

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article appeared in *ozEEnews* (the newsletter of the Australian Association for Environmental Education Inc. Issue 102, June 2007), highlighting the great environmental education work being undertaken by *Caveworks*. The karst groundwater model was donated to Ross and Jay Anderson after their attendance to the *American Cave and Karst Conservancy Forum* last year. Jay was the Key Note Speaker and gave another presentation on the need for karst education and government policy/legislation to protect Australian caves and karst. Their colleagues in the USA were very supportive and made the donation of the karst groundwater model. *Caveworks* was able to utilize this fantastic resource recently. It is clearly a great model and possibly the only one in Australia presently? If other locations would like to obtain the model, contact Jay – she may be able to facilitate it.

DISCOVERING THE SUBTERRANEAN

– Jay Anderson

As part of learning about the environment on World Environment Day 2007 students from Karridale Primary School visited *Caveworks* and learnt about the Leeuwin Naturaliste Ridge. The children were keen to visit the underground environment and during their visit they learnt about the caves of the ridge as part of their studies.

Caveworks Manager Jay Anderson and staff led the nineteen children and three teachers on a wonderful journey of discovery. During a tour of Lake Cave, the children found out what is so unique about the Tamala Limestone and our caves on the Leeuwin Naturaliste Ridge. WOW! They were in a big sand dune...and they were fascinated to discover that the limestone is so different to that in other karst areas of Australia.

As part of this activity, Cave Guide Ross Anderson led the children through an interactive timeline followed by their cave visit. Back on the surface, the children learned about the way water moves through aquifers. With the aid of a karst model,

they saw how fast water can move through karst systems.

Students learnt about the importance of keeping aquifers clean by not putting polluting substances into the recharge areas for the aquifers so that the pollutants would not end up on their own drinking water supply.

Then the young speleologists had the opportunity to create their own dolines/sinkholes and speleothems as part of the interactive program. Several *Caveworks* staff assisted the children with the activities. Students created their own crystal caves – mixing two chemical solutions to create cave crystals like stalactites and stalagmites.

During National Science Week in August, *Caveworks* will be hosting a broader range of programs for the general public and school groups. Jay is keen to share ideas with others, so please contact her at *Caveworks* on 9757 7411. *Caveworks* is operated by the Augusta Margaret River Tourism Association.



Ross Anderson demonstrates the Karst Groundwater Model to Karridale Primary School children