



Rocking: Big-scale rock collector Wolfgang Kraker von Schwarzenfeld oversees lifting the first slab of the distinctive orbicular granite from the Boogardie station quarry site near Mt Magnet. PICTURES: NIC ELLIS

Granite discovery rocks collector

■ By Michael Zekulich

A YEAR-LONG quest by an adventuring German grandfather to find rare Australian rocks for a Berlin park has ended near Mt Magnet.

Two granite rocks, weighing 9.3 and 7.9 tonnes, were removed from Boogardie station last week and are on their way to Perth.

One rock will represent Australia in a circle of five rocks with others from the Americas, Africa, Russia and China, in Berlin's central park, near the Brandenburg Gate. The other will be placed in Canberra.

The project is the passion of 67-year-old father of seven Wolfgang Kraker von Schwarzenfeld.

Mr Schwarzenfeld said the rocks would be placed so that once a year, on June 21, they would be connected through reflections of the sun's rays to be part of a global circle.

It is Mr Schwarzenfeld's symbol of mankind and steps to peace — awakening, hope, forgiveness and love.

The rock collecting odyssey began three years ago and was inspired by a collection of small stones belong-



Top effort: Mr Schwarzenfeld gets a close look at the granite.

ing to an artist friend of his daughter.

He expects to take seven years to complete his mission.

He said the Boogardie resource was the only example of rock known as orbicular granite that he knew could be quarried.

Mr Schwarzenfeld said the Mt Magnet community had donated the rocks and helped with mining and transport.

The Jones family, who own Boogardie station, hope the rock can be quarried and sold overseas.

While at Boogardie, Mr Schwarzenfeld made a plea for help to find his older brother, Ansolv — who emigrated to Wollongong, and Ansolv's Australian-born sons, Peter and Kevin.