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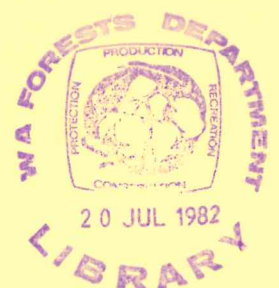
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RECREATION NOTES

FORESTS DEPARTMENT
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
EXTENSION BRANCH

WINTER 1982



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Since the inaugural issue of RECNOTES appeared earlier this year, several people have either 'phoned or sent in written comments on the need for and content of the newsletter. Apart from providing some very constructive suggestions, this feedback has, without exception, been supportive of the value of internal communications of this type.

If you would like to comment on or contribute a short article - note - story - poem to RecNotes, your ideas will be welcomed. Contributions should be sent to -

Denise Allen, Como
Peter Henderson, Bunbury
Rae Burrows, Manjimup

* * * * *

Regional Extension Officer Responsibilities

An attempt was made in the last issue of RecNotes to more clearly define the roles of both Extension staff and the Regions and Divisions with respect to recreation planning, site design and development and training. The summarised list of responsibilities which appeared was drawn up as a result of meetings held in Manjimup, Bunbury and Como with Regional and Divisional officers.

Unintentionally, this attempt at role definition may have given some the impression that the Regional extension officers are only concerned with recreation planning and development. This, of course, is not the case as those of you who have had direct contact with Extention Branch over the years will know. Aside from their recreation and landscape planning responsibilities, the "recreation extension group" are involved to varying degrees in ...

- * Answering public enquiries on a wide range of topics
- * Preparing extension material for publication
- * Talking to school and community groups
- * Organising and conducting forest tours for various groups
- * Assisting with the preparation and staffing of Departmental displays

The need for greater extension activity throughout the Department has intensified in recent times. This need has led to a growing realisation that "Extensions" is not the sole province or responsibility of any one Branch. Everyone of us who works for the Department is in essence an extension officer - we all have a contribution to make in shaping the public's understanding of and attitude towards the forest and its managers, you and I.

* * * * *

In a future issue of RecNotes, Inspector Kimber has offered to provide an overview of the entire Branch's activities and some recent changes in extension emphasis, particularly in relation to advisory services to rural landowners.

EDITOR

Now that winter is upon us, we have time to sit back and contemplate what can be done about the 'huge hordes of campers' (Tony Raven, RecNotes, autumn) that use State forest during the holiday periods. In the last issue of Recreation Notes, Tony Raven posed a number of questions relating to the problems of 'illegal' camping in the Murray Valley.

In this issue, Brian Moss reports on similar problems occurring in the lower Collie valley.

Camping in the Lower Collie Valley - by F/G Brian Moss

At the present time, camping in State forest is not officially accepted by the Forests Department as a land use. However, as we all know, it has been an ever-increasing recreational activity for many years.

In Collie Division, the major area for camping is in the lower Collie valley, below the weir wall. Because of the natural attractiveness of the river and scenery in the area, the recreational population of the valley has increased to such proportions that during peak holiday periods, the environment is not able to cope with the demands put on it.

The recreationists using the area have wide ranging interests, from the trail bike riders to the passive camper who is looking for some quiet fishing or bushwalking. As can be imagined, these interests conflict rather badly when there are around 2000 people in the area.

Apart from the problem of conflicting interests, we also have the problem during peak holiday periods of an obvious lack of facilities. However, it is my opinion that the facilities provided are adequate (except for toilets and camp areas) for the number of people that the valley could be expected to handle. At this stage, it seems that current levels of use will degrade the area's attractiveness for recreation unless we can somehow limit the amount of people in the area at any one time. We have taken steps such as providing designated areas for campers, parking areas, barbecues and tables. However, this is relatively ineffective due to the recreational popularity of the area.

* * * * *

How do we overcome these problems?

- * Provide the type of areas people want - campgrounds?
- * Restrict access - how?

If anyone has any constructive suggestions, we would all like to hear about them.

