

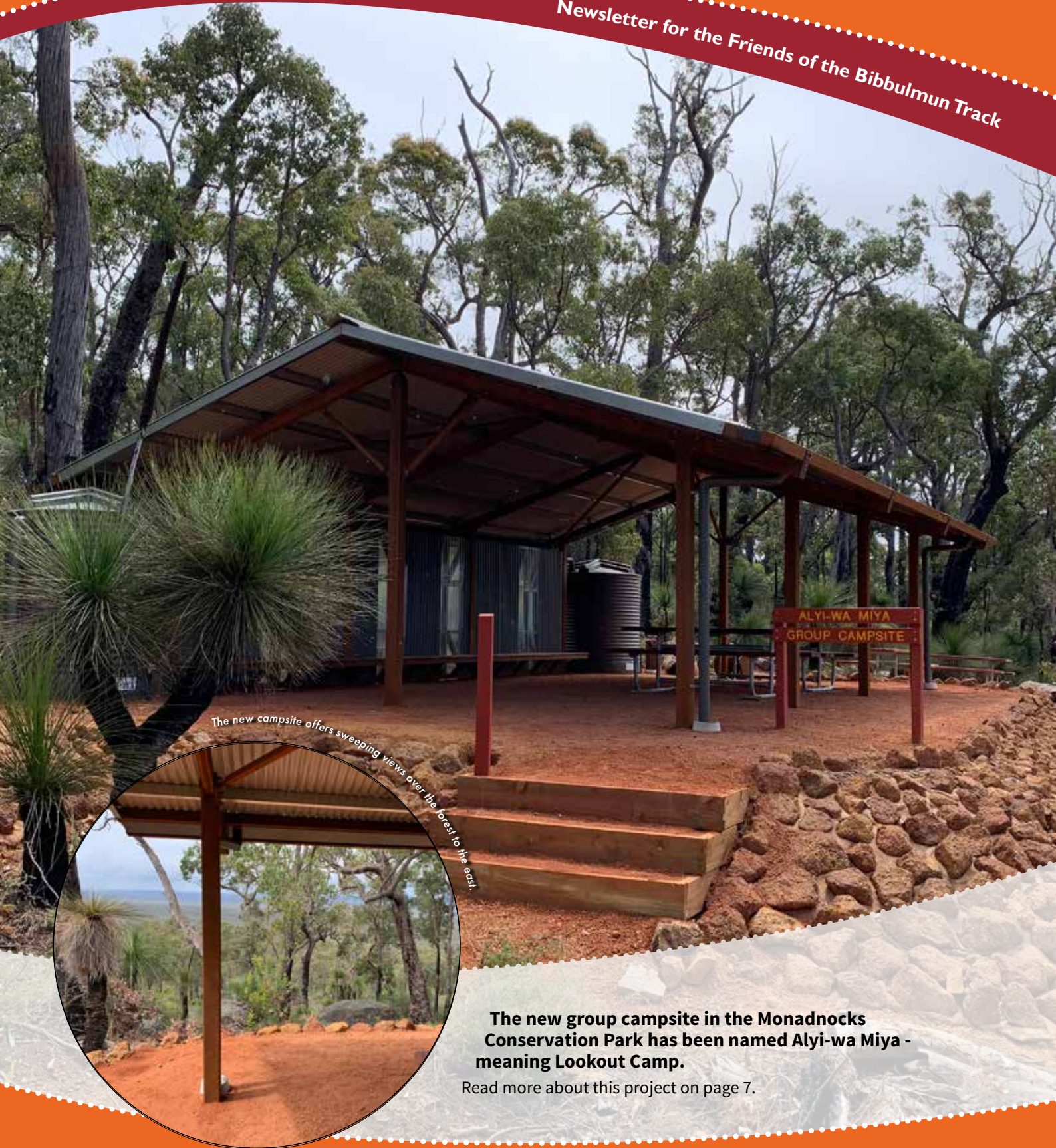
# Bibbulmun

# NEWS

DECEMBER - MARCH 2023  
SEASONS OF BIRAK & BUNURU  
ISSUE #91  
RRP \$8.00



Newsletter for the Friends of the Bibbulmun Track



*The new campsite offers sweeping views over the forest to the east.*

**The new group campsite in the Monadnocks Conservation Park has been named Alyi-wa Miya - meaning Lookout Camp.**

Read more about this project on page 7.



# 2022 AGM and Elections

We were pleased to welcome 40 members to the Foundation's 25th AGM which was held on 27 October at the Universal Bar in Northbridge.

In addition to providing an opportunity to update members on our activities for the year (you can read the Annual Report on our website), an election was held to fill the four vacant positions.

Nominations were received from Kath Broderick, Tristy Fairfield, Charlie Soord, Tim Larkin, Tim Macknay and Helen Studham and a vote was held.

Three positions were filled by returning Board members: Kath, Charlie and Tristy, and we were pleased to welcome newly elected member Tim Larkin.

## Welcome Tim

Tim lives on a small farm near Balingup on the Blackwood River where the Bibbulmun Track crosses his property. He is a very keen bush walker and has trekked many remote places both throughout Australia and the world. Tim brings to the Board more than 30 year's experience working for leading multinational companies in project development, operational and strategic planning roles. In addition, he was the chief executive of an Aboriginal-owned, diversified business serving the Pilbara.



## Farewell and Thank you Patrick

Chair, Kath Broderick thanked retiring member, Patrick Tremlett, for his 17 years of service on the Board. As a retired drafter of legislation, Patrick contributed

greatly to policy and governance matters and his wisdom and pragmatic approach will be missed.

Fortunately, we are not losing him altogether and Patrick is continuing to volunteer with the Foundation as a Guide and maintenance volunteer. Thank you Patrick for your continued support of the Bibbulmun Track!

# We're Dreaming of a Perfect Christmas!

Let Santa's helpers take the hustle out of your shopping.

Head online or pop into our shop and tick those lists off with some of our wonderful Bibbulmun Track gifts. Buy online today, call (08) 9481 0551 or pop into the BTF office.



## Impossible to buy for?

A Bibbulmun Track Membership - give the gift that lasts the whole year (or three!)

- Individual - 1 year \$55 or 3 years \$150
- Senior - 1 year \$40 or 3 years \$105

Or give a Bibbulmun Track Gift Voucher (any amount) that can be used for any merchandise or BTF event.

## Unique Bibbulmun Track branded items

- Head Sox - \$32.00
- KeepCup - \$17.60
- Number plate surrounds - \$22.00
- RockTape - \$22.50

Christmas stocking fillers:

- 2nd Ed Guidebooks - \$11.95
- Track maps - \$12.95
- Bush books - \$6.95
- Nalgene water bottles - \$18.00
- Posters - \$10.00
- Snake bite kit - \$29.95
- Fridge magnets - \$6.10
- Replica Waugals \$8.40

## Good Reads

**Naturalist on the Bibbulmun**  
by Leigh Simmons

Part field guide, part travelogue, part love song to the Southwest region of WA, you'll be enchanted by Leigh Simmons's documentation of plants, animals and Noongar seasons - **\$39.99**

**Noongar Bush Tucker**  
by Vivienne Hansen and John Horsfall

Bush food plants and fungi of the south-west - **\$34.99**

**Birds of Perth Hills** by Talitha Huston  
World class photographs with first class observations of birds and their behaviour - **\$24.99**

## One for the Kids...

**Off the Track**  
by Cristy Burne

An adventure for young readers about falling in love with the bush, hiking and being in the wild. It's about disconnecting - **\$15.00**





# FROM MY Desk

## Welcome to the summer edition of Bibbulmun News.

I recently had the pleasure of catching up with Galeo Saintz, the founding Chair of the World Trails Network, which is dedicated to the promotion, preservation and enjoyment of trails around the world.

In Perth to speak at the WA Trails Forum, Galeo took the time to check out some of our trails, including an overnight hike on the Bibbulmun Track. He is particularly passionate about walking as it is a great equalizer and widely accessible regardless of age and fitness levels. "Walking teaches us humility, camaraderie and companionship in a non-competitive environment," he said. "What trails offer us is the opportunity to not only connect with ourselves and with each other but to really connect to nature. There is something radical that happens when we spend time out on trails that really changes the quality of our thinking, and the more time we spend in nature makes us happier and smarter."

We couldn't agree more and are proud that, through our events, tours and information services, thousands of people have been encouraged to walk on the Bibbulmun Track over the past two decades. It is particularly satisfying when someone who is new to bushwalking attends a day walk and goes on to hiking independently for longer periods, in some instances becoming a fully trained BTF guide!

A few weeks ago our guides had the opportunity to spend a few hours on the Track with traditional owner Joe Collard. Two pilot walks were held to fine-tune the logistics and delivery of cultural tours on the Track by Joe, who is the Managing Director of Djoona. For our guides, it was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Aboriginal culture, language and the bush. It was very special to hear the dreamtime stories and about Joe's connection to his ancestors through the land (boodjar).

It is just the start of our journey to increase awareness and understanding of Noongar culture and you can read more about this on page 11.

Speaking about journeys, we are working hard on plans for the 25th Anniversary walk and celebrations. It is an opportunity to connect with a new generation of school children and community members in the nine towns along the Track. The timeline is on page 23 and we invite you to get involved!

In the meantime, Christmas is around the corner.

I wish you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday season and Best Wishes for 2023.

**Linda Daniels**  
Executive Director

Join us on



## Welcome to our new Sponsors!

### Ultra Series WA

Born in 2016, Ultra Series WA is a thriving community of eclectic runners that stage some incredible events around the country from short beginner distances to crazy, ridiculous 200 milers. These include the Feral Pig event in the Darling Range and the Delirious West along the spectacular south coast section of the Bibbulmun Track.



