



**A WIZARD'S GUIDE TO
CARNAVON NATIONAL PARK
JULY 2024**

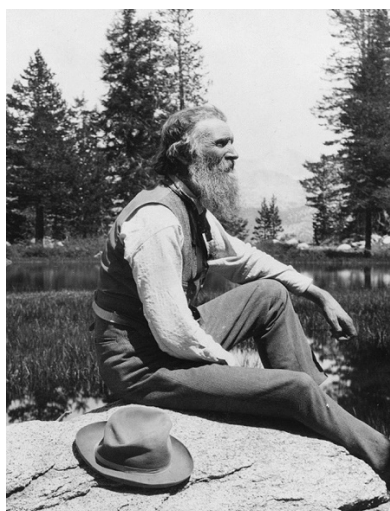
Wizard Patrick Sargent

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WILDERNESS IS A NECESSITY

"I am losing precious days. I am degenerating into a machine for making money. I am learning nothing in this trivial world of men. I must break away and get out into the mountains to learn the news"



John Muir 1838-14

CARNAVON GORGE NATIONAL PARK

LOCATION

Carnarvon Gorge is located in the Southern Brigalow Belt bioregion in Central Queensland (Australia), 593 km northwest of Brisbane.

Primarily created by water erosion, Carnarvon Gorge is around **30 kilometres long**, located in Carnarvon National Park, and **six hundred metres deep** at the mouth.

It is the most visited feature within Carnarvon National Park due to the diversity of experiences it contains and the ease with which it can be accessed



HISTORY

Some western researchers have suggested that Aboriginal people did not live in the gorge permanently, due to defensive concerns and **lack of food resources**, whilst others suggest that permanent occupation was not allowed due to the gorge being considered sacred.

The dreamtime stories tell a tale of the **Rainbow Serpent** which made the gorges, and which resides in their permanent waterholes to this day.

What is the dreamtime story of Carnarvon Gorge?

The dreaming says that the rainbow serpent Mundagurra created Carnarvon Gorge as he travelled through the creek system, coming in and out of the water, and carving the sandstone as he travelled. The fragile art on the gorge's sandstone walls reflects a rich culture.

Who are the traditional owners of Carnarvon Gorge?

Carnarvon's traditional owners are the Aboriginal Yinggarda people, who named this area long ago, Gwoonwardu, meaning 'neck of water'. The **Bidjarra and Karingbal** people also are connected to country here.

What ancient evidence was found at Carnarvon Gorge?

Carnarvon Gorge's rock art sites are thought to have been in use for at least **3,650 years**. In the Mt Moffatt section of the Park, excavations of Kenniff's Cave revealed occupational

evidence dating back **19,500 years**, indicating a long period of human habitation for the Central Queensland Highlands.



EUROPEAN HISTORY

Ludwig Leichhardt was the first European explorer to pass nearby and make note of the ranges, during his expedition to Port Essington in **1844**. Two years later, Thomas Mitchell passed to the west of Carnarvon Gorge. It was Mitchell who named the Carnarvon Range, possibly after Henry Herbert, 3rd Earl of Carnarvon.

Earl of Carnarvon is a title that has been created three times in British history. The current holder is George Herbert, 8th Earl of Carnarvon. The town and county in **Wales** to which the title refers are historically spelled Caernarfon, having been Anglicised to Carnarvon or Caernarvon.

The reports of pastureland and good water carried back to the colonies brought settlers to the area, and began a period of **bloody conflict** between settlers and Aborigines.

By the **late 1870s** the newcomers had prevailed. Local Aborigines sought refuge on properties run by those sympathetic to their plight. Subsequent years would see many forcibly removed from their homelands and transferred to government and church run reserves and missions. The latter process of removal is considered by some to have been, culturally, more destructive than the direct conflict that preceded it.

The farming of cattle and growing of crops remains a vibrant industry around Carnarvon Gorge but, **since 1932** when it was gazetted as a National Park, such activities have no longer been allowed in the gorge itself. In **1974**, the Ka Ka Mundi area which had been heavily grazed for about a century, also became part of the park. In place of the grazing of cattle, a tourism industry has grown.

Over **70,000 visitors** per annum make the trek to Carnarvon Gorge.

FEATURES

A variety of cultural and natural values that, elsewhere in the region, would require considerable travel to experience; significant Indigenous cultural sites and rock art sites, narrow sandstone canyons, extensive sandstone cliff lines, basalt-capped tablelands and mountain ranges, and relict rainforest vegetation.

Rocks and Landscapes

Carnarvon Gorge's landscapes have largely been shaped by water erosion.

Over the last **twenty-seven million years Carnarvon Creek**, which winds for over **30 kilometres** has carved down through **six hundred metres of stone**, exposing rocks from three significant phases of Queensland's geological history including two sedimentary basins, the Bowen and the Surat, and the Buckland Volcanic Province.

The **youngest** rocks in the area are the igneous basalt rocks of the Buckland volcanic Province which were laid down between **35-27 million** years ago to depths of up to **300 metres**.

The **basalt layer** is present on top of the high country either side of the Gorge where it **protects the landscape from erosion** and generates significantly different soils to those derived from the lower sedimentary rocks. **Boulders** eroded from the basalt layer dominate the Gorge's waterways due to their **ability to resist water erosion** better than the sedimentary rocks they once overlaid.

The **Precipice Sandstone** is one of the primary intake beds for the Great Artesian Basin, giving the area where it lies exposed significance as a replenishment zone.

Below the **Precipice Sandstone**, the Gorge's floor is formed by the uppermost layer of the Bowen Basin, the **Moolayember Formation**. The impermeability of this layer allows the water generated by Carnarvon Gorge's **springs to remain close to, or above, the surface** - a significant interplay in terms of the **availability of water** within the Gorge's ecosystems.



Carnarvon Creek, whose flow has only been known to **stop twice since** records commenced, is an incredibly reliable source of water. In times of **drought**, it turns the Gorge into an **oasis** which has supported forms of life long since passed from the semi-arid ecosystems surrounding it.

Each of the **rock strata** exposed in the Gorge **erodes** and weathers according to its **own characteristics**, and the **variety of soil types** and landforms generated goes a long way towards explaining why Carnarvon Gorge supports such a **diversity of life**.



CLIMATE

Carnarvon Gorge's climate is considerably different from that experienced in the flatter terrain surrounding it. Average rainfall in the Gorge is higher at **1,000 millimetres per annum** and **temperatures** on the Gorge floor are more **moderate**.

FLORA

Three broad vegetation types are present in Carnarvon Gorge;

- 1) **Eucalypt** dominated woodland to open woodland
- 2) **Mixed eucalypt**, acacia, white cypress pine or turpentine woodlands and/or open forests on sandstone slopes, scarps, ridges and residuals
- 3) **Cleared** and/or regrowth areas.

Two plant species, in particular, are considered Carnarvon Gorge icons;

- 1) **The Cycad** *Macrozamia moorei* (no common name)



2) Carnarvon fan palm (*Livistona nitida*).



Found throughout Central QLD but Carnarvon is considered its stronghold

FAUNA

Carnarvon Gorge has a rich mammalian fauna including Australia's **two** monotremes.

What is a Monotreme? The monotremes are a group of highly specialised egg-laying predatory mammals, containing the platypus and echidnas. They are the only known group of living mammals that lay eggs, rather than bearing live young.

1) Platypus



- Platypuses are venomous.

They might look cute and cuddly but come across a male platypus in mating season and you'll be in for a painful shock. Male platypuses have a hollow spur on each hind leg connected to a venom secreting gland, and while their venom *is* lethal, there are no recorded deaths from platypus stings.

- Platypuses lay eggs.

Despite being a mammal, platypuses lay eggs – making them a monotreme. They're one of only five monotreme species left in existence.

- Platypuses are buoyant.