Golden Valley Tree Park

Golden Valley Tree Park was officially opened by the Conservator on 18 April. The opening took the form of a picnic day and tree planting ceremony, with about 200 people from the local community and Forests Department attending. The 100 ha park, just south of Balingup is being developed as a joint project by the Balingup Progress Association and the Department. Balingup people are assisting with site planning, providing some trees and labour, whilst the Department is supplying planning expertise, trees, machinery and some labour.

The aim of the project is to convert the site into a parkland with picnic facilities and walk tracks set amongst a range of exotic and native tree species. The park, which adjoins an old farm homestead now owned by the Department, already sports some 20 exotic tree species established earlier this century.

To date, work has been directed towards a general clean up of the area, development of BBQ facilities and the construction of a small dam and lookout. An additional 31 exotic tree species have also been planted this winter and protected from livestock by tree guards. The development of Golden Valley Tree Park is proving to be an extremely worthwhile project, fostering good relations and understanding between the Department and the community.

Congratulations to Kirup staff on a job well done.

Did You Say This Was Work or Rec. Leave?

How did you spend the week of May 16? Denise, Peter and Drew of Extension Branch spent a 'hard' week learning about the finer points of navigation, map reading and outdoor survival. This was part of an 'Expedition Skills Course' organised by the Education Department and based at their Pemberton camp. The week culminated in a 3-day walk through the varied vegetation types of the Shannon Basin, in perfect weather conditions. Apart from the scars that remain from the sword grass, the exhaustive memories of the 1 km/hr pace through interminable swamps and the constant weight of heavy packs on our backs - the three days were filled with outstanding views of the Shannon River, overgrown logging tracks and formations, and granite outcrops.

And to justify the time spent? The course proved invaluable in giving us first hand experience in all aspects associated with organising a bushwalk - from equipment and clothing to diet and leadership - knowledge and advice which is continually sought by schools and youth groups using the forest.

P.S. Should you be wondering why Rae was not on this trip - Rae 'suffered' similar conditions on a course last year, which took her through Mt Manypeaks.

Albany Highway Corridor Study

The Northern Jarrah Forest forms a corridor for approximately 60 km of the Albany Highway and presents a highly imageable gateway to the City of Perth. This image is presented to an average of 2000 motorists per day, an image which is often the only impression these travellers have of State forest and of forest management. What then is the image that most people are likely to perceive?

The highway in its linear S.E. to N.W. alignment passes through a number of forest zones which have characteristic vegetation and topographical associations. The melding of the eastern woodlands with the upland jarrah forest is often a subtle and imperceptible transformation, especially to the eyes of the layman. This would certainly have been true thirty or forty years ago. More recently, however, the ravages of jarrah dieback have resulted in large patches of bush adjacent to the highway being decimated, especially in the lower slope and gully situations. This took place in the late 1950s and 60s, occurring concurrently with an impetus in pine silviculture. Consequently, most dieback

sites were revegetated with pine, either as an extension of experimental arboreta, or simply because it was the only species available in sufficient numbers to plant up the required area. The subsequent image of the highway is thus highly modified by the presence of a large number of exotic conifer plantations. These conifers are not only made distinguishable from the native bush by their contrasting form, colour and texture, but are more significant because of their rectangular plantation dimensions which have been superimposed on an organic landscape. It is this image which confronts both traveller and forest manager today.

In response to this problem (which has been made more apparent by the failure of most plantations) the Northern Region commissioned the Forests Department's Landscape Architects to undertake a landscape management study of the total corridor.