Founder, Shaun Kaesler, has created a community for stories and reason, where everyone is equal whether the fastest of rabbits or the tortoise just knocking the distance out getting to that finish line. A community where adventures are created, lives are changed, astonishing achievements are created and egos are left at home.

If you share a passion for trails and running. You can find out more at [www.ultraseries.com.au](http://www.ultraseries.com.au)

### Paddy Pallin

We are delighted to welcome Paddy Pallin as a Bronze sponsor. Since its inception, the name of Paddy Pallin became synonymous with the Australian bush, and the company he founded has grown to become Australia's leading supplier of specialist outdoor and travel gear. The company has 13 stores throughout Australia including the Perth store at 849 Hay Street.



Still owned by the Pallin family, the company continues its tradition of designing and sourcing technical adventure clothing and equipment for the Australian market. This has enabled the combining of cutting-edge technology with the wisdom gleaned from many years of experience. [www.paddypallin.com.au](http://www.paddypallin.com.au)



The BTF is a member of the **World Trails Network.**

Find out more about this organisation at: <https://worldtrailsnetwork.org/about/>

## Season's Greetings

The office will be closed from 4.00pm Friday 16th December 2022 until 10.00am Monday 23rd January 2023.





# YOUR Letters

Hi Jim,

Thanks again for all your help in planning and the food drop, we loved our time on the Bibbulmun and have found the past fortnight hard to get back into routines of home as we keep thinking about being back on the Track!

The Bibbulmun is such an amazing resource for you Western Australians, we were blown away by the track condition and all the resources connected to it. Hopefully we can return to do some more one day.

Leah

Hi Issy,

I finished the walk yesterday. It took me 35 days; 31 walking days and 4 rest days. The walk was just wonderful, the Bibbulmun is one of the world's great long-distance walks. An unexpected aspect of the walk was the friendly companionship, not only of my fellow walkers but also the people I met in the towns along the way. The flowers were amazing, the landscape interesting, the trees glorious, the beaches beyond beautiful.

A big thank all your help and guidance.

Regards Steve Watson

*Ed - Jim and Issy are two of our wonderful volunteers who provide free trip planning to members*

Dear Steve and Sue

We would like to thank you so very much for a wonderful experience! You were brilliant together, sharing your enthusiasm, knowledge, passion and care for us all. It will live for us long into the future. Wishing you both all the very best,

Kindest regards Julie and Julian Mulholland

*Ed - Fabulous feedback from participants on the 8-day Highlights tour*

## PHOTO COMPETITION WINNER

This photo of maintenance vollies enjoying their tea break under tarps inspired a few entries! Here are a few:

*"Alex was ecstatic. Just as El Jefe of the Medellin Cartel had promised, the drugs had been secretly rowed ashore at -35.0014671, 116.5278756 overnight from the chartered yacht. What Alex didn't realise, however, was that beneath the tarpaulins were two motionless AFP coppers and two of their silently slaving Alsatians." - Arthur Wright*

*"Undercover tea keeps work on track" - Elise Marciano*

*"Everyone Tarped up for Tea on Track!" - Clinton Ten Vaanholt*

**And the winner (as judged by our office volunteers) is!....**

*"Track Security Volunteer confirms all traps contain orcs before arranging the relocation of these introduced pests to their home kingdoms." - from Geoff Corrick.*

**Well done, Geoff... a prize is in the post!**

# Prize WINNERS!

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

### August

**Jessica Miller** received a Xcup and Accessory case.

### September

**Carol Simmons** received an XBrew collapsible coffee dripper.

### October

**Roslyn Burnside** won an 8 litre dry sac and a dry lite towel (donated by one of our volunteers).

All prizes generously donated by



**WOO HOO!  
WIN A \$300 gift card  
from Anaconda!**

Join or Renew as a Life Member before 30 January 2023 to go into the draw for a \$300 gift card from Anaconda.

**ANACONDA**



# A Tale from the Track

Seven hikers started off to walk their favourite Track,  
Seven hikers started, but only six walked back...  
(Although we met two hikers doing end-to-ends  
Four days together camping and we soon became firm friends)

Glen from Dwelly transfers dropped us with our packs  
We set off from the highway, so happy to be back  
The sunshine shone, our spirits high, the recent storms had fled  
Looking forward to our hike, and adventures up ahead  
Uphill to Boonerring, with views both far and wide,  
We wandered through the jarrah, then down the other side

At White Horse Hills we downed our packs, and stretched out with a sigh  
Donna said "This weighs too much, I'm trying to work out why.  
I usually hike with children and I'm carrying too much food,  
But now I don't want dinner, I'm just not in the mood."  
We settled in and made a camp and started cooking tea  
Angela was happy' cos she'd found a Reference Tree

Now Donna's mat was very flat - it wouldn't hold a puff  
You don't sleep sound on rock-hard ground, her night was pretty rough  
When we set off in the morning she wasn't feeling great,  
Even though we shared her load to help her lose some weight  
She said, "I have this heartburn and just can't bear to eat."  
But we made her drink and have some snacks to keep her on her feet

Climbing up Mt Wells was slow, although she did it, blow by blow  
Everybody did their best, to help her reach our goal, and rest  
By the time she reached the top, she was wrecked, and glad to stop  
We sat her on a borrowed mat, kept her warm, then laid her flat  
Took her pulse, which was too fast, and came up with a plan at last  
There only was one way to go - make the call, dial Triple 0

They said they'd send an ambulance, but it was getting dark  
Plan B was then a chopper - but was there room to park?  
It's getting dim, we heard the din of helicopter blade,  
We stood outside and waved our lights so they could see the glade  
They circled round, then round again, then hovered fairly still

And from above there dropped a man - let's call him Hero Bill!  
A paramedic superhero, bags in hand he came  
We ushered him into the hut and told him Donna's name  
Our headlamps gave him light to see, and stick on dots for ECG  
He talked to Donna, cool and calm, and stuck an IV in her arm,  
He said, "Your heart looks fine, but still, we need to get you off this hill"

He helped her don a harness and a helmet for her head,  
He pointed to the chopper, "Equipment first" he said,  
We hunched together tightly with our backs towards the gale  
Created by the rotors - this really is a tale!  
The bags went up and he came back, looked Donna in the eye  
"Now listen very carefully, it's time for us to fly!"

He clipped them close together and held her very tight,  
Then up they swung into the sky - a terrifying sight!  
The noise and wind were quite extreme, the pair were lifted high,  
We watched and cheered from down below, the chopper in the sky

The happy postscript to this tale is that Donna's feeling fine,  
Although it took a day or two to get her back in line  
It's good to know if trouble strikes when walking on the Track,  
Emergency responders have always got our back.

**Karen Gurry (Track name Kalgirlie)**



The rescue helicopter circling Mt Wells Campsite



Next morning - the Lost in Pace group and their new end-to-end friends with a tale to remember!



Glen and Fiona from Dwellingup Transfers also came to the rescue and picked up Donna's pack.



# 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.

## LEAVE NO TRACE TIP: PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

Now is a good time to be planning your next hike on the Bibbulmun Track!

Will it be your first overnight hike... or an end-to-end? You'll find so many resources on our website – or request a one-on-one trip planning session with one of our awesome volunteers.

It's free for members!

## 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)





## Stephen King

TRAILS COORDINATOR, RECREATION AND TRAILS UNIT

TEL: (08) 9219 8265

EMAIL: RECREATIONANDTRAILS@DBCA.WA.GOV.AU



Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions



# Recreation & Trails UNIT

## Dear Readers,

Hope you managed to get out and enjoy the Track during spring. It was a busy period for prescribed burning, which unfortunately does result in some disruption for hikers with temporary diversions required to keep hikers safe. I'd encourage everyone to become familiar with all the information and guidance related to burning and diversions, starting with the Foundation's website, and ensure you always check for any diversion in place that could affect your plans.

## Campsite upgrades

We are continuing to progress campsite upgrades, with works at Yourdamung Campsite funded through the Forest Enhancement Fund. A contractor has been engaged to undertake tent site and path upgrades and preparatory works have commenced. Replacement of the toilet is scheduled for summer.

The new group campsite within Monadnocks Conservation Park is nearing completion. Construction of the tent sites and connecting paths is underway and is the final component to be completed. The site is approximately

450m east of the existing standard campsite, and features sweeping views over the forest to the east. The new campsite will provide groups with an appealing two-night hike option, combined with the Mt Cooke Group campsite and relieve the pressure on the standard campsites along this popular section of the Track. Through the aboriginal heritage survey and consultation for the project, a name for the campsite was proposed by the Gnaala Karla Booja representatives. The name Alyi-wa Miya, meaning Lookout Camp, has been adopted.

## Nullaki Peninsular

The proposal for a formal route across the tip of the Nullaki Peninsular near Denmark is progressing steadily. A consultant has been engaged to run the Aboriginal heritage surveys, and this is the last task required before seeking approval to construct the trail. When complete, this new section will provide a formalised, appropriate link from the Wilson Inlet sandbar, when it's crossable, to the existing Bibbulmun Track.

## Realignments

Planning has been completed for a significant realignment of the Track between Dookanelly and Possum Springs Campsites, south of Dwellingup. The realignment runs across both Perth Hills District and Wellington District, and the proposal has been submitted for approval from both Districts. The realignment involves approximately 14km of new trail construction, so the intent is to construct in a staged manner as resources allow, probably over two years. When completed the realignment will represent a significant improvement to this section of the track, avoiding a section that is prone to flooding and taking it off vehicle tracks.

