The Darling Fault is the major geological, structural feature running parallel to WA's west coast. The elevated eastern portion has eroded over time into the Darling Scarp.

GLOSSARY

Clast:

A fragment of geological detritus, chunks and smaller grains of rock broken off other rocks by physical weathering.

Quartzite:

A hard, non-foliated metamorphic rock, originally pure quartz sandstone. Sandstone is converted into quartzite through heating and pressure.

Ilmenite:

A black mineral consisting of oxides of iron and titanium.

Orthoquartzites:

Solidified sandstone.

Striations:

A series of ridges, furrows or linear marks as a result a geological fault.



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BoyupBrookVisitorCentre





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FLORA & FAUNA

The Kirup Conglomerate

BOYUP BROOK



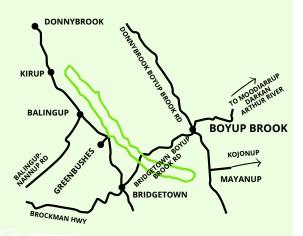


THE KIRUP CONGLOMERATE

The Kirup Conglomerate outcrops in an arcuate (curved) band up to 2.5 kilometres wide from the locality of Mayanup in the Shire of Boyup Brook to the Kirup area, located in the Shire of Donnybrook.

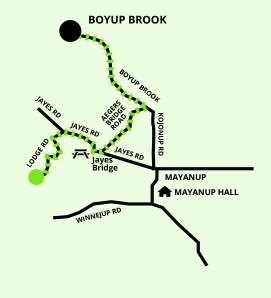


It is composed of rounded boulders and clasts derived from ancient Precambrian rocks upon which it rests, (especially quartzite), and also contains clasts of its older sedimentary cousins, the Donnybrook sandstone. Boulders are said to occur in the ilmenite mines near Capel and in other excavations such as railway cuttings.



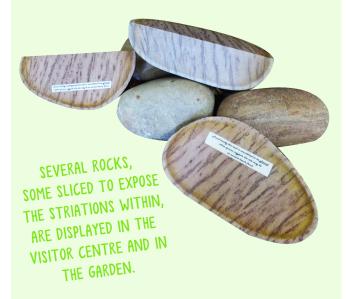
The rounding of the clasts and cobbles is due to long periods of action by high energy water, exactly as occurs today on wave washed beaches and in fast rivers and river mouths. It would also appear that the conglomerate may have been transported, possibly by glacial melt, because some of the large and faceted clasts are composed of Orthoquartzites not otherwise found in the South West.

The exact age of the Kirup Conglomerate is uncertain, but lies in the range of 1-65 million years. Originally it may have been a beach deposit which was later reworked by rivers as general uplift of the land took place. A deposit of chalk in the 'Warraminga' cutting lends weight to this theory.



The 'Warraminga' cutting (often called 'Glacial Hill' by locals) is found on private property off Lodge Road in Mayanup and is not available for public viewing, however a drive along the road will allow sightings of some rounded rocks in the paddocks and on the verges.

PLEASE DO NOT ACQUIRE SOUVENIRS.



The Conglomerate is found from 140-240 metres above sea level and the current location (so far above sea level) is due to a general receding of the ancient seas starting about 65 million years ago, combined with the uplift along the Darling Fault.

The best place to see these rocks is at the Visitor Centre both in the garden and inside the Centre