This study has now been completed with the aid of the computer programme VIEWIT. The basic design process used to evolve a series of management prescriptions involved a number of steps:

- (a) the classification of the highway corridor into four zones according to their existing character
- (b) an examination of the differences between the existing character zones and the desired design character exemplified by the surrounding native bush
- (c) an examination of potential and existing corridor viewsheds within each zone
- (d) formulation of management prescriptions for each zone designed to achieve the desired landscape character and provide significant views
- (e) recommendations as to the systematic implementation of the above prescriptions

The computer programme VIEWIT was used in step (c) to specifically determine the area and location of pine removal required to achieve views of Mt Cooke from the highway adjacent to the Cooke plantation. This analysis involved programming the computer with topographical information using a grid cell data base. A 3 x 7 km area was gridded into $\frac{1}{4}$ ha cells with each cell being given its elevation value (height above sea level). The computer was then instructed to scan from a number of predetermined points along the highway (motorist observer points) and to print out maps of "seen area". Three levels of analysis were obtained:

- (1) maximum seen area from the selected motorist observer points using the natural landform only (i.e. no trees to block views).
- (2) seen area currently existing. To prepare this map the area of the Cooke plantation was elevated to 20m above natural ground elevation.
- (3) desired seen area. This map was generated from the above after selected areas of pine were clearfelled adjacent to the highway. This latter step enables the forest manager to efficiently and realistically estimate the ratio between clearfelling and seen area. Optimisation of this ratio is quickly achieved via successive runs of this last step, thus enabling the forest manager to make calculated, pragmatic decisions concerning significant long term manipulations to the forest resource.

Implementation of this study is scheduled to begin during the 1982-83 financial year. Copies of the report "The View from the Road; Forest Landscape Management Prescriptions for the Albany Highway Corridor" are available from Extension Branch or from Superintendent Underwood, Northern Regional Office.

Bibbulmun Track User Survey

A Bibbulmun Track User Survey has been developed to gain a firm idea of the number, age ratio and type (i.e. tourist, local), of persons using the Track. The survey is also designed to gain feedback from users on such matters as track condition, areas for improvement and impressions of forest management in areas through which the Track passes. Survey forms will be located in 'Registration Stations' in Divisions nominated in RecNotes issue 1, and will be handed to and collated by the Regional Recreation Officer, each month.

A copy of the survey form is attached in the appendices.

Bunbury Region Scenic Tour

After almost 12 months (4 in preparation, 7 at the printer and erection of the signs twice) the Bunbury Region Scenic Tour is ready for use. Thanks must go to Collie Division for erecting the tour signs, twice! It seems that F.D. scenic tour signs are great souvenirs, as almost half of the signs vanished a few days after they were erected.

The tour is now ready to go and a copy of the pamphlet was recently distributed to all departmental offices.

Recreation Operations Manual

Work is now well advanced on the recreation manual mentioned in the last issue of this newsletter. The manual, which will include general guidelines on recreation site planning and design, as well as specifications for signs and various furniture items, is intended to serve as a basic reference document. When completed later this year, the manual will be distributed to all divisions and regions.

As part of this issue of RecNotes, specifications for barbecues are appended. Remember, new ideas or constructive criticisms of the designs and specifications cited are welcomed.

Fireplaces

Fireplaces are used for a variety of purposes including cooking food, boiling the billy or as an evening campfire. A well designed fireplace or barbecue must therefore provide an efficient but versatile heat source.

The following general guidelines should be applied to all fireplace designs:

- (1) the type and size of the fireplace as well as the choice of materials should be influenced by the character of the site in which they are placed.
- (2) a grate should be included for boiling a billy. It should be made of mesh rather than metal bars and should be a maximum one-third the width of the plate.
- (3) the barbecue plate should be thin enough to heat efficiently, but still thick enough so as not to warp or be bent by vandals. A 6mm thick plate of mild steel is recommended.
- (4) the plate should be located no less than 20cm and no more than 30cm above the base of the fireplace or ground level.
- (5) in sites where reoccurring vandalism is a major problem, it is recommended that the plate and grill not be hinged and should be firmly imbedded into the walls of the fireplace.
- (6) a branch breaker (see diagram F4) should be included at every site in close proximity to the wood supply.
- (7) with respect to prevailing winds, fireplaces should be located downwind of adjoining tables. The fireplace site should be well drained (that is, not situated in a depression or area where water is likely to collect).

Initially, 3 designs have been selected for inclusion in the recreation manual.

Prefabricated Units

Prefabricated concrete or concrete block barbecues offer the dual advantages of being relatively easy to mass produce and thus reasonably inexpensive to make as compared to designs (e.g. stone fireplaces) which are constructed on site.