With two layers of fur – for insulation and waterproofing, platypuses use their fur to trap a layer of air next to their skin so they can remain buoyant and dry when they're underwater, which they are a lot. The platypus spends about 12 hours every day underwater looking for food.

2) Echidna



- Adult echidnas make 'snuffling' noises when they hunt for food
- Males also have a spur on each hind leg though, unlike the Platypus, it's *non-venomous*.
- Tongues can grow up to 17cm long

Also, the following types of **Kangaroos** and **Wallaby**

3) Eastern Grey Kangaroo



- With a population of several million across Qld, NSW, VIC and Tasmania. The highest ever recorded speed of any kangaroo was **64 km/h** (40 mph) set by a large female eastern grey kangaroo.

- An adult male stands taller than a grown man and can weigh up to 66kg (145 lb). Total length of the head and body averages well over **2m** (6.5 ft) with nearly half of this being the length of the tail.
- Their bounding gate allows them to cover **25 feet** in a single leap and to jump 6 feet high.
- Kangaroos can't sweat when they are hot, as people do. Instead, they **lick their chests** and the insides of their forearms till the skin is quite soggy. The blood vessels in these areas are close to the surface of the skin. When the moisture **evaporates, it cools the blood** circulating underneath, which helps to cool down the whole animal.
- This evaporative cooling is the same principle as that used in air conditioners!
- Kangaroos have long, **thick eyelashes** that help to protect their eyes from the glare of the sun.

4) Pretty-Faced Wallaby



- The whiptail wallaby (also known as the Pretty faced wallaby) is a sociable species, sometimes coming together in **mobs of up to 50**. They live in a home range of up to **110 hectares** (270 acres). 1 square kms.
- The **mob** usually gathers in the afternoon during feeding. Some home ranges may overlap with others and the members of the mob take turns resting and guarding. The mobs contain all ages and sexes throughout the year, but seldom if ever are all members of a mob together at one time. Mobs often split into continually changing subgroups of fewer than **10** animals.
- Whiptail wallaby mobs have a linear hierarchy that is determined by ritualized "**pawing**", which is **non-violent**. They may also pull grass. Whiptail wallabies will **cough** to show submission.

5) Swamp Wallaby



- **Threats:** Anthropogenic actions, such as the increase in **roads** through swamp wallaby habitats, are a **threat to their survival**. They are frequently seen near the side of roads, leading to a larger number becoming **roadkill**. Other sources of threat for the swamp wallaby are their predators, which include **dingoes**, **eagles** and **wild dogs**.
- While in the water, swamp wallabies are excellent swimmers move with a '**doggy**' **paddle** style and can move their **hind legs independently**. However, when on land, they are only able to move their legs together.
- Like many marsupials, female Swamp Wallabies can suckle two joeys of different ages.

6) Wallaroo



- Wallaroo is a common name for several species of moderately large macropods, intermediate in size between the kangaroos and the wallabies. It has been estimated that they can **live up to 24 years in the wild**. Record longevity in captivity, however, **is 22 years**.
- Wallaroo's body shape, having shorter limbs than other species of kangaroo, may be an adaptation due to leaping around on rocks, with short, **broad hind feet** which have **roughened** soles for extra grip.
- The male can be up to **twice** the female's size, with particularly **thick-set forearms** and **shoulders**.

7) Red-Necked Wallaby



- Red-necked wallabies are mainly **nocturnal**. They spend most of the daytime resting.
- A female's estrus lasts **33** days.
- During courting, the female first licks the male's neck. The male will then rub his cheek against the female's. Then the **male and female will fight briefly**, standing upright like two males. After that they finally mate. A couple will stay together for **one day** before separating. A female bears one offspring at a time; the young stay in the pouch for about **280 days**.
- Also, red-necked wallabies engage in **alloparental care**, in which one individual may **adopt** the child of another. This is a common behaviour seen in many other animal species like wolves, elephants and humans.

GLIDERS

Five of Australia's **seven** species of gliders can be found at Carnarvon Gorge

1) Greater Glider



- The greater gliders are primarily **nocturnal**, spending the night **foraging** in the highest parts of the forest canopy. During the day, they spend most of their time denning in hollowed trees.
- Due to its nocturnal lifestyle, a natural predator of the gliders is the **Powerful Owl**
- Greater gliders do not make any loud sounds and are thought to communicate through scent marking.
- These animals regularly glide between high trees and can use their tails to assist in **steering**. They **avoid** traveling along the ground whenever possible and are slow and clumsy if forced to do so.

2) Yellow-Bellied Glider



- Total life expectancy is about **six** years
- It has a distinctive growling call that it uses as means of communication. It has been recorded to have been heard up to 500m away.
- Can glide up to 150 m

3) Squirrel Glider



- They have a flying membrane that extends from their 5th front toe to the back of their foot on both sides. When they glide their prehensile **tail** can act as a rudder, allowing them to **steer** which direction they want to go.
- They can glide up to **50m** from tree to tree.
- Squirrel gliders can curl their tails around branches to hold on.

4) Sugar Glider



- The scientific name, *Petaurus breviceps*, translates from Latin as "*short-headed rope-dancer*", a reference to their canopy acrobatics.
- Gliding serves as an efficient means of reaching food and evading predators.
- The sugar glider is **nocturnal**; its large eyes help it to **see at night** and its **ears swivel** to help locate prey in the dark.

5) Feathertail Glider



- The feathertail glider is only around the size of a small mouse and is the **world's smallest gliding mammal**.
- The tail is about the same length as the head and body combined
- A feathertail glider was featured on the reverse of the **Australian 1-cent coin** until 1991 when the 1-cent denomination was discontinued.



- Movement through the trees is aided by their gliding ability; they can glide as far as **28 m (92 ft)**, and typically do so three to five times every hour through the night.
- They have even proved able to **climb vertical panes of glass**, a feat that is due to a combination of fine skin ridges and sweat that allow their **feet to function as suction cups**.

ROMA BOTTLE TREES

- Roma is also known for its **bottle trees**. With a girth of **9.51** metres, one specific bottle in Edwardes Street is promoted as one of Roma's tourist attractions.
- It's common knowledge that the Queensland Bottle Tree stores water in its bottle-shaped trunk, leading many to believe that the interior of the trunk is hollow. However, this is definitely not the case. While it's true that the trees are **capable of storing vast amounts of water**, their trunks are actually very fibrous.
- As a drought deciduous succulent tree, much like the baobab (*Adansonia*) of Madagascar, *Bottle Trees* adapts readily to cultivation, and is quite tolerant of a range of soils and temperatures.
- Aboriginal people made use of the trees through eating the roots of young plants and by consuming secretions from the trunk that were induced by **wounds**.
- Fibre obtained from the species was used to **make nets**.
- The leaves have also been used for [fodder](#) and Queensland farmers often leave bottle trees as a **potential food source** when land is cleared. During drought conditions, whole trees have been felled to feed stock. The soft edible pulp inside the trunk is exposed by removing the bark.
- The pulp is energy-rich but protein-poor, and occasional cases of [nitrate poisoning](#) have led to cattle deaths.
- An avenue in Roma, Queensland, was planted between 1918 and 1920, each tree representing one of **93** local men killed in World War I.
- Bottle trees grow best in **well-drained**, slightly acidic soil, in full sunshine.
- In the first stages of growth, the bottle tree is very slow-growing, and the formation of the unique **bottle shape** is not visible until the tree is about **5 to 8** years old.



ROMA TOWNSHIP (*Population, 6838*)

Roma is a rural town and locality in the Maranoa Region, Queensland, Australia. It is the administrative centre of the Maranoa Region. The town was incorporated in 1867 and is named after *Lady Diamantina Bowen (née di Roma)*, the wife of Sir George Bowen, the Governor of Queensland at the time. This was the reason behind the name of the Roma Street in Brisbane City.

