

Jay Anderson (Project Manager) and Phil Smeeton (DEC – Parks & Visitor Services Coordinator – Swan Coastal District) look at one of the interpretation signs along the walk trail.



SHARING AUSTRALIA'S STORIES AT YANCHEP

– Jay Anderson*

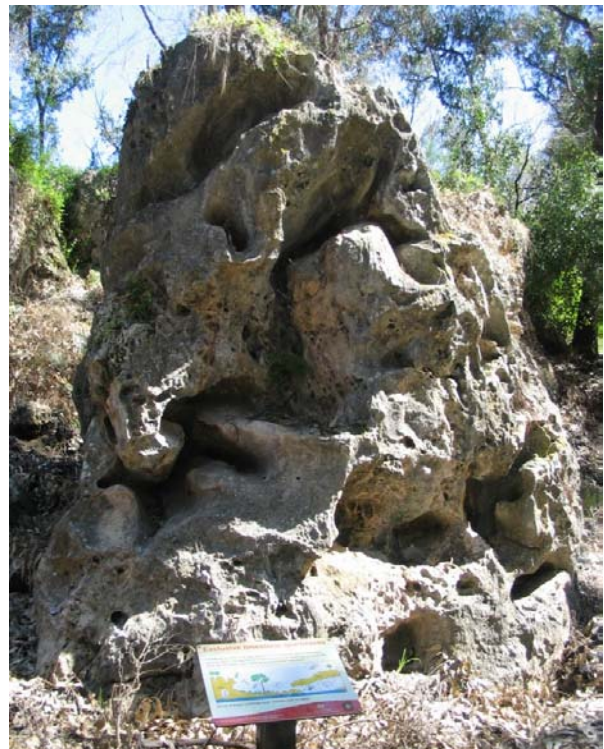
A close-up of one of the signs



The Yanchep National Park has some new thematic and informative interpretative signage. The signs are part of the self-guided Boomerang Gorge (Dwerta Mia) Trail – located within the karst system at Yanchep. The Boomerang Gorge is a spectacular area of the Yanchep National Park, close to the well known “Crystal Cave”. The project was a partnership between a number of individuals and organizations and was officially opened in late December 2006.

The Western Australian Speleological Group (WASG) was announced (7/2005) as one of the successful applicants for a “Sharing Australia’s Stories” Grant from the Commonwealth Government (Department of Environment and Heritage). The Sharing Australia’s Stories Program

supports activities and projects that help tell the story of the nation.



Limestone Apartments? Some of the natural features along the trail.

The Program objectives were to give individuals and communities the opportunity to identify and communicate their local contribution to the nationally significant natural, indigenous and historic heritage of the Australian nation.

Members of the WA local Speleological Groups (WASG & SRGWA- Speleological Research Group Western Australia) worked in consultation with DEC staff (Yanchep National Park, and the department's Sign Design Studio & Interpretation Section) to develop the signage.

The written material was developed through creative networking workshops involving speleologists and interpretation specialists.

The interpretation material was then finalised in close consultation with several specialised DEC interpretation staff.

This project aimed to increase public awareness of a unique karst and cave system that exists here in Western Australia. This project tells the story of natural processes shaping Aeolian limestone karst systems, and their associated subterranean fauna at Yanchep.

This project is part of the speleological group's broader goal to raise the profile of karst systems and to educate the community about karst systems in WA.

The WASG would like to acknowledge the financial and other support it has received from the Australian Government to allow this exciting project to proceed. We encourage ACKMA members to visit the Yanchep National Park and share some of the stories contained in this new signage and displays!!

*All images by R. Anderson.



Interested visitors to Yanchep National Park enjoy the new signage along the trail