Planning of a realignment southbound from Helena Campsite is also well progressed. The proposed realignment descends steadily down to the creek crossing to the north of the campsite, avoiding the steep section of vehicle track that is currently used for the Bibbulmun Track. The proposal required Department of Water and Environmental Regulation approval as the site is in the Mundaring Weir reservoir protection zone, and this has now been granted. Flora and dieback surveys have also been completed.

It has again been fantastic to witness the continued dedication and achievements of the BTF volunteers, particularly on challenging projects such as the south coast track stabilisation campaign. The involvement of the Binalup Rangers in this work has been a great initiative, and I hope the partnership continues and thrives. The work achieved on planned field days has also been commendable, resulting in campsites that are maintained to a very high standard.

**Stephen King**  
Trails Coordinator

## Summer is here – please don't take any risks!

It is strongly recommended that you do not carry out any extended walks between December and the start of March anywhere on the Bibbulmun Track.

The Track gets very hot and the bushfire risk is extreme. Temperatures can range from low 30s to mid-40s.

Please plan to walk outside of these months and avoid putting your life at risk and the lives of those that may need to rescue you.

We advise people planning a day walk to check the weather and fire forecasts. If the fire danger is high or above we strongly recommend people don't go out on the Track, or leave if they are already out.

If in doubt, and the weather forecast is for hot and windy conditions, our recommendation is not to go walking. The south coast, although may be cooler, offers little protection from the sun due to the lack of a forest canopy and fire spreads more quickly in open bush and grassland.





# Eyes on the GROUND



Sue Morley

**Much has been achieved this year as a result of hard work done by volunteers; in the office, on the Track and working on major projects.**

Usage has increased significantly, with the Bibbulmun Track becoming ever more popular with school groups, trail runners and tours, so for the Maintenance Volunteers there has never been a busier time.

The introduction of battery powered hedge trimmers, reciprocating saws and brush cutters has really helped to address overgrown areas. The equipment is a huge time and effort saver on the Track making traditional hand tools almost a thing of the past.

## Training

The Introduction to Trail Maintenance course developed by the BTF earlier in the year is gradually being rolled out and fine-tuned. So far over 50 people have received practical and theoretical training on a wide range of topics from pruning and way marking to campsite maintenance.

The Binalup Rangers have received more advanced training having attended erosion control campaigns on the south coast.

## Improved maintenance model

A new maintenance model is being trialled in Albany, with the introduction of a local Support Coordinator. Huge thanks to volunteer, Wes Fokkema, who has inspected each section of the Track with the respective maintenance volunteer to discuss the work required and determine if they need more support.

Along with an analysis of track reports high maintenance sections with seasonal and/or ongoing maintenance problems have been identified. This has led to an increased focus on how often sections should be inspected, how many volunteers are realistically needed to maintain a section, what equipment is required and if annual slashing by the Department should be scheduled.

Some high maintenance sections may need to be shortened, or several more volunteers allocated, to keep the Track passable and safe. Planning for next year will target those sections that require annual slashing, brush cutting and group work.

The Albany trial is shaping our approach to how we manage Track maintenance overall and how to build the capacity of our maintenance volunteers.



Steps at Irwin Inlet before track pad installed.



Track pad installation - Irwin inlet



Steps at Irwin inlet after remediation.



Support Volunteers at work - South Coast Stabilisation





Vegetation growing through the coir mesh will stabilise the dunes on either side of the Track.



Binulup Rangers & Volunteers

**Support Volunteer Team**

Our SVs have been active in keeping up with demands for repair and remedial Track and campsite work, particularly in the Perth Hills, Donnelly, Albany and Frankland Districts.

They also completed the year-long project to remediate badly eroded sections of the Track east and west of Boat Harbour.

Some key figures include:

- 4 campaigns in Frankland District
- 10 tonnes of materials procured
- 22 drop-off sites marked
- 33 loads prepared and airlifted by helicopter
- 10.5 km of Track stabilised with track pad, steps and coir matting
- 100+ water bars installed where needed
- 2500+ volunteer hours (including contribution to the initial surveys, reports, project planning, approvals, procurement, logistics... and the hands-on work!)

This was the second major works campaign on the south coast. Learnings from the first campaign in 2020 led to the use of a different type of track pad that was lighter, more flexible and easier to work with. Different methods to retain the sand in the pads are being trialled and all works will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis.

**Looking ahead**

Plans for next year include reviewing campsite use and whether additional tent sites are required, a focus on local volunteer recruitment, and group work to address high maintenance sections. Trail maintenance training will be rolled out in various districts and on field days and volunteers have the opportunity for their section to be assessed to determine if additional support is needed.

Many thanks to the Parks and Wildlife staff for their fantastic support. It is a pleasure working with them in our endeavours to keep the Bibbulmun Track world class.



Newly laid track pad & coir mesh

The South Coast erosion control project was supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program.

**Sue Morley**  
Maintenance Manager

**Newmont**<sup>TM</sup>  
The Eyes on the Ground maintenance program is generously supported by our premier partner, Newmont Boddington Gold.



# Seven Ways to Make the Longer Days Easier

*BTF members Geoff Fisher and partner Helen completed their end-to-end walk of the Track in Spring 2021. Since then, they have produced a highly professional website aimed at those who are looking to walk trails in a leisurely fashion.*

*This article is based on their suggestions of how this can be achieved on the Bibbulmun Track, especially by those walkers who may wish to complete an end-to-end but are daunted by some of the longer sections between shelters or by the nature of the terrain, which will slow them down. Their detailed analysis can be found at:*

<https://slowerhiking.com/bibbulmun-track/7-ways-to-make-the-longer-days-easier>

So, you have decided to become a Bibbulmun Track End-to-End or maybe to just take a long walk along some parts of the Track. It's a big decision, especially if you are intending to do an end-to-end in one go—it makes sense to do a lot of planning and make use of the resources that the BTF offers to help you in this regard. But what exactly is an "End-to-End"? It sounds obvious enough—somebody who has walked the whole Track from one end to the other, or, as it says on the End-to-End Certificate, "Has walked every step between Kalamunda and Albany".

However, it is not always possible to walk on the Track. There may be diversions or even closures due to fires or floods, but taking alternative routes as designated by the Department of Parks and Wildlife does not nullify the right of a walker to become an End-to-End. However, taking short cuts purely to reduce the distance walked does!

More of this later.



Willow Springs Campsite

So, what are the seven ways that Geoff and Helen suggest to make the longer distances easier?

Whether the problem is purely the distance, or difficult terrain such as hills or sand that will slow your walking pace, one obvious ploy is to start as early as you can and increase the number of rest breaks. And make those breaks real—don't just stop for a few minutes to have a drink, find a convenient place to sit and take your pack off.

Secondly on long stretches make sure you maximise the opportunity to set up food drops so that you reduce the weight of your pack. A good example of this is in the Darling Range section, where there are three convenient points to arrange for food drops over the 200km stretch between Kalamunda and Dwellingup.

Camping between shelters is a third option but a very limited one. There are three legal campsites along the Track or close by it. Willow Springs, between Gregory Brook and Donnelley River, Greens Island, between Tom Road and Boarding House and Parry Beach Campground, between Boat Harbour and William Bay.

Fourthly there is the option, also very limited, of taking accommodation between the shelters. Although this doesn't generally do much to reduce daily walking distances it can

offer the luxury of hot showers, soft beds and an escape from eating noodles and drinking rainwater for a night. Some options would be the Mundaring Hotel, between Hewett's Hill and Ball Creek, Watermark Kilns, between Warren and Schafer and the Karri Valley Lodge, between Beavis and Beedelup.

Another convenient means of reducing your daily walking distance is to do day walks from towns. There are many legal vehicle access points along the Track where it is possible to be dropped off and picked up. These are marked on the Track maps by small red car icons (not so much anymore on the new maps, but still on our website...). From your accommodation, organise a taxi to take you out to one of these points and walk back, carrying just a few essentials. Then the following day take the taxi back to the drop off point, this time with your full pack and walk the remaining stretch of Track to the next campsite. A similar option, but a little more difficult to organise, is to have friends or relatives doing the same thing between shelters, or to use a transport operator to do so, although this last method can prove expensive! It is very important to ensure that only the access points marked on the map by the car icons are used.

Last but not least there is the option of taking short cuts or "alternative routes". There are one or two official alternative routes that can be taken, generally where inlets are too dangerous to cross, and these are shown on the maps.

There are also many places where you can shorten your daily distance with short cuts—by walking down stretches of bitumen road or along beaches. A favourite is to avoid the canoe crossing at the Irwin Inlet by walking along the beach between Boat Harbour and Peaceful Bay. All well and good, but if you do any of this, please don't claim to be an End-to-End!

*The Bibbulmun Track is there to be enjoyed by everyone who wants to experience the unique experience of being out in the bush. How you enjoy it is your choice. Walk or run the whole 1000km as fast as you can, take the kids out for a short ramble and enjoy lunch in the serenity of the forest or, as Geoff and Helen did, take in the whole experience at your own pace.*



Take a real break!



# Lotterywest Grant to Boost Cultural Awareness on the Bibbulmun Track



The Bibbulmun Track Foundation's efforts to increase awareness and understanding of Noongar culture on the Bibbulmun Track has been given a boost by a Lotterywest grant of \$10,600.

The grant is primarily for consultation with Aboriginal artists to create a design representing the Bibbulmun Track which can be used on promotional materials including the website.

The artwork is one of several initiatives underway including the development of a Noongar interpretation booklet to be placed at the campsites.

The Foundation is currently collaborating with Joe Collard from Djoona to develop and promote guided walks on the Track. The inaugural walks gave BTF staff and volunteers the opportunity to learn more about Noongar culture and bush interpretation, and Joe the opportunity to learn more about the Australian Adventure Activity Standards (AAAS) from our lead guide, Steve Sertis.

