

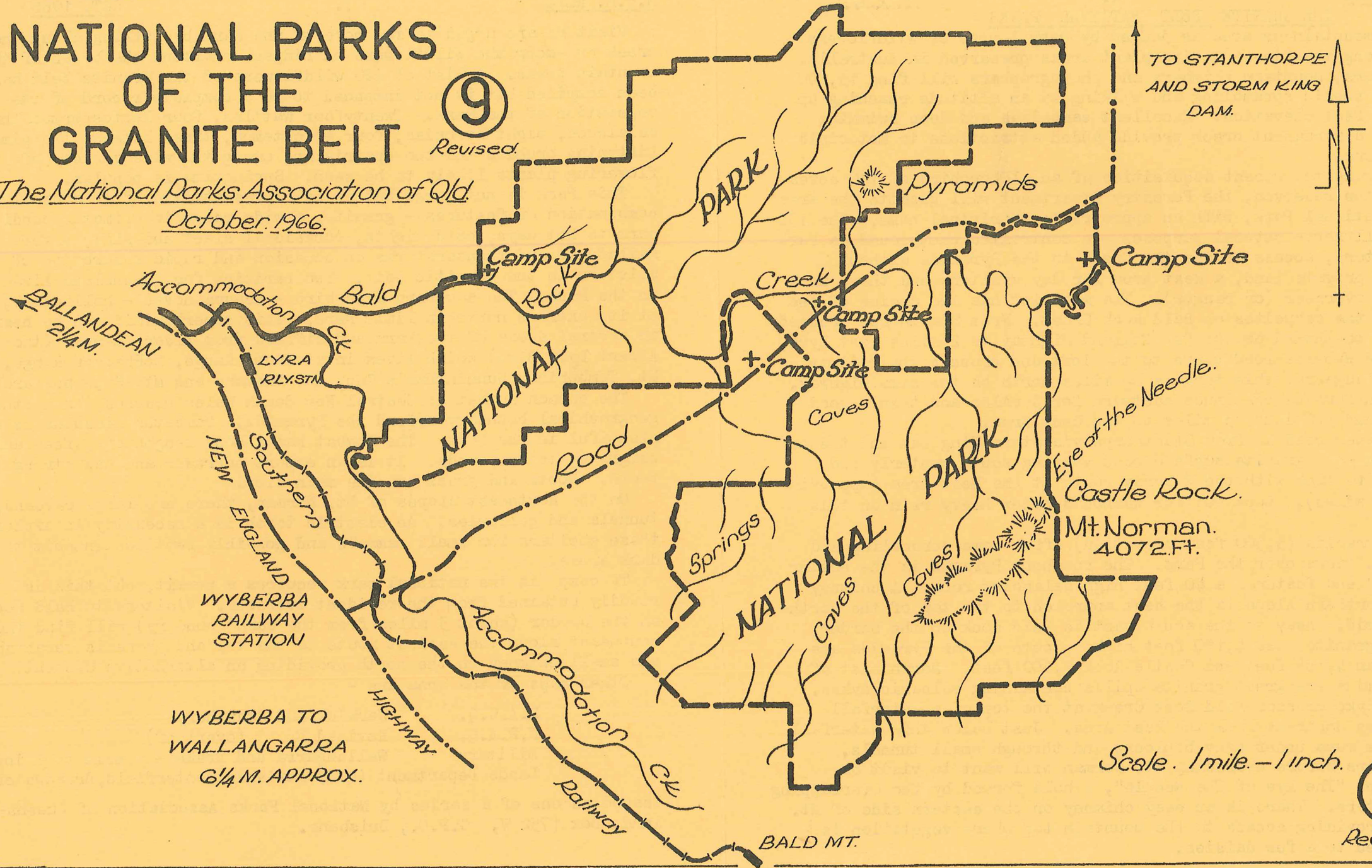
NATIONAL PARKS OF THE GRANITE BELT

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Revised.

The National Parks Association of Qld.

October, 1966.



↑ TO STANTHORPE AND STORM KING DAM.



Scale. 1 mile. - 1 inch.

⑨

Revised.

