

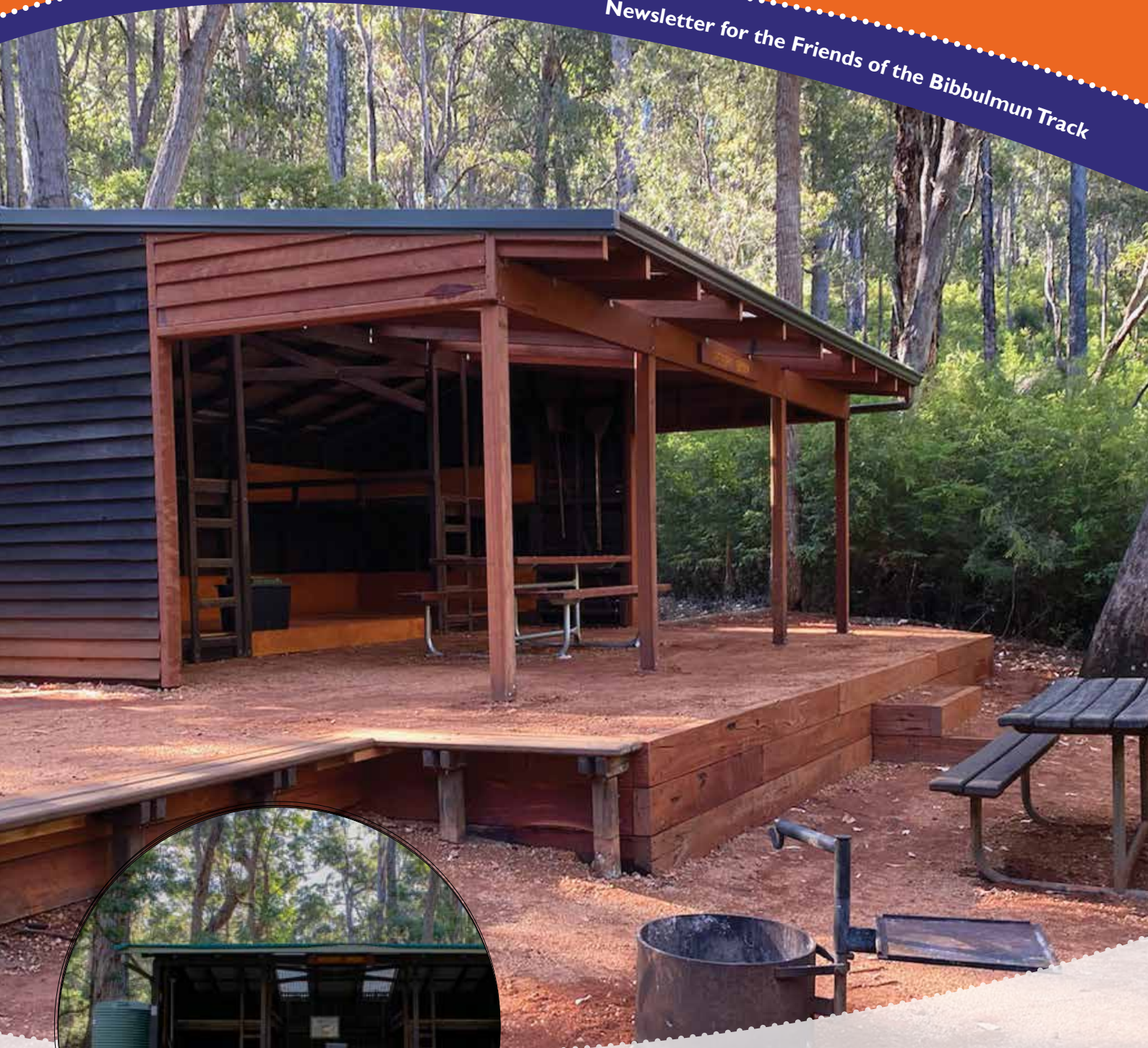
# Bibbulmun

# NEWS

APRIL - JULY 2022  
SEASONS OF DJERAN & MAKURU  
ISSUE #89  
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Newsletter for the Friends of the Bibbulmun Track



Gregory Brook shelter before the upgrade.

**Gregory Brook is one of eight campsites being extended and refurbished through the State Government's Recovery Plan funding.**

Read more about this project on page 7.

## In 2023 the Bibbulmun Track turns 25!

We're excited to announce that planning is underway for our next big celebration, the Bibbulmun Track's 25th Anniversary.

Saturday 13 September 2023 marks 25 years since the Perth-to-Albany Track, now known to us as the Bibbulmun Track, was officially opened. Following in the tradition of previous milestones the 25th anniversary will be commemorated with an end-to-end walk and community celebrations.

A core group will walk the Track from Kalamunda to Albany, completing their end-to-end on the anniversary date. They will be joined by a different group of walkers for each section enabling up to 100 people to take part. Sections between towns vary from three to eight days and places will be open only to BTF members.

We are liaising with the Track Towns and invite local walkers, volunteers, community groups and schools to get involved with the festivities.

We invite you to celebrate with us. Over the coming months we will let you know how you can be involved. Make sure you are subscribed to our e-news, Bibbulmun Bytes, to receive updates.

### Key dates:

Jun 2022	End-to-End applications open online
Aug 2022	End-to-End applications close
Jul 2023	Walk starts in Kalamunda with send-off ceremony. <b>You are invited!</b>
Aug 2023	DRV weekend celebration (the half way point). <b>You are invited!</b>
Sep 2023	Walkers arrive in Albany and evening celebrations. <b>You are invited!</b>



## FROM MY Desk

### Welcome to the autumn Edition of Bibbulmun News.

We're enjoying cooler days as the walking season approaches and look forward to checking out the campsite renovations that were completed over the past few months.

With participation in outdoor recreation increasing massively over the past couple of years there has been increased demand for knowledge sharing and training.

The BTF was approached to develop training resources for guides and trail maintenance volunteers which kept us busy over the summer months.

The first project involved developing a template of our in-house Guide Training Program for use by other organisations. This was in response to DBCA's requirement for anyone leading group walks on their estate to comply with national standards for outdoor recreation, including the Australian Adventure Activity Standards (AAAS) for bushwalking.

A two-day workshop in January, attended by a mixture of clubs, youth groups and commercial operators, showed participants how to use and adapt the templates to their own organisations' needs and to train their guides to a professional level.

The second project was to develop an Introduction to Trail Maintenance course. While BTF volunteers have been maintaining the Track for over two decades, up until now the information and training has been provided largely through a printed handbook and at Field Days.

This information has been developed into a more structured format which includes some theory followed by on the ground training. The pilot program, delivered for Outdoors Great Southern in Albany, received excellent feedback and we look forward to offering it to both new and current BTF volunteers.

Further course development includes modules for advanced maintenance techniques and an introductory training course for individuals who wish to lead bushwalks.

We will be providing more information about this training and how to access it in coming months.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable walking season.

See you out there!

**Linda Daniels**  
Executive Director

Join us on



Thank you!  
THANK YOU!  
Thank you!

A sincere thank you to the following walkers who have generously made donations to the Foundation.

**Charlotte McIntyre**  
**Christine Kennea**  
**Clifford Logan**  
**David Wrigley**  
**Didier Monot**  
**(Didier Walks)**  
**Dominique Hansen**  
**Kat Kennewell**

**Margaret Toohey**  
**Mathieu Biston**  
**Paul Lyons**  
**Peter Edwards**  
**Rob Dickason**  
**YAHOO Over 55's**  
**Bushwalking Club**

### Donations are tax deductible!

Through the National Trust, donations to the Foundation are deposited in a special account and assigned specifically to projects that enhance the Bibbulmun Track's environmental sustainability. The National Trust provides this service for free so you can be sure that 100% of your donation will go to Track projects.

Tax deductible donations can be made online, in person by cash or credit card, or by cheque which can be made out to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation with your name and address. We will then provide you with a receipt from the National Trust receipt book which indicates the donation is specifically for the Bibbulmun Track.

All donations, regardless of the amount, are gratefully received and all help to preserve our beautiful Bibbulmun Track.

The Guide Training project was supported by a Hiking Participation grant from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.



Department of  
**Local Government, Sport**  
**and Cultural Industries**

## Adventurous Minds

Toward the end of 2021, the Bibbulmun Track Foundation (BTF) partnered with Adventure Connections to take a group of young people from Collie on an introductory overnight hike, as part of an innovative program called Adventurous Minds. The group walked part of the Wellington Spur Trail and stayed overnight at Arcadia Campsite. The two-day hike was designed to get the participants out of their comfort zone and learn new skills. Steve (Lead Guide from the BTF) instructed the group on a number of skills including navigation and map reading, packing and wearing a backpack, Leave No Trace, setting up

camp, cooking on a fuel stove and health and safety including some first aid.

The program engages young people 11 – 17 years of age in a term based outdoor, nature-based program, which empowers healthy behaviours and lifestyles.

The young people get to participate in a wide variety of outdoor recreation activities like hiking and a variety of health and wellness activities like yoga and mindfulness.

Throughout the program the young people discuss certain topics that concern them, learn coping strategies to manage

their stress and develop the confidence to face challenges ahead. They also develop meaningful, positive social connections along the way.

Thanks to Steve's enthusiastic and humorous manner the young people have returned for another term and are keen to go on another overnight hike - which is a great testament to him. If only there were more like him!

**Kym Gibson**  
**Adventure Connections**

[www.adventureconnections.com.au](http://www.adventureconnections.com.au)



Steve leading the group along the Track.



The group at the end of the walk near Wellington Dam.

# YOUR Letters

Given that the Bibbulmun Track website profiles Dwellingup Transfers, I thought I would take the opportunity to provide some feedback. Quite simply "excellent". I trekked from Mt Wells to Dwellingup yesterday (4/8/21) and was 900m short of Dwellingup at sundown. I managed to get a phone signal and called Glenn at Dwellingup Transfers and told him where I was on the Track, just out of town and asked if it was OK to book a ride to Armadale. Glenn asked where I was and said, "No problem, stay there, I'll come and grab you" - this was because it was nearing dark. After walking 30 odd kilometres I was glad to see the coach bus headlights and Glenn. The trip to Armadale was reasonably priced \$105 and the service was brilliant. I thought it was worth letting you guys know. Kind regards,  
Glen Palmer

*Ed: We love hearing positive feedback about our Walker Friendly Businesses.*

*Feedback from the Wildflower Wander event:*

Excellent! I got way more than I expected from the walk - well chosen path with exceptional display and biodiversity of wildflowers. The walk leaders and guides were awesome as usual - Steve is still the same devoted walk leader besides having the great knowledge of Aussie bush. He managed to turn on the glorious weather too for us.

Michael again is as awesome. I really appreciate the patience of walk leaders - they took good care of all the variety of walkers including an 8-month old baby walking the trail with his parents and grandpa. I myself tend to fall back on the walk sometimes due to spending some time admiring the beautiful wonders of nature and sometimes due to my pace slower than others - especially on steep ascents.

My only complaint is this walk occurs only once a year - it needs to be more frequent - had to wait 5 years to get a spot on it - every time gets booked out so quickly.

Jesse Gupta

*Feedback from the Over the Hill walk in September 2021.*

As wet as it was the bush was stunning, the Track in great condition, guides set a cracking pace, and we undertook a consistently brisk pace and returned to the starting point well before it was anticipated we might have done so. Patrick and Chris were great guides, regularly checking with us for how we were managing, and together I think we all enjoyed the day's activities and each other's company.

Take my comments as my contribution to what I would have to say was my best 2021 Bibbulmun Track walk. I am so glad the walk wasn't cancelled, it was just awesome!

Regards

Jennifer Williams

*Ed: Due to the weather only two participants showed up for this event. Sounds like everyone else missed out!*



**Send us your caption!**

## PHOTO CAPTION COMPETITION

**Send us a caption!  
Support Volunteer Charlie Soord  
briefing volunteers at a Field Day.**

The most popular caption will win a prize  
(judged by our office volunteers!)

Email to friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au or by post.

Dear Bibbulmun Track Foundation,

It is my pleasure to contact you today! My name is Alice Parfenov and I am 10 years old. I am a recent E2Ender on the Bibbulmun Track. My first time was one overnight hike to Hewett's Hill and then Mundaring Weir. I loved it!

Soon we were doing 1-2 nights and double hutting some easy huts. Before I knew what was happening, we did a 6-night hike. And then, we did a 16-night hike and a 6-7-night hike! My last section was Walpole to Albany. I really enjoyed it. The scenery, nature on the 1000km trail is supercalifragilisticexpialidocious.

I met hundreds of people on the trail. Special thanks to: Dad, Bob, Will, Matt and the other guy, Sabrina, and some other people who I forgot the name of.

An average person wouldn't expect a kid to walk 1000km. But it wasn't easy. Mt Cooke and Mt Hallowell were extremely hard. Some other bits were nearly impossible. But over time, I comfortably walked 20km and once walked even 32km (with backpack). Food played a big part in everything.

My favourite breakfast food is 100% radix nutrition. My favourite lunches are instant mashed potato and Feed the Hike soups. My favourite dinners are Outback Country Cuisine (go OCCI (Outback Country Cuisine)).

