19th March 1981.

Mrs. S. Burstow,
61 Kitchener Ave,
VICTORIA PARK...W.A...6100

Re: DISABLED PERSONS NATURE TRAIL.

Further to our telephone conversation, I outline the details of the trail we have under development.

Aim - To provide a facility whereby people (particularly those with a disability) can get close to nature and enjoy the aspects of natural surroundings such as flora, fauna, earth and fresh air.

The Trail - The trail extends through a feature known as Boomerang Gorge. This gorge, formed by a series of collapsed caves, is approximately 0.5 km long, 75m wide and up to 12m deep. The trail was originally developed in the early 1930's, however much of it became overgrown during the war years. The rich soil in the floor of the gorge, together with a stream which can be seen in three pools, contributes to lush growth of any flora which becomes established.

The Flora - There are many native species of which tuart trees predominate. Other species such as blackboys, bullrushes, wisteria, orchids and so on provide a variety of interesting plants.

Exotic species, overflowing from the sites of old tram chalet gardens on the southern perimeter, have become established on the southern bank. These include nasturtiums, bridle creeper, fennel etc.

The Fauna - A considerable number of birds frequent the gorge, and can be seen and heard frequently. There are also a large number of insects, reptiles, frogs and other fauna. To see or hear most of these one must be patient, however they are there.

The Geology - As stated the gorge was formed by collapsing caves. Remains of these can be seen in various areas of the walls of the gorge. There are a number of areas where the formation of the limestone layers (previously sand dunes) are obvious.

The Development - The current work on the trail incorporates clearing a lot of rubbish and surplus exotic plants from the gorge. The trail surface is to be levelled and smoothed suitable for wheel chairs.

A brochure outlining the history, flora, fauna, and geology is being written, this will include appendicis of flora and fauna lists. A guide sheet, relating to numbered pegs at points of interest, is also to be provided.

..../2

If finance can be arranged, a shelter shed, with picnic facilities and barbecues will be installed adjacent to a car park at the beginning of the trail. Para/Quad toilet facilities are within easy reach of this car park.

I would be grateful if you could give some indication of acceptance of such a trail by members of your association. If there is a desire then I feel that in conjunction with your association and its' expertise, facilities for the blind or partially blind could be incorporated in the development.

R.J. WATERHOUSE
ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

Association for the Blind of Western Australia (Incorporated)
INCORPORATING:
GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.
BRAILLE SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND OF W.A. INC.
61 KITCHENER AVENUE, VICTORIA PARK, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 6100. TELEPHONE: (09) 362 1122
POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 101, VICTORIA PARK, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 6100.

7 April 1981

Mr. R.S. Waterhouse
Acting Superintendent
Yanchep National Park
YANCHEP WA 6035

Dear Mr. Waterhouse

Thank you for your letter outlining the proposed nature trail for disabled persons in Yanchep National Park.

I wish to confirm my telephone advice that this Association is very interested in such a development and offer our support.

The mobility needs of blind and visually-impaired people naturally differ from those of other handicapped groups. Therefore, I have passed on your letter to Mrs. Sandy Riley, our senior orientation and mobility instructor, who is best qualified to advise you in this area. I am sure you will hear from her in the near future.

Meanwhile, we thank you for considering visually-impaired people in your plan. We are sure the nature trail will create a great deal of interest.

Yours sincerely

S. Bairstow

Sheila Bairstow
PUBLICITY MANAGER

Notes on Shelter.

Location Entrance to gorge adjacent to parking area.

Purposes.

1. Focal point for entrance to Gorge.
2. Group assembly point for pick up / set down from buses etc.
3. Sheltered group picnic point with BBQ available.
4. Venue for before / after talks on nature trail (schools).
5. Accomodation for interpretation material for gorge.
6. Provide advertisement for gorge many locals do not know exists

Reasons for Location

1. Under surveillance of public & staff.
2. Close to bus parking for para quad. groups. & schools
3. Water will be available at this site.
4. BBQ's (elsw) invariably sit adjacent to shelters (Because of fire danger in gorge during summer and no circumstances should fires be allowed).
5. Shelter in gorge could be taken over by undesirable drinking parties thus spoiling natural surroundings of gorge serenity & peace.
6. Provides a base at the trail starting point - otherwise vehicles would have to be used for base - buses not always available.