Mitchell named a nearby hill Mount Abundance due to the **rich plains** he encountered around what is now Roma.

Prior to British colonisation, the Aboriginal peoples of the Mandandanji Nation occupied this region. The first documented British explorers to enter the region were Sir Thomas Mitchell and Edmund Kennedy on their 1846 expedition.

Mitchell and Kennedy encountered a community of around 200 Aboriginal people in this vicinity. After initial friendly communication, hostilities arose with Kennedy's men dispersing a group of Mandandanji after they tried to burn down the explorer's encampment.



- Bore water for the town is obtained from the Artesian Basin.
- The Roma winery (Roma Villa) is the **oldest** in Queensland.
- Roma was the site of Australia's first oil and gas discoveries
- Captain Starlight, a cattle rustler, was tried and acquitted in the Roma Courthouse in February 1873. No successful conviction for cattle rustling has been made in Roma.

ROMA FAMOUS FACES

Roma 'Cities' is a rugby league team that plays in the Roma and District rugby league football competition. It was established in 1914.

This club has produced many Brisbane Broncos, Queensland and Australian talent including.

Arthur Beetson (Born Jan 21st 1945)

Rugby League Immortal **Arthur Beetson** played for the Roma Cities Gladiators, before moving to play for **Redcliffe** in the Brisbane Rugby League.

He then moved to **Balmain**, **Eastern Suburbs** and **Parramatta** in the NSWRL Premiership.

He played for and Captained **Queensland in State of Origin** and becoming the first ever **Indigenous** captain of the **Kangaroos**.



Australian rugby league captain Arthur Beetson and an "Immortal"

Darren Lockyer: (Born 24 March 1977)

- Australian rugby league legend and "*Immortal*".
- Three - Time NRL Premiership winning Captain of the Brisbane Broncos.
- Queensland State of Origin Captain.
- Kangaroos Captain.

Lockyer played his entire professional career with the [Brisbane Broncos](#).

During his 16-year career he set appearance records for his club, state and country, and also set additional all-time records for most [National Rugby League](#) appearances, most [State of Origin](#) appearances, most games as captain and most tries for the Australian national team.

As a [fullback](#), Lockyer won three [grand finals](#) and one as a five-eighth with the Broncos, a [World Cup](#) with Australia, and the [Golden Boot Award](#) for the world's best player. He was named in [Queensland Rugby League's Team of the Century](#) (1909–2008) at fullback.

He switched positions to **five-eighth** in 2004 and went on to win a **fourth grand final** with the Broncos, a further **five** **State of Origin** series with Queensland, and a **second Golden Boot Award**.



Club						
Years	Team	Pld	T	G	FG	P
1995–2011	Brisbane Broncos	355	122	341	21	1195
Representative						
Years	Team	Pld	T	G	FG	P
1997	Queensland (SL)	2	0	1	0	2
1997	Australia (SL)	4	2	2	1	13
1998–2011	Queensland	36	9	22	2	82
1998–2011	Australia	59	35	31	2	204
2010–2011	NRL All Stars	2	0	0	0	0

He made his **first grade debut at 15** and played Five Eight for his **Roma** club.

In 1994, he traveled to Ipswich for a junior rugby league carnival where his performance caught the eye of coach Wayne Bennett. After impressing at the carnival, he moved to Brisbane and accepted a **\$2000 scholarship** with the Broncos.

He also worked as a bartender at the Broncos Leagues Club to make ends meet. Later that year, he signed a \$10,000 playing contract with the Broncos.

Hours and Career Highlights

- In February 2008, Lockyer was named in a list of Australia's *100 Greatest Players* (1908–2007)

- In June 2008, he was chosen in the Queensland Rugby League's **Team of the Century** at fullback.
- In 2008, rugby league in Australia's centenary year, Lockyer was named at fullback in the Toowoomba and **South West Team of the Century**.
- In 2011 part of the Warrego Highway between Ipswich and Toowoomba was renamed **Darren Lockyer Way** in his honour.
- Also, the Queensland State Government agreed to sculpting a life size **bronze statue** of Darren Lockyer in honour of his achievements in Queensland Rugby League
- In 2012 the "Darren Lockyer Limited Edition 6YO Release" was sold by **Bundaberg Rum** to celebrate his career.
- In October 2018, he was inducted into the Sport **Australia Hall of Fame**.
- Though opting not to have surgery to remove the **chipped bone in his throat**, he decided to see a speech therapist to help his tone for TV commentary.

William Carne (born 23 January 1969)

Is a former Australian rugby footballer who played rugby league for the Brisbane Broncos from 1990 to 1996, as well as representing both Queensland and Australia and rugby union for the Queensland Reds. An attacking player with dangerous speed, he played at wing and fullback.

Carne played a total of 136 first-grade games for the Broncos. He crossed for 73 tries and kicked 63 goals from 103 attempts (61.17%).

In 2007, Carne was inducted into the Broncos' official Hall of Fame.





Brent Tate (born 3 March 1982)

Is an Australian former professional rugby league footballer who played as a centre or winger in the 2000s and 2010s. An Australia international and Queensland State of Origin representative, he played his club football in the NRL for the Brisbane Broncos (with whom he won the 2006 NRL Premiership), the New Zealand Warriors and the North Queensland Cowboys.

Despite a career that was set back by a series of severe injuries, Tate kept coming back and was a member of the **2006, 2007, 2008, 2012 and 2013 State of Origin series-winning Queensland sides**, as well as the **2008 and 2013 World Cup** Australian sides, winning the 2013 edition with them.

In 2003 Brent suffered a career ending neck injury, but through intense rehabilitation and the wearing of a **neck-brace** was able to get back on the field within 12 months. Throughout his career he also had **four knee reconstructions** resulting in over **20** surgeries.



Wally John Fullerton-Smith (born 9 July 1960)

Is an Australian former professional rugby league footballer who played in the 1980s and 1990s. An Australian international and Queensland State of Origin representative back-rower, he played club football in Queensland, France, England and New South Wales.

After signing with St. George Dragons in 1987, he was a member of the Dragons team that won the 1988 Panasonic Cup.

His rep career continued with three Test appearances against Great Britain in 1988.



AUSTRALIA'S LAST BUSHRANGERS

THE KENNIFF BROTHERS



Foreword

At 8 am on 12th January 1903 Australia's last bushranger Patrick (Paddy Kenniff swung) at the end of a Hangman's rope at Brisbane's famous Boggo Road Jail. This execution ended an era of bush ranging which lasted in Australia over 100 years from 1796 to 1903.

This is a story of Queensland infamous Kenneth Brothers who rode through history in the late 1800s mainly in the Roma, Springfield, Mitchell and Carnarvon areas of Central Queensland.

Like most bushrangers including the Kelly's they started their criminal lives stealing horses and cattle and graduated to robbing hotels stores and stagecoach passengers plus passing on cash checks which that were pilfered from the Royal Mail wagons.

After 10 years of crime in Queensland stretching from Toowoomba to Roma and Injune in north through Carnarvon Gorge and south to the New South Wales border. The Queensland Police instituted a massive statewide manhunt after they had murdered a police constable and a station manager, they eventually were captured on 23rd June 1902 at a Arrest Creek 7 km south of Mitchell.

And so ended a crime spree not seen before in Queensland.

These are the crimes of Patrick and Jimmy Kenniff.

Bushranger State of Origin

Queensland can't lay claim to a great many bushrangers when compared to its southern kin, but at the top of the hill stand the Kenniff brothers, Patrick and James. With their roots in Tipperary during the Irish potato famine of the **1840s**, the Kenniffs were seemingly born to rebel. Like many bushrangers they began as cattle rustlers, but their crimes soon escalated into grisly territory.