Once 2 km away from Dog Pool, Bob was ahead of us just a tiny bit. My dad said, "Alicell He'll take the good spot if he comes first!" and it ended up that I ran 2km to the hut. The irony is that there were two good spots! And the inlet crossing... Oh, that was horrible. Imagine this: wind, sprinkling, 15°C and a cold, rushing inlet. Me, stripped naked inside the inlet, a current taking me into the ocean. Dad, a tiny bit close to getting hypothermia. Yeah. That was worse than death! At least now I can say that I'm experienced!

So let me take the song of the robins, the howl of the wind, the strength of the mountains, the calmness of the trees, and the gift of nature. I will come back, definitely! Thanks to everyone. Bye!



Each year, I do a different section of the Track. The plan is to do it all by the time I'm 50 (currently 41). I recently completed six days from Sullivan Rock to Dwellingup. I met Marg on night one - she is currently doing an end-to-end and it was clear that we'd be in the same shelters for my experience.

On my night two, her (I think) night 15, she had arranged for her husband and friend (Jeff and Gary) to meet her at the shelter next to North Bannister. What I didn't know is that she had told them that I also would be joining them at the shelter and had included me in their dinner plans.

Let me talk you through their generosity:

Entree: Red wine, cheese, crackers

Main: Salmon, baked potato with parmesan and sour cream, thai salad, side of damper, more red wine

Dessert: Mango, strawberries, blueberries, melon, more red wine

By this stage, I'm absolutely stuffed to the brim so I go and brush my teeth - well that was a waste of time. I was then handed my own stick with pierced marshmallow ready to roast, and a caramel tim-tam to conclude the feast.

Best wishes

Rachael Lincoln

*Ed: Now that's what we call Trail Magic!*



*Feedback from Trip Planning sessions - free for members!*

Had a great session with Charmaine and Kerry this afternoon. Charmaine in particular gave me a number of very handy hints and had a great manner in the way she explained things. You have a great team.

Kind regards, Bruce

Dr Bruce Mullan

Just a quick thank you to Jim and the Foundation. I would encourage anyone who is contemplating an end-to-end to take the time to discuss details and questions with Jim.

He is professional, friendly and very knowledgeable, so many things Jim said will help make my adventure better.

Regards

David O'Reilly

Hi Issy

I was thrilled with my session with you. I'll be back with questions in the new year.

Really appreciated the time with you. I think it is a fantastic service.

Many thanks.

Cheers, Chris Sedevic

# Before you go...

## CHECK THE LATEST TRACK CONDITIONS

Before heading out on to the Bibbulmun Track it is important that you check the current Track conditions and are aware of any changes that may impact on your journey. Refer to the Section by Section guide on [www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au) or contact the appropriate Parks and Wildlife Services District (see contact details opposite).

There may be maintenance or construction projects near or on the Track that result in temporary diversions or changes. These will not be marked on your maps. Diversions are usually marked with Waugal trail markers attached to yellow metal posts. If you encounter these when walking, follow these temporary markers, not your map. The diversion will eventually return you to the main trail.

Please remember the Bibbulmun Track is a walking track only. No wheeled vehicles, including trolleys, wheelbarrows, prams or bikes should be on the Track. Please help to preserve the Track and the environment by keeping to *boots only*.

### Prescribed Burning Operations

Parks and Wildlife conducts a program of prescribed burning operations each year. Prescribed burning operations are undertaken for a variety of reasons, including property protection, fuel reduction and biodiversity management.

These burns are carefully planned but may cause some disruption to Track users. Where prescribed burning operations impact on the Track, temporary diversions will be put in place. Prescribed burning operations are dependent on appropriate weather conditions and for this reason dates of burns are not available in advance. For information regarding prescribed burns, please contact the District offices.

### Groups on the Track

Groups of walkers with eight or more members that are staying overnight on the Track are requested to complete a Group Notification online at [www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/trip-planner/notice-of-intent-for-groups](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/trip-planner/notice-of-intent-for-groups).

### Car access to the Track

Walkers are reminded that vehicles can only access the Track at designated points. These are marked on the maps and guidebooks as red car symbols. Other roads that lead towards the Track might be restricted or have locked gates as they enter disease risk areas. Attempting to access the Track at non-designated points can spread disease or damage wildlife. Please use only the access points marked on the maps and guidebooks.

### Parks and Wildlife Contacts:

#### Recreation and Trails Unit

[recreationandtrails@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:recreationandtrails@dbca.wa.gov.au)  
Ph: (08) 9219 8265

#### District Offices

##### Perth Hills District (Mundaring and Dwellingup)

Perth Hills District (Mundaring and Dwellingup)  
Kalamunda to the Harvey-Quindanning Road  
Map 1 & 2 and Guidebooks 1 & 2  
Contact Rebecca Hamilton on (08) 9290 6100 or [mundaring@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:mundaring@dbca.wa.gov.au)

##### Wellington District (Collie)

The Harvey-Quindanning Road to Mumballup  
(Donnybrook-Boyup Brook Rd)  
Map 3 and Guidebook 3  
Contact Nick Evans on (08) 9735 1988 or [wellington@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:wellington@dbca.wa.gov.au)

##### Blackwood District (Balingup)

Blackwood District (Balingup)  
Mumballup (Donnybrook-Boyup Brook Rd) to Willow Springs  
(Gold Gully Rd)  
Map 4 and Guidebook 4  
Contact Andrew Sandri on (08) 9731 6232 or [blackwood@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:blackwood@dbca.wa.gov.au)

##### Donnelly District (Pemberton and Northcliffe)

Willow Springs (Gold Gully Rd) to Pingerup Rd  
Map 5 and Guidebook 5  
Contact John McKenzie on (08) 9776 1207 or [donnely.district@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:donnely.district@dbca.wa.gov.au)

##### Frankland District (Walpole)

Pingerup Rd to Denmark River mouth  
Map 6, 7 and 8 and Guidebooks 6, 7 and 8  
Contact Julie Ewing on (08) 9840 0400 or [frankland.district@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:frankland.district@dbca.wa.gov.au)

##### Albany District (Denmark and Albany)

Denmark River mouth to Albany  
Map 8 and Guidebook 8  
Contact Luke Coney on (08) 9842 4500 or [albany@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:albany@dbca.wa.gov.au)

### LEAVE NO TRACE TIP: RESPECT WILDLIFE

- Don't feed animals or birds, and clean up even the tiniest food scraps.
- Secure food bags tightly and hang from rafter if necessary.
- Protect vegetation and other habitat around campsites.
- Leave your pets at home. Dogs are not allowed in national parks, water catchments or nature reserves. As a majority of the Bibbulmun Track runs through these areas dogs are not permitted. The Track is also regularly baited for foxes with 1080 poison, which can be fatal for dogs even in tiny quantities.



## Stephen King

TRAILS COORDINATOR, RECREATION AND TRAILS UNIT

TEL: (08) 9219 8265  
EMAIL: [RECREATIONANDTRAILS@DBCA.WA.GOV.AU](mailto:RECREATIONANDTRAILS@DBCA.WA.GOV.AU)



Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions



# Recreation & Trails UNIT

### Dear Readers,

As I write this, we are nearing the end of fire season, and we have been very fortunate to get through a ferocious summer with minimal damage and disruption to the Bibbulmun Track. It's also been extremely pleasing to see the amount of work achieved on the Track over summer, by the Foundation and the Department, despite the harsh weather and the ongoing challenges of the COVID situation.

The campsite upgrade project, involving eight of the ageing campsites, has progressed really well through spring and summer. Works accommodated within the current Recovery Plan budget are due for completion by the end of March 2022 and comprise:

- Shelter upgrades at Gringer Creek, White Horse Hills, Yourdamung, Boarding House, Yabberup, Grimwade and Gregory Brook Campsites (only Harris Dam missed out).
- Toilet replacements at White Horse Hills, Grimwade, Gregory Brook and Boarding House Campsites.
- Tent site and path upgrades at White Horse Hills and Grimwade Campsites.

The work represents a great improvement to these campsites, and the plans are in place for the outstanding items, allowing them to be expedited if additional funding becomes available.

Planning, designs and approvals for the new Monadnocks group Campsite are now complete, and tenders were received for construction of the shelter and toilet in March. We anticipate the construction works to occur between April and June, and aim to have the new campsite completed by the end of financial year. I'm really pleased with the campsite location and design and expect it will be a very popular campsite once opened.

Corridor surveys have commenced for the proposed formal route of the Bibbulmun Track across the tip of the Nullaki Peninsula near Denmark. Flora, dieback and Aboriginal heritage surveys will be required, followed by a clearing permit application. When complete this new section of trail will provide a formalised, appropriate trail link from the Wilson Inlet sandbar (when it's crossable) to the existing Bibbulmun Track.

Planning is also well progressed for a significant realignment between Dookanelly and Possum Springs Campsites, with the required corridor surveys now completed. This realignment will detour around a Track section that is prone to flooding, and also provide a

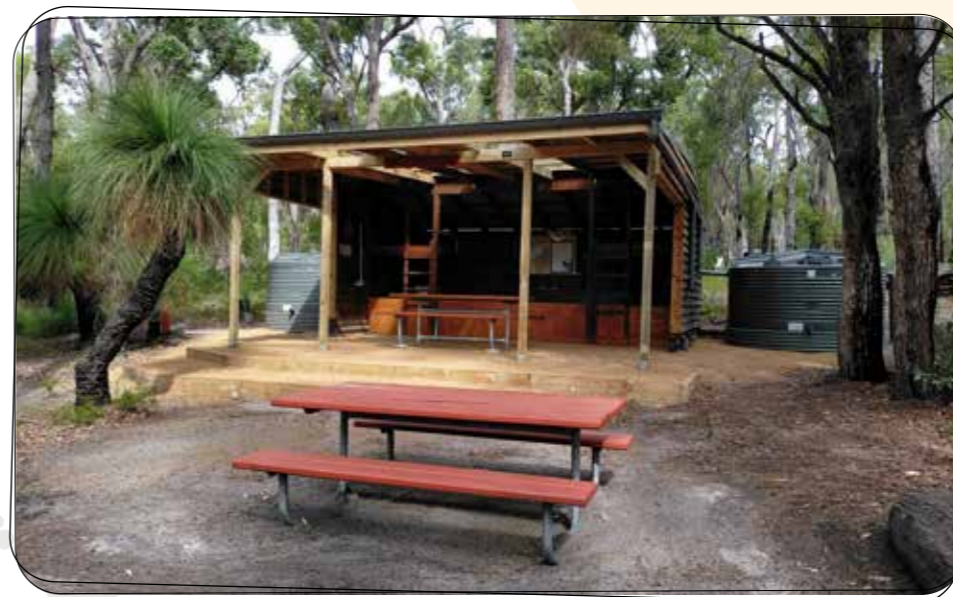


Path upgrades at Grimwade.

significant improvement in the hiking experience, taking it off vehicle tracks and onto purpose-built trail.

The new style Bibbulmun Track maps are now all in circulation, including the northern and southern map packs. I would encourage hikers to consider updating their maps to the new version, so you have the latest information at hand, or at least check any old maps against the permanent realignments that are shown on the Park Alerts website.

Once again, the work achieved by BTF volunteers over the last few months has been really impressive, particularly the progress made on the south coast stabilisation and erosion control project. I'm aware that the planning and logistics of that project have been very complex, involving helicopter transport of materials amongst other complications, and the volunteers have done an amazing job to coordinate it all.



Yourdamung shelter.

**Stephen King**  
Trails Coordinator



Sue Morley

## It's promising to be an exciting year this year!

As the appointed Maintenance Manager in 2021, I have put a lot of thought into how to improve the management of Track maintenance, especially since we are seeing increasing numbers of local hikers, families, day trippers and trail runners using the Bibbulmun Track.

The Track is nearly 25-years old, so wear and tear over this period of time is inevitable, however, by upskilling our maintenance volunteers with training, improving the way we report issues, recruiting more volunteers for sections of the Track that are high maintenance, as well as having more Maintenance Administration (MAdmin) staff to register and follow up maintenance issues, we are hoping the changes are more effective in the way the Bibbulmun Track Foundation manages track maintenance.

With demand for advanced Track maintenance skills, our support volunteers have successfully notched up achievements such as bridge restoration, erosion control and track remediation work through various campaigns, learning more and more about different techniques, materials and equipment that are effective for maintaining the Track.

The think tank of Bibbulmun Track volunteers is amongst WA's leading

experts in the maintenance of hiking trails. For large scale projects such as the Boat Harbour Stabilisation Project along the South Coast of WA, the collation of their knowledge, skills and experiences has been invaluable in determining what treatment and materials work best to manage ongoing, problematic maintenance issues that arise.

We are also fortunate to have volunteers who have maintained their section for many years. Many have witnessed what happens to the Track over time after heavy rainfall, fires, erosion and the impact of illegal trail bikes, hunting activities, camping, rubbish being dumped and stolen signage. There are always environmental and human changes to the Track, so the importance of reporting each time they inspect the track is invaluable.

Armed with their secateurs, tree loppers, rubbish bags, rakes and saws to make the Track accessible and safe for walkers, they truly are the quiet achievers of the bush.

## Maintenance Highlights

For many the Christmas New Year period is down time, enjoying the break, reflecting on the past year and the future. But some of our volunteers were busy planning, purchasing materials and organising maintenance projects scheduled for 2022. The largest of these is the Boat Harbour Stabilisation Project.