We are looking forward to being able to promote these walks to the public next year.



Joe Collard finds a lizard trap which would have been an important source of food



Noongar symbols and language posters are in the new interpretation booklets.

Below: BTF Guides with Joe Collard at Abyssinia Rock.

From L to R: Steve Sertis, Patrick Tremlett, Russel Montgomery, Ce Kealley, Joe Collard, Valerie Preston and Karen Boyce.





# Yes, they did it!

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

At the time of writing, many walkers are still on the Track after they started their end-to-end in the season of Djilba surrounded by wildflowers to finish in the season of Kambarang – the weather is heating up already! Interstate travellers have certainly returned, and many overseas travellers have taken advantage of our trip planning advice, which indicates that we can expect to see them back on the Track in higher numbers for the next walking season, which is exciting.

## General Comments

The Track has been on my bucket list for nearly 20 years. Having planned and researched over the last 6 months before setting off, it exceeded all my expectations. Wonderful track and fantastic support through the foundation, the volunteers, the track angels, the track town businesses and all the people willing to share their experience.

*Angela, Kuranda*

I now understand why walkers get to the end and turn around and start walking back, and why walkers keep on returning time and time again. I had to experience the 9 weeks to understand this.

*Gary, Wilmington*

Such an amazing experience - I had no expectations of completing an E2E, just thought I would start and see how far I could go, but I got fitter the further I walked so was delighted to complete the whole walk.

*Beverly, Booragoon*

Walking in Makuru was wonderful, no messy sunscreen, no ticks, no march flies, no overheating, and no crowds.

*Katherine, Bassendean*

Enjoyed it and surprised I made it at my age. This is the 6th time I have walked the Track. please don't let me do it again.

*David, Kalamunda*

## Food / Supplies

On our recent trip (32 days) to complete our E2E we took the first 11 days of food ourselves but then bought from the track towns. Northcliffe was the only town where we had to compromise much in our choices. Buying food was part of the adventure!

*Yasmin, Brunswick West*

We used the Australia Post Sachets to send most of our food and spare supplies to the Visitor Centres in the major towns and then just topped up when we got there. Were very impressed so many of the VICs had dehydrated food and gas available.

*Michael, St Kilda South*

Tried the Spicy Lentils recipe from the Bibbulmun News Magazine (Issue 71) and is now a staple. Sports drink powder to assist with hydration and keep cramps away.

*Steve, Willetton*

Dehydrating your own meals is the way to go! Much lighter and you get to eat your own cooking (could be a pro or a con...)

*Michael, Parkwood*

## Favourite Section

As I walked my love for the sections grew in intensity. This I think was more about the connection that was developing between the Track and me, rather than a section comparison.

*Gary, Wilmington*

Denmark to Walpole because it has fantastic variety – great coastal scenery, my favourite Tingle trees, and lots of snakes to keep you on your toes.

*Mickdog, St Kilda South*

I loved the walking before Denmark, into Nullaki - to me the rolling hills covered in dense shrub looked like green waves of the ocean. Walking in that special light of late afternoon probably helped. The combination and pops of colours of the different plants and flowers was also absolutely beautiful.

*Rebecca, Braybrook*

I came up that steep sand track from the Pingerup Plains and the sun burst out from behind the clouds. The inundation was behind me, and I could hear the roar of the waves as I followed the long white sand ribbon to the edge of the cliff. Then WHAM! the exhilaration of popping out over Mandalay Beach and the realisation that I had walked all the way to the Southern Ocean!

*Steph, Fremantle*

With a few exceptions, I always thought the walk I was doing at the time was my favourite section. I particularly liked Possum Springs to Yourdamung in the north and Walpole to Rame Head in the South. I also loved Pingerup Plains.

*Mark, North Lake*

## Highlights

Walking on a rainy day from Giants to Frankland shelter without looking at my watch. Just daydreaming and being surprised at arriving at Franklin. Where did the day go?

*Tropic Snail, Belverdere*

The wildflowers when we walked from Walpole to Albany in 2015 and the huge numbers of snakes on the same walk. The huge storms in May/June where thunder truly stalked the hills around the tiny huts at night. It was very raw and waking to a sparkling morning the next day was exhilarating.

*Yasmin, Brunswick West*

Frankland River hut was beautiful. Watched the Rakali swim, read my book on a rock in the middle of the river and did yoga on the deck. Also loved meeting so many interesting and kind people out on the track. The support and encouragement from other hikers out there are like none other.

*Michelle, Medina*

I loved the challenges such as wading waist deep outside of Northcliffe and being in the karri forest with thunderstorms.

*Rachael, Hopetoun*

Meeting brilliant, clever, caring, and thoughtful young people. I am sure now our future is in good hands.

*Auston, Ocean Vista*

## Personal Reactions

It is hard to believe how much I grew to love the Track and our life on it. It was only days after we returned home that I was yearning for the adventure, peace and simplicity of the lifestyle the Track offered us.

*Gary, Wilmington*

Next time I'd set the goal not just to complete the Track, but to enjoy it! I spent a lot of the time in my head, tracking progress, and ongoing planning and revising of timings for the day and potential deviations to the itinerary/food. Doing this a lot less would have made the experience more enjoyable.

*Rebecca, Braybrook*

I'm glad the prep and investment made (in my fitness and gear) has paid off so well. I'm keen to continue doing a lot more long distance hiking. The Bibb is such a wonderful experience.

*Ben, Alfred Cove*

I'm just so proud of myself for making it all the way. The hike is absolutely worth it, you go through a roller coaster of emotions, and you learn a lot about yourself being out in the bush on your own.

*Becky, Australind*



Our CONGRATULATIONS to the following 66 walkers on completing an end-to-end, 37 from WA, 28 from interstate and one from New Zealand. 60 people completed a continuous end-to-end, two a double end-to-end and four a sectional.



Name	Track Name	Age	Started	Ended	DOT	Direction	From	State
Joanne Armstrong	<i>Bluw Mts Jo</i>	67	1/05/22	20/06/22	47	N-S	Winmalee	NSW
David Elliott		57	26/08/22	27/09/22	29	N-S	Ultimo	NSW
Eleonora Felton	<i>Tropical Snail</i>	67	28/04/22	7/07/22	70	N-S	Belvedere	WA
Amina Maric		53	9/08/22	20/09/22	41	N-S	Forestdale	WA
Justin Jones		53	9/08/22	20/09/22	41	N-S	Forestdale	WA
Angela Bunworth		53	23/07/22	25/09/22	58	N-S	Kuranda	QLD
Gary Wright		68	13/06/22	15/08/22	56	N-S	Wilmington	WA
Julie Starkey		71	13/06/22	15/08/22	56	N-S	Wilmington	WA
Leah Reid		50	23/07/22	18/09/22	49	N-S	Finniss	SA
Austin Reid		50	23/07/22	18/09/22	49	N-S	Finniss	SA
Isobel Reid		50	23/07/22	18/09/22	49	N-S	Finniss	SA
Warwick Sprawson	<i>Mori &amp; Yama</i>	50	2/09/08	14/06/20	52	N-S	Brunswick West	VIC
Yasmin Kelsall		50	2/09/08	14/06/20	52	N-S	Brunswick West	VIC
Michael Noonan	<i>Mickdog</i>	68	4/04/22	22/05/22	48	S-N	St Kilda South	VIC
Carolyn Corrigan	<i>Caz</i>	71	4/04/22	22/05/22	48	S-N	St Kilda South	VIC
Rebecca Monck		34	5/04/22	23/05/22	47	S-N	Braybrook	VIC
Ben Taylor		41	24/03/22	16/06/22	51	N-S	Alfred Cove	WA
Josephine O'Brien		33	14/08/21	2/10/21	45	N-S	Perth	WA
Michelle van Dort		29	15/05/22	5/07/22	45	S-N	Medina	WA
Becky Busslinger	<i>Beckpacking</i>	25	3/04/22	24/05/22	45	N-S	Australind	WA
Sue Verran	<i>POT (Pollucci's On Tour)</i>	59	2/06/17	2/06/22	51	N-S	Spearwood	WA
Claire Halliday		37	28/10/18	28/03/22	51	N-S	Beldon	WA
Graham Bishop	<i>the Frogyl</i>	61	26/11/21	27/01/22	52	N-S	Denmark	WA
Lynda Frewer	<i>Elle Hummingbird</i>	61	2/05/22	2/07/22	55	S-N	Mount Lawley	WA
Nikki Pretorius			2/05/22	2/07/22	55	S-N	Perth	WA
Kimberley Clifton		20	10/06/22	21/07/22	39	S-N	Woodlands	WA
Ross Webster	<i>Mr Happy</i>	51	14/04/22	20/05/22	37	Double E2E	Chidlow	WA
Steve Campbell		57	2/08/14	21/07/22	47	N-S	Willetton	WA
Catherine Williams		45	1/10/05	10/11/18	55	Sectional	Roleystone	WA
Lindsay Richards		61	24/04/22	22/06/22	52	S-N	Padbury	WA
Chris Lee	<i>Me, Me and 'er, Chris</i>	63	18/04/14	28/07/22	50	N-S	Murdoch	WA
Beverley Culpan	<i>Bev Culpan</i>	55	9/04/22	4/06/22	54	S-N	Booragoon	WA
Alan Chung		34	2/10/21	26/10/21	25	N-S	Mount Lawley	WA
Maureen Cowdell		66	3/05/22	28/06/22	54	S-N	Denmark	WA
Katherine McCann		59	10/06/22	24/07/22	44	S-N	Bassendean	WA
Cam Bainbridge		28	4/05/22	11/06/22	38	N-S	Leeming	WA
Jeremy Owen		73	8/03/18	26/03/22	1479	Sectional	Scarborough	WA
Simon Hremeviuc		33	25/05/22	26/07/22	56	Double E2E	Kallaroo	WA
Neil Todd		53	27/07/16	24/07/22	56	Sectional	Port Kennedy	WA
Pam Todd		53	27/07/16	24/07/22	56	Sectional	Port Kennedy	WA
Chris Fuller		46	11/08/22	24/09/22	44	N-S	Duncraig	WA
Rachael Tannahill		29	6/07/22	27/08/22	46	N-S	Hopetoun	WA
Danny Warren		54	8/04/17	22/08/22	53	N-S	Melville	WA
Steph Backhouse		57	16/05/22	8/07/22	49	N-S	Fremantle	WA
Michael Hobley		22	1/07/22	10/09/22	56	N-S	Parkwood	WA
Glenn Monaghan		46	25/09/21	6/11/21	14	S-N	Butler	WA
David Brouton		77	1/09/21	16/09/22	42	S-N	Kalamunda	WA

