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Wild 1 - the North

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Wild 1- the North

Three students from Kenyon University in the United States participated in this unit. There were three main objectives. The first was to enable a reading of Western Australian writing in its relationship to the landscape - physical, social, and historical. The second was to locate Western Australian writing within the post-colonial perspective of Australian writing. The third was to formulate an appropriate theoretical framework for this. The central activity was a ten journey through the mid-west of western Australia. This intense experience was the equivalent of a whole semester's single unit workload.

Andrew Taylor, Professor of English

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We covered over 2000 km in ten days, leaving Perth early on 20th July and arriving back on the afternoon of 29th July. Travel was by a small bus.

John Kinsella with Emily Florido, Tory Weber and Andy Grace at Nambung National Park

The students were accompanied by Professor Andrew Taylor, who was responsible for this unit, Andrew Burke, a well-known Western Australian poet, and Helen Kronberger, who was filming the group's activities.



Geographer Hugo Beckle, with Tory, Andrew Burke, and Andy at Nambung



Emily Florido in the Pinnacles



While at Geraldton we flew by light aircraft to the Houtman Abrolhous, a mysterious group of islands about 60 kilometres offshore and only a few metres above sea level. This is the site of the famous wreck of the Dutch ship *Batavia* in the seventeenth century, which inspired films, novels, and poems. The new Maritime Museum in Geraldton provided excellent background for the visit to the islands.



We continued north along the coast to Kalbarri, a spectacular spot where a sandstone tableland is cut with immense gorges and breaks abruptly into the Indian Ocean.

Kalbarri gorges



The placid and harmless Thorny Devil (*Moloch horridus*), which lives entirely on small black ants.



We then went inland, visiting the immense goldmine at Mount Magnet, where we were given a comprehensive - and rare - tour of its operations,

Emily, Tory and Andy at the Hill 50 Gold Mine near Mount Magnet



The male Bower Bird (Western Bowerbird, *Chlamydera guttata*) has a bower, decorated with bleached bones, where he woos the female.



Tory Weber and Andy Grace with Max Lenoy (of ECU's KurongKurl Katitjin) at George Seddon's Fremantle home