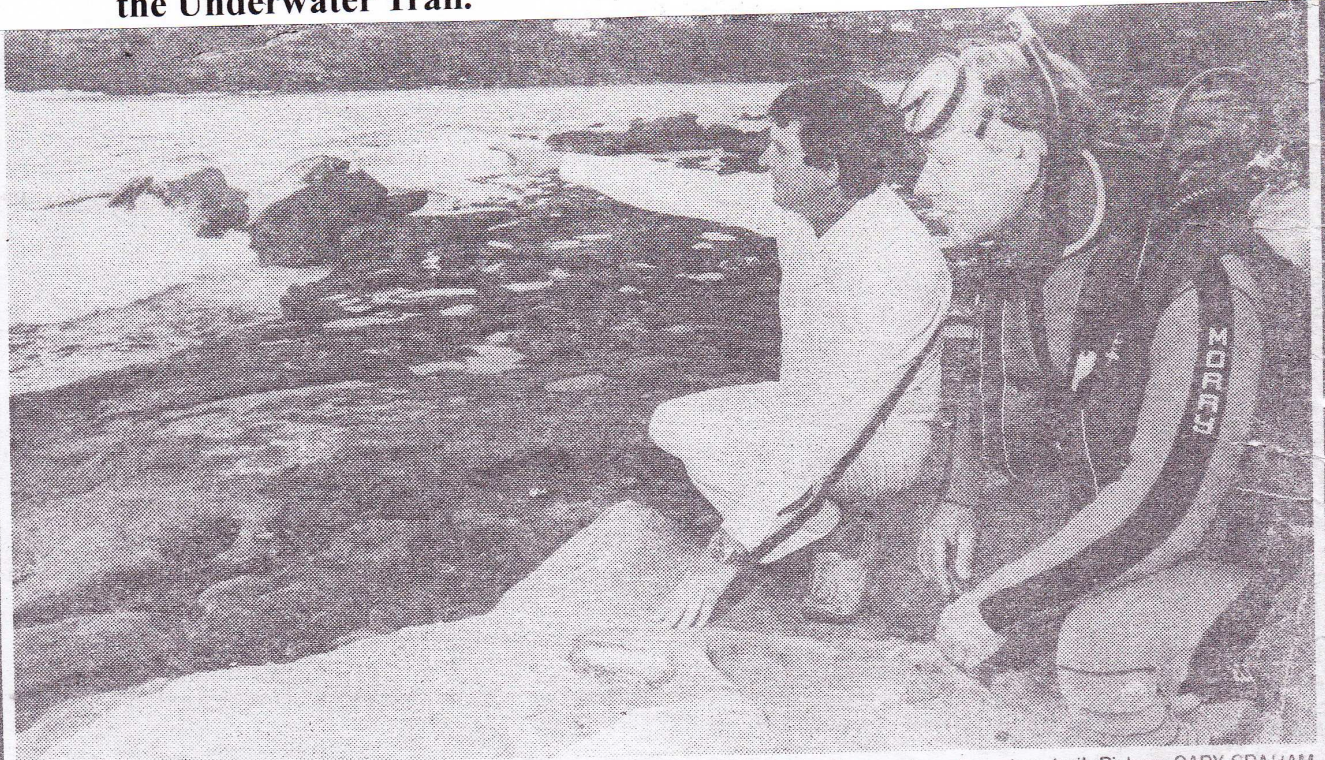


DAILY TELEGRAPH MAY 26 '86.

Divers lure nature lovers underwater

Australian

8 26th May 1986: page # 12 *Daily Telegraph* (Journalist no by-line)
announces that Rick Poole and Dennis Hunt are awaiting approval for
the Underwater Trail.



Rick Poole (left) and Denis Hunt point out towards Thompsons Bay where they hope to build an underwater nature trail. Picture: GARY GRAHAM

IF diving experts Rick Poole and Denis Hunt have their way, Sydney's nature lovers will be trading bushwalking boots for aqualungs and flippers.

The two divers are holding their breath for Government approval to lay out the first underwater nature trail in Australia.

Stretching along the sea floor at Thompsons Bay between Clovelly and Coogee, the planned 1km trail will give both learner and expert divers a "guided tour" of the area's marine environment.

The trail will be marked by a continuous rope attached to the seabed and written plaques will explain points of interest.

Great response

"This project will enable people to study marine life while they are in the water instead of having to look things up when they're dry," Mr Poole, Australia's leading salvage diver, said yesterday. "The guide cards will explain everything on the spot."

Mr Poole and Mr Denis Hunt, a senior chemistry and biology teacher at Marist Brothers High School, Pagewood, said

there had been a tremendous response to the scheme.

Regional manager for the Department of Lands Mr Anthony Leard said he could see no reason why the trail should not go ahead.

The nature trail will be entirely below the high-water mark and will stretch for about 1km from Thompson's Bay to the Giles Baths at Coogee and back.

The trail will start at a depth of 2m and will drop to 15m. It will be marked by a polypropylene rope attached to the ocean floor by stainless steel ring bolts.

There will be no environmental damage to the bay and the trail will not interfere with activities such as fishing and sailboarding.

The nature trail will be built and maintained by divers from Marist Brothers and the Pro-Divers Explorers Club.

The Sydney University Underwater Society has also expressed its willingness to help.