Patrick Kenniff was born in 1863 to James and Mary Kenniff in Dungog, New South Wales. This was the year ironically in which famous NSW Bushranger Ben Hall died. Paddy's little brother James was born in 1869 but his birth was not registered. Later there would be Thomas and John to add to the ranks. The old man Jimmy was not a convict, but he certainly was very familiar with criminal activity as the family moved to QLD to start afresh.

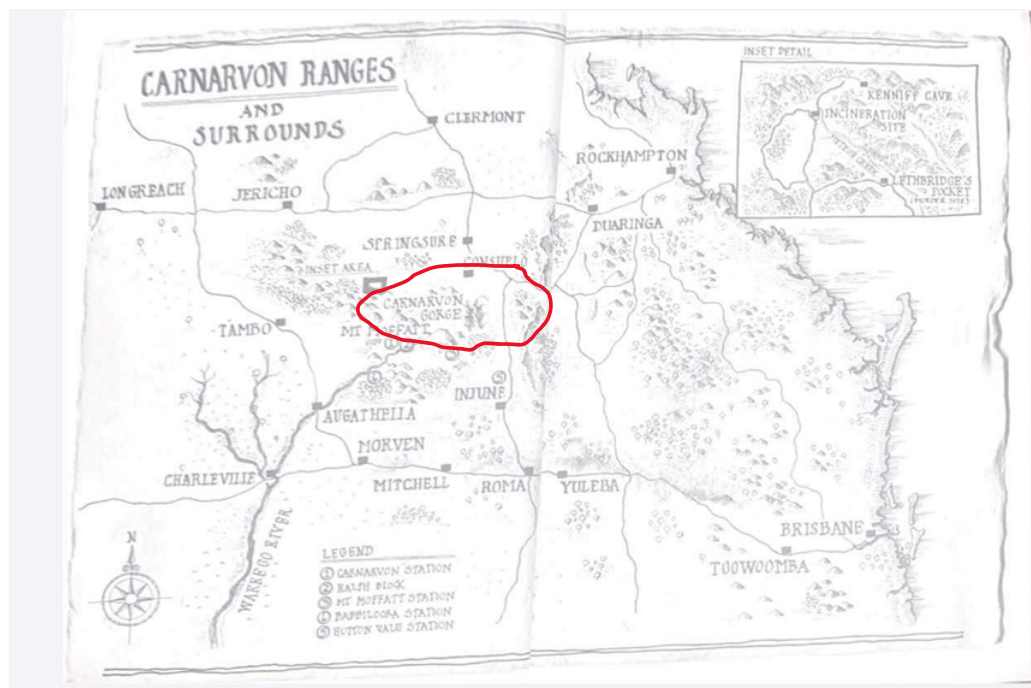
In 1891 the family settled in Springsure, Queensland where the boys worked as labourers, jockeys and bookmakers at the race meetings. The brothers were described as lovable larrikin's with great bush skills.

In 1893 Paddy and Jimmy headed to the **Upper Warrego** (2 Hours due West of Carnarvon Gorge National Park) Where they fell in with the gang of stock thief Thomas Stapleton taking them down a slippery slope they would never return from.

In the eighteen nineties stock stealing was rife in the country north of the Roma and Charleville districts. This was known as **cattle-duffing, gully raking or moon-lighting**.

The brothers worked hard and earned enough money to make things right and bought a small block of land called Ralph Block. This small block was right in the middle of other cattle stations in central west Queensland. They were vast sprawling empires with large open areas often absent landlords, no fences and the stock roamed willy nilly.

The first indication that the Kenniffs were involved in cattle stealing was at the trial of Thomas Stapleton in March 1895. It became known that he was abetted by the Kenniffs in stealing cattle belonging to James Tyson, who had the leases Meteor Downs, Bibbiloora, and Carnarvon Stations.



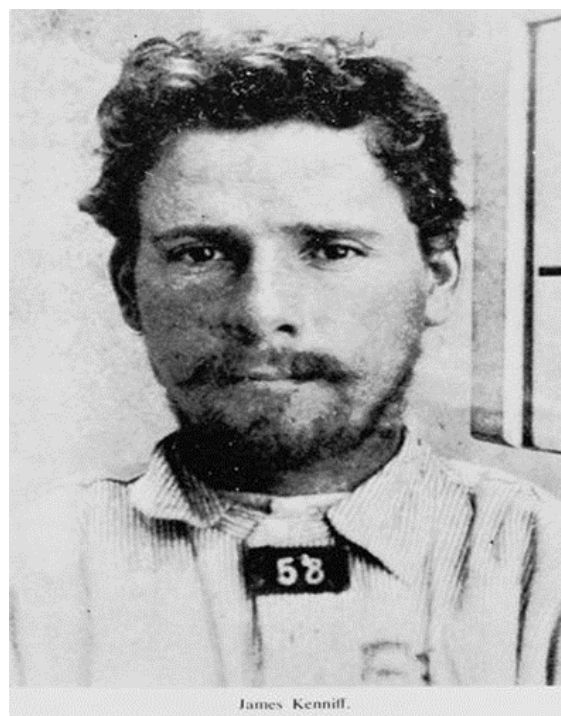
Throughout their early life, the Kenniffs rode with their cousins and Aboriginal boys from the Bidjara people, stealing cattle and horses with impunity.

If there was one thing that defined the Kenniffs it was their relationship to all things equine. Paddy in particular was considered one of the best horsemen around and is reported to have on one occasion robbed a Casino Hotel and escaped through a flooded stream, cutting off his saddlebags mid-stream so that when the police caught up to him he could coolly inquire what they wanted. Jim was also an expert horseman too, training a racehorse called Darramundi in Roma in 1901 winning a number of races in **Springsure** (2 hours drive North of Carnarvon Gorge Campground) and **Tambo** (3 Hours Drive West of Carnarvon)

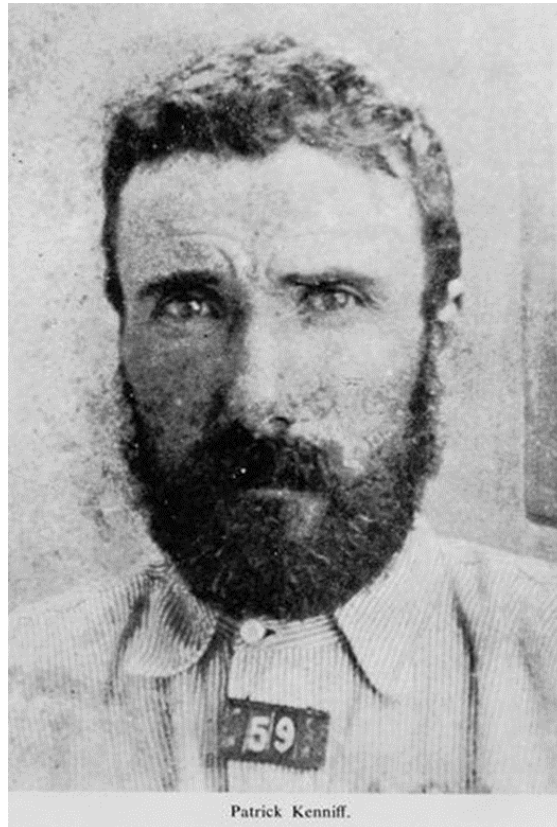
In December 1894 the brothers first appeared on the radar of the authorities after a race meeting in Charleville. Having had a bad day at the races the Kenniffs discovered they were short on funds to repay their debts, so they pinched three of the race horses and bolted. After stealing a mob of cattle at **Meteor Downs** (1 Hour Drive North of Carnarvon Gorge Campground), James Kenniff senior took the mob into **Roma** for sale while the brothers Paddy, Jim and Tom would traverse the surrounding areas into New South Wales avoiding police attention as well as they could.

Paddy knew the stock theft charges against him were flimsy and planned to use the proceeds from the sale to pay a lawyer to get him off once he'd turned himself in. But, as these stories usually go, the Kenniffs could not evade the forces of law and order for long.