Thanks to the Western Australian government's Natural Resource Management grant, preparations are underway to remediate sections of the Bibbulmun Track in the Boat Harbour region, based on an assessment of the eroded locations carried out by the Bibbulmun Track Foundation (BTF) and Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' (DBCA) Parks & Wildlife Services.

Remediation and runoff control measures to stabilise the Bibbulmun Track will include lessons learnt from the previous success of track stabilisation works in 2020 on critical sections between Conspicuous Cliff and Parry Beach.

This project is the culmination of months of detailed planning and is a major milestone in the Boat Harbour works. The project will span four campaigns during 2022. The transport of materials and equipment to remote areas of the Track required substantive coordinated planning and logistics by BTF volunteers with logistics provided by the local transport companies and DBCA's Parks & Wildlife Services in the Frankland district.

In late February a team of BTF Support Volunteers travelled to Walpole to cut, drill, sort, bag, strap and mark over 10 tonnes of materials at the DBCA yard in readiness for airlifting to selected drop off points beside the Track on both

sides of Boat Harbour. While that was underway other Support Volunteers marked the 22 carefully chosen stockpile locations to make them more visible from the air.

In close collaboration with crew from the Frankland District, 33 loads of materials and equipment were loaded and transported to a paddock near Parry Beach ready for helicopter delivery to the designated stockpile locations beside the Track in March.

Actual stabilisation work will be carried out in four-day working campaigns starting in May and proceeding through the winter months until complete.

The strong partnership between the BTF and DBCA's Parks & Wildlife Services to secure and mobilise materials and equipment has meant remote sections of the Track can be restored.



Drill sergeant - cutting and drilling steel pickets.



Cutting coir matting for remediation work.

## Introduction to Maintenance Training

For the first time in WA, the Bibbulmun Track Foundation has developed an Introduction to Trail Maintenance course for those interested in the basic principles and techniques of trail maintenance.

Pilot training commenced in Albany 26-28 February offering safety awareness, how to develop trail eyes - identifying hazards, knowing how to assess and prioritise maintenance issues, how to clear the trail and manage the trail surface.

Delivered over two days with theory and practical sessions, the training received positive feedback from all who attended, "Excellent knowledge base, learnt many new things", "Having the talk about problems on the trail and then walking through them with presenters was the most useful".



Packed materials and equipment ready to go - BTF volunteers Ian Rae, Ross Simpson, Alex Williams, Charlie Soord, Sue Soord, Sue Morley, Nigel Pilgrim, Nina Martin.

For more information contact [trackworks@bibbulmuntrack.org.au](mailto:trackworks@bibbulmuntrack.org.au)

**Sue Morley**  
Maintenance Manager



The Eyes on the Ground maintenance program is generously supported by our premier partner, Newmont Boddington Gold.

## Life Member Profile - Paul McNamara

Paul came to live in Perth in 1996 with his wife and two daughters. He had done some hiking in Victoria during his school and uni days and taken his family on camping trips. He wanted to keep his daughters interested in bushwalking and while investigating possible day walks in the Perth area he was introduced to the Bibbulmun Track "How long is it?" he asked. "Oh, about 700km, but you don't have to do all of it, you can do sections of it!" At that time, of course, the old Bibbulmun Track only ran as far as Walpole and the new Track was, of course, still under construction.

Paul took his youngest daughter on a hike from the Brookton Highway to the Mundaring Hotel in 1997 and he was hooked! He said the Track was well marked and easy to follow, although tougher than he had expected. They loved the campsites and the fairly short distances between them, which his daughter could handle, and in later years she walked the section from Dwellingup to Collie.

He was so impressed by the Track that he knew he would be walking on it frequently, so early in 1998 Paul became a Life Member of what was then the Friends of the Bibbulmun Track, later to become the Bibbulmun Track Foundation.

Paul was born in Victoria in 1954 and graduated from Melbourne University in 1977 with a degree in Civil Engineering. He then took a year off, going firstly overland from Kathmandu to London, and then touring western Europe, funding himself by earning money as a labourer, fruit picker and barman.

He joined the multi-national engineering company J. Ray McDermott in 1978 and clearly the travel bug was well established as Paul moved back and forth between seven different countries, mostly in Asia and moved house twenty times, finally settling in Perth with his Singaporean wife and two daughters.

Since then long distance hiking has become an important part of Paul's life. He completed his first end-to-end of the Bibbulmun Track in 2000. In Australia he has walked the Overland Track, the Larapinta and the Australian Alps Track, among others and has used his knowledge of Asia to do a series of walks in Indonesia. Since his retirement in 2016 he reckons to have hiked about 500km a year!

When asked about his feelings for the Bibbulmun Track, this was Paul's response:



"The Bibb Track is an amazing asset and it is a pity there aren't more long distance tracks like it in Australia. The Track is great to use for team building exercises. We used it in 2001 by walking our entire project team from Mundaring to Helena and back, one of the first companies to engage the BTF with this kind of event. The Track has given me so much. Where else in the world can I pack my gear, catch public transport to a regional town, walk seven to ten days in the bush, and then catch public transport back to Perth? Just do it. Some call this "Living the Dream."



Training on the trail - Albany.

# Getting into Gear

You've prepared your itinerary and organised your food. You know where you are going to stay in the towns along the Track and you've done your research on the trickier bits of the walk such as crossing the inlets along the south coast.

You've talked to experienced walkers and studied the BTF website. What else is there to think about? Well, maybe just have a few second thoughts about all the stuff you are going to be carrying on your back for the next few weeks. Consider the advice, "only take what you need, not what you would like to have - and if you're not sure whether or not you need it, don't take it."

Everything you take weighs something and the less weight you carry, the easier the walk will be. First of all, which items are considered essential to all walkers except for a few who are slightly, or very, different to the rest? We'll come to them later.

Backpack, sleeping bag, sleeping mat, boots or walking shoes, clothes to walk in, clothes and footwear to wear in the campsites and towns, tent, water bottles or bladder, cooking and eating equipment including fuel, first aid kit, communication and emergency contact devices, headlamp or torch and last, but not least, toilet paper in a waterproof bag. Wet toilet paper must

be high on the list of the most useless materials in the world. If anyone knows of use for it, please let the BTF know.

So, including the food that you have already prepared, what's that lot going to weigh at the start of a section that will take you about a week to walk? Of course, it depends on the type of gear you have or, indeed, can afford. Weight can be dramatically reduced if you have ultra-lightweight equipment but, equally, the cost can be dramatically increased. So going down a middle path in that respect you will probably be looking at 15-18kg in total.

But it's not only by buying ultra-lightweight gear that you can control weight. Think multi-tasking or taking items that can be used for more than one purpose. An obvious example is a mobile phone that is also a camera. Food can be eaten from cooking pots without bothering with dishes and plates. Your puffer jacket or fleece can become a pillow and you can put a Kindle app on your phone to provide reading matter.

Many walkers carry too much food at the beginning of their walk and too many clothes. So, try your food before you start, cook portions on your camp stove and see how much you feel you need for a meal, allowing for the fact that you are going to be burning off a lot of your calories while walking. Work out on a daily basis how many meals you need and prepare those portions in advance. Remove as much of the packaging as you can from your food.

Regarding clothes, stick to essentials. In particular, you don't need a pile of spare clothes. It's not like home, where you can wear a freshly ironed shirt every day. Out on the Track you will get dirty, probably wet and possibly cold, but be prepared to put on the wet, dirty clothes the next day, and the next and the day after that. You won't smell very sweet, but everyone is in the same boat and that hot shower when you reach a town will be all the more blissful. Take the clothes you need, not the ones it would be nice to have. If you want advice on what are the essentials talk to us and we'll advise you.

As a good example of this, we had one end-to-ender who brought his gear to the office before starting off and we removed 8kg of unnecessary clothing from his bag. I have seen a lady in a campsite wearing bright pink pyjamas; very fetching but scarcely practical, and one, on being advised that a beanie is good way to avoid heat loss, said, "Darling, I could never be seen wearing a beanie." It ain't a fashion parade out there, darling! The most extreme was a walker wearing mediaeval armour, but I think/hope he was something to do with a festival in Balingup.

Probably the most contentious item is the tent. A tent can add 1-2kg to your load and you may never need it, but it can save you a lot of discomfort and even your life. Personally, I would never be without one.

So that's the nitty-gritty side of gear.

I nearly forgot to come back to those who take a somewhat different view of what constitutes necessary gear and perhaps become a little extravagant in this respect. There are, or so I am told, those who walk naked. I have far too much respect for the more tender extremities of my body to consider this.

Then there are those who don't cook or make any hot drinks. Clearly this negates the requirement to carry a stove or fuel but isn't walking supposed to a form of enjoyment? Each to his own.

At the other extreme are those who carry strange, heavy personal items. Over the years I have experienced walkers carrying a didgeridoo, a surfboard, a box of marine distress flares and a kitchen sink - "my wife packs everything, including..." It was a very small model of a plastic sink.

I am still waiting for the guy who has an itinerary for a year and a set of Encyclopaedia Britannica, but I'm sure he'll be in our office one day.

**Happy walking!**  
*Wrong Way Jim & Issy, veteran end-to-enders*

## Walker Story – Fallen Trees

Kirsty Doherty (née Hulka) is a very talented West Australian musician with her own band, *Sgt. Hulka*. Her married name is Doherty, but she retains the stage name Hulka. Kirsty got the nickname Sgt. Hulka from a teacher when she was in high school. It comes from the movie *Stripes*, a Bill Murray military comedy, and she named her band after it. Trained as a classical pianist, Kirsty has been singing all her life. She loves music and currently works as a primary school music teacher, mother of a little girl and as a musician. She grew up in Fremantle and loves Freo and WA.

Two years ago Kirsty was going through tough times. Here she describes what occurred:

*"In 2019 I wasn't in a very good state mentally. The black cloud was slowly embracing me and I could feel myself spiralling into it. I knew I had a choice; I could let it take over and spiral with it, or I could do something about it.*

*For some reason I felt nature calling me. I knew I had to get out, I had to escape from the world and be within my own thoughts for a period of time.*

*So I Googled different hiking routes and decided to walk the Bibbulmun Track from Walpole to Peaceful Bay.*

*I bought some hiking boots, borrowed a backpack and made enough lentil patties to last me four days (still to this day the worst decision I've ever made!) I started walking and slowly over four days I felt myself breathe again. I felt myself listen to myself. I could enjoy my own company again. I began trying to sort through the problems I was facing in my head and try and kick this black cloud in the butt.*

*It suddenly dawned on me that I had the ability to remap my future. I couldn't change the past and the things that had happened, but I could choose to change my future. That is where I got the chorus for the song "I can change the future, but I cannot change the past".*

*Where I was walking, there were a lot of fallen trees. I would often wonder to myself "why did these trees fall?" But then I realised however these trees fell was irrelevant, what was beautiful is that next to every fallen tree there was*

*new life growing, like a new beginning. It was the perfect analogy for my song, which I recorded a few years later and decided to film a video clip on the Bibbulmun Track, with Colleen Gerritsen from Muse Media. We had an absolute blast filming the song and couldn't be happier with how it turned out.*

*Massive thanks to everyone at the Bibbulmun Track and all its volunteers. It truly is an incredible track and I'm so grateful I found it."*

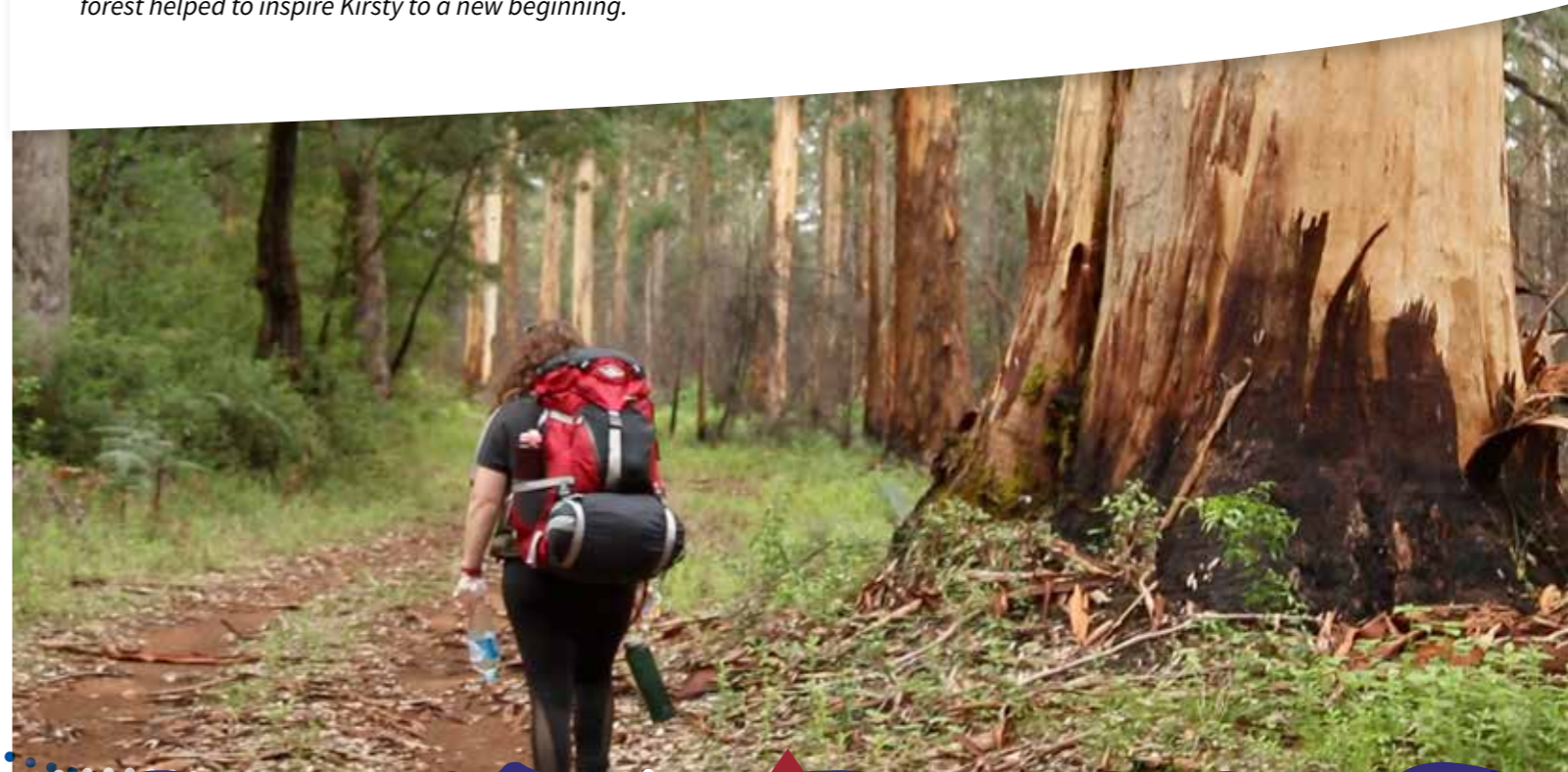
**Kirsty Hulka.**

The result of this is a great video. To enjoy to it go to:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyTNHk5\\_WpI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyTNHk5_WpI) (or Google it!)

