

## THE HISTORY OF MOUNT KAPUTAR

\*Information should be used as a guide only. Information is subject to change without notice and is in no way binding. Responsibility is not taken for inaccuracies in this information. Please contact the Visitors Information Centre on (02) 6799 6760 to check any details.

104km round trip (64km sealed and 40km unsealed). Allow half day min.

Mt Kaputar National Park is part of a volcanic skeleton of a once active volcano, which rises to the Nandewar Ranges.

It now provides a picturesque background for the residents and visitors of the North Western Slopes and Plains.

The Nandewar Volcano is only one in a diminishing chain of volcanic centres formed as the Australian plate moved over a hot spot in the earth's mantle. The others, forming afterwards, have left an intriguing arc-like trail extending from the Nandewars through the Warrumbungles and Mt Canobolas.

The Nandewar volcano grew over an initial burst of melting under the lower crust and then later by the eruptions of lava from a large molten chamber centred under the volcano at a depth of about seven km below the surface.

The whole volcano grew during a period when the earth's magnetic field had the same NS direction, as does the present magnetic field.

The Nandewar Range forms remnants of a large volcanic complex built up by repeated eruptions during the Miocene Epoch, between 21 million to 17 million years ago.

The activity started in the northern part and built up a large cone of rhyolitic lavas and feeder pipes in the area of Killarney Gap. This now makes up about a quarter of the whole volcanic shield.

The activity then moved south and built up a second centre, in which a greater range of volcanic rock types were poured out into the local drainage, overlapping the older cone and building the main shield.

The lavas included the darker looking basalt and a variety of lighter coloured trachytes and rhyolites and rarer rocks called tristanites.

This stage erupted from 18 to 17 million years ago. The last activity lingered on in the south part when the pulses of trachytes lava were pushed up through the structure in the last half million years of the volcano's life.

Altogether about 400 cubic kilometres of lava was erupted to form a volcano 500 metres high and 50 kilometres across.

Some eruptions were undoubtedly violent and highly explosive, but these deposits have been largely eroded from the upper part of the volcano.

In reality the plains where Narrabri is standing today would have been much, much higher. Considerable erosion of both mountains and plains has occurred since the volcanos ceased their rumblings.

Although considerable amounts of the original superstructure of the Nandewar volcanos are lost; we can still gain a good impression of their former glory by studying comparable volcanoes elsewhere.

Each volcano, even if starting from a similar form, is shaped by later events to give a unique landform that reflects the local geological conditions of its area sometimes over many millions of years.

## MOUNT KAPUTAR NATIONAL PARK

*From the Visitors Information Centre, turn right into the main street, Maitland Street, which is parallel to the Newell Highway where the Visitors Information Centre is located. Drive through the CBD and follow all the way out of town, passing the RSL Club on your right hand side. Approx 3kms past the RSL Club, turn left which will be signposted to the Airport and Mt Kaputar National Park. Follow this road for approx 52kms, it will lead right to the summit of Mt Kaputar. 20kms of this road is unsealed. Three lookouts are located on the way up to the summit, these are well signposted and only a short distance off the main road. No Caravans are allowed on the road to Kaputar summit.*

Located 52kms East of Narrabri on the Mount Kaputar Road, approximately 1 Hours Drive. (one way)

The Kaputar Road – 32km bitumen and 20kms of Gravel.

The Road is passable in wet weather, extreme caution should be taken, as the road may be slippery and rough.

No Caravans permitted into the National Park, the road is steep and narrow.

Motor homes and Coaches (larger than 25 seater coaster bus) require a permit/escort into the National Park Ph: (02) 6792 7300.

There are no Phone or Food provisions available in the National Park.

You will need to carry your own Firewood (available from the Visitor Information Centre.)

Firewood collection is not permitted at Mt Kaputar National Park.

Ask at the Visitors Information Centre about possible fire restrictions.

2 camping Grounds are located at Mt Kaputar –Bark Hut and Dawson Springs

Bark Hut & Dawson Spring are camping areas, neither site is powered.

Both campsites have BBQ facilities, showers and Toilets

No Ranger is permanently on duty in the National Park.

No fees are charged for Day entry into the Park

Camping Fees for overnight stays \$5.00 per site & \$3.00 per person. (Honesty Box system)

3 Cabins are available for Rental through the Narrabri National Parks and Wildlife Service Ph: (02) 6792 7300. The Cost is \$77.00 per night (minimum stay 2 nights/bookings can be made 6 months ahead)

Average Max Temp: 7-14 degrees in Winter 21-28 Degrees in Summer

Weather can deteriorate quickly; always carry warm & wet weather gear.

Please carry your own water supply; water can be scarce in the National Park.

Please do not feed any animals as this can damage their health.