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

Name	Track Name	Age	Started	Ended	DOT	Direction	From	State
Emma Regeur		35	21/08/22	6/10/22	45	N-S	Forrestfield	WA
Mark Davies		59	2/08/22	23/09/22	48	N-S	North Lake	WA
Meredith Wynter		73	12/08/22	1/10/22	48	N-S	Newmarket	QLD
David Harley		60	31/07/22	21/09/22	53	N-S	Galston	NSW
Stephanie Harley		60	31/07/22	21/09/22	53	N-S	Galston	NSW
Konrad Boehmer		37	21/08/22	1/10/22	38	N-S	Downer	ACT
Matthew Francis & Paul Toon	<i>Matthew</i>	67	20/08/22	14/10/22	55	N-S	Brisbane	QLD
Dylan Juhasz		35	15/08/22	26/09/22	42	N-S	Redridge	QLD
Graeme Russell		51	13/08/22	1/10/22	51	N-S	Marrangaroo	WA
Coral Russell		51	13/08/22	1/10/22	51	N-S	Marrangaroo	WA
Hunter McDougall Monk		31	04/09/22	08/10/22	35	N-S	Mudgee	NSW
Lee McKay		69	08/08/22	21/09/22	44	N-S	Auckland	NZ
Auston Rotheram		64	04/09/22	06/10/22	32	N-S	Ocean Vista	TAS
Bronwyn Copestake		53	14/09/22	23/10/22	39	N-S	Tincurrin	WA
Susan van Leeuwen	<i>Granny Hiker</i>	61	08/10/20	16/10/22	47	N-S	Manning	WA
Jaromir Kulir		47	01/11/07	13/04/21	55	N-S	Clarkson	WA
Rachel Newby		32	04/08/22	18/09/22	44	S-N	Avondale Heights	VIC
Ali Maric		53	09/08/22	20/09/22	41	N-S	Heathwood	QLD
Bruce Nankivell		63	18/08/22	16/10/22	53	N-S	Bridgewater	WA
Isabel Nankivell		63	18/08/22	16/10/22	53	N-S	Bridgewater	WA

Meeting the community of walkers, both in person on the track and in the huts, and in the form of musings in the logbooks was inspirational and encouraging on those hard days. I feel very blessed to have met some incredible people on the journey.  
*Claire, Beldon*

## Wildlife

We were deeply saddened by the destruction of the habitat and hence absence of wildlife in the frequently burnt forests. The wildlife did increase the further south we went, and it was great to have the company of planigales and quendas at the shelters.  
*Gary, Wilmington*

I saw an owl nightjar early one morning while head-torch hiking. I also got bowled over by an emu that same morning! I think it got fixated on the light of my head torch.  
*Michelle, Medina*

A real highlight was the Southern Right Whale which kept pace with me along the coast as I walked from Mutton Bird to Sandpatch. I may be the only person not to see a single snake the entire Bibb (though I think this says more about my eyesight than the extent of the snake population).  
*Steph, Fremantle*

I must have seen at least a dozen bird species that I've never seen – or at least noticed – before. When you stop walking just for a moment or are quiet at camp, they all come out.

White-browed babblers are now my absolute favourite bird.  
*Emma, Forrestfield*

## Comparisons with other Walks/Countries

The Track stands out because of its distance, the infrastructure, the diverse habitat, the support and generosity we experienced

from so many, both before and during the walk. The Western Australians pride in and love of the Track is obvious.

*Gary, Wilmington*

There's nothing like this that we've experienced! Long enough to pose a serious challenge and establish a walking 'lifestyle' without having to climb mountains or organise specialist gear. Beautiful landscapes and lovely people along the way.

*Yasmin, Brunswick West*

I have done some of the New Zealand great walks, but I think the Bibb is now my favourite and I will continue hiking it and being a maintenance volunteer.

*Neil, Port Kennedy*

A relatively easy and simple walk made so by the terrain, the quality of the track, the abundant signage, the shelters and the very valuable web site, infrastructure and volunteers who all make it happen.

*Bruce Nankivell, Bridgewater*

## Best Equipment

Umbrella for the forest sections. Comfy dry footwear to change into on arrival at the shelters.

*Gary, Wilmington*

My trusty 30yr old Leki walking pole, perfect for snake wrangling, pea gravel slide arrest and honky nut relocation.

*Catherine, Roleystone*



## Waugal cloth badge

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**\$11.25**  
for members



## Advice for Others

Practice walking with a full pack to prepare. Buy the best gear you can afford.

*Eleanora, Belverdere*

Make sure your hiking shoes a half a size larger than your normal shoes. Don't buy one of those squeaky inflatable mats. You will keep the whole hut awake!

*Warwick, Brunswick West*

Support the track towns by staying a night or two, and dining locally. Hike your own hike, always.

*Elle Hummingbird, Mount Lawley*

Enjoy yourself! Do the hike your way. Whether that's doing 3 huts a day or hiking at a snail pace. It's not a race and everyone gets enjoyment from different challenges.

*Rachael, Hopetoun*

Do the BTF E2E workshop beforehand. I found it invaluable. And trust yourself. Danger lies in the fear of an action, not in the action itself.

*Steph, Galston*

Assume there are rats in every hut that will eat into your pack! Hang stuff up with a strong fishing line and carabiner. My pack never got broken into but so many other peoples did.

*Rachel, Avondale Heights*



There were cheers, tears, hugs and plenty of congratulations from family and friends when Lynda Frewer and Nikki Pretorius completed their end-to-end hike from Albany to Kalamunda.

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



## 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.

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Email to [friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au](mailto:friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au) or by post.
















































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Albany Harbourside Apartments	ALBANY		(08) 9842 1769	albanyharbourside.com.au
Dunmoylen House B&B	ALBANY		(08) 9842 5235	dunmoylen.com.au
Busy Blue Bus Tours	ALBANY		0418 414 425	busybluebus.com.au
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Southampton Homestead	BALINGUP		0412 229 564	southamptonhomestead.com
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Mandia B&B	COLLIE		0417 179 260	mandia.com.au
The Colliefields	COLLIE		(08) 9734 2052	colliefields.com
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Denmark Co-Operative	DENMARK		(08) 9848 1200	denmark-coop.com.au
Denmark Forest Retreat	DENMARK		0438 938 798	denmarkforestretreat.com.au
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Walpole Track & Trail Transfers	WALPOLE		0429 784 924	facebook.com/Naturallywalpole

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Forest Explorers	0427 981 187	https://www.forestexplorers.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	offthebeatentrackwa.com.au
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Walk into Luxury	1300 662 452	walkintoluxury.com.au

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DWELLINGUP	Dwellingup History & Visitor Centre	(08) 9538 1108	dwellingup.destinationmurray.com.au
KALAMUNDA	Perth Hills Visitor Centre	(08) 9257 9998	experienceperthhills.com.au
MANJIMUP	Manjimup Visitor Centre	(08) 9771 1831	manjimupwa.com

MANJIMUP	Manjimup Visitor Centre	(08) 9771 1831	manjimupwa.com
NORTHCLIFFE	Northcliffe Visitor Centre	(08) 9776 7203	northcliffe.org.au
NORTHCLIFFE	Northcliffe Family and Community Centre	(08) 9776 7221	northcliffefamily.org
PEMBERTON	Pemberton Visitor Centre	(08) 9776 1133	pembertonvisitor.com.au
PERTH	Western Australian Visitor Centre	(08) 9483 1111	wavisitorcentre.com.au
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# Vollie Corner



Helen Grimm

**Support from walkers and lovers of the Track has always been at the heart of our volunteer program. The contribution of bushwalking clubs and organisations to Track maintenance is a great example of the concept of giving back.**

We currently have six groups involved; Bushwalkers of WA (BOWA), Action Outdoors Association (AOA), Bunbury Bushwalking Club, Albany Bushwalkers, guides from Off the Beaten Track, and members of Ultra Series WA. Some have been with us since the beginning, others are more recent recruits; we thank them all for their contribution!

The opportunity to give back by contributing to the maintenance needs of the Track is a common motivation. Dave Foster, a leading member of BOWA in the very early days, recalls walking the original Track near Wungong Dam, collecting rubbish to minimise impact on native animals as well as bushwalkers. In 1995 they established a monthly roster to inspect and maintain the original campsite at Mount Dale as part of the Adopt a Hut initiative.

With the new Track, establishment of the Friends (now BTF) and the formalisation of Track and campsite maintenance in early 1998, Dave was joined by other BOWA volunteers to look after Mount Dale Campsite and several kilometres of Track on either side. The club has continued this commitment ever since.