In February 1895 the brothers were caught by **Tambo** police but succeeded in escaping custody and heading back into the bush leaving the troopers with egg on their faces. It wasn't until March that they were caught proper, police sneaking up on them at their camp. Paddy mounted one of the horses and took off but was stopped by one of the officers who fired at his mount causing the rider to be thrown off. Jim mounted and took off but was knocked out of the saddle by a low branch. Tried in Roma **Paddy got five years and Jim three.**



James Kenniff.



Patrick Kenniff.

While the brothers did their time in gaol as neighbours, spearheaded by one Albert Dahlke who was a prominent squatter from Carnarvon Station, he protested about the impact such lawless people would have on the community and had the **family's land lease at Ralph Block be terminated** and a new police station to be built on the land. Now remember that the Kenniff family were Irish so the goal of putting a police station smack bang on their property was like waving a red flag to a bull.

The feeling amongst the larger property and station owners was that the Kenniff's had put themselves on a smaller block in the middle of their larger blocks so they could have access to their cattle. There was probably **some truth** to this.

While the brothers were in jail the Kenniffs family money eventually dried up, so Ralph Block was now up for grabs. The family had to move to an area called Leftbridge Pocket an hour ride away. They were **living rough**. Essentially sleeping outside in tents and swags and trying to make a living in the harshness of the Outback with no property of their own and living with the local Bidjarra People. Some friendships were forged there however there was a sense that the police grip was starting to tighten up on them.

The Kenniffs were hardened by their time in prison and having their land taken away making the family homeless and forcing their father and the brothers to live in tents.

Soon after the brothers were released from jail there was an altercation between Jim Kenniff and Albert Dahlke soon occurred wherein Dahlke gave the younger Kenniff an absolute belting, the Dahlses being renowned in the region for their tough fists and indomitable resolve in a fight. Jim would later challenge Dahle to a second fight and boasted that he would not thrash a Kenniff a second time around.



Jim Kenniff has a bare knuckled fight with Albert Dahlke Manger of the Carnarvon Station

From that day forward the brothers had sworn to take revenge on the squatter. The brothers roamed the **Carnarvon region** stealing horses from the squatters and sleeping beneath the stars dreaming of revenge.

At about the turn of the century the Kenniffs **gave up accepting station work** and became surly and aggressive. The two brothers took to carrying Winchesters, and also Colt revolvers, which they kept in holsters inside their shirts their bitter resentment for Albert Dahlke festered away...

In December 1897, the Kenniffs **stole forty horses** in the Carnarvon area and set off towards Toowoomba. They kept to the high country and back tracks, and made for Yuelba to load the horses on a train. The Kenniffs came up with a **clever diversion** to lure the local police away from Yuelba. They held up a general store, stealing some of the merchandise, as well as cash and cheques from the safe. They then created a trail, leading out of town. Whilst the police were off following the **false trail**, the Kenniffs circled back into town and loaded the stolen horses on the train for Toowoomba.

By 1902 the Kenniffs were compulsive stock thieves.

In 1902 things quickly ramped up as the Kenniff brothers were once more wanted for stock theft. On 21 March a warrant was issued for the arrest of the brothers. On 28 March the Kenniff brothers had made an appearance at **Carnarvon Station** and threatened some of the staff so **Constable George Doyle** teamed up with **Albert Dahlke** and a black tracker named **Sam Johnson** to find the bandits. What happened next is the source of a great deal of controversy that has yet to be definitively resolved.

Albert Dahlke and his favourite horse Boudicea

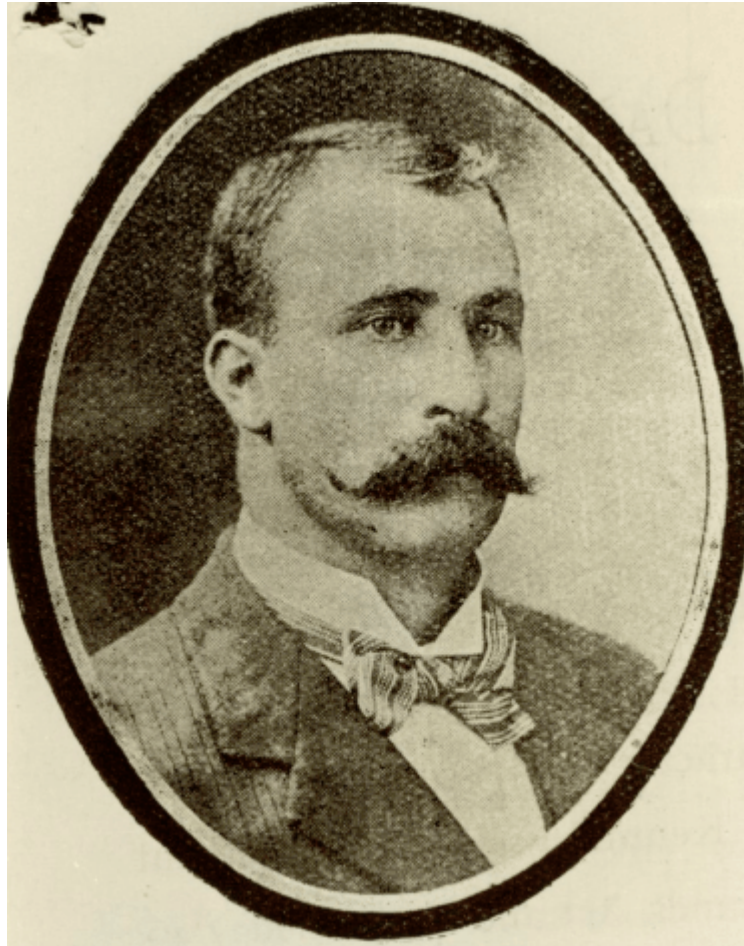


Sam Johnson claimed that after a chase on horseback Doyle and Dahlke succeeded in catching Jim Kenniff in Lethbridge's Pocket two miles from where James senior lived in his tent, **but** as they had left the pack horses behind they did not have any tools of restraint and sent Johnson to fetch handcuffs. Johnson retrieved the pack horses, which were only 200 yards away, and as he rode back he could hear gunfire. It was surmised that Paddy and Tom Kenniff had **come to rescue** their brother and in the process a **fight had broken out between the bushrangers and their pursuers**.



Sam Johnson 'The Tracker'

Sam Johnson considered it folly to attempt to intervene and rode away **believing he was being chased by the brothers**. He found a man named Burke from a nearby station and induced him to ride back to the scene of the crime. They found Dahlke's mount, wandering with her shoulders and saddle covered in blood...



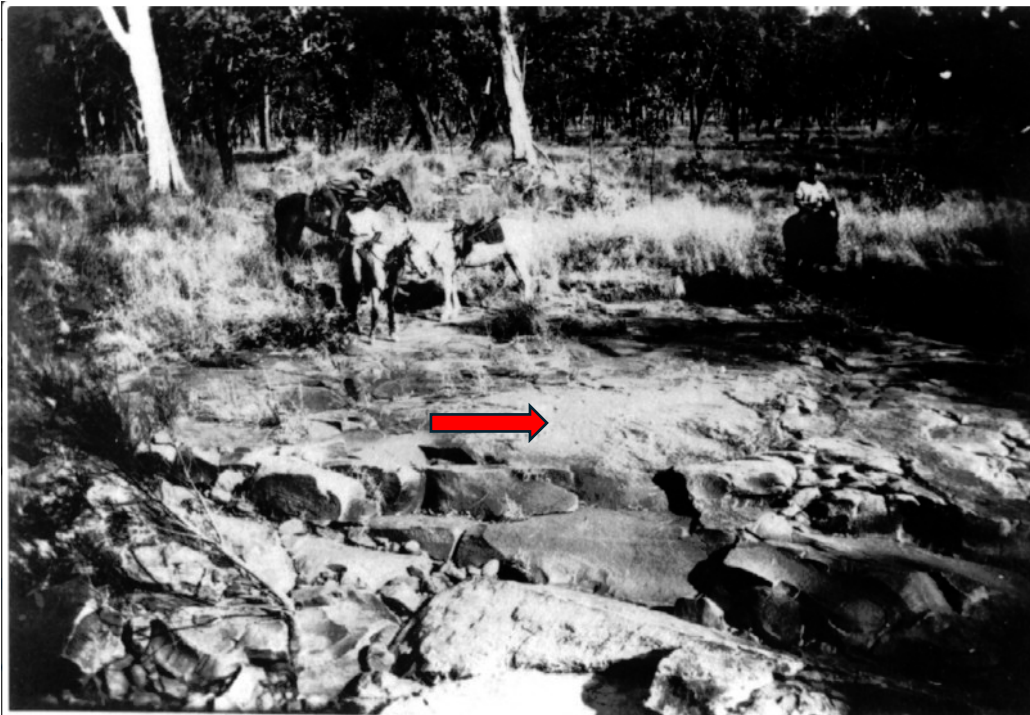
Constable Doyle Constable Doyle – Shot dead by the Kenniff Brothers in 1902.

