





▲ Girl Guides at a conservation day project, Lesley picnic grounds and nature track. (P. N. Hewett)

Forests Minister Approves Grant for Country Works

At least 147,000 of the quarter of a million people who will this year (1972-1973) visit forest areas within 35 miles of Perth, will use facilities provided by the Forests Department.

This was indicated in a series of surveys carried out by the department in the Kelmscott and Mundaring forest divisions.

In line with these findings, the Minister for Forests, Mr. H. D. Evans, earlier this year approved a \$10,190 grant for 1972-1973 allowing

◀ *The Four Aces, a well known tourist landmark west of Manjimup. All four trees are well over 200 ft. high. The tree second from left is 260 ft. with a clear bole of 150 ft. to the first limb. The tree on the left has a girth of 22 ft. at 4 ft. 3 ins. from the ground.*
(Brian Stevenson)

extension of forest recreation facilities ranging from Wilbunga Grove, 45 miles north of Perth, to Dombakup Crossing, four and a half miles from Northcliffe.

New works, extensions and maintenance of existing facilities, and completion of work in hand at newer picnic sites, will be made possible by the grant.

The money was allocated

according to estimates prepared by the 10 Forest Divisional Offices concerned.

The major new projects are in the Harvey and Pemberton forest divisions where, in addition to maintenance and completion allocations, an extra \$1,875 will be spent on new barbecue areas, rustic seats, tables and fireplaces at:

● Waroona dam, Waroona;



▲ *Boulder Rock on the Brookton Highway.*

- Logue Brook dam, six miles north of Harvey;
(Both of which will have recreation, forest walking tracks, fishing, swimming, boating, water skiing and caravan parks provided in association with Waroona and Harvey Shires and the P.W.D.)
- Rooney's Bridge over the Warren River, South-Western Highway;
- Dombakup Crossing, four and a half miles from Northcliffe on the Pemberton road;
- Moons Crossing, one mile west of Wheatley Road, nine miles from Northcliffe.

Over the past two decades the Forests Department has become increasingly involved in the provision of facilities for the touring public.

The first major works using Treasury funds were carried out in the karri forest region with the construction and upgrading of access tracks to forest country attractive to the touring public. The Rainbow Trail near Pemberton is a classic example with its walking trails, picnic spots and rustic seats, tables and fireplaces.

The Cascades and Lefroy Brook 100-years-old karri plot, both also near Pemberton, are examples of other picnic spots with scenic walking trails.

In the northern forest area, Glencage and Lesley (33-mile peg Albany Highway and 30-mile peg Brookton Highway) are good examples. The walking trail at Lesley has been planned as a nature trail, with native

trees and the more important shrub species identified and tagged along the route. Leaflets are available from an information box at the start of the trail and give information on local flora and birdlife plus other items of general interest.

Over 200 sites

A current total of 202 sites within State Forests have been developed as picnic grounds or selected as proposed picnic areas, scenic drives, attractive river stretches and places of interest.

The problems of providing all-weather car access, sign-posting and facilities are considerable.

By forest division, the proposed and developed locations are: Busselton 12, Collie 13, Dwellingup 18,



▲ *One Tree Bridge picnic area by the Donnelly River, west of Manjimup.*

Harvey 32, Kelmscott 27, Kirup 12, Manjimup 5, Mundaring 13, Nannup 26, Pemberton 33, Walpole 7, Wanneroo 4.

Examples of the developed picnic spots are Willow Springs, an abandoned mill town and forest settlement near Nannup; Gloucester Tree fire lookout near Pemberton, Diamond Tree lookout near Manjimup and, near Busselton, picnic spots have been located in prime tuart forest on Bussell Highway.

In Collie forest division there is the scenic Lennard Drive along Lennard River, and a second scenic drive through a flora reserve adjoining the Collie River. Collie is also noted for its fishing and marroning potential. (See Forestscapes, P.15.)

▼ *Christmas tree, Nuytsia floribunda, at Boulder Rock.*

(Brian Stevenson)