The same ethos of giving back is echoed by the coordinators of other teams. Des Cook, current coordinator of the AOA team that has looked after the 7km out of the Northern Terminus for over 12 years, sees it as an obligation and says *“helping with a like-minded group of club members is not considered a chore – rather it is a pleasure”*.

Recently allocated to the section including Sandpatch Campsite, the Albany Bushwalkers see the commitment as a great way of combining useful and practical work, exercise and socialising. Bunbury Bushwalking Club, involved for many years, first on a section south of Balingup then more recently on the Wellington Spur, use the visits to develop leadership skills in members.

Visits are coordinated by one or more group members who have taken on the responsibility of organising the troops and liaising with the BTF. Their team may be a set of individual members who are committed to regular visits or drawn each time from the wider membership. Bunbury Bushwalkers and BOWA have a walk on their section as one of their annual events for all members. Stephen Napier from BOWA points out that these club events encourage members to join the maintenance roster, ensuring continuity in the role.



Members of Bunbury Bushwalking Club taking a break at Lyalls Mill



It's harder to identify the water level in a plastic tank!



Dusting the sleeping quarters



Meanwhile, Des Cook loves the fact that different AOA members help him on each visit, promoting familiarity with Track maintenance throughout the club.

The participation in Track maintenance as a group gives great satisfaction. Melanee Maisey, coordinator for the Ultra Series WA group, says that they all appreciate the beauty and privilege of the Track. Albany Bushwalkers President Jen Merritt says "What is there not to like? The campsite is new, the views are fabulous and there are a few sheltered, shady paths through the peppermints. Plus, it's close to home for all of us – if a problem arises that needs urgent attention, we can get on to it!"

Ros Tucker, coordinator of the Bunbury team, also appreciates the proximity and beauty of their section. She picks seeing the mosquito orchids under grass trees on the winter walks, and the sight of a flock of over 100 white-tailed black cockatoos flying into a neighbouring plantation at the very start of a walk, as highlights.

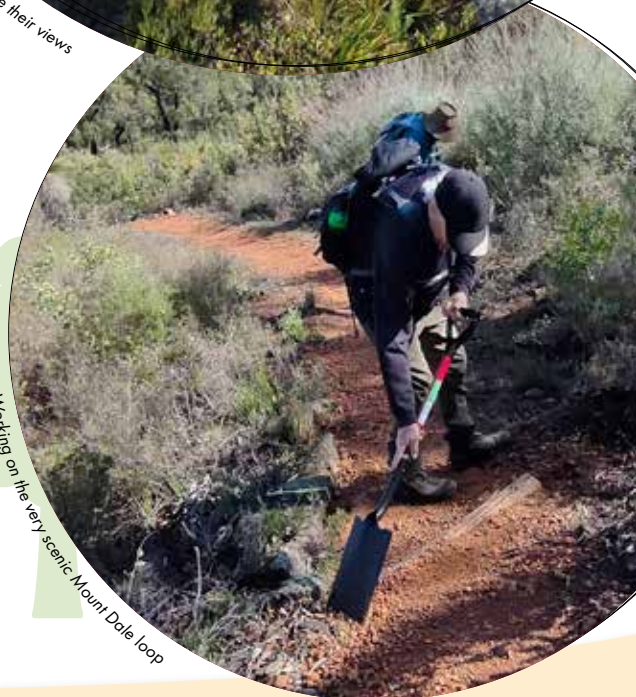
Dave Foster (BOWA) valued the interactions with walkers, particularly where he could offer useful advice and encouragement. Similarly, Des Cook (AOA) says, "knowing that I am actively making their day a little bit better is so very rewarding" – especially considering the popularity of their section with day walkers!

Ongoing maintenance by such volunteer groups is an essential part of keeping the Track in good condition and we thank them all!

**Helen Grimm**  
Volunteer Manager



The Albany Bushwalkers love their views



Working on the very scenic Mount Dale loop

## Member Profile - Terry Burrige

Terry has always loved walking, so the Bibbulmun Track was an obvious extension. Her first experience on the Track was a weekend walk with a friend, carrying a large backpack, and a poorly designed two-person tent that felt more as if it were designed for one.

The ground was hard and bumpy, it was pouring with rain and they were unsure if they had headed in the right direction. Needless to say, that was Terry's last experience with tenting.

Thankfully, things have improved greatly since then and, with her ongoing membership, Terry continues to support the Foundation.

Appreciation of the importance of the Track as a world-class asset and the importance of supporting the

Foundation to continue its work has kept Terry engaged as a member. She feels the Track is the envy of many and that it is crucial it receives the necessary support to keep it a viable concern.

Terry had a professional singing career, joining a rock and roll band at eighteen and then the Gilbert and Sullivan Society before becoming a member of the WA Opera Company. She sang with them for many years and studied music in Sydney and London. Her paternal grandmother was a protégé of Nellie Melba, so music has always been an important part of her life.

Terry joined the Foundation in January 1998 - Thank you Terry for your fantastic support.



Terry Burrige

# Writing from the Bibbulmun Track—Mary-Rose MacColl

*Mary-Rose MacColl is a well-known author residing in Brisbane. Earlier this year I had the pleasure of offering her trip planning advice for an end-to-end walk on the Track, completed in September. These are her thoughts as she made her journey:*

## Despair and hope both

The forest is oddly quiet at first, all the way from Kalamunda in the Perth hills where the track starts, to Collie, over three hundred kilometres south. You wonder if winter is to blame—birds are quieter in the winter, aren't they?—but the blackened trunks and epicormic growth of eucalypts in distress and the thriving weeds in the understory tell that other story, the one all Australia tells now, of fires both wild and planned, of millions of animals perishing. There's a telephone number to call if you find an injured animal, although there are no injured animals; there are hardly any animals at all.

You have been told that volunteers help maintain the Bibbulmun track, including the forty-nine campsites with their three-sided sleeping shelters. One evening, early on in the hike, the weather turning foul, you opt for the shelter instead of your tent. You are treated to a run of storms, with lightning followed immediately by thunder, and rain then hail that crashes onto the roof and sounds like many billiard balls dropped onto tile. Shelter is a good word for what you experience, and you think of those volunteers and the work they do. Not long after, you meet a volunteer, at a riverside campsite, doing a routine



Mary-Rose on the Track

maintenance check. The day before, he tells you, he fixed a table with a lean at another campsite. You know that table, you exclaim; your stove wouldn't work properly due to the lean. Next time it will, he says, and you both laugh. You are re-reading *The Lord of the Rings* on this hike and you want to tell him that the volunteers would be the hobbits and heroes of this story but you fear something might be lost in translation so you don't say anything.

## The trees

The trees, all the way from Balingup to Denmark, over five hundred kilometres, ask you over and over to crane your neck and try to take them in. They are the biggest trees you have ever seen other than the Californian redwoods. They are like old friends and yet not friends at all, for you can probably only make friends with trees of one forest in a lifetime and yours is near Binna Burra in Lamington National Park, among Antarctic beeches, not here. Still, you crane your neck and learn their names, karri and tingle. There are birds now, and animals you've never seen before, and you do your best to learn their names too. You learn that tingle trees are Gondwana trees, just like Antarctic beeches. Once you know even a little, you feel more at home.

## The sea

The sea appears one day and ignores you, despite your awe. You walk along cliffs and down steps to beaches to dive into blue-green water when the sun shines. You take a canoe across one inlet, as if you know how to do that, and walk across another with your pants rolled up as high as they'll go and your boots around your neck.

## Coffee etc.

The Wagon in Collie, the Shed in Balingup, the brand new Just Lofti in Pemberton, Ravens in Denmark and Naked Bean in Albany, make life changing coffee, and Garden Eats in Dwellingup adds cake with bitter cherry and sweet cardamom you wish you'd bought a second and third piece of for later. The Karri Country Good Food store in Northcliffe and A2 in Balingup welcome you to buy only the small amounts of things a hiker needs, teeny bags of nuts and dried fruit and olive oil and soap and chocolate. Crossings bakery in Pemberton offers the apple pie you'd do the hike again for, and the Green

Pantry in Denmark stocks a lembas-like fruit and nut bread from Bred in Albany that sustains you for the final days.

The toasted sandwich from the Cape Café at Cosy Corner may be the best meal you'll ever eat.

## Boots or shoes, wet or dry

It's the angst-ridden, ire-raising debate among hikers, many of whom these days swear by shoes and celebrate wet feet by wading the puddled track and through the rain. Not you. You wear rain pants over the heavy boots you swap out for Crocs in those long, deep puddles so the boots stay dry, you tell others, smugly. On the second-to-last day a squall turns into a dump of rain that pours water down your boots before you can get your rain pants on and you learn that even wet boots are all right.

## Walkers are happy

With wet or dry feet, walkers may be happier than people who don't walk, the Reids, Amanda and Julian, Tristy and Angela, and Lance and Jo, trail companions you could never have planned for who make the trail so much better. And Jim, your allocated Bibbulmun volunteer and a walker, who makes funny jokes about rats and bats. It is a thesis worth testing, the walker happiness thesis, because if it proves correct we should all just walk.

## The whole may be more than the sum of the parts.

You told yourself, before you left home, that a hike of a thousand kilometres is just like four hikes of two hundred and fifty kilometres and you have done one of those. It proves true, although you also start to see that the whole may be more than the sum of the parts. In the final days, you wonder what you've learned. You think you haven't really learned anything. The Zen proverb quoted by a friend helps. "Before enlightenment, chop wood, carry water. After enlightenment, chop wood, carry water."

When you finish, part of you wants to turn around and walk back, and not just for the apple pie. There was also the toasted sandwich.