On Tuesday April 1st 1902, led by Johnson they discovered Doyle and Dahlke's pack horses in a cluster of trees at Lethbridge's Pocket saddled and equipped with **bulging saddlebags**. They also found three small bonfires, long since extinguished, with telltale **blood drippings in the soil surrounding**. Piled up at the foot of an apple tree near the fires were two pairs of spurs, which were later identified as those worn by Doyle and Dahlke.

On Thursday 3rd April, about a mile lower down Lethbridge's Pocket, Doyle's horse was found carrying two pack-bags. In the pack-bags were about 200 pounds of charcoal which was found to contain a **large quantity of partly burnt fragments** of human bones from **various parts of the body**, human teeth, shirt buttons, a shirt stud and small fragments of clothing material. In the charcoal were found two metal cylinders or rings exactly corresponding with those on the arm bands worn by Doyle, and two bouquet pins, with glass beads for heads, **exactly corresponding** with pins worn by Dahlke on 30th March.

The grisly find was identified as the earthly remains of **Albert Dahlke** and **Constable George Doyle**. Dr Voss the medical examiner confirmed that the remains were human in origin and

the charge levelled against the Kenniffs was now **murder** and a reward of **£1000** was offered for their capture.



Scene of the crime: *It was on these rocks that the corpses of Doyle and Dahlke were incinerated, as indicated by the white scorching in the centre of the image.*

Knowing that they were wanted on a hanging offence Paddy and Jim took to the bush and were soon joined by Tom. The Kenniffs were **expert bushmen** thanks to their previous occupations and managed to keep ahead of the police until **23rd June** ranging some of the toughest, most rugged country in a **200-mile radius**. Police believed there was a good chance the brothers would try to take a ship to **South Africa** and kept tabs on all goings on at the docks.

Whilst on the run The Kenniffs stole horses from Merivale, raided outstations near Chinchilla, and generally stole horses, food and camp chattels indiscriminately. The Kenniffs' main hatred was reserved for the Merivale lessees and for John Collins & Son and their employees. McLain, manager of Babbiloorra and Ryan, head stockman of Carnarvon was taken into **protective custody** in one of the police camps, over **sixty policemen having joined in the hunt for the Kenniffs**.

On other stations – in particular Merivale – steps were taken to **arm the managers and stockmen** against a surprise visit by the Kenniffs.

On 23 June 1902 the Kenniff brothers **were caught** at last in a dawn raid on their camp. Two sub-inspectors, **fifty** constables and **sixteen** black trackers arrived at the Kenniff camp **barefooted** for stealth and shot the horses. Paddy and Jim bolted in separate directions with Jim being nabbed first, Paddy keeping the police at bay with rifles from the scrub before handing himself in.

Jimmy and Patty were now up for murder in the newly Federated state of Australia.

KATCHING the KENNIFFS.

Story of their Surrender.

THE BROTHERS BROUGHT TO BRISBANE.

Charged With Wilful Murder.



THE SCENE OF THE CAPTURE.

Note in the picture the Troopers taking off their shoes.

PATRICK KENNIFF POLICE DESCRIPTION

- Name: Patrick Kenniff
- Native: NSW
- Age: 37 Years
- Occupation: Labourer.
- Faith: Roman Catholic.
- Background: Irish.
- Hair: Dark Brown Hair
- Eyes: Hazel
- Tattoo: A women's breast and 3 doves with branches in their mouths on right bicep.
- Scars: Back of head and right forearm.
- Discharge Appearance: When discharged from Mitchell Police Station wearing a Moustache only no beard.

THE TRIAL - Sir Samuel Griffith

Sir Samuel Griffith presided over the trial of the Kenniff brothers in Brisbane on **3rd November, 1902**. The pair were found guilty of murder and sentenced to death on the evidence provided by Sam Johnson. The sentence was deferred, as per custom, to **await an appeal**. Public sentiment at the time seemed to be largely in favour of the lads due to them accidentally becoming figureheads for the struggles in Queensland at the turn of the century.

Police made arrangements for the Kenniff to be escorted to the capital Brisbane in a special railway carriage attached to the Western Mail train scheduled to pass through Mitchell on Thursday, 26th June. Later that day a large but orderly crowd watched as the Kenniff Brothers boarded the train headed for the capital. As the Mail train steamed east word of its progress raced ahead. At each station along the track, a crowd assembled hoping to catch a glimpse of the desperadoes. They were disappointed though as Pat and Jimmy were kept well out of sight in the mail carriage.

When the Kenniffs arrived in Brisbane, a large crowd of sightseers formed at Roma Street railway station to catch a glimpse of them. When the train arrived in Brisbane, the prisoners were transported by horse drawn armoured wagon to Boggo Road Jail.

Public concern was further aroused when a **specially selected special jury** of wealthy businessman, professionals and accountants were sworn in to guarantee a guilty verdict!

Every person in Queensland at the time had a view on the guilt or innocence of the accused. A large group of sympathisers strongly believed that the Kenniffs were the victims of a police corruption frame up.

Queensland at this time was in the clutches of **drought and unemployment** was rife. In these circumstances people become desperate and many saw this as an explanation or justification for the Kenniffs' foray into stock theft. As with the Kelly gang only a little over twenty years prior in Victoria, the outlaws were seen by many to also illustrate the war between the squatters and the "cockatoo" farmers.

The accused were also represented by a young inexperienced barrister one **TJ Ryan** (*who went on to become Premier of Queensland - The honourable TJ Ryan QC Rockhampton Council for the defence*).

After a lot of legal argument, the prosecution decided to pursue both brothers with the murder of Doyle. The only eyewitness account of the murders was supplied by the aboriginal tracker **Sam Johnson**. The point of contention was that no one saw what happened when the gunshots were fired. The thing we know according to the evidence of Sam Johnson is he saw the two Kenneth brothers racing towards him and so he took off.

The other interesting part about this case was it was the **first time the evidence of an Aboriginal Australian** that was used in court to bring the death penalty on a white Caucasian Australian.

The defence fiercely protested that Sam Johnson (aboriginal tracker) didn't actually see what happened. He was an **ear witness not eyewitness**. That is precisely one of the most interesting aspects of this case as the whole evidence rests on the shoulders of an individual who didn't see what happened just heard it.

A public opinion formed that the case was rushed through the judicial system. Also, at the time there was a common theme particularly in Queensland that all of the cases brought for cattle theft before a jury were often dismissed. QLD juries usually found a defendant *not* guilty even though the judge said to the jurors it's clear that the defendant *is* guilty. There was a famous case in Central QLD where the jurors remarked; "yeah we know that... if he gives us back our cattle, we will find him not guilty".

