

Carving sites to be Gazetted

The major sites of Aboriginal carvings around Dampier were inspected on Sunday, June 17 by a team from the Western Australian Museum accompanied by the Surveyor-General. Local authority on the carvings, Enzo Virilli of Dampier Salt, conducted the group around the sites.

The group comprised Dr. W. Ride, Director of the Western Australian Museum, who is a world authority on Australian native mammals; Mr P. Randolph, Anthropologist with the Museum; the Surveyor-General of Western Australia, Mr J. Morgan and an assistant.

The party was particularly interested in the Gum Tree Valley site on the Dampier Salt lease. Estimates have put the number of carvings in this valley alone at 4,000. Within a few months, following a more detailed study of the area, it is expected that an accurate figure will be known. A team of four, led by Mr Dix and including an archaeologist, will remain in the Dampier area to investigate all the known sites and to seek out undiscovered sites. This team is expected to complete its work by mid-July.

The visit to the area by the Museum in company with the Surveyor-General is preparatory to the area being gazetted shortly under the Aboriginal Heritage act of 1972. The area to be gazetted



will be bounded by the sea on the north side, Dampier Salt on the south and the railway to the east.

Inspecting the carving sites entailed scrambling over the many rock piles. Shown here negotiating one such pile are Dr W. Ride Director of the WA Museum, Mr J. Morgan, Surveyor-General for WA and Mr P. Randolph from the Museum.