For more details about Mary-Rose and her novels, visit <http://mary-rosemaccoll.com>



# TRACK TOWN - DENMARK

**It is difficult to avoid being dazzled by the beautiful contrasting shades of turquoise in the Southern Ocean along the south coast where Denmark lies.**

This enchanting town is of great historical significance to the Menang Noongar Traditional Owners. Before the days of European settlement, both the Bibbulmun and Menang groups met regularly for ceremonial and economic purposes, as Denmark was a place of cultural exchange.

The Wilson Inlet and its tributaries created a focal point for Noongar people, who maintained and operated the inlet and its productive natural resources.

The rugged coastline, verdant farmlands and the impressive background of native forest, where Denmark sits on the banks of the Denmark River, make the town a unique, captivating place.

The region's stunning scenery and calmness are an infinite source of inspiration for artists and culturally minded retirees, which has boosted the community's creative and artistic reputation.

Locals and visitors can visit the town's galleries and interact with artists and crafters of paintings, sculptures, glassware, pottery even jigsaws!

Denmark offers thriving and sophisticated arts, food and wine trails as well as signposted walking trails

that meander through wilderness areas. Granite outcrops and rugged headlands give way to silver-barked karri forests and green vineyards, and kangaroos and alpacas share paddocks with sheep and cattle.

Walkers trekking the Bibbulmun Track in this region encounter the perfect mix of forest and coastline, making it ideal to set Denmark as their base location.

This section of the Track between Denmark and Albany offers sheltered swimming spots and some of the best uninterrupted scenery along the south coast. Views of the wind farm from the West Cape Howe National Park signal to southbound walkers that they are approaching the southern terminus of the Track and the end of their walk in Albany.

It is well worth making a visit to West Cape Howe and Torbay Point, Western Australia's most southerly location. Or take a walk between ancient trees and get a birds-eye view of them by visiting the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk.

To experience the calmness of Denmark's waters while swimming or snorkelling, spend the day at Greens Pool within William Bay National Park and stroll by the gigantic Elephant Rocks resting in the water, or go surfing at Ocean Beach, with its perfect rolling waves for beginners.

Denmark is a great place for a holiday, with accommodation to suit all tastes and budgets and a host of excellent locations to eat and drink.

## Denmark Visitor Centre

73 South Coast Highway  
Denmark, WA 6333

Open 9am – 3pm Monday to Saturday.

Phone: (08) 9848 2648

Email: [visitorcentre@denmarkchamber.com.au](mailto:visitorcentre@denmarkchamber.com.au)

Web: <https://denmarkchamber.com.au/discover-denmark>

## Please support our Walker Friendly Businesses in Denmark

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0493 389 393

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(08) 9848 3300

Cape Howe Cottages  
(08) 9845 1295

Denmark Co-Operative  
(08) 9848 1200

Denmark Forest Retreat  
0438 938 798

The Cove  
(08) 9848 1770

Windrose B & B  
(08) 9848 3502



The town sits on the banks of the Denmark River. Photo by the Laughing Ladies.





# Naturalist on the Bibbulmun

**Birak and Bunuru are the seasons during which the mighty tingles flower, first the Yellow Tingle (*Eucalyptus guilfoylei*) in November, closely followed by the Rate's Tingle (*Eucalyptus brevistylis*) and the largest of the giants, the Red Tingle (*Eucalyptus jacksonii*), both in January through March. But how does one distinguish between these giants?**

The yellow tingle is relatively easy, it does not develop the buttress that affords the Red and Rate's tingle their



Red Tingle have heavily textured bark that lacks fluting

structural support, thereby preventing them from falling under their immense weight. Distinguishing the Red from the Rate's Tingle is trickier. Indeed, until 1974 Rate's Tingle was not recognized as a different species. One key difference lies in its flowers. The Rate's Tingle has a short stylis, the female part of the flower through which pollen travels to reach the ovules, hence its scientific name of *brevistylis*, but the flowers are more than 50m up in the canopy making that a difficult feature to look for! Easier to scan the forest floor for fallen fruits, for Rate's Tingle has perfectly spherical nuts while Red Tingle has more barrel-shaped nuts. However, perhaps the easiest feature to look out for is the deeply fluted bark of Rate's Tingle, compared with the flat though still heavily textured bark of Red Tingle. Tingles are not to be confused with karri, which grow alongside them. Karri have very smooth silver-gray bark that is shed annually throughout Bunuru to reveal their fresh creamy-pink growth below.

The flowers of tingle provide an abundance of nectar for purple-crowned lorikeets (kawoor), the high-pitched screeches of which can be heard high in the forest canopy. The lorikeets compete for nectar with other nectivorous birds including the Western white-napped honeyeater (djingki), and the tingle forest is home to an abundance of other birdlife, including the Red-eared Firetail (djiri), Western Golden Whistler (bidilmidang), both Forest Red-tailed (karak) and Carnaby's Black (ngoolyak) Cockatoo, and many more.

Lying within the Minang region of the Wagyl Kaip and Southern Noongar region of southwest WA, the Walpole-Nornalup National Park represents the last remaining fragment of an ancient forest that grew over 100 million years ago on the supercontinent of Gondwana, before today's continents split and drifted north to their current locations. The tingles cling to existence on the

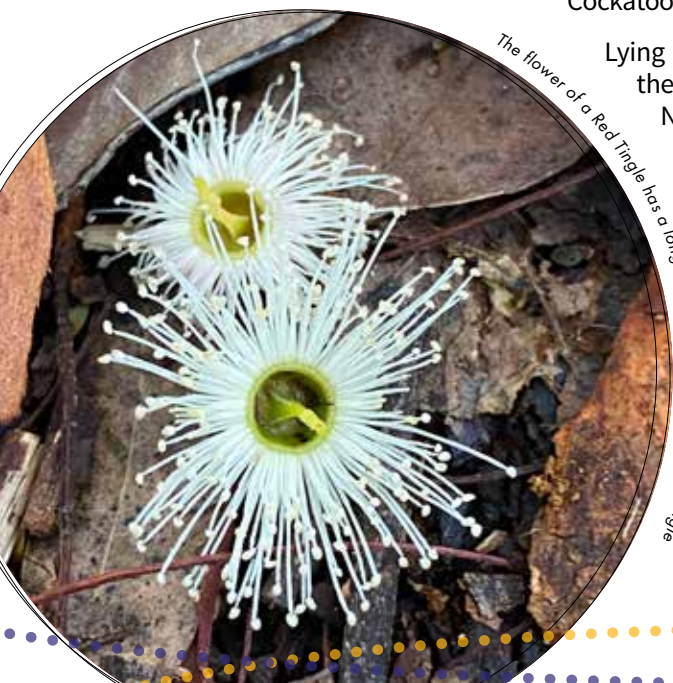


highest hills, where the annual rainfall is in excess of 1200mm, and is key to their persistence. This ancient forest remains home to many equally ancient lineages of animals and plants that are found nowhere else on earth, including invertebrates such as velvet worms and the tingle pygmy trapdoor spider, and vertebrates such as the forest toadlet who's twang-like call can be heard during and immediately after rain. Our warming, and consequently drying climate represents a significant risk to the tingle forest and the ancient lineages of animals and plants it shelters. Walking through this prehistoric landscape, along the Bibbulmun Track from Walpole to the Southcoast Highway or vice versa, is a magical journey during which we should reflect on the fragility of our unique corner of the world.

**Leigh W. Simmons**



Rate's Tingle have deeply fluted bark



The flower of a Red Tingle has a longer style than that of the Rate's Tingle

Leigh's fascinating book *Naturalist on the Bibbulmun* is available from the BTF.

**All proceeds are donated to the Track.**



# 25th Anniversary - Celebrating the Journey

Next year it will be 25 years since the New Bibbulmun Track was officially opened in Albany by the Honorable Cheryl Edwards, Minister of the Environment.

The Track had been realigned onto purpose-built bush trails through National Parks, to take in scenic views and points of historic interest. It was extended from Walpole to Albany and incorporated 48 campsites containing timber shelters, water tanks and toilet facilities, all designed to allow walkers to walk between them in one day.

This transformation of the Track, from its original alignment on gravel roads with little signage, no shelters and no guaranteed supply of water, was initiated by Jesse Brampton after he walked the Appalachian Trail in the US. Jesse wrote a proposal to transform the Bibbulmun Track into a trail that would be more scenic, more accessible and embraced by the communities along the way. There is no doubt that Jesse's Building a better Bibbulmun Track vision resulted in a world class trail that attracts people of all ages and abilities from around the world to this spectacular part of Australia.

## To celebrate this Anniversary, an End-to-End Walk will take place

Following the tradition of the 1998 opening and 10th Anniversary celebrations, a core group of walkers will walk the Track from end-to-end. At each town along the way there will be

a community celebration and the End-to-Enders will be joined by a new group of walkers for the next section.

Starting in Kalamunda on 14 July the End-to-Enders will head south, arriving in Albany on the 25th Anniversary date, September 13th, 2023.

## We invite YOU to celebrate with us! Here's how:

- Walk a section of the end-to-end journey. Registrations open January 2023.
- Volunteer to help with logistics and community events. See below.
- Join in the send-off at the Northern Terminus in Kalamunda on Friday July 14.
- Join in the community celebrations in the towns along the Track.
- Join in celebrations at Donnelly River Village on the weekend of 12 and 13 August.
- Join in the celebration at the end of the walk in Albany on September 13.

## Join in the Walk!

Become a part of history and join us on this guided journey with too many benefits to list in this article! (Visit the 25th Anniversary pages on our website for more information).