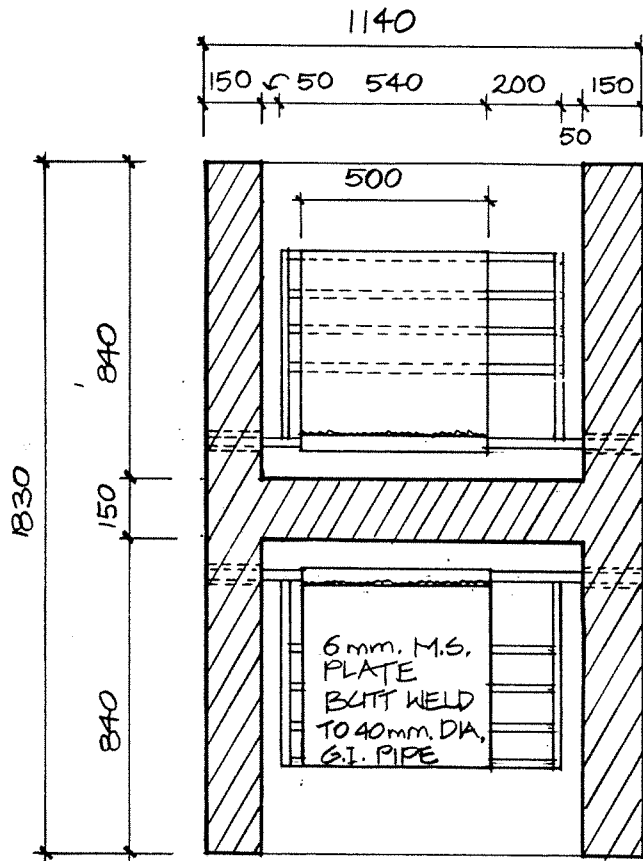
Their major disadvantages are their tendency to crack with heat stress and the fact they are vulnerable to damage by vandals. Concrete units are not particularly attractive, but their appearance can be improved by:

- * colour treating the concrete so that it blends in better with the surrounding ground surface

- * constructing the form work from rough sawn boards in preference to plywood or masonite to roughen the exterior. Alternatively, a more natural finish can be achieved by brushing the concrete while it is still damp.

In fabricating this type of fireplace, it is important that wax paper or an equivalent material is wrapped around the bars where they are embedded into the concrete walls. This will allow room for heat expansion and thus reduce the risk of the unit cracking.

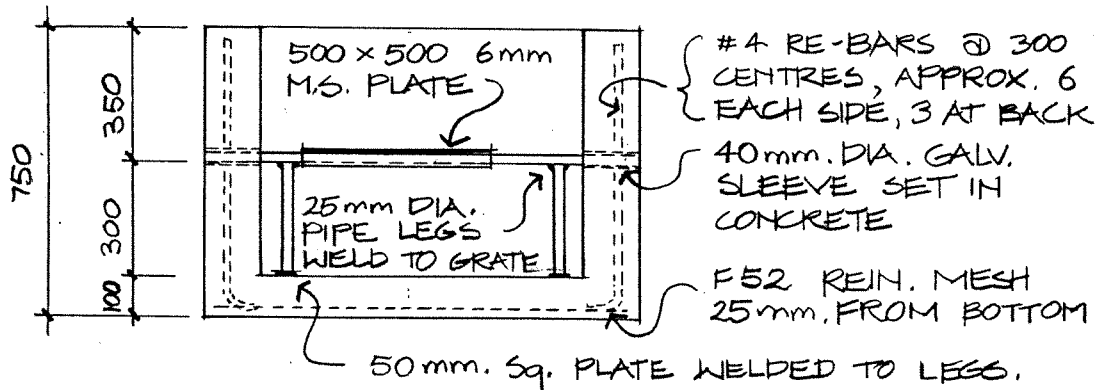
The 2 designs illustrated have been developed by the N.S.W. Forestry Commission and a similar unit is being used by the Department of Forestry in Queensland. Variations of these designs can be constructed as indicated. Several divisions are currently using prefabricated moulds similar to the type shown. Details of these units can be obtained from your Regional Extension Officer.