Provisions needed in Shelter & Adjacent

1. Para / Quad designed tables.
2. Seating for other groups - schools etc.
3. Size adequate to cope with 15 wheelchairs & thirty children (min 36 m²).
5. Approx 1 m² interpretation board. + map of gorge.
6. Water tap & fixed sprinklers to maintain couch lawn
7. Gas/elec BBQ (double size for groups)
8. Concrete apron to front of shelter (max 1:20 grade)

Main Shelter Shed.

Position: In picnic area at start (west end) of trail.

Uses: Base for groups using trail (para/quad, schools etc).
Shelter (hot/cold/wet) for groups.
Lunch or eating spot.
Provision for interpretation material.
Provide venue for before & after talks to school groups etc. — particularly in bad weather.

Reasons for position.

Discourage picnicing w/- BBQ fire in gorge in summer.
Water available
Handy to vehicles for foodstuff etc.
Discourage groups of undesirables "taking over" section of gorge.
Under more surveillance ~~to~~ because it is in view of staff & public.
Provides focal point for trail. (less vandalism)

DRAFT.

HISTORY OF BOOMERANG GORGE

B.V.Waterhouse

The early history of Boomerang Gorge - indeed of the whole Yanchep area - is both sketchy and fragmentary; with many contradictory and confusing facets.

The gorge was known to aborigines as "madin", according to John Septimus Roe's[1] report of a visit in 1841. He did not give the meaning of the word, but George Fletcher Moore's[2] aboriginal dictionary described "madun" as"the small squirrel-like opossum, " and Woolber, a Gingin aborigine, defined "matoorn" as "the pouched mouse". Making allowance for varying written interpretations of a spoken word, it is possible that "madin" referred to the honey possum, with it's striped back similar to an Indian palm squirrel. The honey possum, though rarely seen, is still common in this area, and is particularly evident during the late summer months.

The caves within the gorge were known as the "Doorda Mya", or abode of dogs, refering to the dingoes which inhabited them. Roe mentioned that some caves in the gorge were inhabited by "wallabi", which were, of course, hunted by the dingoes, their natural enemy.

As far as is known , when George Grey,[3] the explorer, visited Yanchep area in 1838, he was the first white man to do so. It seems quite likely that he visited the gorge, as he mentions the Doorda Mya. Grey seemed to think that the name referred to one cave only, but later visitors, such as Hutt,[4] Roe and Landor,[5] understood it to refer to more than one cave.

The aborigines were afraid of the caves, believing them to be inhabited by the Chingah, an evil spirit. They ~~were~~ apparently never entered them, and Hutt and Roe, on their visit in 1841, were able to convince them that stalactites they brought out of the caves were the chingah's tooth and whiskers.

They were also afraid of the pool in the gorge, believing it to be inhabitedby the Waugul, a water serpent which either dragged victims below the water, or else caused them to pine away. On a trip to the gorge in the 1840's, Landor records aborigines being horrified when he watered his horse at this pool.

.../2

During the 1840's, several explorations of the gorge were carried out, notably by Hutt and Roe, and later by Webb. Between them they found eight caves in the gorge. Roe in particular was most impressed by the beauty and size of them, but was rather apprehensive of their seeming instability. He attributed this to the fact that most of the caves had fast flowing streams running through them, and wrote that he was " fully impressed with the belief that a process was silently, but surely, at work for the destruction of all these caves, and the formation of others above them in future years, until the gradual sinking of the foundations of the whole should effect their entire disappearance, and add them as branches and ravines to the adjoining open glen". As the exact location of the caves the early explorers visited is so difficult to define, he was undoubtably right.

Very little of Yanchep was recorded between 1850 and 1899, although leases were taken up in the area, and drovers and travellers passed through the area. The gorge would almost certainly have been known to them.

During the early 1900's, when new and exiting caves were being discovered in other parts of Yanchep, the gorge did not seem to attract much attention, and was referred to merely as a rocky gorge. The name"Boomerang Gorge" first appears in literature of the early 1930's, possibly following an article in the West Australian in 1931, which described it as being shaped like a boomerang. A brochure of 1933 says the name was chosen because it was both apt and aboriginal - obviously over the years it's early aboriginal name had been forgotten.

The 1930's saw the development of the whole area adjacent to the lake,as a pleasure resort, and financed partly by funds provided by the philanthropist Sir Charles McNess. In the gorge sustenance workers laid paths, cleaned and developed the pools, and planted exotic flora - generally beautifying the area according to standards and tastes of that era. The 1933 brochure , describing the gorge, states "It's crags, caverns and lily ponds represent .....some of the finest attractions of the park" and photographs of that time bear witness to it's popularity. In addition tram chalets were set up overlooking the gorge to provide visitor accomodation. Only one of these remains. Plants from the chalet

.../3

gardens now spill down the side of the gorge, to compete with with native species for survival. Unfortunately some of these have become almost impossible to eradicate, and are threatening to engulf everything in their path.

The war years saw the gorge suffer through lack of maintenance. Parts of the original trail became overgrown, and because Yanchep was a restricted area, few visited the gorge, except service personell, during this period.

After the war, the gorge regained it's popularity to some extent, but never really it's former splendour. The chalets became staff quarters, and the amphitheatre on the east side of the Waugul pool was used as an open air picture theatre. (The old stage, projection platform and tiered stone seating were "rediscovered" during redevelopment of the trail in 1980)

In 1950 an underground rescue took place when the thirteen month old son of a park employee fell about twenty feet down a solution pipe near the south bank of the gorge. A hazardous rescue via an adjacent rescue shaft resulted in the child being rescued safely.

In mid 1980, the development of the trail through the gorge was instigated. As 1981 was to be the Year of the Disabled, the theme of the development was put forward as a disabled persons nature trail. The W.A. Naturalist's Club approached the National Parks Authority for permission to upgrade the trail on these lines. This was accepted and service clubs such as the local Lions Club and Rotary, in conjunction with the Naturalist's Club and Authority staff began the work. 1981 is also the Golden Jubilee of Yanchep Park as we know it today. It is therefore fitting that this redeveloped trail can be opened during the Year of the Disabled and the Golden Jubilee of the park.

oooooooo

1. SURVEYOR-GENERAL OF W.A.
2. INFLUENTIAL EXPLORER & FARMER
3. EXPLORER IN W.A. AND LATER GOVERNOR OF STH. AUSTRALIA. ETC
4. GOVERNOR OF W.A.
5. DOCTOR & AUTHOR
6. ?
7. PHILANTHROPIST

T Hearsay

BOOMERANG GORGE NATURE TRAIL - PLANT NOTES

The trees here are Tuarts, which grow naturally only on the coastal limestone from Cervantes to Busselton. In the south they are huge majestic trees 40m tall, but here they seldom reach more than (? 20m?) . Clearing for housing and farmland, not to forget extensive lumbering for railway wagons, bridge supports and other uses, have severely reduced the numbers of Tuarts in their homeland. However, it is grown extensively overseas, and is one of the trees being planted in North Africa in an attempt to push back the Sahara. Here it survives through our dry summers by driving its roots down deep to reach the water table, as you can see if you visit Crystal Cave.

Two springs arise in the Gorge, one near the carpark and one at the end of the Trail. Around them, and in places where the water is close to the surface, swamp plants grow. Most of these are reeds and rushes and near the start of the Trail you can see Bullrushes, the "Yangets" after which the Park was named. Each Bullrush forms hundreds of tiny parachute fruits and at times the air seems to be as full of them as snowflakes in a blizzard. Further up the Gorge you will see some clumps of Common Sword Sedge. If you feel - carefully! - the edges of the leaves and stems you will know how it got its name!

In September/October the inconspicuous spikes of the Mignonette Orchid can be seen. This has a round leaf like an onion, and many small green flowers forming a tapering pyramid. Pretty Pink Fairy Orchids can also be found at this time, but they grow in a different area, in the shady loamy soil at the base of cliffs or under bushes. They have a single, softly hairy leaf, and several starry pink flowers on the one stem.

The damp ground at the edges of the swamps is home for numerous small plants, including the Indian Pennywort, which, despite its name, is a native Australian. It has small, inconspicuous flowers, but its kidney-shaped leaves are easily recognisable. There are two types of Buttercups here, and one, the Common Buttercup, ½m tall with shiny yellow petals, will be instantly familiar to any visitors from Europe. The Small-flowered Buttercup is, however, much less obvious, creeping close to the ground in the damper areas.

Several ferns occur in the Gorge, including Bracken, one of the most widespread ferns in the world. The other ferns are probably introduced, but the delicately beautiful Maidenhair Fern looks quite at home in shaded crevices on the limestone cliffs. So too do the stiff clumps of which grow around the edge of the pool, but like the Maidenhair, it is probably a garden escape. On the surface of the pool is the strangest fern of all, the tiny floating Azolla.

The Trail has been mown and cleared for many years, and at one time houses and gardens occupied most of the southern rim. Consequently many plants not native to the area have become established and are now permanent componants of the flora. Some provide spectacular displays of colour, like the Nasturtiums and the Fumitory that straggle over the cliffs, but most are grasses and small weeds.

They very grasses of the Trail itself are introduced - Buffalo Grass and Kikuyu Grass, Wild Oats, Quaking Grass and Pussy Tails. Among them in the damper places can be seen the flat rosettes of Plantains, while where it is drier the rosettes are usually of Flatweed, which has yellow dandilion-type flowers, as does Capeweed, but in this case, with black centres. Various thistles also occur in shady spots. Small blue flowers are either the Blue Pimpernel or Heron's-Bill, so called from the shape of its fruit. Many different clovers can also be found. A bulbous plant with orange flowers is the Cape Tulip, which is disliked by farmers as in certain circumstances it can poison stock. Large clumps of the salad herb Fennel can be seen beside the Trail. It has feathery

divided leaves and flat umbrella-shaped heads of yellow flowers on stems often 2m high. If you rub the leaves between your fingers, you can then smell its strong scent.

Among the grasses and small plants by the side of the Trail will be seen in spring a spike of flowers that are brown with a slight purple tinge. The whole plant is thick and fleshy, without any green on it anywhere. It is a parasite called Broomrape, and its roots wrap around the roots of surrounding plants and steal minerals and nutrients from them.

Wattle thickets are found in several areas. Like many native plants, they have special adaptations to survive the long dry summers. Plants lose most water through their leaves, so the Coastal Wattle found here has done away with leaves altogether! The leaf-like things on the bush are actually flattened leaf-stalks, through which the plant loses very little water, and so manages to survive.

Some of the wattles and other shrubs are covered with the climbing Native Wisteria, which in October is covered with hanging tresses of beautiful deep purple-blue flowers. It climbs by twining around any support it can find, and at one point along the Trail you can see where several stems have twined around each other.

Native Wisteria also scrambles over the cliff faces, and in places interminged with the sprawling Spider-net Grevillea, which has loose bunches of bright red flowers, in beautiful contrast to the Wisteria's blue.

This assumes that the Trail finishes at the top pool.

The paragraphs are suggestions only, and should be and should be altered, added to or deleted as seen fit.

Penny Hussey
October 1980

APPENDIX – FLORA LIST – NATIVE & EXOTIC.

CSIRO
Division of Wildlife Research
Clayton Road
Helena Valley 6056.

22:6:81.

Dear Ron,
My sincere apologies for the delay -
I have just found the lost notebook
with my records for the park.

I kept the comments very brief
and hope that they will fit into
the available space. Feel free to
amend or reject them as you
see fit.

Best wishes

Perry.

Barry De Rambure

BIRDS AT BOOMERANG GORGE

Early morning is the most productive time for bird watching in the Gorge; this is when most birds will be actively feeding and are less likely to be disturbed by human visitors.

The grassed area at the entrance to the Gorge is often used by magpies and ravens. White-tailed Black Cockatoos sometimes roost in the surrounding Tuarts, gathering in flocks when the trees are in flower.

Larger birds are less common in the Gorge, but there is always the possibility of a quick sighting of a hunting Goshawk or Sparrowhawk, or a more leisurely view of a Kookaburra perched in a tree watching for movement of prey below.

It is interesting to recognise the feeding zones used by birds in the Gorge vegetation.

Splendid wrens and Yellow-tailed thorn bills tend to feed on the ground or a few feet above it in the bushes and tree trunks, while Western Thornbills, Western Warblers and Brown honeyeaters rarely come to the ground, preferring to feed in the middle strata of high bushes and among the branches.

Other birds using this zone include the Rufous Whistler, Western Shrike Thrush, and Singing Honeyeater. The Grey fantail usually perches at this level and flies out to catch passing insects.

Striated Pardalotes and Western Warblers tend to feed in the canopy and outer foliage of the trees, searching among the leaves for food. Twenty-eight parrots and Red-capped parrots feed in the higher levels, sometimes coming to ground level.

Tree Martins can be seen flying above the tree tops, and Purple-crowned Lorikeets can be seen dashing over the trees when they are in flower.

Some birds are seasonal. Bee-eaters and the Sacred Kingfisher are summer visitors, while the Pallid Cuckoo appears in the winter months.

Silvereyes, Spinebills, New Holland Honeyeaters and Little Wattlebirds are dependent on flowering seasons of plants, but can turn up in the Gorge at any time.

Swamp hen also visits the western end of the Gorge. (WB)

Betty Wellington

REPTILES.

Are there snakes in Yanchep National Park? Yes of course. There are snakes everywhere in Australia. The ones most likely to be found in Yanchep are the Dugite (Pseudonaja affinis) and the Tiger snake (hoteclus scutatus), both highly venomous. On the other hand you are much more likely to see a snake in a suburban garden than in the bush. In it's natural surroundings the snake is a very shy creature, very anxious to get out of the way and go about it's own business. If one is seen crossing the track, stop, stay still and it will go quietly on it's way. Never hassle a snake, or any creature, and it will do you no harm.

The legless lizard can easily be mistaken for a snake and many are killed for this reason. The easiest thing to look for is an ear opening, the snake has none, those of the lizard are usually easily seen. One of the nicest is Burton's Snake lizard (liales burtonis) easily recognised by it's sharp pointed snout, conspicuious ear opening and, as in all legless lizards, it's poorly developed hind levels flaps. Variable in colour it can be grey, striped or yellowish.

There are plenty of harmless reptiles to be seen. Hear all that rustling and crunching of leaves as something heavy plods it's way? It's only the dear old Bobtail (Tiliqua rugosa) looking for a shady spot to have a snooze. He opens his mouth wide showing his blue tongue and thinks he looks very fearsome. Did you know he is a skink? The same as that quick flash running over the dead tree. You have to be quick to see this fellow, the Fence Skink, (Cryptoblepharus plagiocephalus), often to be seen sunning himself on logs or fences. His shiny scales shimmer like a rainbow in the sun, but the slightest movement and he's off. The faintest of rustlings means another tiny skink is moving through the litter. Small and slender with a dark head, this could be the two-toed herista lieopunctulata,

..../2

or maybe the smaller of the skinks Meuetia greyii.

Most geckos are nocturnal but it is possible to see some during the day. One of these is the Marbled Gecko (Phyllodactylus marworatus). Easily recognised by his marbled pattern and feet that look too big for him.

The Festooued Gecko (Diplodactylus grauariousis) is rarely awake during daylight. He can often be found curled up asleep under a rock or piece of wood, sometimes wet with dew, but at night he is very alert and active. He can be identified by a dark-edged zig-zag pattern down his back, although this can sometimes be an almost straight line. A very attractive gecko is the Spiny tailed (Diplodactylus speuigerus) pale grey or almost black, with a faint pattern down his back and large orange eyes. Again he is active only at night, catching his food in several bushes.

One of the largest goannas in the area is the monitor Gould's Goanna (Varanus gouldii). Very handsome, up to 1.6 metres in length with a yellow tip to the tail, spotted with white, cream or yellow, this goanna is a ground dweller and when still blends in beautifully with his surroundings.

These then are a few of the many interesting reptiles to be seen, perhaps you can find more. Observe quietly and learn from watching them.

GEOLOGY. Mike Mulvey

BOOMERANG GORGE (Formation)

One of the many easily accessable attractions of the Yanchep National Park is Boomerang Gorge.

As the name implies. This gorge is roughly the shape of a boomerang and is believed to originally have been a cave or series of caves.

Yanchep National Park is situated in an area of aeolian limestone (age?) i.e. limestone formed from sand dunes as opposed to sedimentary marine limestones which are much harder in character, with an age of approximately 600,000 years.

The drainage system of the area is almost exclusively subsurface and this underground water, because it is swamp fed ? is slightly acidic through the disolving of CO_2 gas from these swamps.

As the water moves underground in a generally westward direction it encounters and disolves the calcium carbonate from the limestone. This results in low flat-roofed cavities in the limestone along the stream flow.

Because these beds of aeolian limestone are of a soft nature they are unable to support flat roofed cavities of any great width and so to achieve stability they collapse forming the dome shaped chambers typical of the caves in the area.

The beds of limestone in this region are not thick, they rarely exceed 12m and where the stream continues to disolve and extend the walls of these chambers collapses continue to occur until escentually the roof finally "caves in".

This then is the theory behind the formation of Boomerang Gorge.

Over the centuries since its collapse the stream continued to disolve most of the rubble lying on the gorge floor. Remnants of this stream can still be seen flowing through the gorge.

Also visible in the gorge are the remains of part of the cave system with the overhang below the old trams on the south ern bank well.

There are also a number of large boulders lying on the gorge floor and in them one can see holes or "solution pipes" caused by tree roots making their way through the limestone in the roof to reach water below.

Following the collapse of the cave system the elements continued to weather the gorge particularly the east bank, the prevailing winds are generally from the west, causing additional soil to be washed into Boomerang Gorge adding to the silica sands left after the stream dissolved the carbonate from the limestone.

Because of all these factors, plentiful water and a good rich soil, the floor of the gorge is able to support an extensive and intensive range of vegetation.

Points of interest for guide sheet.

BOOMERANG GORGE NATURE TRAIL

INFORMATION TABLETS

BOOMERANG GORGE

Boomerang Gorge is the result of a collapsed cave system. Stream flow deepened and widened the tunnel until the roof collapsed, forming a long winding gorge about 0.5 km long by 75 m wide and up to 12 m deep. Features of Boomerang Gorge will be pointed out along the trail and you are encouraged to touch, smell and in every way enjoy the experience. Many of the pleasures come from the sounds and smells magnified by the confined structures of the gorge.

Stop 1.

Many native rushes grow here, and Bullrush (Typha orientalis) is abundant. The native name for Bullrush is Yanget, and from this word is derived the name Yanchep.

Growing along the creek edge are some Cotton Palms (Washingtonia filifera) with bright green fan-like leaves, the edges tattered and tasselled with cotton-like threads. They are not native to Western Australia, but are introduced from Southern California.

Stop 2.

Tuart trees (Eucalyptus gomphocephala) have typical coarse bark consisting of irregular flakes, each composed of matted fibres. This type of bark protects the tree from fire in that it ignites and the dense fibrous nature allows it to smoulder, while the underlying layers insulate the delicate growing tissues beneath. Feel the bark's texture and fibres.

Stop 3.

