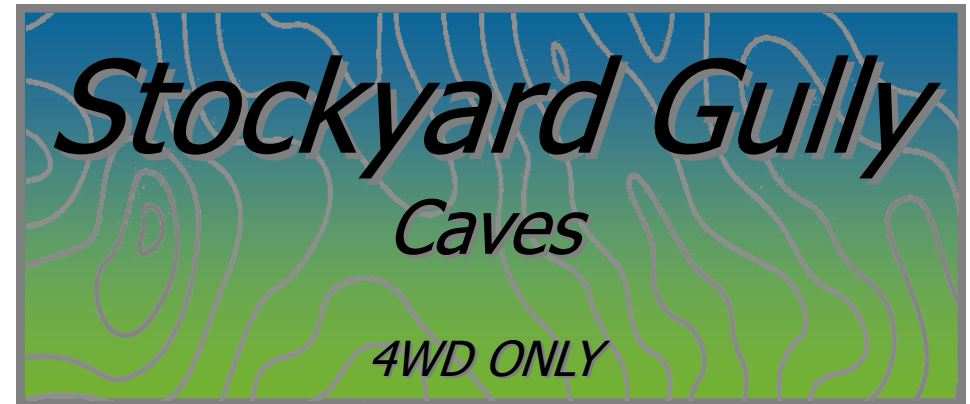


A 4WD vehicle is required to get to the caves as the track is rather sandy with sharp rocks in parts. Don't deflate your tyres as the track will get rocky.

The caves are best accessed from the southern end via Cockleshell Gully Road.

When approaching the Cockleshell Gully and Woolmulla Road intersection, continue north. The road will narrow off to a sandy track. This is the start of the 5km 4WD track to the caves.

Pearson's Track, near Lake Indoon, is not recommended as this track is very narrow and not maintained. Only experienced four wheel drivers should take this route and do so at their own risk.



## Community Information Brochure

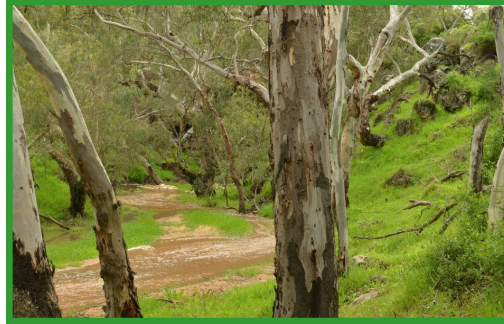
Shire of Coorow  
 Leeman Office - Ph. 9953 1388  
 Coorow Office - Ph. 9952 0100  
[www.coorow.wa.gov.au](http://www.coorow.wa.gov.au)

# Stockyard Gully Reserve

**History:** Stockyard Gully Caves form part of the old North Stock Route used by Stockmen in the 1850's through to approx. 1925. The stockmen used the deep and cool gullies as a holding pen for their cattle on the way from Geraldton to Perth for market. The caves form a natural ravine and offered a safe and refreshing place to camp.

**General Information:** The Stockyard Gully Caves are one of Western Australia's best kept secrets. The main cave has a sandy bottom and is some 300m long. There are two shorter caves that are accessible for the more adventurous before reaching the final cave, which has no exit.

With lush vegetation along a sandy river bed leading to the cave, its wide open spaces make all feel at ease, even those entering a cave for the first time. Make sure to have your torch ready because it is going to be dark. The cave is self-guiding, however, care must be taken to ensure your own safety and the welfare of the cave and its inhabitants.



Stockyard Gully Reserve is accessible year round, with winter and spring being the most vibrant time of the year to visit. Take caution after heavy rain as tracks may be washed out and flooding may occur.

Access to the cave may be restricted by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attraction if the cave is flooding.

**Caution:** In wet weather the rocks and walk trails become slippery. Also if the creek is flowing stay clear of the edges as strong water currents and whirl pooling may occur.

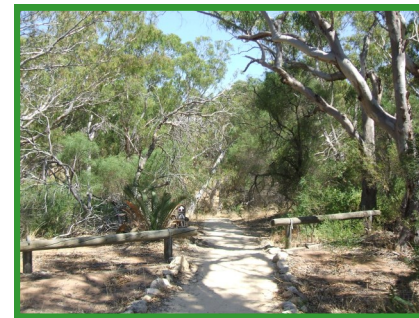


**Flora and Fauna:** Tall River Gums, giant Zamia and Manna Gum are found along the edges of the gully floor which has been deeply scoured by floodwater.

The upper slopes of the gully are drier and support wattles, with their orange-yellow flowers, parrot bush, with prickly leaves and cream flowers, purple flowered native wisteria and coastal daisy bush, with its silver grey densely compact foliage.



Where the soils are shallow and the limestone is exposed, an understorey of mixed shrubs can be found including the yellow buttercup, green and brown twinning tendrils of dodder laurel and the blue flowers of the morning iris. Look under the shade of shrubs in early spring for delicate orchids.



*Relax and enjoy a picnic amongst the trees, relishing in the peace and tranquillity of the surroundings.*

**Animals to be found:** The park includes colonies of bats in the cave system, grey kangaroos, Carnaby's cockatoos, fairy (blue) wren and many other small birds and lizards. Natural bee hives hang from the entrance of the caves. Please take care not to disturb the bees. They will be more prevalent on hot days.



- Keep an eye out for the variety of flora and fauna that live here
- Ensure you bring plenty of water as there is no fresh water available
- You will need a torch to walk from one end of the cave to the other
- Camping is not allowed within the Stockyard Gully Reserve
- Pets are prohibited from the Stockyard Gully Reserve
- Please stay on marked tracks and walk trails to avoid erosion and damage to vegetation
- Be cave wise: The shining of direct light and excessive noise can disturb cave fauna, especially bats.
- Please do not disturb beehives on the rock face