THE GRANITE BELT NATIONAL PARKS

This mountainous area is judged by many lovers of wildflowers to be among the finest native plant areas preserved in Australia. Bushwalkers, mountain climbers and photographers will find 13,000 acres of scenic scrambling and walking at an altitude reaching up to 4,200 feet elevation. Excellent campsites and deep swimming holes in a permanent creek provide added attractions to motorists and walkers.

Following the recent acquisition of an old orchard of 130 acres linking the reserves, the Forestry Department will gazette the area as one National Park, with an appropriate aboriginal name. The 130 acres will serve several purposes - a controlled campground, a Park headquarters, access across the Creek to the Pyramids without crossing private land, a Rest Area for day visitors and there is a resident overseer (or ranger). The motorist has the choice of two roads to the campsites on Bald Rock Creek. From Stanthorpe proceed 28 miles southward on the New England Highway to 2 miles past Lyra, where the Wyberba road veers to the left and crosses the railway. From Wallangarra, this turn is $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles north on the same highway. A bitumen surface continues eastward for 3 miles and then a good gravel road continues 3 miles to the Rest Area.

The other road is from Stanthorpe via Storm King Dam and thence southward on a granite surface road veering south westerly and westerly to link with the Wyberba route at the Rest Area (approximately 17 miles). Look out for washouts after heavy rain on this route.

The Pyramids (3,500 feet elevation) offer some scrambling and wonderful views over the Park. The southern Pyramid is the easier to ascend and features a 40 feet high balancing rock. A chimney on the northern slope is the best approach to the top of the Northern Pyramid. Away to the south east is Bald Rock on the border, another granite mass 4,190 feet high. South of the Pyramids are Mt. Norman 4,156 feet and Castle Rock 3,600 feet. North east of the Pyramids are great granite Spills containing volcanic dykes. Another dyke crosses Bald Rock Creek at the top of a waterfall four miles upstream from the Rest Area. Just below this waterfall the creek runs under many boulders and through small tunnels.

Climbers before ascending Mt. Norman will want to visit or photograph "The Eye of The Needle", a hole formed by two overlapping granite tors. There is an easy chimney on the eastern side of Mt. Norman providing access to the mountain top where vegetation is restricted to a few daisies.

Visitors are urged to see more of the Park by walking along the creek or among the wildflowers on ridges or around the bases of the mountain peaks. A list of 220 wildflowers of the Granite Belt has been compiled but is not intended to be a complete record of the vegetation of the Park. Twentyfour wattles, four leptospermum three melaleuca, eight boronias, four eriostemon, three hakeas, two pimeleas fiftynine orchids and two epacris are among the wide variety of flowering plants likely to be seen. Springtime is popular.

This Park is not large but it is representative of an unusual combination of features - granite, a wide range in climatic conditions warm to hot days, cold nights, occasional sleet and snow, severe hailstorms and thunderstorms on occasion and rapid absorption of moisture in the granitic soil. Two rarities for Queensland live within the Park. The southern lyre bird - *menura novae-hollandiae*, is at its extreme northern limit here. This superb mimic can be heard in several areas of the Park and differs from Albert *menura* (the Albert Lyre Bird) which lives in Richmond Range, McPherson Range, Mt. Tamborine, Cunningham's Gap, Mt. Mistake and Mt. Superbus area.

The common Wombat of Central New South Wales reaches its northern geographical boundary around the Pyramids. *Vombatus hirsutus* is not plentiful in the Park. The Wombat has a body length of 3 feet and weighs up to 80 pounds. It is an expert burrower and has strong teeth. Roots and grass are the main diet.

On the northeast slopes of Mt. Norman, there are large caverns, tunnels and galleries. An electric torch is a necessity in exploring these shelters for small mammals and possibly reptiles inhabit the dark areas.

To camp in the national park requires a permit, but this is readily obtained from the resident overseer. Visitors to Bald Rock on the border (about 3 miles from the park boundary) will find the southeast slope the easiest route to the top and there is verandah and small chimney on the north providing an alternative descent.

Other maps of the area are -

R.A.C.Q.	Warwick and Stanthorpe
N.P.A.Q.	Revised No. 9 (overleaf)
Military	Wallangarra and Drake - 1 mile to 1 inch
Lands Department (Qld)	Parishes Tenterfield, Broadwater.

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