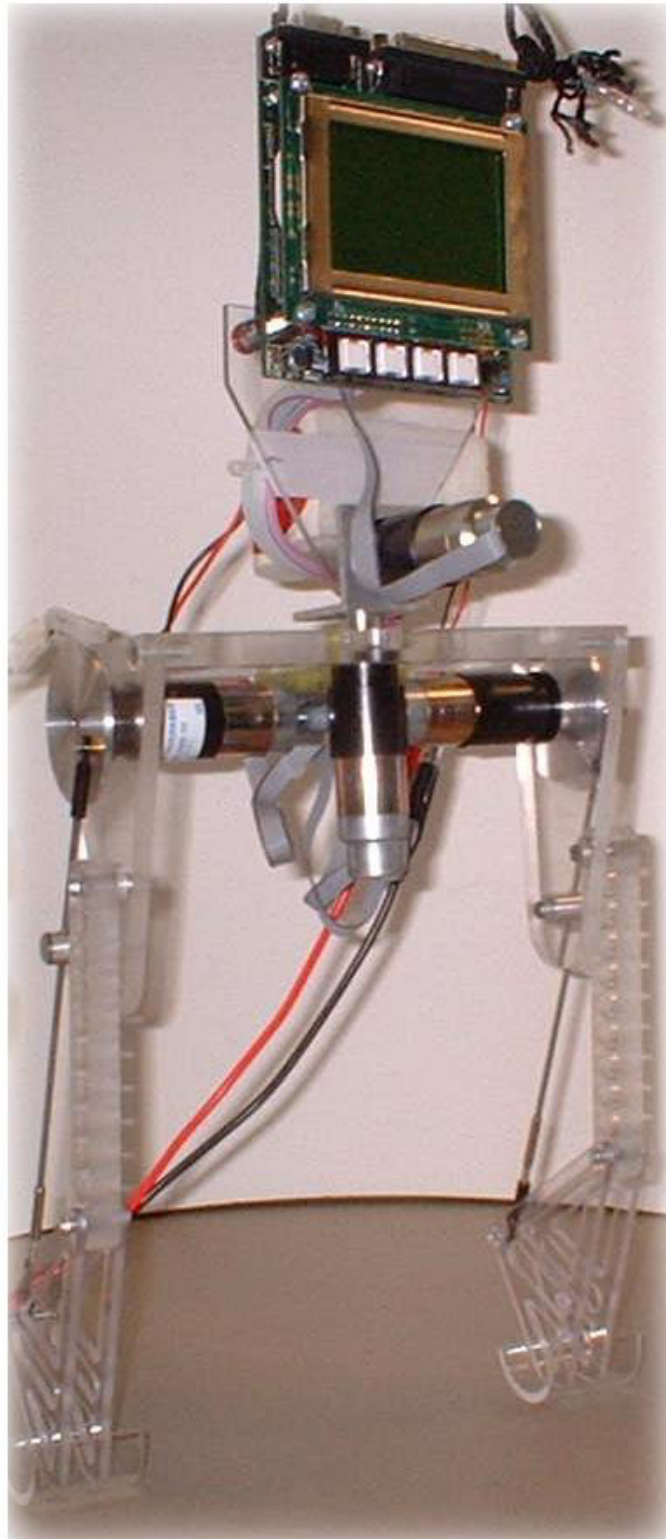


Rock with „Rock steady“



**A short outlook on Antonio's
experience in Australia**



About me:

I was born in Sevilla (Spain) in 1976 and moved to Germany the same year. With 6 years I moved back to Spain where I have been living for 12 years. I finished my Abitur at the German school in Barcelona and moved back to Koblenz, where I started an apprenticeship as energy-electrician. After working for one year as qualified worker I started studying electrical engineering at the University of applied science in Koblenz in March 1999. I finished my last exams and started my journey to Australia at the beginning of this November to make my diploma thesis at the University of Western Australia (UWA) in Perth.