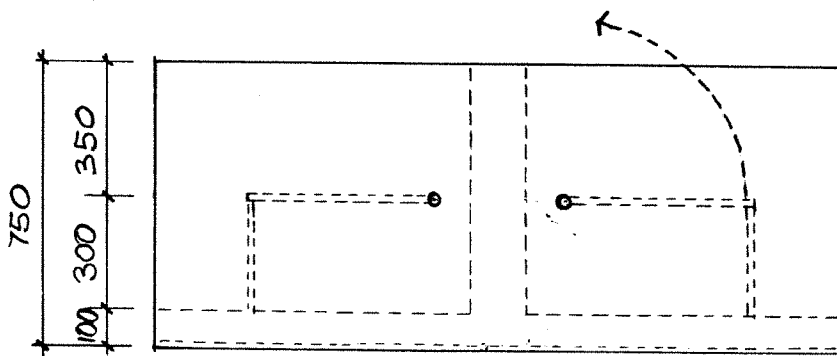
WALLS TO BE CONSTRUCTED FROM CONCRETE BLOCK OR REINFORCED CONCRETE

THIS DESIGN CAN BE CONSTRUCTED AS DRAWN OR BUILT AS SEPARATE UNITS

PLAN

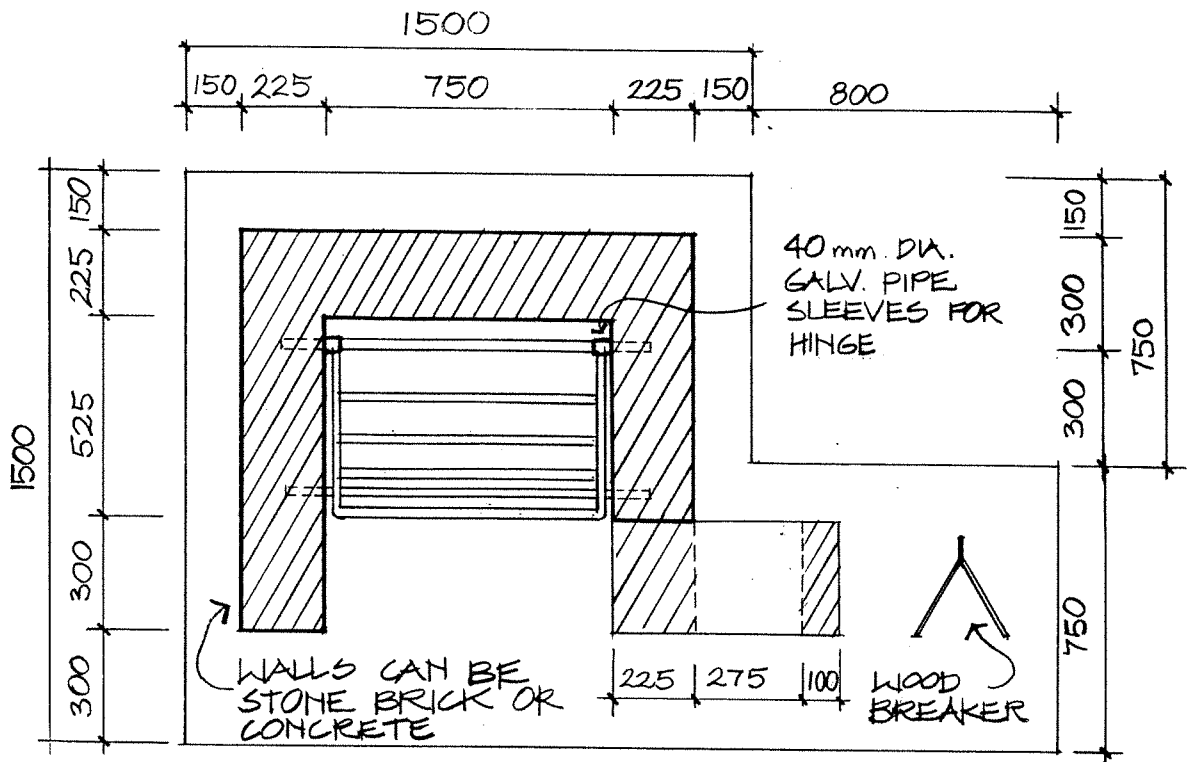


FRONT ELEVATION

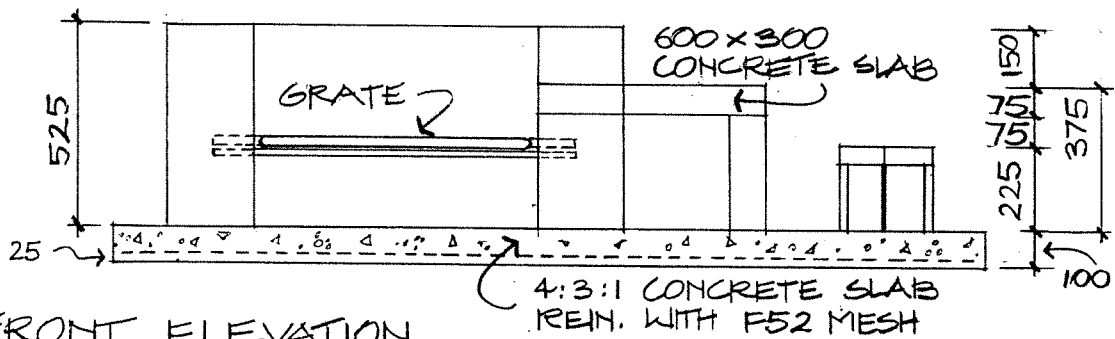


GRATE IS DESIGNED TO TILT UP & BACK TO FACILITATE CLEANING.