*Ed: We love to hear from walkers and to share their experiences. It is very satisfying to hear that the beauty and resilience of the forest helped to inspire Kirsty to a new beginning.*



Kirsty (left) and Colleen out on the Track.



# Yes, they did it!

Note: To see full comments from each individual - visit the End-to-Enders Gallery on our website under News.

Our CONGRATULATIONS to the following 68 walkers on completing an end-to-end, 50 from WA, one from New Zealand and the rest from interstate. 54 people completed a continuous end-to-end with one doing a double, and 14 a sectional.



With the anticipation of WA borders relaxing restrictions, many from the Eastern States are in the planning stages of hiking the Track with several taking advantage of our members' only Trip Planning Advice service.

This suggests that the Track will once more be very busy in the upcoming hiking season.

## General Comments

"What an adventure", a colleague said - and it was that.

*David Cohen, Guildford.*

Having just left the navy after 35 years' service, I figured I needed to take a long walk-in order to figure out how to be a civilian!

*Andy Nelson, Warnbro.*

Absolutely loved every step. One of the best things that I have done.

*Lorraine Cheesewright, Fremantle.*

The Bibbulmun Track is so giving and has taught me so much about myself. As well as all the wonderful souls I met along the way, I feel I have also met myself.

*Isabella Morellini, Hilton.*

What a trail! The trees, the birds, and the flowers; Whoa, the flowers!! I can't believe how varied and beautiful the entire way was.

*Joshua Van Meter, St Peters.*

I DID IT! Met lots of beautiful souls along the way.

*Eunice Peh, Newman.*

It was a dream come true to walk the Bib as an end to end and I got lucky with the weather, the wildflowers and the people I met along the way. I can't believe this is our backyard!!

*Mel Monks, Kununurra*

## Food/Supplies

We didn't have any supply boxes as we wanted to support the towns. Dwellingup and Balingup made re-supply a bit hard and very expensive.

*Lauren Billings, Nubeena.*

Food supplies dropped off by family, Traaverse, and Naturally Walpole Track and Trails Transfers.

*Helen & Patrick Doran-Wu, Mount Lawley.*

*(Ed. These are Walker Friendly Business members.)*

Dehydrated meals I prepared before departing, curries, stews and lentil chilli for dinner. Oh, and chocolate of course!

*Isabella Morellini, Hilton.*

I dehydrated most of my own meals prior to the trek and personally dropped off my supply boxes to the towns the week before starting. Although most of the towns had supplies it took the worry out of it.

*Dave Studman, Carramar.*

The food in the track towns was excellent - I ate like a king.

*David Sammut, Cooraroo.*

Our favourite snack... "pindakaas-dilla": tortilla bread with peanut butter, banana chips and thinly sliced apple folded in half (and if you're feeling fancy, you can toast it on the fire tray).

*Isabella Schultz, St Peters.*

Was impressed with the choice of dehydrated meals at most visitor centres.

*Joanna Kryzanowska, Greenslopes.*

I would highly recommend the Bibb Track Foundation Food in a Fuel Stove Workshop

*Bibbulmun Babes, Shelley.*

## Favourite Section

That's like asking to publicly identify my favourite child!

*David Cohen, Guildford.*

Old growth forests and being able to watch the landscape change before your eyes.

*Alan Chung, Mount Lawley.*

Walpole to Denmark. After weeks in the bush, seeing that magnificent Southern Ocean is nothing shy of euphoric.

*Brock Heyns, Tapping.*

Woolbales to Albany. I can't get enough of the many moods of the south coast region.

*Jules Birt, Hilbert.*

Frankland of course! (It's our maintenance section). However, we were also blown away by the northern jarrah forests, the area around Mt Cook and around Dwellingup especially.

*Kath Broderick, Fremantle.*

## Highlights

All the wildflowers, seeing whales, campfires in the evening in the northern section, the people we met on the way.

*Sarah Inglewood, Christchurch*

Tingle Trees, the coast, staying at Parry's Campground.

*Helen & Patrick Doran-Wu, Mount Lawley.*



Hikers Crossing (with Ian Glover).  
Photo credit: Robyn Boyle.

Name	Track Name	Age	Date Started	Date Ended	Days on Track	Direction	From
Gillian Kelaher		71	13/04/21	18/06/21	59	S-N	Madora Bay
Greg Miller		44	18/04/21	06/06/21	56	S-N	Mt Martha
Bruce Douglas	<i>Bruce M</i>	50	06/06/18	27/05/21		Sectional	Safety Bay
Blake Perkins		44	16/10/19	28/11/19	23	N-S	Belmont
Chris Wornum		43	29/08/21	11/10/21	35	N-S	Lange
Dominique Zolezzi		52	23/07/20	27/10/21	42	Sectional	Cottesloe
James Wark		52	23/07/20	27/10/21		Sectional	Cottesloe
Lauren Billings		35	14/09/21	30/10/21	27	N-S	Nubeena
Sarah Inglewood		38	15/09/21	23/10/21	37	N-S	Christchurch
Madison Wait		32	17/09/21	19/10/21	22	N-S	Watson
David Cohen		43	30/08/21	14/10/21	55	N-S	Guildford
Alan Chung		25	02/10/21	26/10/21	34	N-S	Mount Lawley
Stacey Brasier	<i>Stac</i>	45	16/09/21	31/10/21	24	N-S	Caufield South
Nancy Lindon	<i>Not far now</i>	53	23/07/21	24/09/21	68	N-S	City Beach
Mark Brinsden		38	15/09/21	23/10/21	40	N-S	Kingston
Allan Mitchell		51	14/10/18	09/11/21	74	Sectional	Darwin
Peter Royce		44	04/11/18	16/05/21	64	Sectional	Wembley
Peter Royce		35	29/09/21	03/11/21	64	N-S	Wembley
Chris Lee		62	26/09/21	10/11/21	44	N-S	Murdoch
Sue Lee		57	26/09/21	10/11/21	44	N-S	Murdoch
Sarah Twyford		42	16/08/21	30/09/21	24	N-S	Kallaroo
Thomas Bartlett		32	17/09/21	19/10/21	23	N-S	Watson
Karen Dowling		56	08/03/21	26/05/21	79	S-N	Dudley Park
Andrew Lindsay		51	05/09/17	27/05/21		Sectional	Bassendean
Susanne Wearing		54	23/08/15	21/05/21		Sectional	Perth
Helen & Patrick Doran-Wu		76	29/08/21	13/11/21	56	N-S	Mount lawley
Andy Nelson		52	18/08/21	09/10/21	53	N-S	Warnbro
Carolyn Bradley	<i>Tingle</i>	59	16/08/21	14/10/21	58	S-N	Nannup
Ian Allen		58	12/05/13	10/11/21	57	Sectional	Sectional
Sigrid Kramp		58	12/05/13	10/11/21		Sectional	Sectional
Bruce Mullan	<i>Bruce</i>		31/07/21	17/11/21	63	N-S	Bassendean
Sharon Doyle		45	23/06/15	10/11/21	52	Sectional	Kalaminda
John & Marilyn Beard	<i>Jabes &amp; Maz</i>	71 /69	27/07/21	25/09/21	53	N-S	Albany
Geoff Fisher		57	31/08/21	12/11/21	61	N-S	Crafers West
Helen McKerral		57	31/08/21	12/11/21		N-S	Crafers West
Robyn Boyle	<i>Donkey</i>	50	22/08/21	18/10/21	64	N-S	Coconut Grove
Lorraine Cheesewright		47	21/08/21	13/10/21	40	N-S	Fremantle
Hedley Amos	<i>Hedley</i>	72	08/03/17	21/11/21	51	Sectional	Jarrahdale
Brock Heyns	<i>Kit Kat Kid</i>	22	18/10/21	21/11/21	43	N-S	Tapping
Doug & Sandra Sime	<i>Kalbany &amp; Mystic Wandra</i>	66 / 69	26/08/21	15/11/21	56	N-S	Serpentine
Isabella Morellini		20	04/10/21	04/12/21	61	N-S	Hilton
Lari McDonald		66	08/03/17	21/11/21	51	Sectional	Forrestdale
Bella King		29	25/10/21	28/11/21	31	S-N	Applecross

Do you have your End-to-End BADGE? FREE when you register your first end-to-end!



# Yes, they did it! (cont'd)



Name	Track Name	Age	Date Started	Date Ended	Days on Track	Direction	From
Michael Wheatley		66	29/07/17	05/12/21	53	Sectional	Daglish
Dave Studman		48	11/10/21	26/11/21	38	N-S	Carramar
David Sammut		51	28/08/21	20/10/21	50	N-S	Coorparoo
Andrew Stevens		60	06/10/21	05/12/21	52	N-S	Secret Harbour
Suzanne Stevens		59	06/10/21	05/12/21	52	N-S	Secret Harbour
Isabella Schultz		27	27/09/21	15/11/21	49	N-S	St Peters
Joshua Van Meter		30	27/09/21	15/11/21	49	N-S	St Peters
Kazuyo Mine		35	27/09/21	27/11/21	53	N-S	Gosnells
Mathieu Biston		35	27/09/21	27/11/21	53	N-S	Gosnells
Frank Trybulec		59	01/10/21	17/11/21	46	N-S	Rockingham
Joanna Krzyzanowska		37	16/09/21	10/11/21	47	N-S	Greenslopes
Eunice Peh		34	03/09/21	15/10/21	43	N-S	Newman
Geoffrey Luscombe	Sailcat	62	10/06/21	21/07/21	43	N-S	Katoomba
Michael Fugl		55	14/10/21	13/12/21	50	N-S	Maylands
Ernst Schweizer	Ernie	79	11/11/21	06/01/21	51	N-S	Cairns
Mel Monks	Hut Slug	36	10/10/21	25/11/21	43	N-S	Kununurra
Jules Birt	Birticus	39	01/01/12	09/01/22	46	Sectional	Hilbert
Kath Broderick		56	23/06/19	16/01/22	52	Sectional	Fremantle
Nic Compton			23/06/19	16/01/22	52	Sectional	Fremantle
Sue Miles		66	10/05/17	30/06/17	51	N-S	Hamilton Hill
Pauline Wilkins		63	10/05/17	30/06/17	51	N-S	Hamilton Hill
Barbara Bryant	Barbie	52	10/08/21	17/09/21	39	N-S	Tannum Sands
Laurence Leroux		60	21/10/21	30/12/21	70	N-S	Bennett Springs
Julie Plummer	Bibbulmun Babes	58	10/09/15	10/11/15	60	N-S	Shelley

The feeling of satisfaction with finishing the Track, completing crossings which we didn't expect to be as challenging; reaching a peaceful hut after a long day; the huge variety of flora and fauna. *Ian Allen, Hillarys.*

An unexpected and most appreciated yacht crossing of the Wilson Inlet. *John & Marilyn Beard, Albany.*

Donnelly River – heaven on earth! *Lorraine Cheesewright, Fremantle.*

The serenity of finally feeling comfortable with just being me, alone, in my own company. *Isabella Morellini, Hilton.*

Warming up by the fire, the amazing people we met, and secret nudie swims to clean off in every body of water we found! *Joshua Van Meter, St Peters.*

Each day I made myself stop, sit down somewhere with a view and have a mid-morning cup of coffee. 45 days on track, 45 cups of coffee, 45 moments of quiet reflection and wonder. *Mel Monks, Kununurra.*

Crossing Sapper's Bridge in winter 2021 and ending up on the front cover of the BTF magazine. *Jules Birt, Hilbert.*

