

Fern Pool has new viewing platform and boardwalk

ONE of the natural attractions in Karijini National Park, Fern Pool, has been upgraded with the construction of a boardwalk and viewing platform.

Fern Pool, fringed by towering cadjeputs and river red gums, has a spring-fed waterfall, making it the ideal place for a swim.

Gigantic rock figs create a protective canopy for the delicate ferns that grow out of the seeping gorge walls.

This very beautiful and fragile place makes it extremely popular with visitors to the park.

Unfortunately, over the years, the public has 'loved' the place to death with the area becoming severely degraded.

Impacts include loss of vegetation, mainly native bamboo, erosion of the waterhole bank and sand compaction of the natural soak.

Albany carpenter Johnny Parker (who took the photograph below), was hired to undertake the job.

John was totally engrossed in the project and delighted to be making a positive contribution to the environment.

By Jason Puls

"I've been a carpenter for 30 years and this is the most interesting and scenic job I've ever done," he said.

Getting the timber to the site proved to be somewhat challenging. Fern Pool is 750 metres from the carpark, down some extremely steep steps into Dales Gorge.

During this time, the park employed four people from CEPANCRM (Contract Employment Program for Aborigines in Natural and Cultural Resource Management) to help with the park's works program.

Hard Yakka

A semi trailer load of timber had to be carried down to the construction site, a task that the CEPANCRM fellows saw as a challenge. (The record for one day was 35 trips, with sore knees and thighs to remind them.)

To make things a little easier, Johnny Parker (the ranger, not the carpenter) set up a fly-

ing fox above Fortescue Falls to deliver the footings and other materials.

The flying fox worked well, but had to be stopped as visitor numbers increased during the July school holidays.

Special thanks go to CALM Dwellingup for the speedy delivery of two urgently needed four-by-four jarrah posts, for use as a ladder at the bottom deck of the boardwalk to help people in and out of the water.

The development at Fern Pool has been a great success, with park staff receiving highly favourable comments about the boardwalk.

Up to 60 people have been recorded using the facility at any one time.

The native bamboo has now regenerated and the boardwalk bridges the natural soak, meaning no wet, muddy shoes.

The boardwalk has stood the wet weather endurance test, with the bottom deck being covered with up to four feet of water during one of the park's wettest summers on record.



Laying down stumps and bearers for the boardwalk and viewing platform at Fern Pool are, left to right, Adrian Lawson, CEPANCRM leading hand Phil Young, and Joseph Limerick. Photo by Johnny Parker



NO 5

START OF SECOND STAGE

NO 5 10 400 NIVON 917 111-002



NO 5.

LINKING UP TO SECOND STAGE.

030111 210 NNNN 917 111+000



NO 7

START OF STAIR CASE DOWN TO
SWIMMING PLATFORM.

1 12 400 NNNN 927 11495



NO 82

COMING DOWN STAIR CASE ON TO
START OF SWIMMING PLATFORM

NO 10 + 00 MAR 917 111-00



NO 9.

START OF HANDRAIL.

10 -01 BMMV 926 1114214





N^o 12

START OF STAGE 3

U. S. G. P. 10 +00 WASHDC 917 111+802



NO 11

HAND RAIL NEAR, FINISHED.

582-111 216 NNNN 917 111-285



NO 14

SOLID ROCK, HAD TO BE
REMOVED

2024-11-16 10:01 AM



NO 15.

END OF THE ROAD

NO 15. 10-100-0000 925 111-0386



②

FIRST STAGE OF BOARD WALK.

X 18 +00 N48W 917 111-006



NO 3

FIRST STAGE OF STAMPING

© 1940 MANN 917 111



NO 4.

FIRST STAGE. NEAR. FINISHED

000111 210 NNNNN 917 111+000