On December 20th 1902 the 'special jury' found both men guilty of murder. They then waited their date of execution. There was such an outcry of the guilty verdict that the public held the concert in Brisbane to pay for an appeal to the privy council. The supporters collected funds and lodged an appeal to the Supreme Court who dismissed the appeal out of hand, though Justice Patrick Reale questioned James Kenniff's guilt in the matter and the **validity of the evidence** against the brothers provided by Johnson, much to the mirth of the Chief Justice.

Justice Reale of the Privy Council said that there was no evidence that Jimmy Kenneth had anything to do with the murders and he remained only an accessory *after the fact*.

The appeal phase over, **James Kenniff's** sentence was **reduced to life imprisonment**. His big brother **Paddy**, however, would still take to the **gallows**. When the brothers were taken from the courthouse to Boggo Road Gaol the prison van had to pass through a crowd of 500 spectators who cheered for the brothers.



*Sir Samuel Griffith presided over the trial of the Kenniff brothers in Brisbane on **3rd November, 1902***



'Prisoners in the Dock' Source: Truth, Brisbane, 09/11/1902

On 12 January 1903 Patrick Kenniff went to the scaffold and was hanged for the gruesome crime of murdering Dahlke and Doyle and incinerating their bodies. His last words were;

"I have told you twice before that I am an innocent man, I am as innocent as the judge who sentenced me. Good-bye. May God have mercy on my soul."



Patrick Kenniff was buried in the Prisoners Graveyard at Boggo Road Jail South Brisbane.

James Kenniff was released from prison after 16 years jail with hard labour and would live long enough to see the coming and going of WWI and dying in 1940 at 71 years old. To his dying day in Charters Towers Nth QLD where he still protested the innocence of him and his brother.



CONCLUSION

In 2015 a University of South Australia forensics team returned to Arrest Creek and back to the site of the shootout and grizzly discovery to conduct an archaeological dig. They found further bullets, buttons, pendants and any other materials that might contribute to the case. Their goal was to answer the main question that being.

What would motivate a person to burn and dismember body parts and put them into a saddle bag of a horse and leave them to be found?

To answer this even more peculiar when there are caves and canyons everywhere and the fact that the Kenniff family lived in the area so, they knew the land very well and bodies could easily be hidden. Likely never found.

Why not just hide or bury the bodies in a log? Where does this motivation come from?

The forensic team reviewed all the forensic, historical and archaeological evidence plus oral histories that were made available from people still living in the area and passed down over time.

The findings were that Jimmy was a hot head of the brothers and the noose was really tightening around the brother's neck as the police were closing in and they were living in desperate circumstances. Where they found the burnt and dismembered bodies was a relatively short distance to the bush camp of Old Man Jimmy. The thinking is that the brothers took the two bodies up there and said, '***What are we going to do dad?***' The instinct of father being to protect his sons giving them time to ride off. He then subsequently started the burning bodies and dismembering process.

The research suggests that the older brother Patty took the rap for Jimmy and the old man was responsible for the disgusting act of dismembering burning the bodies.

The interesting part of this case was to it was originally going to be heard in country Queensland and the brothers had a young solicitor called T J Ryan who was going to defend them. It was decided that the case was to be brought down to Brisbane, so it wasn't going to fall victim to any parochial sympathies.

The thing is that **TJ Ryan** the man who defended the Kenniffs was so disgusted by what happened during the trial that when he later became Premier of Queensland a couple of decades later, one of the **first things** that he did was make Queensland the first place in the whole of the British world to abolish the death sentence. That means that Queensland who had been one of wildest and most uncivilised brutal frontier societies suddenly became the 1st in the British world to **abolish the death sentence**. Making it one of the most civilised.

There was very strong public feeling about the case, and it was also wrapped up in the growth of the labour movement at that time. There was a sense that Australians needed to create **their own justice** that was going to have to be very different and *better* than British justice.

What can we learn about bushranging in Australian society looking back?

In general, the colonial era is a kind of a tug of war. The pushing back and forward between the lawful and the lawless that becomes a kind of creative process. It's kind of like the *sand in the oyster* that you've got this **intense friction** happening when often the **lawful blur** the boundaries and behave in a way that you could say in a few instances where **lawless** bushrangers behaved in a way that were noble and chivalrous, that **restored justice** to oppressed group of people.

Ultimately it *did* move Australia along from old versions of British justice epitomised by the *Felons Apprehension Act*. The idea of the *wolf roaming on the edges of society* that can be just knocked on the head by anyone. To a world where even if a man is guilty of this heinous crime he should not have to pay for his life

By the end of the century newly federated Australia had created its *own* distinct brand of British justice, which was now **Australian justice**. The Kenniff case is interesting as it happened just after the Federation of the Australian nation at the turn of the century. Australia was '**rebranded**' as a country and made its own sense of what is right and wrong.

Ultimately as a newly Federated Nation, Australia embraced the quest for respectability and also the idea that at its heart to not be more British than the British but to be **Australian Britons**, who were a 'better' breed of people.

Modern Art - Susan McConnell 'The Kenniff Brothers'

The Kenniffs were compulsive cattle and horse thieves from the Western Districts of Queensland – from Augathella to Mitchell – during the 1890s and turn of the century.

In **1903** – they allegedly **shot and burnt** the bodies of a policeman and station manager.

After the murders of Doyle and Dahlke by the Kenniffs, many people in the district became terrified and left the vicinity, especially station managers, who became **marked men**.

The Queensland Government offered a reward for **£1000** for the capture of the bushrangers. They were again and again seen, but always eluded their pursuers.

Gradually, however, news came to hand of their movements. On April 4th three horses were stolen from a paddock 30 miles from Merivale.

The Kenniffs were now on the run, riding eastward along the Great Dividing Range. They were reported having been seen in the **Yuelba** district, riding like demons on tired horses.

A massive manhunt was organised and three months later the brothers were captured at Arrest Creek, south of Mitchell. Despite the circumstantial evidence they were both found **guilty of murder** and sentenced to death. James' sentence was later commuted to 16 years jail and a royal pardon saw him released in November 1914. Patrick was **executed** on 12 January 1903 at Boggo Road Prison and buried in South Brisbane cemetery. He **proclaimed his innocence** to the last.

***Susan McConnell** has a genuine passion for the Australian rural way of life. She has worked and lived on cattle and sheep properties all her life both in Western Australia and Queensland. She has surrounded herself with bush characters that have shared their narratives and has read fascinating stories and letters of the early settlers. These stories invoke in her a desire to share this rich Australian history by painting colourful quirky unique images.*



📍 Toogoolawah-based artist Susan McConnell breathes life back into Australia's rural history.

'Moonlighting'



In the eighteen nineties stock stealing was rife in the country north of the Roma and Charleville districts. This was known as **cattle-duffing, gully raking or moon-lighting**.

The first indication that the Kenniffs were involved in cattle stealing was at the trial of Thomas Stapleton in March 1895. It became known that he was abetted by the Kenniffs in stealing cattle belonging to James Tyson, who had the leases Meteor Downs, Bibbiloora, and Carnarvon Stations.

At about the turn of the century the Kenniffs **gave up accepting station work** and became surly and truculent. The two brothers took to carrying Winchesters, and also Colt revolvers, which they kept in holsters inside their shirts.

'Heading for Yuelba'



In December 1897, the Kenniffs **stole forty horses** in the Carnarvon area and set off towards Toowoomba. They kept to the high country and back tracks, and made for Yuelba to load the horses on a train. The Kenniffs came up with a **clever diversion** to lure the local police away from Yuelba. They held up a general store, stealing some of the merchandise, as well as cash and cheques from the safe. They then created a trail, leading out of town. Whilst the police were off following the **false trail**, the Kenniffs circled back into town and loaded the stolen horses on the train for Toowoomba.

By 1902 the Kenniffs were **compulsive stock stealers**.