### Personal Reactions

Loved every second of the Bibbulmun Track, from the soggy feet of the Pingerup plains to the stunning coastline and rolling sand dunes of the southwest coast. *Lauren Billings, Nubeena.*

I was proud I was able to do an E2E in one go; grateful we have such a wonderful resource in WA; humbled to spend 47-days in the bush. *David Cohen, Guildford.*

This hike certainly helped my transition to becoming a 'normal' person. *Andy Nelson, Warnbro.*

My Happy Place. *Hedley Amos, Jarrahdale.*

The Track winds through 1000 kilometres of some of the most biodiverse and beautiful boodja and has wound itself into my life. *Jules Birt, Hilbert.*

Thanks especially to Isabel from the Bibbulmun Track Foundation who assisted us with trip planning and provided some moral support via text along the way! *Kath Broderick, Fremantle.*

Surprised by the peacefulness and serenity it brought to my life. *Sue Miles*

### Wildlife

On one of our many breaks we were lucky enough to have an inquisitive emu slowly walk in a semicircle around us checking us out. Brilliant. *Nancy Lindon, City Beach.*

An echidna gorging itself on ants. *John & Marilyn Beard, Albany.*

In awe over the Red-tailed Black Cockatoos! It was really cool gradually learning the bird callings of the different birds and learning their behaviour. *Brock Heyns, Tapping.*

24 types of orchids! And so many gorgeous birds. *Isabella Schultz, St Peters.*

The birds! We want to re-read the Bird books now and learn more about the dazzling array of birds we saw and heard. We also loved the invertebrates, the blue banded bees and dragon flies and many we had never met before. We've got to re-read The Naturalist on the Bibbulmun to put more names to wildlife. *Kath Broderick, Fremantle.*

### Comparisons with other Walks/Countries

Completely different. *Robyn Boyle, Coconut West.*

It is fantastic that this walk is free and accessible. *Doug & Sandra Sime, Serpentine.*

Nothing like home on the Bibby. *Lari McDonald, Forrestdale.*

Best hike that I've done yet. *Dave Studman, Carramar.*

I do not want to compare with completing the Larapinta Trail, the Jatbula Trail, or the Cape to Cape, but a hut+dunny+water at every end of section is outstanding and not seen anywhere else for me at this stage. *Laurence Leroux, Bennett Springs.*

### Best Equipment

Wildflower and bird books. *Stacey Brasier, Caulfield South.*

My walking poles which saved me several times from falling or twisting an ankle. *Bruce Mullan, Bassendean.*

Our billy which hosted many a hot cuppa around campfires. *John & Marilyn Beard, Albany.*

Hiking poles and blocks of chocolate. *Bella King, Applecross.*

Freshly ground coffee and an AeroPress!! *Mel Monks, Kununurra.*

Umbrella considering the rain and the sun the first 7-days of trail. *Hobbit, Carindale.*

### Worst Equipment

Nylon underwear - recommended by various hiking websites for their sweat wicking and anti-stink qualities, but they are extremely uncomfortable! *Alan Chung, Mount Lawley.*

My right knee. *Bella King, Applecross.*

My worst equipment was my wandering mind leading to slips, trips, falls, and missing turns!!! *Laurence Leroux, Bennett Springs.*

### Advice for others

Never underestimate your capabilities. *Gillian Kelaher, Madora Bay.*

The Track can become addictive. *Nancy Lindon, City Beach.*

Walk your own walk, it is a very personal experience and we each react differently to the day-to-day life on the track. *Hedley Amos, Jarrahdale.*

There is no rush, so don't push yourself too hard because you're likely to get injured. Also buy the best gear you can afford - you won't regret it. *Brock Heyns, Tapping.*

There's nowhere like the Bibb anywhere in the world. 6-star rating by comparison. *Lari McDonald, Forrestdale.*

Take a decent tent - There will come a time when all you want is a good night's sleep and a bit of privacy. Keep that pack as light as possible and stop often to sniff the air, look at the bugs and flowers and enjoy all the little moments of track magic to be found out there. *Mel Monks, Kununurra.*

I recommend walking at least four days in a row solo. The stillness may mess with your life in the best way possible. *Jules Birt, Hilbert.*



## Waugal cloth badge

Be reminded of your journey on the Bibbulmun Track with our latest cloth badge embroidered with the Bibbulmun Track Waugal trail marker.

RRP \$12.50  
**\$11.25**  
for members

Perfect for your backpack, t-shirt or Bibbulmun Track hat!

## FREE Trip PLANNING ADVICE

### Going on an extended walk or end-to-end?

Our free trip planning advice service is just one of the many benefits of being a member.

Experienced walkers will help you to plan your journey. If you can't make it into the office, then this service is also available via email. This is particularly popular with our interstate and international visitors.



# Accommodation, Tours and Services

Please support the Walker Friendly Businesses that support the Track.

🏠 ACCOMMODATION 🍴 CATERING 🚗 TRACK TRANSFERS 🛠️ EQUIPMENT SUPPLIER



BUSINESS NAME	TOWN	TYPE	PHONE	WEBSITE
1849 Backpackers Albany	ALBANY	🏠	(08) 9841 1574	1849backpackers.com.au
Albany Harbourside Apartments	ALBANY	🏠	(08) 9842 1769	albanyharbourside.com.au
Dunmoyle House B&B	ALBANY	🏠	(08) 9842 5235	dunmoyle.com.au
Busy Blue Bus Tours	ALBANY	🚗	0418 414 425	busybluebus.com.au
Rainbow Coast Taxis	ALBANY	🚗	(08) 9844 1115	rainbowcoasttaxis.business.site
Balingup Retreat	BALINGUP	🏠	0422 441 973	thebluecottages.com.au
Southampton Homestead	BALINGUP	🏠	0412 229 564	southamptonhomestead.com
Time Travel Tours & Transport	BALINGUP/DONNELLY RIVER	🚗	0417 099 268	facebook.com/TimeTravelToursandTransport/
Mandia B&B	COLLIE	🏠	0417 179 260	mandia.com.au
The Colliefields	COLLIE	🏠	(08) 9734 2052	colliefields.com
TraaVerse	COLLIE	🚗	0417 654 426	traaverse.com.au
Whispering Pines B & B	COLLIE	🏠	(08) 9734 3883	whisperingpinesbandb.com.au
Boddington Retreat	BODDINGTON	🏠	0422 441 973	boddingtonretreat.com.au
Blue Wren Travellers' Rest	DENMARK	🏠	(08) 9848 3300	denmarkbluewren.com.au
Cape Howe Cottages	DENMARK	🏠	(08) 9845 1295	capehowe.com.au
Denmark Co-Operative	DENMARK	🚗	(08) 9848 1200	denmark-coop.com.au
Denmark Forest Retreat	DENMARK	🏠	0438 938 798	denmarkforestretreat.com.au
The Cove	DENMARK	🏠	(08) 9848 1770	thecovechalets.com
Windrose B & B	DENMARK	🏠	(08) 9848 3502	windrose.com.au
Donnelly River Holiday Village	DONNELLY RIVER	🏠	(08) 9772 1244	donnellyriver.com.au
Blue Moon Forest Lodge	GLENORAN (DONNELLY)	🏠	0488 321 470	bluemoonforestlodge.com.au
Banksia Springs Cottages	DWELLINGUP	🏠	(08) 9538 1880	banksiasprings.com
Dwellingup Adventures	DWELLINGUP	🚗	(08) 9538 1127	dwellingupadventures.com.au
Dwellingup Retreat	DWELLINGUP	🏠	0422 441 973	dwellingupretreat.com.au
Dwellingup Transfers	DWELLINGUP	🚗	0473 924 680	facebook.com/dwellingup
Jarra Forest Lodge	DWELLINGUP	🏠	0402 615 235	forestdiscoverycentre.com.au
Mundaring Weir Hotel	MUNDARING	🏠🍴	(08) 9295 1106	mundaringweirhotel.com.au
Karri Country Good Food	NORTHCLIFFE	🏠	0455 628 097	karricountrygoodfood.com.au
Karri Hill Cottages	NORTHCLIFFE	🏠	(08) 9776 7349	karrihillcottages.com
Forest Lodge Resort	PEMBERTON	🏠	(08) 9776 1113	forestlodgeresort.com.au
Pemberton Discovery Tours	PEMBERTON/NORTHCLIFFE/DONNELLY RIVER	🚗	(08) 9776 0484	pembertondiscoverytours.com.au
People & Parcel Movers	PEMBERTON	🚗	0448 544 784	peopleparcelmovers.com.au
RAC Karri Valley Resort	PEMBERTON	🏠	1800 871 570	parksandresorts.rac.com.au/karri-valley
Manji Shuttle	PEMBERTON/DONNELLY RIVER	🚗	0457 356 177	facebook.com/manjimup.omnibus.service
King Mini Bus Charter	PERTH	🚗	0405 660 013	kingminibuscharter.com.au
Tribe and Trail	PERTH	🏠	(08) 6558 0535	www.tribeandtrail.com.au
Che Sara Sara Chalets	WALPOLE	🏠	(08) 9840 8004	chesarasara chalets.com.au
Coalmine Beach Holiday Park	WALPOLE	🏠	(08) 9840 1026	coalminebeach.com.au
Walpole Track & Trail Transfers	WALPOLE	🚗	0429 784 924	facebook.com/Naturallywalpole

GUIDED TOURS & EVENTS		
Adventurous Women	1300 388 419	adventurouswomen.com.au
Inspiration Outdoors	(08) 6219 5164	inspirationoutdoors.com.au
Life's An Adventure	(02 9975 4553)	lifesanadventure.com.au
Off The Beaten Track	0417 128 896	offthebeatenttrackwa.com.au
Simply Trekking	0427 058 866	simplytrekking.com.au
Walk into Luxury	1300 662 452	walkintoluxury.com.au

VISITOR CENTRES			
ALBANY	Albany Visitor Centre	(08) 6820 3700	theamazingsouthcoast.com
BALINGUP	Balingup Visitor Centre	(08) 9764 1818	balinguptourism.com.au
COLLIE	Collie Visitor Centre	(08) 9734 2051	collierivalley.com.au
DWELLINGUP	Dwellingup History & Visitor Centre	(08) 9538 1108	murray.wa.gov.au/tourism
KALAMUNDA	Perth Hills Visitor Centre	(08) 9257 9998	experienceperthhills.com.au
MANJIMUP	Manjimup Visitor Centre	(08) 9771 1831	manjimupwa.com
MUNDARING	Perth Hills Mundaring Visitor Centre	(08) 9295 0202	perthhillsmundaring.com.au
NORTHCLIFFE	Northcliffe Visitor Centre	(08) 9776 7203	northcliffe.org.au
PEMBERTON	Pemberton Visitor Centre	(08) 9776 1133	pembertonvisitor.com.au
PERTH	Western Australian Visitor Centre	(08) 9483 1111	wavisitorcentre.com.au
WALPOLE	Walpole-Nornalup Visitor Centre	(08) 9840 1111	walpole.com.au

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**Treat mum this Mother's Day with the best present: Uninterrupted "me time"!**

Buy Mum a Bibbulmun Track Foundation membership this Mother's Day. With heaps of benefits including a membership pack, free and discounted events, discounts on Bibbulmun Track merchandise, equipment hire, Track service providers, and more—this is the perfect gift that keeps on giving!

Check out our full range online at [www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/shop](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/shop)

Gifts Any Mum Would Love on Mother's Day

WWW.BIBBULMUNTRACK.ORG.AU

## PHOTO COMPETITION WINNER

This photo of BTF volunteers John Hosking and Bo English inspired a few entries including:

- "Now THAT's a feral cat". (Cedric Griffiths)
  - "Oh no! the Munda Biddi riders are on the wrong Track!" (Pam Chitty)
  - "Was that the Waugal calling?" (Barry Tregenza)
- And the winning caption (as voted by our office volunteers!) is:
- "We left it right here....Or was it over there?" from Daphne Bastow.

**A prize is in the post!**



# Thank you to all of our 454 volunteers!

Much of our work to help DBCA with the management, maintenance and marketing of the Track is performed by our dedicated volunteers. They keep the Track clear and safe, the office humming, our governance in good hands, our events superbly organised and led, the records from campsite logbooks transferred to a database, brochures distributed, the Track user counters checked regularly... and more! Huge thanks to all of you for being part of the team.

In November 2021, we held our annual volunteer functions in Perth, Donnybrook, Albany and Peaceful Bay. Special presentations were made at these events, of Long Service Awards and Annual Rewards.

## Long Service Awards

These recognise the commitment and loyalty of our long serving volunteers. Volunteers making a contribution to the Foundation for 5, 10, 15 and 20 years were recognised.

### 20 YEARS

Trish Bird  
Graham Murdoch  
Guy Spouge

### 15 YEARS

Julie Bessant  
Mal Cooper  
Wes Fokkema  
Colin Gee  
Ruth Gee  
Elsie Grygiel  
Caro Knight  
Patrick Tremlett

### 10 YEARS

Hedley Amos  
Janine Batger  
Joe Courtney  
Denise Hilsz  
Susan Soord  
Charles Soord  
Judy Wade

### 5 YEARS

Tim Bateman  
David Broughton  
Graham Cargeeg  
David Caughey  
Aron Downing  
Ashley Gibson  
Gillian Groom  
David Healy  
Graeme Howie

Mar Knox  
Michael Lancaster  
Chris Lee  
Dolly Meates  
Janice Moore  
Stephen Napier  
Wendy Nelson  
Steve Pontin  
Marg Pontin  
Mark Pybus  
Veronica Rae  
Gordon Roberts  
Preston Suijendorp  
Ron Sweeney  
Ian Walpole  
Stuart Weston  
Arthur Wright



Frankland district volunteers recognised for their contribution.

