



The Mt Warning Shield Volcano

The caldera map

The caldera of the Mt Warning Shield Volcano straddling the Queensland border of North Eastern NSW is a landform of both scenic and natural international significance - the Mt. Warning Shield Volcano. The Volcanic action which occurred 23-20 million years ago produced a flat shield shaped landform - not the steep-sided peak that volcanoes usually bring to mind. At nearly 2000m in height it was almost twice the present height of Mt Warning (1157m) its' remnant magma chamber and central vent. Its lava flows reached as far as Canungra in the north, Kyogle to the west, Lismore and Ballina in the south and as far as 100km out into the ocean, covering 5000 square kilometers. For 20 million years, wind and rain carved out a huge bowl around the central magma chamber which still stands proud, as it is made of a harder, more erosion resistant rock. This is the caldera of the Mt Warning Shield Volcano, the largest caldera in the southern hemisphere. The sheer escarpment, of the caldera rim and tracts of level highland radiating out in three directions, together with the central majestic Mt Warning, combine to create a scenic landform of memorable rugged beauty. Add to this the rich volcanic soils, high rainfall and the aspect of the caldera itself on the most easterly bulge of our continent, and you have the recipe for the natural values which make this landform a major refuge for rainforests of World Heritage significance.

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