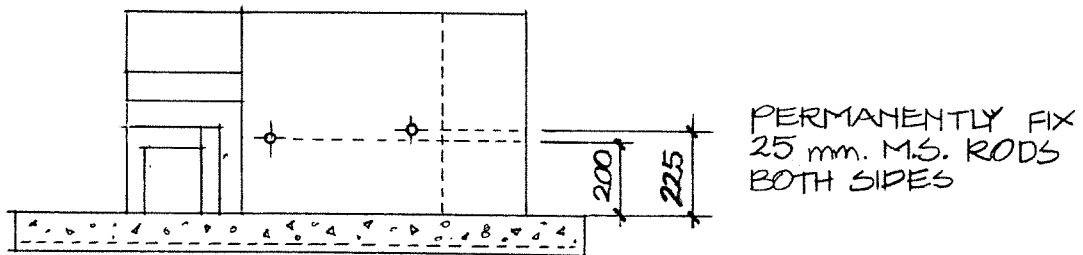
END ELEVATION



PLAN



FRONT ELEVATION



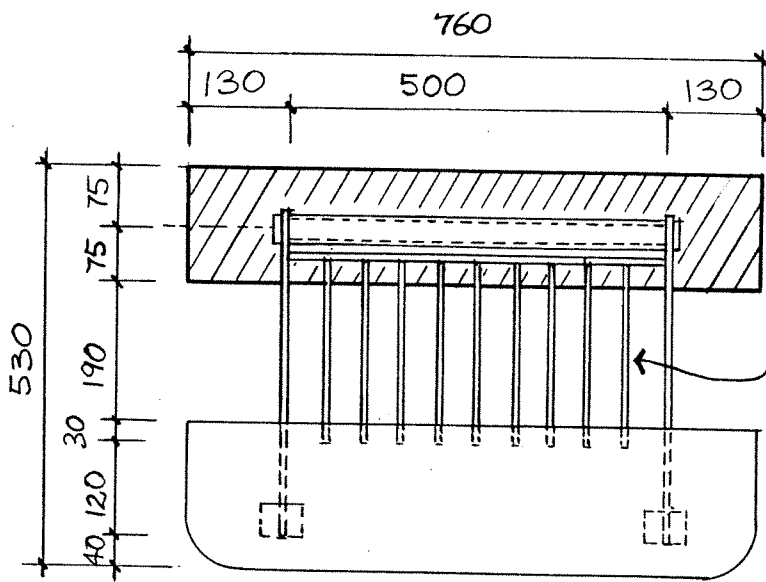
END ELEVATION

GRATES MAY BE FIXED, HINGED, PARTIALLY OR COMPLETELY COVERED WITH MESH OR 6mm. M.S. STEEL PLATE. REFER TO FOLLOWING PAGES FOR DETAILS.

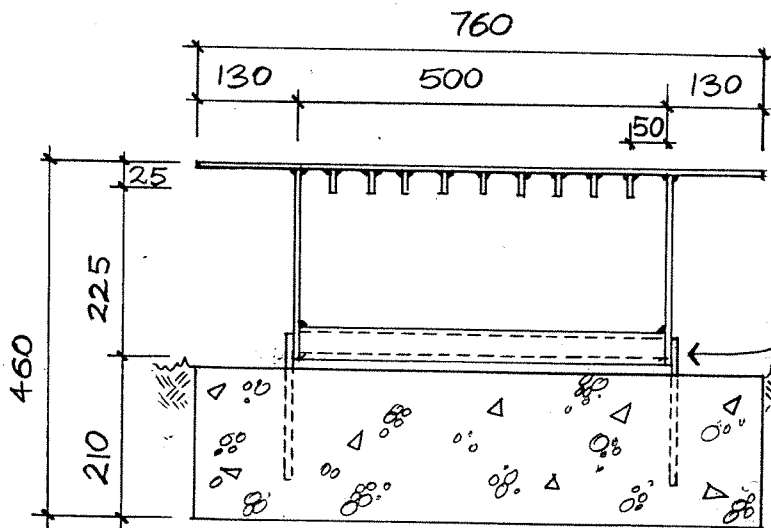
Metal Unit

An alternative to the concrete or stone barbecues is the metal fireplace which is