Linda Daniels thanks Guy Spouge and Graham Murdoch for 20 years of service.



## Annual Volunteer Rewards

Recognizing individuals who record 100+, 300+ or 500+ volunteer hours in the financial year. Over the 2020-21 financial year a total of 39,779 hours were contributed.

### 500+ HOURS

Peter Addenbrooke  
Isabel Busch  
Mark Davidson  
James Freeman  
Charmaine Harris  
Chris Lee  
Sue Lee  
Margot Lowe  
Michael Marsh  
Geoff Meates  
Graham Murdoch  
Nigel Pilgrim  
Ian Rae  
David Scott  
Ross Simpson  
Charles Soord  
Alex Williams  
Jing Xie  
James Young

Anthony Schlink  
Susan Soord  
Guy Spouge

### 100+ HOURS

Beryl Allen  
Greg Arnold  
Jenny Arnold  
Daphne Bastow  
Trish Bird  
Robert Bortot  
Karen Boyce  
David Bridger  
Claire Brittain  
Jack Busch  
Sandra Ceriani  
Kyle Chrystie  
Anthony Cole  
Alan Compton  
Garry Connell  
Mike Cosson  
Terry Coumbe  
Dave Currell  
Teresa Eldridge  
John Fenn  
Wes Fokkema  
Sue Freeman  
Paul Harris  
Bill Hewitt  
Kerry Hill  
Denise Hilsz  
John Hosking  
Jan Howie  
Beth Hutchison  
Tony Jennings  
Ce Kealley  
Gerry Killian  
Mar Knox

### 300+ HOURS

Maryanne Addenbrooke  
Robert Allen  
Hedley Amos  
Jim Baker  
Gary Ceriani  
Glenn Cook  
Colin Gee  
Helen Grimm  
Elsie Grygiel  
Donald Hill  
Phil Lehmann  
Megan Lloyd  
Christian Mau  
Lari McDonald  
Tim McGrath  
Gordon Roberts

Voon Choon Leong  
Melanee Maisey  
Nina Martin  
John McKay  
Dolina Meates  
Mochtar Mukmin  
John Murphy  
Keith Newby  
Stephen Nota  
Terry Ryan  
Judi Smith  
Stephen Smythe  
Mark Stafford  
Kathi Storig  
Daniel Tannenbaum  
Julia Taylor  
Patrick Tremlett  
Sue Verran  
Peter Whittle



Christian Mau received an Outstanding Service Award from DBCA.

Volunteers at the inaugural Donnybrook Thank You afternoon tea.



Volunteer morning tea in Perth.



# Vollie Corner



Helen Grimm

# TRACK TOWN - DWELLINGUP

**Getting the word out. Introducing people to the Track. Ensuring prospective walkers have all the information they need to hit the trail with confidence and knowledge. Promoting our guided walks. Sharing the work of the Foundation with the walking community. Supporting the engagement of the tourism industry with the Track.**

All these things and more fall within the Marketing and Promotions portfolio. It is a disappointing and tragic fact of life that there are some unfortunate people in WA who have never even heard of the Bibbulmun Track. Have never let their foot fall on wet leaves deep in the karri forest; never stood exhilarated on the coastline high above the ocean. Not everyone can be so lucky...but we can help them by opening the door to the long trail experience.

The marketing and promotion of the Track is one of the key functions of the BTF, in our role as community partner organisation to DBCA. We have two staff members responsible for this work - Ashley (our Marketing Manager) and Paul (our new Tourism Assistant) - assisted by a group of volunteers.

When we take a display to community events and expos, volunteers talk about the Track and answer typical questions. We have previously attended events such as the Walk the Zigzag, Government House open day, Park Trek, Trek the Trail, Hyde Park Fair and Makuru Arts Festival. At the inaugural Hike West Expo in 2021, many of the 1200 people who attended engaged with our volunteers over the course of the day.

Approximately 35 volunteers distribute over 3000 copies of our Calendar of Events brochure to various venues and organisations across Perth and around the southwest.

In the office, we currently have four dedicated marketing volunteers. They provide their time and expertise to help create and send email and e-news items, produce event listings, update notices, write copy including editorials and press releases, manage our social media presence, engage with stakeholders and the community, support engagement with tourism providers, organise member events and other larger events, and coordinate the brochure distribution.

In 2018 and 2019 we also provided 20 volunteers to assist DBCA with their project to record the Track for Google Streetview. The project eventually successfully recorded 70% of the Track; allowing viewing online for inspiration or planning purposes.

**Helen Grimm  
Volunteer Manager**



Volunteer, Sue, welcomes questions about the Track.

**Just a 90-minute drive from Perth, Dwellingup is home to incredible natural landscapes. It's a place where nature and adventure meet culture, where the wild at heart can escape and immerse themselves in pure, spectacular beauty.**

Rich in history, Dwellingup was once a thriving timber, milling and farming town. Settlers were drawn to the abundance of marri, jarrah and blackbutt old growth forests. Dwellingup was chosen in WWII as a location for an Italian and German POW camp (still a popular walk trail today) and importantly, survived the devastating 1961 lightning strike bushfires that razed surrounding towns.

Today, Dwellingup is a must-see destination with an abundance of nature inspired experiences and unique offerings that suit adventurers of all ages. Winning Western Australia's Top Small Tourism Town in GWN7's 2021 Top Tourism Town Awards, Dwellingup engages the heart and soul with its country charm.

Set among the towering trees synonymous with Dwellingup's rich history, the Dwellingup Trails and Visitors Centre takes pride of place, welcoming you to experience epic trail adventures. Visitors and walkers are able to stop, replenish and relax with excellent facilities. Take time to wash gear down, use the laundromat, have a

hot shower, charge devices and access the free Wi-Fi before heading off on your next journey.

Recently awarded 'Gold' in Visitor Information Services in the 2021 Perth Airport WA Tourism Awards, the DTVC staff are the local experts, sharing the passion and local knowledge of this adventure-filled region. Meticulously designed, you can explore immersive technology, virtual reality experiences, interactive touch maps and information screens, and admire the iconic, fully restored, 1939 Mack Truck fire tender.

For walkers, the Dwellingup Trails and Visitors Centre offer a Bibbulmun Track logbook, provide local trail and weather updates and assistance in sourcing accommodation and information on local services. You can pre-send packages (stored at no charge) for collection when you reach beautiful Dwellingup.

Dwellingup makes an ideal base to explore sections of the Track, or a stopover rest point on an 'end-to-end' journey. Take time to explore this remarkable part of the world, which is home to incredible natural landscapes, spectacular national parks, thriving river trails and towering old growth forests. The adventure is yours to create in Dwellingup.



Dwellingup Trails and Visitors Centre.



At the 2021 Hike West Expo.



Setting off from the Northern Terminus with the Google Trekker.



Lane Poole Reserve - Dwaarlindjirraap.

**Fact file:**

Dwellingup Trails and Visitors Centre, Marrinup Street, Dwellingup WA 6213

Open 9am - 4pm, 7 days a week (closed Christmas Day).

dtvc@murray.wa.gov.au  
(08) 9538 1108

Connect with us  
FB: Visit Dwellingup  
IG: @visitdwellingup



**Please support our Walker Friendly Businesses in the Perth Hills**

Banksia Springs Cottages  
(08) 9538 1880

Dwellingup Adventures  
(08) 9538 1127

Dwellingup Retreat  
0422 441 973

Dwellingup Transfers  
0473 924 680

Jarrah Forest Lodge  
0402 615 235

# WALKER STORY - Naturalist on the Bibbulmun

*Leigh W Simmons is Professor of Evolutionary Biology at the University of Western Australia. His research interests lie in the evolution of reproductive behaviour, physiology and morphology in both vertebrate and invertebrate animals. He has published more than 350 scientific articles and five academic books. His latest book, Naturalist on the Bibbulmun, describes the walk along the Track that he made, with his son, in 2018/19. But the book is much more than the story of his walk, as Professor Simmons explains:*

Noongar Dreaming tells how during the Nyitting -the cold time, most likely the end of the last glacial maximum- the Waugal rose from Mount Eliza at the eastern end of the Kings Park escarpment and formed the Derbarl Yerrigan and Djarlgarro Beeliar -the Swan and Canning Rivers. As the Waugal slithered across the landscape it created the sand dunes and river courses of the south-west corner of Western Australia, and it now lies along its length in the form of the Darling Escarpment.

The Bibbulmun Track is a world class walking trail that runs along the Darling Escarpment from Kalamunda in the north to D'Entrecasteaux in the south, before heading east along the south coast of WA to Albany, a distance of just over 1000 kilometres, guided by way-markers depicting the Waugal. Along the way it travels through the Wajuk, Pinjarup, Kaniyang, Bibbulmun and Minang Noongar countries. I walked the length of the Bibbulmun Track with my son over the seasons of Kamarang and Birak -November to January in 2018/19. To distract from the rigours and sometimes painful realities of carrying 17kg across 1000km of WA's remote bushlands, I used the Bibbulmun Track as a biological transect to document the flora and fauna of the south-western corner of Western Australia, and in so doing documented the evolutionary ecology of the animals and plants that cling to existence in our rapidly changing corner of the world.

In *Naturalist on the Bibbulmun* we learn why kookaburras laugh and why fairy wrens are so blue. Why cicadas click in unison and why snake venom is so



First night on the Track.

toxic. We learn of the contrivances by which orchids are fertilized by their insect pollinators and the hazards insects face from carnivorous plants. *Naturalist on the Bibbulmun* is a beginner's guide to evolution and ecology, and an insight into the trials and tribulations of the long-distance walker. But perhaps more importantly it is a call to arms.

The south-west of WA was recognised in 2000 as one of the world's twenty-five biodiversity hotspots. That sounds great doesn't it, a biodiversity hotspot. But it is not. The definition of a *biodiversity hotspot* is a region that is a significant reservoir of plant and animal species that is critically endangered. A criterion to be in the biodiversity hotspot club is that anthropogenic changes to the natural environment, through burning and clearing of land, and the warming and drying effects of human-induced climate change, have resulted in the loss of 70 per cent of the natural habitat. With that anthropogenic change comes the loss of those species of plants and animals that are unique to the region. We are now in the grave situation that this may be our last chance to witness and to save what remains of the ancient wilderness through which the mighty Bibbulmun Track passes. I wrote *Naturalist on the Bibbulmun* so that I might, in some small way, arouse a sense of country-*boodja* and draw the reader into the small but growing mob who recognise the need to preserve

the wilderness of this place, and of Planet Earth more widely.

In the words of David Attenborough, "few people will help protect the natural world if they don't first love and understand it". My hope is that *Naturalist on the Bibbulmun* will provide that understanding. We must all embrace the Noongar's sense of connection to *boodja* if we are to save this unique part of the world for future generations.

## Leigh W. Simmons

*Ed: Naturalist on the Bibbulmun is available from the Bibbulmun Track Foundation shop or can be bought online at: <https://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/shop/category/handy-books>*

*All royalties from these sales flow directly to the Foundation.*



Spider hunting wasp in the Showgrounds near Peaceful Bay.



Made it!

Biri biri or Rainbow Bee-Eater at Canning.



This recalcitrant yonaki or Heath Goanna Guarding Swamp Oak Campsite.



This recalcitrant yonaki or Heath Goanna Guarding Swamp Oak Campsite.



Struggling through the dunes east of Mandalay Beach.



**BTF members receive a 10% discount on LANDSCOPE subscriptions, prints and subscription plus Calendar package.**

Produced by DBCA, LANDSCOPE magazine is devoted purely to Western Australia's parks, wildlife and conservation.

Each beautifully designed issue features wonderful stories and articles written about parks, people, plants, animals, conservation, recreation, research, discoveries and so much more...all complemented with amazing photography. The latest edition provides an update on the many trail projects underway in the Great Southern region.

If you are a BTF member and don't have the discount code email [admin@bibbulmuntrack.org.au](mailto:admin@bibbulmuntrack.org.au).

**LANDSCOPE is currently offering a free Bush Book with every subscription** <https://shop.dbca.wa.gov.au/products/landscape-subscription>

# Notice board

## FOR SALE

### HIKING BOOKS (MENS)

Scarpa Terra GTX leather walking boots for sale. \$200 ono  
Hardly used. Size 43 (EU) 9 (UK).  
Purchased from Paddy Palin for \$315.

Contact: Mike  
0419 938 959  
Email: cosson@iinet.net.au

### DEUTER BACKPACK 55+10

Good and clean condition, with well-padded belt and fully adjustable air contact harness and own rain cover. A well-designed backpack with good pockets and sound structure. \$150 or make an offer.

Contact: Colin  
0419 356 962  
Email: gee.colin@gmail.com

### TYVEK TENT GROUND SHEET

Tyvek is widely used as a groundsheet for protecting the bottom of your tent. It is breathable, waterproof but very tough.

Sold per metre off a 3m wide roll.

