

The Arch locality

Site #5 on the Strzelecki Taxonomy Map

The Arch locality is situated on the Bass Coast between Anderson and Kilcunda. The sediments at The Arch locality are made up of a finer grained conglomerate containing a mixture of sand, mud, fossil plant material and the occasional fossil bone. These rocks are the same age as the coarser quartz conglomerates found between San Remo and Punchbowl, but they have come from a different source.

A number of fossil bones have been found at this locality over the years, including a small theropod dinosaur tooth, the only theropod tooth found on the Bass Coast outside the Flat Rocks site, near Inverloch. This is also the only site outside Flat Rocks where evidence of fossilised fresh-water molluscs has been found.

This vertebra was found by Mike Cleeland in 1992. Although evidence of the armoured ankylosaur dinosaurs (in the form of teeth, dermal armour and ribs) has been found along the Bass Coast, this is the only vertebra that has been positively identified. Fortunately, Mike found it when it had been exposed for a short time and very little had been lost. The vertebra has been studied and is thought to be a part of the back (dorsal vertebra) of a dinosaur similar to *Ankylosaurus* or *Polocanthus*.



photo - Mike Cleeland