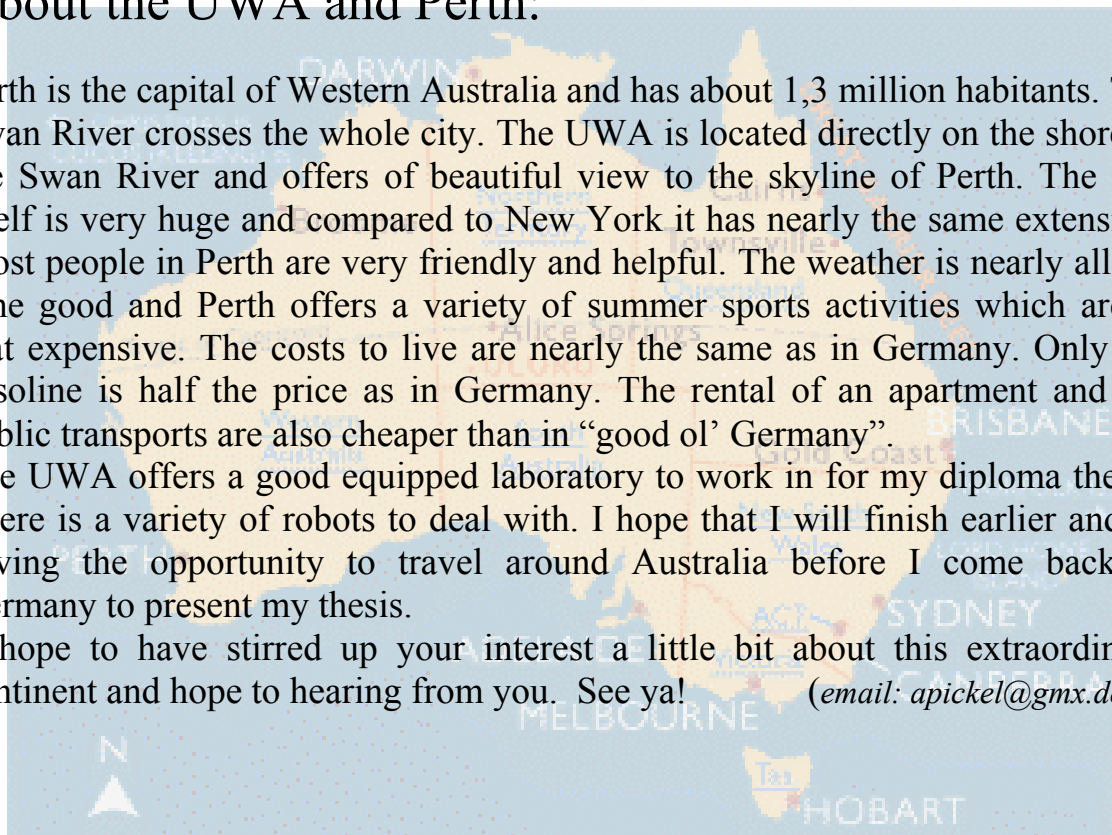


About the UWA and Perth:

Perth is the capital of Western Australia and has about 1,3 million habitants. The Swan River crosses the whole city. The UWA is located directly on the shore of the Swan River and offers of beautiful view to the skyline of Perth. The city itself is very huge and compared to New York it has nearly the same extension. Most people in Perth are very friendly and helpful. The weather is nearly all the time good and Perth offers a variety of summer sports activities which aren't that expensive. The costs to live are nearly the same as in Germany. Only the gasoline is half the price as in Germany. The rental of an apartment and the public transports are also cheaper than in "good ol' Germany".

The UWA offers a good equipped laboratory to work in for my diploma thesis. There is a variety of robots to deal with. I hope that I will finish earlier and so having the opportunity to travel around Australia before I come back to Germany to present my thesis.

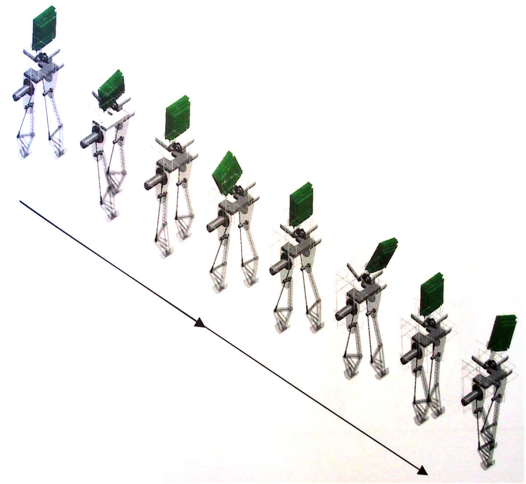
I hope to have stirred up your interest a little bit about this extraordinary continent and hope to hearing from you. See ya! (email: apickel@gmx.de)





About the robot:

The robot of my thesis is called "Rock Steady" because of his characteristic way to walk. The main difference between this robot and other bipeds is, that he is very light and cheap. This robot bases his walk on a dynamic stability that moves through unstable positions in its walking gait. Therefore he needs to adjust intelligently and plan its movements to remain stable at any given time. The main advantage of this walk is that it is much faster than a static walk. The difficulty is to control the movement and react very fast to get back to a stable position. And that's the point where I begin my research....



A few picture about Perth and the robots:

