

Along the Yanjidi Trail

AN EXCITED and enthusiastic group of eight adults and 16 children set off on a journey back in time down the two kilometre long Yanjidi Trail in Yanchep National Park.

They had come along to take part in the Bush Tucker Trail, just one of a series of free school holiday activities run at the park during the October school holidays.

Wildlife Officer Trevor alley, one of CALM's Aboriginal employees, gave the group a vivid and detailed insight into the life of the Nyungar people, who inhabited the area up to 200 years ago.

Foodstuffs

The story began to unfold as the group started off along the one and a half hour trail. A recently burnt area provided a good selection of typical wild foodstuffs including: mein (*Haemodorum* sp.), djubak (*Lyperanthus migricans*), and tjuubag (*Platysace effusa*). Trevor told how Aborigines would have burned an area regularly to ensure a steady regrowth of the 'crop'.

The trail-walkers were encouraged to keep their eyes and ears open. Aborigines use keen observational skills to help them locate food and water - watching for animals such as lizards, frogs, kangaroos and turtles or other food such as emu eggs, snakes, and small birds. Not-

by
David Gough

ing the direction in which birds fly or the direction of animal tracks can also lead to sources of fresh water.

The children in the group watched Trevor demonstrate how to start a fire by rubbing two sticks together. They all had the chance to try it for themselves, but, although there was plenty of smoke, there was no fire.

Trevor explained that when a camp fire had died down a piece of hot charcoal was placed in one of the holes in a banksia nut (fruit) and carried to the next campsite by the young members of the tribe. It was their responsibility to keep the fire-stick alive. One of the children in the group was given that responsibility and, for the remainder of the walk, kept blowing gently on the charcoal - what imaginations children have!

Many of the adults in the group seemed apprehensive when Trevor began handing out bardijs (witchety grubs), but the children appeared to relish the experience of tasting these fat and juicy caterpillar-like creatures. The taste is difficult to describe but is something like a combination of egg and creamed sweetcorn - not too bad but a little chewy.

The group continued along the trail until they came upon an Aboriginal

campsite. The occupants must have made a hasty departure because they left behind a freshly baked damper and some bush honey. The food was shared among the group, who sat down to eat and listened to the didgeridoo played by Clem Yaran (brother of Bouyden Yaran from Wildlife Protection).

A gentle stroll around the end of the lake, past curious kangaroos and lolloping long-necked turtles, brought the group to the park's main office and end of their journey. The group had learned much about the past occupants of the area and the way in which they had lived.

The walk around the Yanjidi trail was just one of the free October school holiday activities held in Yanchep Park. The others included: 'Adventure Carving', a look around the wild caves of Yanchep Park with Ranger Hardy Derschow; 'Bush Friends', an opportunity to start a special relationship with nature with Technical Officer Jenni Alford of Woodvale; 'Chain Gang', an insight into human impact on the web of life with Ranger Therese Jones; 'Wildflower Garden', a stroll through the park with Graham Harris of the Wildflower Society; and 'Swamp Safari', a journey of discovery and adventure with Trainee Ranger Geoff Harnett.



The children on the Yanchep bush trail peer gingerly into the mia mia at the Aboriginal camp. Photo by David Gough



Things that make you go mmmmmmm... one of the adults chewing on a bardi grub. Photo by David Gough

Flora to be protected

by
Ken Atkins

TWO species of threatened flora will soon be conserved in a nature reserve in the Scott River area.

CALM is purchasing nearly 40 hectares of private bushland from two landowners to create the reserve.

The species to be protected by this reserve are the round-leaf honeysuckle (*Lambertia orbifolia*) and the Scott River darwinia (*Darwinia ferricola*).

A recent CALM survey of the Scott River National Park confirmed that neither of these plants currently occur in any conservation reserve. Both are known only from private property and road reserves.

round, glossy dark green leaves and red flowers. It is found in small numbers near Albany, but the main population is in the Scott River area.

This honey-suckle is highly susceptible to die-back disease and hence requires special site protection to conserve it.

The Scott River darwinia is restricted to this area. These plants are only about a metre high and, although related to the famous mountain bells of the Stirling Range National Park, do not have the showy bell-like flowers.

Both plants are threat-



