



Limestone cave experience for kids

The Early Start Discovery Space at the University of Wollongong is a museum dedicated to children. It provides stimulating interactive experiences that promote learning through play.

“The cave” experience, created by Natureworks, encourages children to explore and play in a dark, mysterious limestone cave. The cave, complete with stalactites, has smooth internal crawl-through rock ledges. Children can climb to a 1.2 metre high mezzanine and take a rock slide back to ground level.

Hiding away within the cave are various creatures such as a masked owl, ghost bats and cave geckos. These are real enough to make you look twice, but they are actually from Natureworks’ collection of fibreglass animal sculptures. Synthetic spider webs on the ceiling add to the tactile nature of the experience.



“Experiencing the sensation of exploring a dark, realistic cave space will encourage children to face their fears. They may take some time to work up the courage, but when they do, there’ll be no stopping them.”



For info see earlystartdiscoveryspace.edu.au/





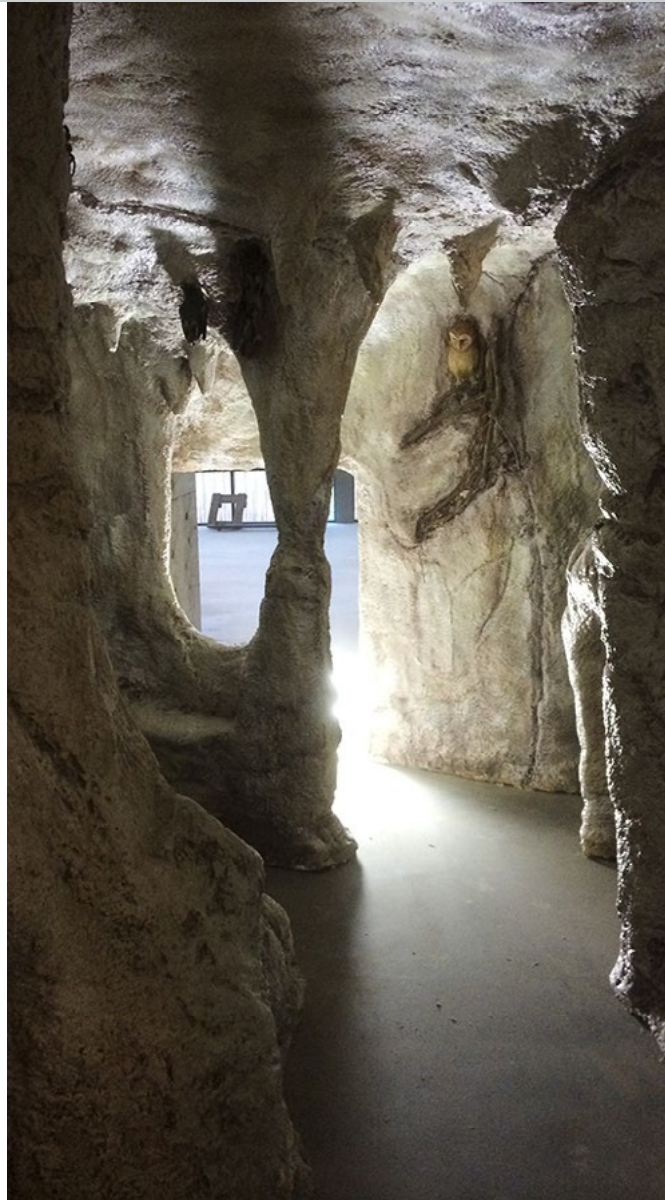
Artificial cave designed and built to suit the need

Natureworks designed, built and installed the artificial limestone cave to meet the needs of the University and suit the space available. The structure had to be relatively compact while being strong enough to cope with energetic young children!

We built the cave in two bolt-together halves so it could be transported to the university more easily. The seamed join was specially designed to resemble a natural fissure in the rock surface.

Natureworks are highly experienced at designing artificial caves and rockwork for a range of purposes. As well as custom rockwork, we can draw from our amazing collection of artificial trees, rocks and animal sculptures to enhance caves or other exhibits.

We are also passionate about encouraging children to learn through nature-based play. Please see [our website](#) for more project examples, or contact us if you'd like us to help make your project happen.



Look carefully and you'll see an owl and bats on the ceiling....



Inside the cave



Propping up during construction



Adding finishing touches



Transporting the cave in two pieces