61g per square metre, white.  
\$20 per metre for BTF members.  
\$25 per metre for non-members.

For more information about this product see the notice on our website.

Contact: Steve  
(08) 9481 0551  
events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

### WOMEN'S TRAIL RUNNERS

Women's Saucony Peregrine trail runners. Size 10.5 USA, 42.5 EUR, medium width. Great condition, just some wear on a couple of lugs. Only selling because they don't quite suit my feet, however extremely comfortable. \$70 ono.

Contact: Yolande  
0427303130  
Email: perthwinter@gmail.com

### BIG AGNES WYOMING 4 BASE CAMP TENT - \$690

Ideal for a group or family. Amazing quality, very light, strong and easy to put up. Self-supporting. It comes complete with the footprint (fitted ground sheet) which is normally an extra cost. Sleeps four in two separate room compartments with communal area in the centre. Outer doors can be lifted to make an awning on either side. It has been well maintained and little used and is in excellent condition. We bought this direct from USA for \$1290 plus shipping (US\$899.95 plus shipping) as it is not available in Australia.

For more information see the notice on our website.

Contact: Ian  
(08) 9526 2168  
Email: eyan@post.com

## WANTED

### WALKING BUDDY

Looking for a like-minded person to join me hiking. I prefer longer hikes. Please ring if you are interested.

Contact: Kaz (Track Crakar)  
0414 751 179  
Email: kazdowling@icloud.com

## Want to advertise on our notice board?

**Free for members** – just log into your profile on the Bibbulmun Track website.

Click the Notice Board & Classified tab under the News tab.

Non-members, please phone or email us to arrange your adverts.

**Cost is \$5 for 3 months.**

All items will be deleted from the website after three months if not renewed.

Phone (08) 9481 0551 or  
email friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

## TraaVerse.



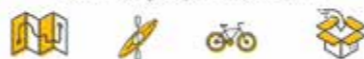
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www.traaverse.com.au



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Help us save time and postage and update your details. Hop onto our website, log in and update your details under My Account. You can also upload a pic of yourself!

Not sure how?

Visit our Website Help page under Contact Us at

www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Otherwise call us and we will update your profile for you.

## Favourite Short Walk - Mutton Bird Beach

Difficulty: **Grade 3**

Distance: **8.2km return**

Time: **2-3 hours**

Starting point: **Mutton Bird Beach car park.**

This short walk begins at the car park above the white sands of Mutton Bird Beach, opposite Shelter Island—a nature reserve that is home to colonies of little penguins and flesh-footed shearwaters.

As you walk along the Track (away from the beach) you'll have a fantastic view over the coastline and

if you're lucky the chance to spot passing dolphins or whales. After a short break at the Mutton Bird Campsite, retrace your steps back to the car park.

For a full day walk, you can continue along the Track to the Sandpatch car park and Albany Wind Farm, or further still to the Sandpatch Campsite.

This is one of the walks in the Clifftops to Treetops Itineraries covering Albany to Walpole. You can find this and other itineraries on our website.



## Track Tucker - Chicken, Rice and Vegetables

### Ingredients (for one serve):

- 500g chicken mince
- 1/2 onion
- 3 cloves crushed garlic

### Chicken

Brown in a non-stick pan (so no oil needed).

Add some breadcrumbs, garlic salt, onion powder, smoked paprika and chilli flakes. It's personal taste, but more than usual ensures a more flavoursome meal on the Track. We've read that breadcrumbs help with dehydrating and rehydrating meats.

*Dehydrate for 8-hours at 70 degrees.*

### Vegetables

We used broccoli, cauliflower, and carrots that we made into rice-sized pieces using a food processor. We then added corn. Cook in a non-stick pan with garlic salt, onion powder, salt, and pepper.

*Dehydrate over 4-hours at 60 degrees.*

### Rice

We used a microwavable pouch of basmati rice. Open packet and separate the grains.

*Dehydrate for 3-4 hours at 60 degrees.*

50g each of rice, chicken mince, and veggies made a large main meal. Adjust the weights according to individual needs.

### Rehydrating

Add 1 cup of water (ensure the dry ingredients are covered by water) and simmer while stirring for 10 mins. (Ed: alternatively, cover with boiled water and sit for an hour or more, and simply reheat prior to eating.)

We bought a dehydrator for \$100 off Marketplace and an Ambiano vacuum food sealer for \$40 with rolls \$15 from Aldi.

We even went out to Survival Supplies Australia, in Forrestdale, and purchased oxygen absorbers to help ensure longevity of meals.

### Rob and Louise Storey

(Rob is about to embark on his first end-to-end)



Rehydrated Chicken, rice & veggies.

# Who uses the Bibbulmun Track?

# Upcoming Events

The Bibbulmun Track is 1000km long, with multiple access points providing a huge number of options for hiking, from a couple of hours to a couple of months. The vast majority of walks on the Track are for the day, a weekend or up to a week.

Naturally, those travelling to Western Australia specifically to hike the Track walk for longer distances, including end-to-ends which take on average six to eight weeks. Hikers are asked to fill in a logbook at each campsite stating where they are from, their age, where they started their current walk and where they intend to finish. From this we are able to get a good insight into who is hiking the Track and for how long.

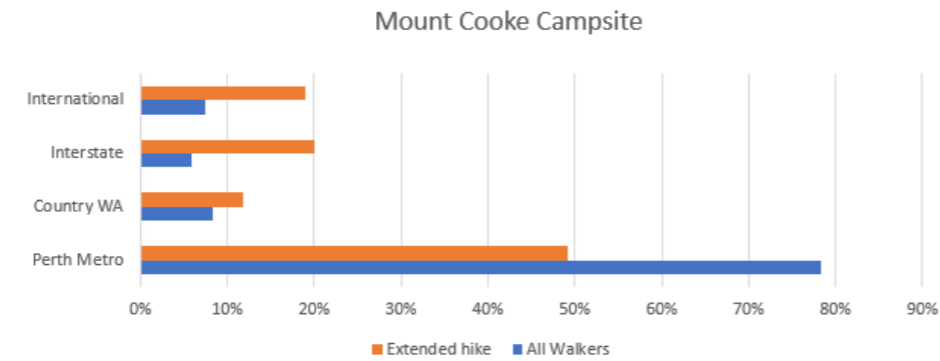
Logbooks are not such a good source of data for day-walkers. Many people walking the Track for a day or less don't come across a campsite – and if they do, only about one-third say they fill in the logbook.

Of the 392,450 logbook entries currently on our database, 10.3% are international walkers.

## A snap shot from Mt Cooke Campsite.

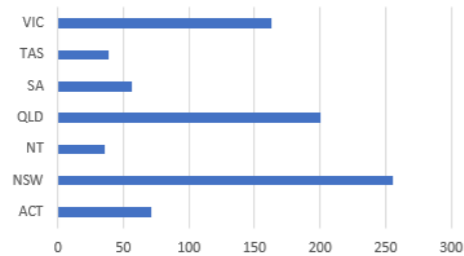
Mt Cooke Campsite is easily accessible from Perth and is a popular day-walk or overnight hike for both groups and individuals.

The following chart shows that nearly 80% of logbook entries at this campsite are made by walkers from the Perth Metro region.



However, when you look at the walkers undertaking a hike of three weeks or longer, around half are from the Perth Metro region, 20% are from interstate, 19% are international and 12% are from Country WA.

820 Interstate hikers walking for 21 days or more.



801 International hikers walking for 21 days or more	
Germany	122
UK	111
New Zealand	90
USA	82
France	36
Canada	32
Switzerland	30
Netherlands	27
Belgium	11
Ireland	10
Italy	8
Norway	8
Singapore	8
South Africa	8
Sweden	7

## Walking with Dad Weekend

Kids grow up so quickly and before you know it, they have flown the nest! Savour this time by creating as many wonderful memories together as possible. Our Walking with Dad and Walking with Mum weekends have been thoughtfully considered so they are enjoyed by parents and kids (8-13yrs) alike. Together you will enjoy two walks through the magnificent jarrah forest and camp overnight at a Bibbulmun Track campsite. Here you will learn bush and camping skills from our experienced guides and perhaps enjoy some marshmallows roasted over the fire. These events are guaranteed to be fun, fun, fun with long lasting memories for you all. The perfect opportunity to get outdoors with your kids.

**Date:** Sat 9th to Sun 10th April  
**Where:** Murdoch Park'n'Ride  
**Rating:** Beginners  
**Cost:** Members \$205 (1 adult & 1 child)  
 Non-Members \$240



Walking with Dad Weekend.

## Bibbulmun For Beginners

The perfect introduction to overnight bushwalking, discover the tranquillity of the bush as you explore a relatively easy section of the Bibbulmun Track. We walk approximately 8km each day and camp out under canvas at a typical Bibbulmun Track campsite. Our experienced and friendly guides will teach you all you need to know about walking and camping and give you the confidence you need to venture out on your own. Hire gear available at no extra cost on this overnight Trek.

**Date:** Sat 9th and Sun 10th May  
**Where:** East of Armadale  
**Rating:** Beginners  
**Cost:** Members \$155;  
 Non-Members \$175

## Ramble & Paddle

A fantastic walking and paddling weekend escape in Dwellingup.

Two adventures wrapped up in one weekend! This is one of our favourite events. Forget the heavy packs; enjoy a rewarding 14km walk on our Track with only a day pack. You will have time to enjoy some of the local attractions and a fascinating tour of the historic Marrinup POW camp before a tranquil paddle down the Murray River. Includes accommodation, breakfasts (other meals not included), guided POW tour, experienced guides, canoe equipment and instruction, return transport for from Murdoch Park'n'Ride rail terminal, as well as all transfers over the weekend.

**Date:** Fri 27th to Sun 29th May  
**Where:** Dwellingup  
**Rating:** Beginners  
**Cost:** Members \$310 (early bird);  
 Non-Members \$345

## Mumby Pub Plod

For those of you who are fit and have had previous overnight trekking experience carrying a full pack, join experienced guides walking 54km over 3 days from Balingup to Mumballup. Wander along pleasant old rail formations, experience the thrill of reaching fabulous vistas over forest and farmland and get a glimpse at what a virgin jarrah forest might have looked like years ago. We return to Balingup at the end of our walk for showers and return home by our own private bus. A great way to spend the long weekend. Includes backpacker accommodation in Balingup on Friday night, return transport from Murdoch Park'n'Ride, comprehensive planning night, trip preparation manual, experienced guides, bus transfer back to Balingup, map and equipment hire. BYO food.

**Date:** Fri afternoon 3rd to Mon 6th June (long weekend)  
**Where:** Murdoch Park'n'Ride  
**Rating:** Experienced  
**Cost:** Members \$295;  
 Non-Members \$315

More events and all bookings are available online at:  
[www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au)

# Swamp Bottlebrush

In April we move into the season of Djeran, a time of red flowers, especially from the Red Flowering Gum.

Along the Track, the Swamp Bottlebrush (*Beaufortia sparsa*) is prevalent through the Pingerup Plains between Dog Pool and Woolbales Campsites (Northcliffe to Walpole). It is an erect or spreading shrub with round, dished leaves crowded on the younger stems, and bright red flower spikes in the warmer months.

Due to the low vegetation through the plains, the Swamp Bottlebrush can be seen for many hundreds of metres and appears to blanket the landscape when in full bloom.



Swamp Bottlebrush by Charmaine Harris

# Social Sunday walks

Free for members. See booking conditions online.

**WALK RATINGS:** BEGINNERS INTERMEDIATE EXPERIENCED

DATE	DETAILS	RATING
12 June 2022 @ 10:30am	11km return walk from Mundaring Weir to Ball Creek Campsite	
26 June 2022 @ 9:00am	17km return walk from Brookton Hwy to Canning Campsite	
3 July 2022 @ 9:00am	15km return from Mt Cooke Pines to Nerang Campsite	
10 July 2022 @ 8:30am	23.5km return walk from Perth Hills Discovery Centre to Helena Campsite (Fit and experienced walkers only!)	
14 August 2022 @ 8:30am	20km walk from Kalamunda to Hewett's Hill Campsite (Fit and experienced walkers only!)	
28 August 2022 @ 8:30am	21km return walk from Brookton Hwy to Mt Dale Campsite	

**Bookings for each walk will open one month prior to each walk.**

Book online, or contact the BTF office for a booking form. Bookings cannot be made over the phone.



# Track Trivia

## Hello fellow Bibbulmun Enthusiasts

I first set foot on the Track in 1999 and walked it end-to-end in 2001 and I've been pondering recently—what major changes have occurred on the Track itself, within the BTF and with walkers since those early days?

Well, the fundamentals of the Track philosophy remain the same. The Bibbulmun Track is a wilderness track; escalators on the hills, Sherpas for rent, cold beer machines, none of these, suggested by tired and weary hikers, have been installed. However, physical changes have been forced upon us and lessons learned.

An excellent steel suspension bridge has replaced the wonderful old Long Gully wooden bridge destroyed by the fires of 2015 and shelters at a number of campsites, also devastated by fire, have been replaced by structures built from rammed earth or similar fire-resistant materials. The new shelter at Helena Campsite has been enormously well received and dubbed the Hilton of the Track!

On-going work in improving the sustainability of the surface of the Track has been carried out, with much effort concentrated in methods of erosion control, many campsites have been refurbished and generally improved and plans are well underway for another group campsite.

