

3 **July 1985: page # 6 Randwick Rag** reports that the trail is to run from Thompsons Bay to Coogee Beach.

## Underwater Nature Trail Proposed

**A bold, innovative proposal for an Underwater Nature Trail from Thompson's Bay to Coogee Beach has been presented to the Premier.**

If it goes ahead the trail will be the first of its kind in Australia and will attract divers from all over Sydney.

For the first time divers will be able to learn about the underwater environment independently and in relative safety. Sponges, abalone, sea urchins, stingrays, travelling anemones and many species of fish including a friendly groper are a few of the things that can be seen around the coast.

The Nature Trail will start in Thompson's Bay, a popular site for scuba divers, and weave around to Coogee Beach through places of particular interest.

The trail will be entirely below the water line and will be marked by a polypropylene rope attached by stainless steel ringbolts to the ocean floor. Guide cards will describe the surrounding environment.

The proposal is the result of a co-operative effort by Rick Poole of Pro-Diving Services, Coogee, and Denis Hunt, a Year 12 Master at Marist Brothers' High School, Pagewood.

Both are highly qualified in the area of underwater

work. Rick Poole, the owner of Pro-Diving Services, is a qualified scuba diving instructor and a qualified commercial and salvage diver.

Dennis Hunt is a Senior Biology Teacher as well as being a scuba diving instructor. He has had extensive experience in NSW and Queensland schools in training students to scuba dive and in designing and implementing courses in Marine Studies.

According to Rick Poole there is abundant marine life in the bay, both plant and animal, and the nature

trail would be an extremely valuable educational guide.

There would be no material damage to the bay and the costs, to the government, of establishing the trail would be nil. All the work establishing the trail would be provided by Pro-Diving Services and divers from Marist Brothers, Pagewood. Other groups such as the Pro-Dive Explorers Club and the Sydney University Underwater Society have expressed their willingness to assist with this project.

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