The largest cave has been found to contain aboriginal artifacts, and was probably once occupied as a shelter. The aboriginal term for the caves was "doorda mya" or dog shelter. Occasionally bats rest in the cave during daylight hours. A small pool on your left near the trail is stagnant, and is the result of the nearness of the water table to the surface.

Stop 4.

Here, right next to the trail is a large limestone boulder. Feel its coldness and texture. Tube-like structures 30 cm or more in diameter, and many smaller holes penetrate the boulder; these are solution-tubes, made by water percolating down through the limestone along crevices or tree roots. They nearly always form vertically as the water, laden with plant acids, moves downward. The solution-tubes in this feature are horizontal, suggesting that the rock now sits at a 90^{o} angle to the position in which it formed.

There are two common lichens on the rock, one lime-green to orange and growing outward in concentric rings, the other dull grey and forming small scales 3 - 4 mm diameter.

Stop 5.

A common species here is a wiry plant known as Dodder (Cassytha glabella). This plant is a parasite, feeding on other plants, although it does contain the green substance chlorophyll, from which it can make its own food. The plant climbs over shrubs and trees, attaching its tendrils to the host by foot-like appendages called haustoria. The base of these minute structures produce chemicals which dissolve the host tissues, allowing the Dodders tissues to penetrate and join with the host, extracting nutrients from its sap.

Stop 6.

A small cave is present here, about 6 - 8 metres from the trail. The cave would have been an alcove or small side passage in the original tunnel which now forms the gorge. This cave and the nearby area has been used by the Australian Broadcasting Commission to make a film titled "The Day Lisel Listened" for use by schools.

Stop 7.

This area has dense sedges growing in and around one of the pools which occur along the gorge. Water in the stream comes initially from sandy country to the east of Yanchep Park, enters Crystal Cave (a tourist cave within the Park) flows through it, then into Boomerang Gorge. From here it flows through the Ornamental Pool, near the entrance to Boomerang Gorge, then into Loch McNess (Yanchep Lake).

At this point you can feel the leaves of Lepidosperma, one of the sedges common here. Note the shape of the leaf. Hence the common name Sword Sedge.

Stop 8. Amphitheatre

The Amphitheatre is probably the remains of a large cave chamber. On the right of the entrance to the amphitheatre is a raised platform. This supported a screen onto which were projected films during the 1930's. The projector stand and seating were located around the walls of the amphitheatre.

Bridal Creeper (Asparagus asparagoides) an introduced plant, has covered much of the rocks with its bright green foliage.

Stop 9.

This pool (Waugal Pool) has abundant sedges and ferns, mostly native. Floating on the surface are many hundreds of small (2-3cm) triangular plants with a fern-like appearance. These minute plants are in fact, aquatic fern (Azolla).

This pool was possibly the site of the original pool the aborigines thought was inhabited by the "Waugal" or "Waragal Spirit".

Stop 10.

Fennel or Aniseed (Foeniculum vulgare) is common on the south side of the track. This plant, originally introduced to Western Australia as a herb and flavouring, has become naturalised and is now a major weed. Its soft feathery foliage is bright green. Crush a leaf and smell the strong aniseed odour.

Stop 11.

Buffalo Grass (Stenotaphrum secundatum) covers the slopes at this point. This common grass originally introduced from southern United States of America has escaped from old gardens and lawns which once occupied the flat area above the cliff. These gardens were once associated with old houses, one of which is discussed at point 12.

Stop 12.

The building above the gorge, partly obscured by creepers, consists of a pair of old tram cars joined by a roof. These were placed here in the 1930's and were originally eight in number. They provided part of the accommodation facilities for sustenance workers employed on road construction and other works during The Depression. You are now back at the doorda mya caves.

Stop 13. Fallen Tuart Tree

Feel the texture of the bark. The grain of the cut ends of the log is fine, suggesting a very hard, compact wood. One of the branches is hollow; the inside has been eaten out by termites, small colonial insects which eat the wood, leaving complex tunnels and galleries through the softer core of the timber.

A little further on near here is a clear pool of water, part of the creek system in the gorge. Pond skaters, other aquatic insects and tadpoles etc., are often present in the pool.