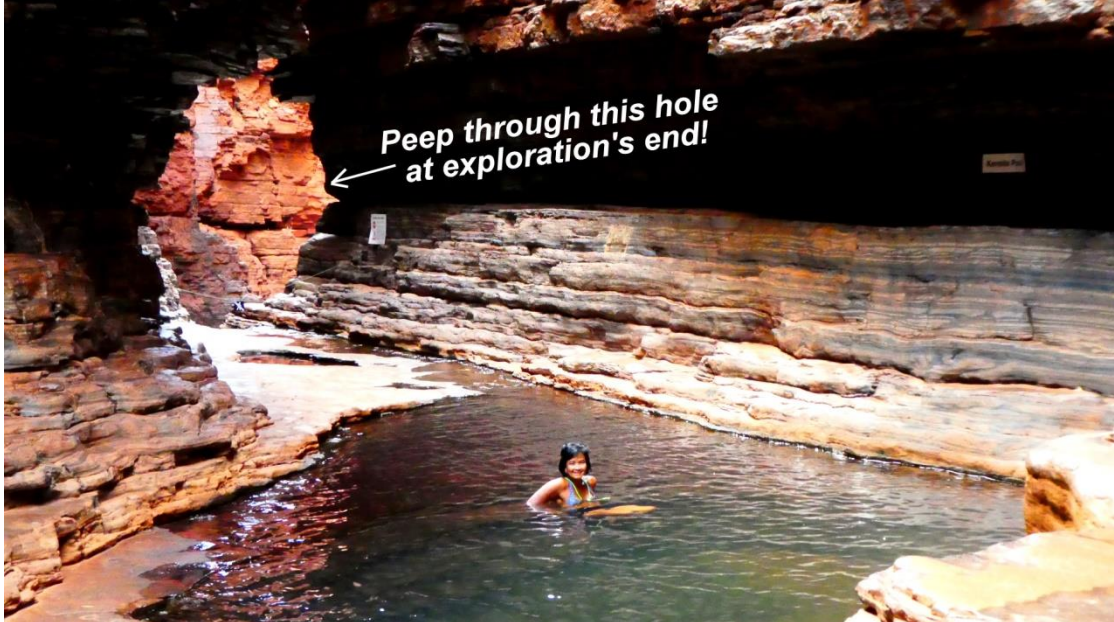
After the swim follows the...



*Then we must go in the drink once more before reaching Hancock exploration's end...*



*Almost there  
deep inside  
Hancock Gorge*



*Peep through this hole  
at exploration's end!*



*Awestruck!!!*

*Hancock Gorge*



*Camp Matrix at Karijini*



*Spinifex Pigeon*

*Greetings from Chris and Katherine*



**Next episode: Exmouth... swimming with whales (hopefully!)... more soon!**