'Merivale Men'



After the deaths of Doyle and Dahlke, the Kenniffs were **on the run**. They stole horses from Merivale, raided outstations near Chinchilla, and generally stole horses, food and camp chattels indiscriminately.

The Kenniffs' main hatred was reserved for the Merivale lessees and for John Collins & Son and their employees. McLain, manager of Babbiloora and Ryan, head stockman of Carnarvon were taken into **protective custody** in one of the police camps, over **sixty policemen having joined in the hunt for the Kenniffs**.

On other stations – in particular Merivale – steps were taken to **arm the managers and stockmen** against a surprise visit by the Kenniffs.

'The Cremation of Doyle and Dahlke'

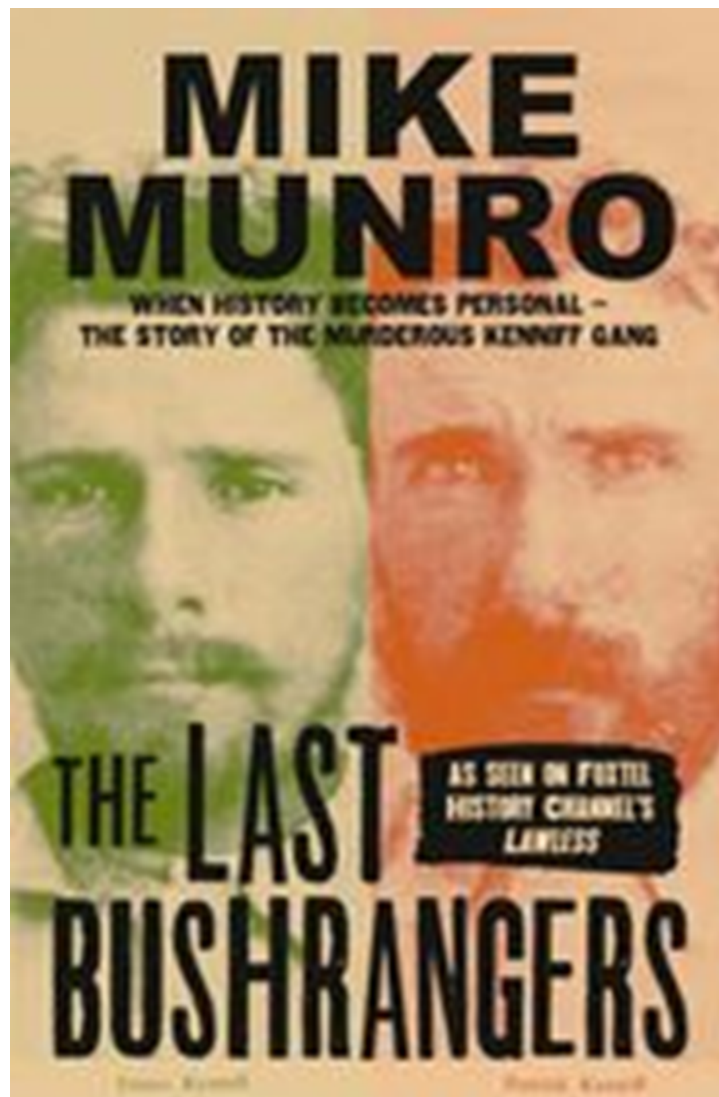


On Tuesday April 1st 1902, near the banks of a creek in Lethbridge's Pocket, the ashes of three small fires were found. Under the ashes was a substance which appeared to be clotted blood, which was partly burnt. Piled up at the foot of an apple tree near the fires were two pairs of spurs, which were later identified as those worn by Doyle and Dahlke.

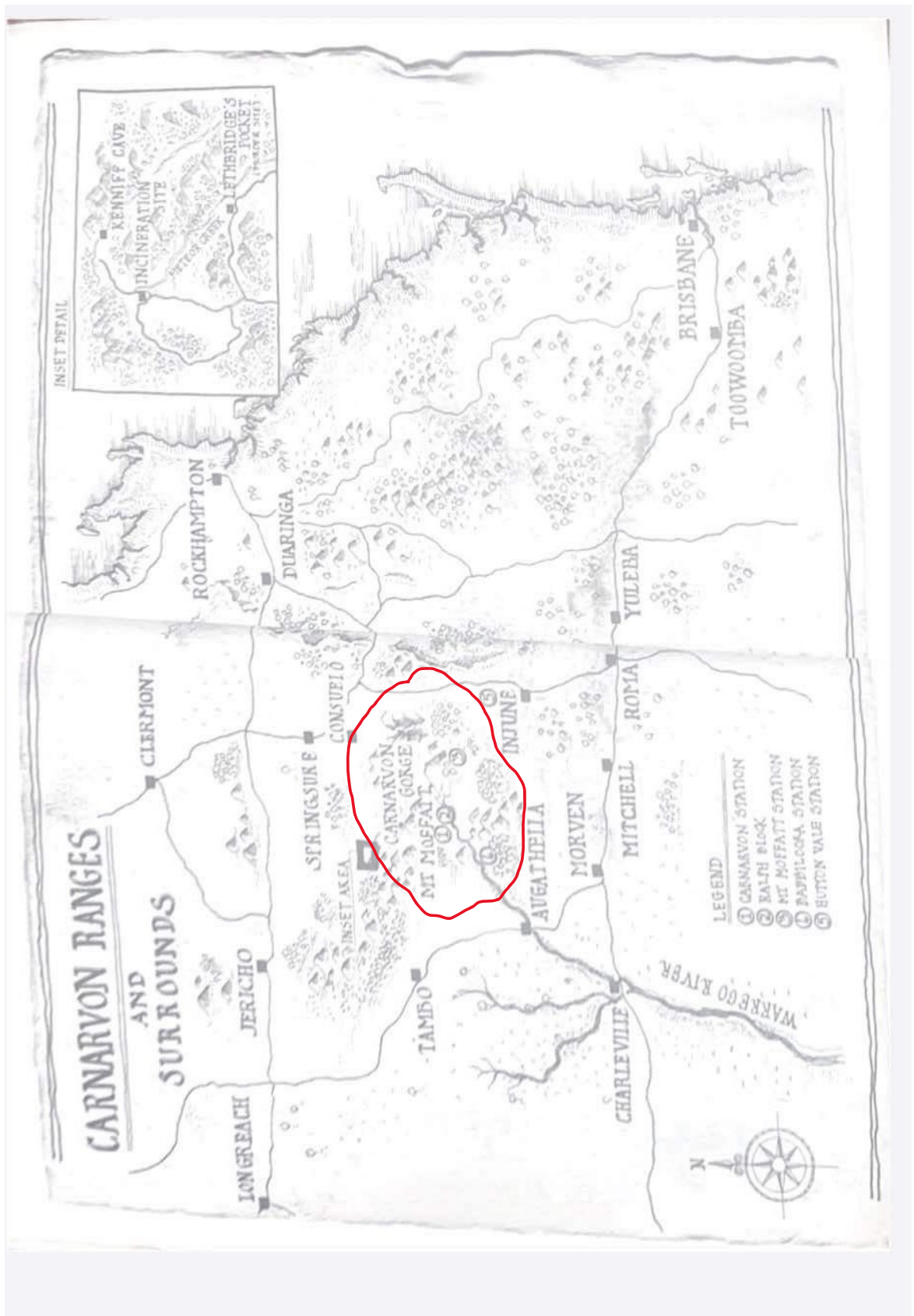
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BOOK – The Last Bushrangers

Mike Munro Channel 9 60 Mins Journalist – Old family secret Mike Munro is related to the Kenniffs...



CARNARVON RANGES AND SURROUNDS -KENNIF COUNTRY



OF ALL THE PATHS YOU
TAKE IN LIFE, MAKE SURE
A FEW OF THEM ARE DIRT.

JOHN MUIR