But it will never be a stroll in the park—if you go out on to the Track, be prepared!

Even within the confines of the BTF office change has occurred. As has always been the case a non-member wishing to gain entry must bring food, preferably chocolate cake, and we can't function without morning coffee. But we have moved on in more ways than

one. Our website has brought much acclaim and the BTF has a reputation for service excellence. Our systems and procedures have been updated and the office remains a wonderful place to work as a volunteer. Laughter is still the mainstay of the day's work.

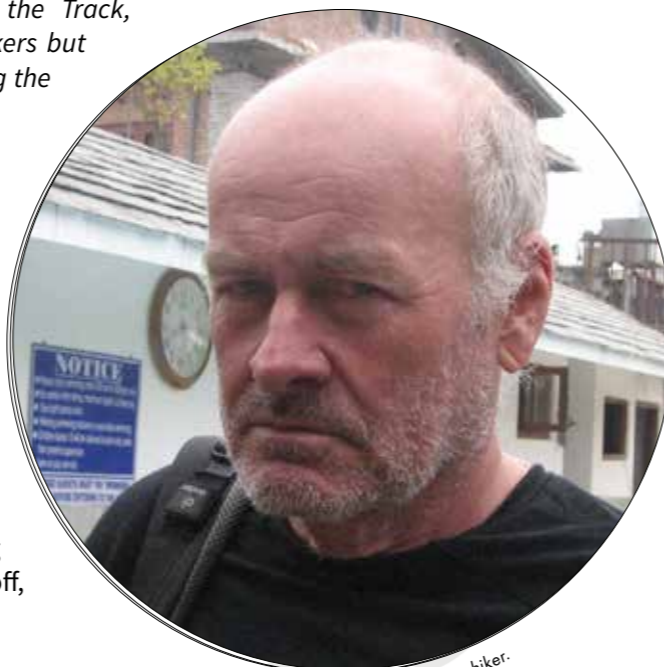
The most recent change has been the move to Aberdeen Street after our enforced evacuation of the YHA building. For me it is a big improvement. The overall office space is smaller but works well and the surroundings are certainly a big improvement on our previous locations.

So, have the walkers changed? I certainly have since 2001—I'm heavier, slower and, my wife claims, grumpier. (See picture below). But bush walkers never seem to change in their enthusiasm for the outdoors and the camaraderie, humour and generosity that seems to be intrinsic in those who love the bush. It is always very rewarding to talk to walkers who have completed an end-to-end and hear their comments:

*"I very much enjoyed our walk and the strong sense of community and communal support along the Track and in the towns made the experience all the better"*

*"We could not believe the help and kindness offered along the Track, not only from other walkers but people in the towns along the way"*

Geoff Schafer, the doyen of the Track, the man with the original concept, always maintained that it should be there to be embraced by the communities along the way, a facility that could be enjoyed by families as well as those who made long distance treks. Well Geoff, it certainly has been!



A grumpy hiker.

Gear has developed enormously over the past two decades with emphasis on lighter weight and greater durability. The philosophy that "deprivation brings about appreciation" is clearly shown in many red registers by walkers who, after several days of sleeping on the ground, wearing the same, sometimes forever damp clothes, eating dehydrated food and drinking rainwater still write longingly about arriving in the next town for hot showers, soft beds, steak and chips, cold beer and red wine.

Probably the most marked difference between walkers today and of yesteryear is a higher reliance on the electronic world, with mobile phones providing systems such as digital maps. These are fine, but I would not set out on the Track without a paper map or guidebook. Electronics break down or run out of power. If, as I did once, you drop your phone in the sea you will be in trouble with no back-up device.

So, there it is—the Track is as good if not better than ever, has proved a godsend to many people over the last couple of years and will continue to be a wonderful asset for years to come.

**Happy Walking,  
Wrong Way Jim**

# REFLECTIONS FROM THE REGISTERS

## BOARDING HOUSE

Spent a lovely day walking through the cathedral of the karris in the company of the Donnelley River. We took as many stops as we wanted and needed, danced and sang a celebration around the half-way marker and happily soaked our tired feet in the rapids.

Anon - 08/11/2020

Generally on my journey I double-hut when I can as long days and lots of ks don't bother me, but it constantly amazes me that no matter how long the day is, the last one kilometre is always a mental struggle. "Surely should be at the shelter by now?" Am I alone in this?

JD - 30/072021

*ED: Not at all! Just about every walker I have talked to over many years shares the same feeling!*

## TORBAY

So this will be my last night on the Track. I'll walk into Albany tomorrow and feel a bit sad about it all to be over. I've had a great time, met a lot of great people, enjoyed the campfires, karris, tingles, cupso'soup, dried potatoes, the blisters and the pain, the joy of every new day and what it would bring. Thanks to everyone who was part of my journey. I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I have,

Dianna - 23/11/2018

## WARREN

Something strange has happened over the last few days, a sense of deep and complete peace has come over me. I feel calm, unhurried, unworried. Dreams are vivid and strange but they don't scare me. Is this a normal thing at this point in the journey? What even is normal, anyway? So much company at the shelter tonight; lovely although I feel almost overwhelmed. I love the full moon tonight and am excited to see the sun rise tomorrow.

Elmo end-to-end day 27 24/07/2021

## GIANTS

What an absolutely stunning forest! I enjoyed the beautiful walk from Rame Head today taking in the not so inconspicuous cliffs, with the deep blue southern ocean lapping at the shore line. I am now sitting in the Giants shelter with the sun gently filtering through the trees. Definitely a special part of the planet.

Erik Redtail Haymann 28/04/2018



# Prize WINNERS!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF OUR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP PRIZE DRAW

### November

Jamie Serle received a Titanium Spork.

### December

Janelle Parks received an X Bowl.

### January

Teresa Eldredge and Leigh Sillence received an X Cup.

### February

Jan Legg received a Titanium Spork.

All prizes generously donated by



## LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY...

Include a gift for the Bibbulmun Track Foundation in your will and help ensure the Bibbulmun Track is maintained for generations to come.



Blackwood Campsite by Mark Pybus (The Life of Py)

# Trailing around the World



Lakes, mountains and glaciers provide spectacular views for hikers in Torres del Paine National Park.

## Hiking amongst Condors

Puerto Natales is a pretty little town, nestled between the Argentine border and the cold dark waters of the Patagonian Fjords. It's half the size of Albany and roughly 1800km closer to the South Pole. Winters there are long and harsh.

It's also the closest town to Torres del Paine National Park, which in 2019 attracted over 300,000 visitors, mostly foreigners, who probably thought that travelling to the ends of the earth to explore mountain scenery straight from Lord of Rings was worth the effort—as I did!

The Park offers two world-class multi-day hikes, the longer "O" circuit that circumnavigates the Paine massif, a spur of the southern Andes and the 80km "W" trek that follows three parallel valleys into the heart of the massif, each valley offering something different. I'd discussed hiking the "W" with friends Jane and Pete from London, where I've been living for 15 years. They went out to Chile to complete an iron distance triathlon in northern Patagonia, and I went out to support. It made total sense to include a road trip, explore the region, and to hike.

### Day 1

At the park HQ, we paid the entry fee, collected our permits, and climbed back on our coach for a short drive to Lake Pehoé. We slid through a dramatic landscape of jagged peaks, glaciers and condors. (Ed: Condors are black

vultures, one of the largest birds of prey in the world, with a wingspan of over three meters. The condor is the national symbol of Chile and other South American countries). Guanacos (alpaca-like mammals) dotted the hillsides like grazing sheep. It was stunning. We hopped off at Pudeto under leaden skies and waited for the catamaran that would motor us across the lake to the Paine Grande Refugio. We pulled on rain jackets as soft rain began to fall but it couldn't dull our excitement.

We watched the other well-kitted hikers and I felt envious and inadequate. I'd rushed my packing with only hours to spare before the flight to Santiago in November to begin six months of backpacking through South America. My well-used camping kit, Macpac tent and backpack were boxed up with all my belongings in my loft in London. Fortunately, we had decided to glamp, travelling with minimal kit, renting tents/beds and paying half-board. We were doing this lightweight, quick, and efficient. So I bought a cheap 50L backpack and some hiking gear in Puerto Natales, which did the job.

After a picturesque 30-minute ride across the lake we checked into the Paine Grande Refugio.

I booked a pre-erected platform tent while Pete and Jane took a dorm room in the Refugio itself. We grabbed a quick snack, organised day packs and rain

jackets, then headed out for our first leg of the "W"—12km along Lago Grey to the Grey Glacier. There was a cut-off time on this stretch, so we hiked fast, overtook many slower walkers, with our goal Mirador Grey, the glacier lookout, not the intermediate lake lookout. Halfway, we crested a short climb and were rewarded with spectacular views of Lago Grey, where huge icebergs hung suspended in milky blue waters. Beyond we could see the broad face of the glacier, numerous pinnacles, and the odd condor.

We passed Refugio Grey and a sign highlighting the 4pm cut-off for the trail back to Paine Grande. It was 3:50pm. We hurried along the trail to Mirador Grey. It was rushed but it was worth it. Large blocks of broken ice filled a dirty pool in front of the huge wall of Glacier Grey. We took photos, tried to absorb the amazing view in short order, then turned on our heels and headed back, passing the cut-off sign at 4:05. The rain chased us back to the Refugio but eased by the time we'd arrived. We'd clocked up 25 km and 960m ascent in under six hours, back in time for a few well-earned beers and a very filling buffet dinner. We enjoyed views of Patagonian peaks and dirty-white glaciers hanging in early evening light, while around us, the excited chatter of hikers filled the air. I've been in worse places.

### Day 2

Breakfast was another buffet so I wouldn't need lunch. Fierce overnight winds had dropped away but the skies were thick and dull. As we left the Refugio rocky spires began to reveal themselves slowly and dramatically. The wind picked up again as we hiked to Italiano, a midway camping area, where we stopped to add our backpacks to the



Looking south along Lago Grey.

huge colourful wall of packs dropped outside the ranger's hut. This was the bottom of the "W". Our next leg, up the centre, took us through Valle del Francés to Mirador Británico, into a high-walled cirque, or glacial valley. We grabbed day packs and water and began our two-hour roller coaster climb to the Británico lookout, which offered stunning views of sheer cliffs that dripped glaciers and pinnacles, snagging passing clouds. There was a brief respite in the weather as we enjoyed the vista. Back at Italiano, we snacked, hoisted our back packs and continued east to our camp at Francés an hour away. The sun disappeared behind thickening clouds and the wind picked up again. Our home for the night was a prefabricated dome tent, geodesic in design, all metal scaffolding and canvas, with bunks for eight, toilets, shower, and a wood stove. Dinner was stodgy and filling, washed down with a few beers and wine as we chatted to other hikers but with limited space we were ousted after our dinner hour was up. We grabbed drinks and headed back to our bunks. Another 23km and 1075m ascent in the bag.

### Day 3

Sleep didn't come easy. We were serenaded all night as our dome howled, snapped and hammered in the fierce Patagonian winds. And then there was the rain. Heavy rain.

Breakfast was cramped with queues for cereal and coffee. We checked the forecast. Drank more coffee. Chatted. Jane fashioned a rain cover for her pack. We stayed for lunch and waited for a weather window, but Torres Central was only a few hours away, so we finished more coffees, paid up and departed. We negotiated a pebbled beach beside a lake that shimmered an impossible blue despite the rain. Numerous creek crossings required some careful footwork on slippery rocks, while occasionally we caught glimpses of impossibly tall waterfalls and condors circling amongst the clouds.

After 16km we arrive at Torres Central camping area where our pre-erected tents awaited, roomy, but damp. After hot showers we headed across the rickety wooden bridge to the nearby hotel for pre-dinner drinks where we chatted to some Americans who were rising at 3.00am to see the Torres at sunrise. We felt that this was tempting the weather gods too much. We'd be rising later.

Walter Rthon



The milky blue waters of Lago Nordenskjöld lit by temporary sunshine and blue skies.

### Day 4

By 6:30am we'd packed and dropped our backpacks at the hotel. After another filling breakfast we started our climb to the Torres, the Crown Jewels of the park. By day's end we would clock up 23km and 1250m ascent. It was warm as we hiked up into sunshine through Valle Ascencio. After an hour we passed through Refugio Chileno, where hikers and campers sat drinking coffee.

We caught glimpses of sharp Torres' spires before we entered arctic beech forests that offered shade beside noisy waterfalls. After a final scramble through a boulder field, we turned a corner atop a ridge to arrive at the viewpoint. Mirador Torres overlooks a small picturesque blue lake, beneath the jagged towers. The scene was breath-taking, as was the frigid wind that cut across the lake. We had to shelter behind large rocks in the sun, while we grabbed snacks and took photos. The wind was sucking warmth from our bones, so we spent as long as we dared before we quickly descended.

We were up and back in five hours. As luck would have it we made an earlier bus out, with time to grab a few drinks for the trip back to Puerto Natales. In total we had hiked 87km and climbed almost 4000 vertical meters, over the four days. I was tired but happy and I stared out of my window at small groups of guanacos, a lone fox, and condors that wheeled on thermals in the distance. The mountains slowly vanished. Bye-bye Torres, it was magical. Less than three months later Covid hit the continent and I flew home to Brisbane. That was March 2020. I'm still here, I'm still hiking, but I've swapped condors for cockatoos and kookaburras.

Walter Rthon





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