typically compact in size and therefore less obtrusive. Like the prefabricated concrete units, metal barbecues can be mass produced and stockpiled for later use.

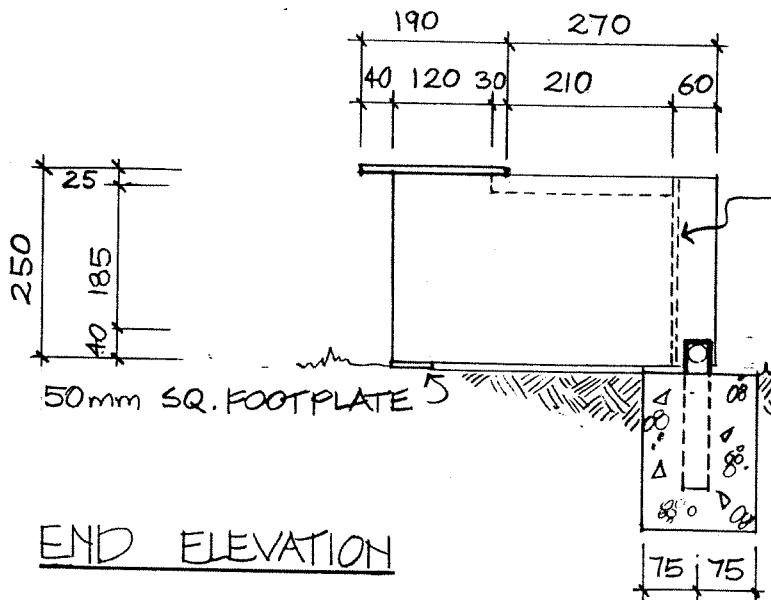
Because of their compact nature, it is important that metal units are securely anchored into the ground as illustrated. The model shown is a modified version of a unit used by the U.S. National Park Service.



