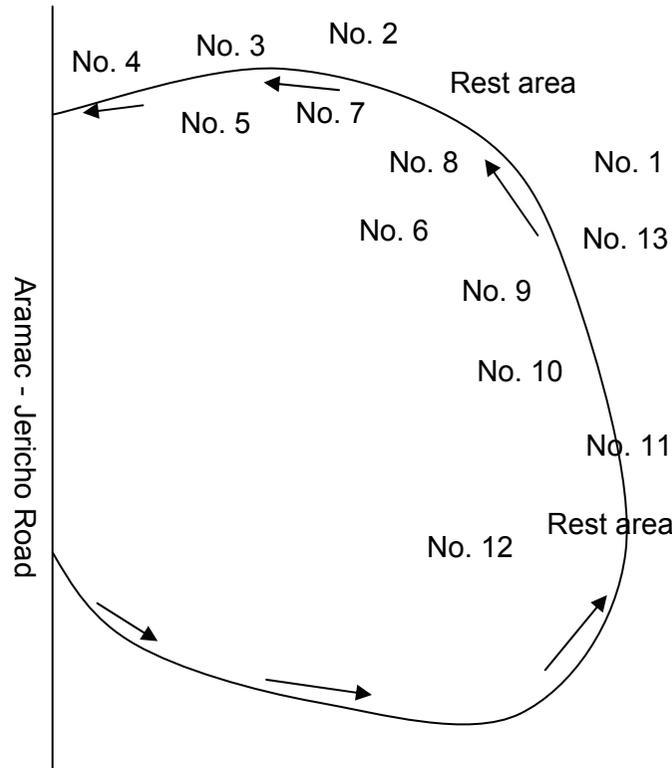


Explore the caves and identify the trees at Horsetailers Gorge

1. Desert Gum Tree - used for building materials
2. Quinine Tree - used by Aborigines for medical purposes
3. Desert Oak Tree - used for fence posts and cattle fodder
- No 4. Ironbark Trees - used for railway sleepers (hardwood)
- No 5. Prickly Pine
- No 6. Bloodwood Tree - used for stockyard posts (hardwood)
- No 7. Corkwood Tree - used for Stock fodder (very light timber)
- No 8. Lancewood Tree - used for stockyard rails
- No 9. Whitewood Tree - used for camp fires
- No 10. Lapunya Tree - used for rafters (hardwood)
- No 11. Lancewood Tree - used for Stockyard Rails
- No 12. Buddah Tree - White Ant Proof

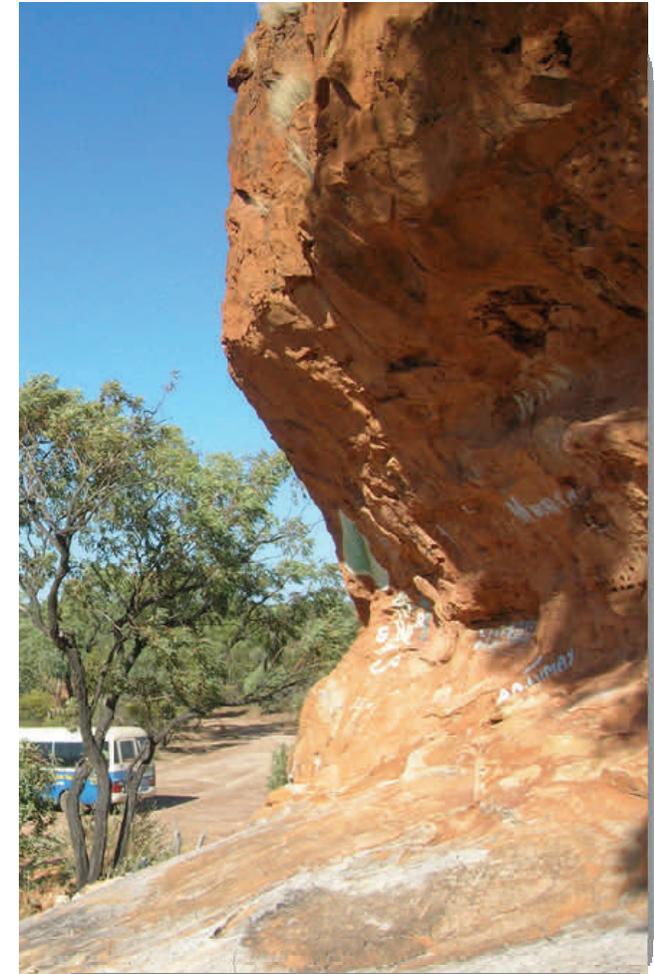


Gray Rock and Horsetailers Gorge



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Gray Rock & Horsetailers Gorge



Aramac



Gray Rock



The sandstone Gray Rock is said to be part of the *Doncaster* member of the Wallumbilla formation which was laid down in the lower *Cretaceous* period (about 125 million years ago) on a small marine shelf. About 60 million years later, severe weather conditions cauterised large areas of inland Queensland, this area included.

Gray Rock is linked closely with pioneering families who came to this vast sheep and cattle grazing country. On the eastern side of the rock can be found some Aboriginal Rock Art.

Gray Rock, situated on a spur of the Great Dividing Range approximately 35km east of Aramac, was a logical choice for the establishment of a hotel, better known as Wayside Pub where the Cobb and Co coaches would call for the night en-route from Clermont to Aramac before the railway line was completed. The railway, snaking from Rockhampton, reached Jericho on 2 June 1885 and Barcaldine on 7 June 1886.

Old-timers relate that there was little left of the hotel even in the late 19th century. It is known that Mr. Thomas Byrnes in 1877 was the first licensee and held same until 6 March 1881, when it was transferred to Mr. Archibald Casey, who subsequently sold out to Mr. James Ferguson on 10 February 1882. Ferguson closed the hotel on 22 December 1885 and transferred the licence to Red Rock.



As Gray Rock was the mail change, fresh horses were kept in Mailmans' Gorge, situated 3km south-east of the rock. With only one entry, the gorge was a horse tailers dream because the horses would be watered and mustered with a minimum of riding.

It would be safe to say that from the names carved into the gray sandstone outcrop, that many of these passengers, who travelled for reasons best known to themselves, but nevertheless, what they left, together with those names since added, is a veritable "who's who?" treasure.

In the mid 1890's, Gray Rock was the scene of a tragedy which led later to one of Queensland's most famous murder trials. Two travellers called at an Aramac store for supplies and set out on horseback for Clermont saying they were going to camp the night at Gray Rock. An itinerant kangaroo shooter saw the campfire that night and heard a shot.

A year or so later, the same kangaroo shooter called at Gray Rock and turned over the ashes of an old campfire. He discovered the clasp of a purse, steel trouser buttons and charred remains of a bone. All the evidence pointed to these items belonging to the younger of the two travellers, who had not been heard of since they first left Aramac.

At the subsequent murder trial, despite the weight of circumstantial evidence, the elder traveller was acquitted, as the medical experts could not say with certainty whether the bones were Aboriginal or white, male or female.

Horsetailers Gorge

Horsetailers' Gorge was used by drovers to camp at night. The horsetailer's used to drive their horses into the gorge so they would not stray at night.

The horsetailer's job was to look after the horses and put them into the best patch of feed and make sure they got into camp soon after daylight each morning. Each man would catch a horse and saddle it up ready for the day.

There is mainly spinifex growing in Horsetailers' Gorge.