PLAN

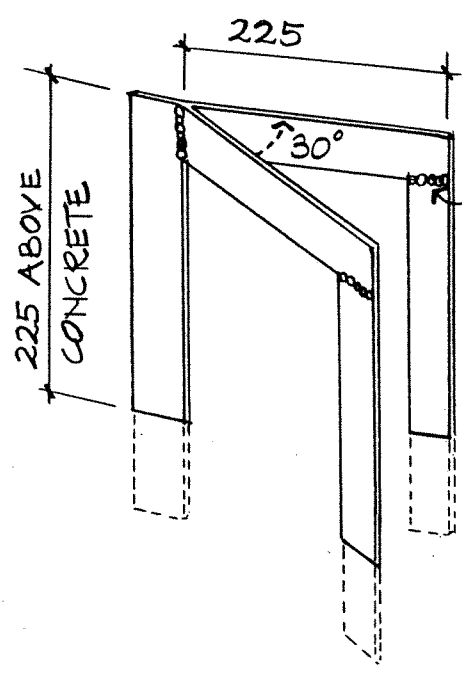


FRONT ELEVATION



END ELEVATION

BRANCH BREAKER



WELD

ALL PIECES 12mm. X
50mm. GALV. M.S.
PLATE

FIX 3 UPRIGHTS =
150 mm INTO CONCRETE

DETAIL

Bibbulmun track user survey

This questionnaire which you are asked to fill in is part of an ongoing survey of forest recreation use in the southwest. As an outdoor recreationist, your views and opinions are of major importance in planning for the development and management of future recreation areas and facilities in State forest. So that your answers will remain anonymous, you are asked not to write your name or address on the questionnaire. Please complete this form and deposit it in the box provided.

Your co-operation in this survey is appreciated. For further information about the Bibbulmun Track or other recreational facilities in State forest, please contact any local office of the Forests Department, or the Department's Extension Branch, 50 Hayman Road, Como.



B J BEGGS
CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS

1. DATE _____
Day Month Year

2. What category best describes your group? Please tick the appropriate box.

- Single person
- Single family
- Two or more families
- Group of friends
- Organised group

3. How many people in your party are in the following age groups?

Age	Number	Age	Number
0-4	_____	30-39	_____
5-9	_____	40-49	_____
10-14	_____	50-59	_____
15-19	_____	60 +	_____
20-29	_____		

4. In what State or Country were you born?

.....

5. What is the postcode of your home address?

.....

6. At what point along the Bibbulmun Track did you commence walking on this trip?

.....
.....
.....
.....

7. What is your destination on this trip?

.....
.....

8. How long do you intend to spend on the Bibbulmun Track during this excursion?

Number hours _____

Number days _____

9. Will your walk involve one or more nights of camping? If so, where do you intend to stay. Please tick the most appropriate.

- Camp in the bush
- Youth hostel or similar camp
- Camp in caravan park
- Other (please list)

.....

10. How did you first learn about the Bibbulmun Track?
Please tick the most appropriate.

- Signposting
- From friends
- Forests Department map or brochure
- Other tourist guide
- Newspaper/magazine article
- Other (please list).....

.....

11. Have you walked along any section(s) of the Bibbulmun Track before? If so, please indicate the number of times you have walked along portions of the Track in the following regions.

No. Mth. Yr.

Northern Forest Region
(Kalamunda south to and including the Murray River)

Central Forest Region
(Waroona-Harvey area south to and including the Blackwood River and Lewana area)

Southern Forest Region
(Donnelley River and Manjimup south to Northcliffe and Boorara Tree)

12. In what year did you first begin using the Bibbulmun Track?

.....

13. Do you or anyone in your group have a Bibbulmun Track Guide? Please indicate yes or no.

.....

14. What mode of transport did you use to reach the Track?
Please tick the most appropriate.

- Car
- Bus
- Train
- Other (please indicate)

.....

.....

15. Is there anything in particular that you like or dislike about the forest areas you have walked through today?

.....

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16. Can you suggest how this Track or similar developments may be improved?

.....

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17. Have you filled out this questionnaire form at some previous time or point along the Bibbulmun Track? If so, please indicate where and when.

.....

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