There are 12 sections to choose from with varying degrees of difficulty, length of walk and nights spent on the Track. Bookings open in January and spaces will fill fast - so get in quick!

	Section	Dates	Walking Days	Rating	Distance (approx.)
1	Kalamunda to Brookton Hwy	14 - 18 July	5	Intermediate	75km
2	Brookton Hwy to North Bannister	17 - 21 July	5	Intermediate	70km
3	North Bannister to Dwellingup	21 (3pm) - 26 July	5	Intermediate	70km
4	Dwellingup to Collie	26 - 3 August	7	Experienced	130km
5	Collie to Balingup	3 - 8 August	4	Interm - Exp	85km
6	Balingup to Donnelly River Village	8 - 13 August	3	Intermediate	60km
7	Donnelly River Village to Pemberton	12 - 18 August	5	Experienced	110km
8	Pemberton to Northcliffe	18 - 22 August	3	Intermediate	60km
9	Northcliffe to Walpole	22 - 30 August	7	Experienced	140km
10	Walpole to Peaceful Bay	30 Aug - 3 Sept	4	Intermediate	60km
11	Peaceful Bay to Denmark	3 - 7 September	3	Experienced	65km
12	Denmark to Albany	7 - 14 September	5	Intermediate	80km



## Celebrate in each town

As the walkers make their way from Kalamunda to the Southern Terminus in Albany, a community celebration will be held in each of the towns. We are liaising with the Shires and are keen for members and volunteers to have input into their local events. If you live in a Track Town and have any ideas on how to engage your community with this event, please let us know.

## Donnelly River Village, the half-way party. Join us!

Everyone is invited to join us for the half-way party at Donnelly River Village from 11 to 13 August.

Get your family and friends together and book a cottage for the weekend (Friday afternoon to Sunday).

If you wish to reserve a cottage, please email [friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au](mailto:friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au) with the number of people in your group and those needing queen or single beds. We will then give you the best choice from the available cottages. Please do not reserve cottages directly with the Village.

## Get involved as a volunteer!

We are looking for people along the length of the Track to help us support the walkers and the community events in each town. From driving the bus and delivering remote food drops to helping to set up the displays.

If you can help out on the day in any way, we'd love to hear from you.

For more information, please visit the BTF website.

We hope you will join us to Celebrate the Journey!

# Notice board

## FOR SALE

### MENS HIKING BOOTS

Salomon Men's Quest Element Gore-Tex Mid Hiking Boots. Size 12 USA. Black, Lichen Green & Olive. Fit too narrow at instep for my feet, lots of room in front foot area. Have only used them for a weekend away. \$165.

Contact: Steve  
0404 131 195  
Email: spinker472@hotmail.com

### MENS HIKING BOOTS

Scarpa Boots Mistral GTX. Size 46. Paid \$223 on sale. Wore them for a few weeks but bought the wrong size. \$150.

Contact: Kathleen  
0427 566 865  
Email: kb1277000@gmail.com

### SLEEPING BAG AND TENT

Marmot Helium MemBrain 15F/-9C sleeping bag for sale, great condition - \$150

Denali Explore 1 Hike Tent - Bought September 2022, never used - \$100

Both prices include postage and packing.

Contact: Phil Stace  
0440 074 201  
Email: TheWalkingManDownUnder@gmail.com

### OSPREY AETHER 65 BACKPACK

Purchased in Nov 2021 and used for 3 weeks on the Track. Large size suits torso measure 48cm and up.

As new condition. Rain cover included. Paid \$420 looking for \$250 o.n.o. Perth location, northern suburbs.

Contact: Michael  
Email: mprobco@bigpond.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  
Email: events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

### KATHMANDU ALTAI 50L BACKPACK

Good starter pack for your adventures. Very good condition. \$100

### OSPREY AETHER PRO 70L MENS BACKPACK

This pack is very light at only 1.79Kg it is a minimalist version of the Aether; the Pro is designed to carry heavy loads on extended trips without the weight-adding extra features found in other bags. It is in virtually new condition only used once (180km only) - \$390

### OSPREY ARIEL PRO 65L WOMENS BACKPACK

This pack is very light at only 1.69Kg it is a minimalist version of the Women's Ariel; the Pro is designed to carry heavy loads on extended trips. It is in excellent, virtually new condition only used once (180km only) - \$390

Contact: Ian Petty  
+61 895 262 168  
Email: eyan@post.com

**Adverts are free for members and \$5 for 3 months for non-members.**

**Find out more on our website.**

## LOST

### OPINEL FOLDING KNIFE

Lost a much-loved Opinel folding knife on the way to Canning Hut around 18th/19th of August.

It has orangy wooden handle, folding blade, silver ferrule and small piece broken off the tip with a slight bend to the tip.

0417096094  
Email: warren.tacey@gmail.com

### Pack Rain Cover

Dropped brand new pack rain cover on the trail between Mt Wells and Chadoora on 6th Oct 2022. From memory, it is an Osprey brand. I'm hopeful that someone may have found it?

Email: dianesmith.travelbug@gmail.com

## FOUND

### GPS

GPS found on Track and handed in at Collie Visitor Centre.

If you have lost one, please advise the brand/model/colour and when & where you think you lost it.

Hopefully we will be able to reunite the GPS with its owner!

+61 894 810 551  
Email: admin@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

### WOMEN'S READING GLASSES IN SMALL CASE

Found just south of Boonerring Hill on 18th Aug 2022. Appear to have been there for some time.

Contact: Carolyn Layton  
0421 848 674  
Email: carolyn.layton49@gmail.com



# Favourite Short Walk - Walpole

## Walpole-Nornalup Visitor Centre to Coalmine Beach

Difficulty: **Grade 1** | Distance: **6.4km return** | Time: **2 hours**

Starting Point: **Visitors Centre car park, Pioneer Park, South Coast Highway, Walpole.**

This return walk takes you to Coalmine beach via the Walpole jetty. It is a delightful walk around the Walpole Inlet, through stands of peppermint groves and coastal heath.

Starting at the Visitor Centre, the Bibbulmun Track heads through the



Walpole jetty by Mike Fugl

township of Walpole and down to the jetty. Stroll out on the jetty to enjoy views back to the shore and over the very beautiful Walpole Inlet. Take time to peer into the pristine waters and step quietly along the Track, to catch sight of rosellas and red-winged fairy-wrens.

The Track then winds around to Coalmine Beach on the edge of the Walpole-Nornalup Inlets Marine Park. Here you will appreciate sweeping views and might spot an eastern osprey or white-bellied sea-eagle out across the bay. Track surfaces are firm under foot and suitable for the whole family. Picnic and toilets are located at Coalmine Beach.



*For other family friendly walks in the region, download the Trees to Southern Seas itinerary from our website under walk-the-track/bibbulmun-walking-breaks.*

## Track Tucker - Substitutes by Lynda Moir

**Do you find yourself reaching for the same food items for each walk?  
Are you looking for options that tick all the boxes?**

- ✓ Meet the nutritional needs of the walker
- ✓ Great taste
- ✓ Offer variety
- ✓ Quick to make
- ✓ Compact
- ✓ Lightweight
- ✓ Affordable cost



**Here's some options:**

<b>Muesli bars</b>	Scroggin, mix to taste of nuts, dried fruit, seeds, chocolate, jellybeans, granola etc
<b>Porridge</b>	VitaBrits, Weet-Bix Blends range or muesli
<b>Sesame Wheat Crackers</b>	Mountain bread, rice cakes, tortillas or dark rye bread
<b>Cheese</b>	Hard cheeses (these keep best), salami, tahini/nut butter and/or sun-dried tomatoes
<b>Pasta</b>	Rice (fast cooking), couscous or red lentils
<b>Freeze-dried dinners</b>	Try dehydrating your own meals, the variety is endless
<b>Instant pudding</b>	Custard powder, pre-made pancake mix
<b>Coffee and Tea</b>	Milo or Ovaltine. If you enjoy coffee, try the Robert Timms Coffee Bags
<b>Chocolate</b>	No substitute! Recommend dark chocolate

# Member's Nights

**Our next member's night is on 7 December to view the short film 'BigKev's Wilderness Adventure'. It will be good fun and we invite you to join us - find out more on our website.**

Here's a quick wrap up of the last two events, which were well attended and enjoyed by all...

## Tales from Other Trails

On the evening of 22 September, over 80 BTF members and guests came along to Leederville Sports Club to hear two members share their experiences on two overseas trails.

Ben Dickinson hiked the Pacific Crest Trail, a 2650-mile footpath between the US / Mexico border and Canada, in 2019.

His journey took him through deserts, high alpine regions, forests, and three hospitals. Ben talked about his journey, the gear that he carried, and the mishaps he experienced along the way.

Board Member and volunteer guide, Mike Wood, led a group of West Australians over 19 days along the 315km Wainwright's Coast to Coast walk in the UK. The walk passes through the rugged hills and remote, beautiful lakes of the Lake District, wends its way through farming valleys of the Yorkshire Dales and on to the wind-swept beaches on either side of the country.

Our sponsors, Anaconda, Small Things Wine, and Paddy Pallin attended the event and provided some great door prizes. Lots of people enjoyed the wine tasting and checking out the hiking gear on display.

Many thanks to Ben and Mike for sharing their adventures and photographs, our sponsors for the great displays, and to everyone who attended the event. We look forward to the next Tales from Other Trails event!

## Another Bibb Track book on the horizon?

Following the AGM on 27 October, Post Newspapers reporter and BTF member, David Cohen, presented an overview of books already published about our beloved Track and lives in hope that the world needs another account of an end-to-end adventure. While nothing dramatic happened during his hike he certainly provided the audience with plenty of laughs. We wait with bated breath to see if another book emerges.

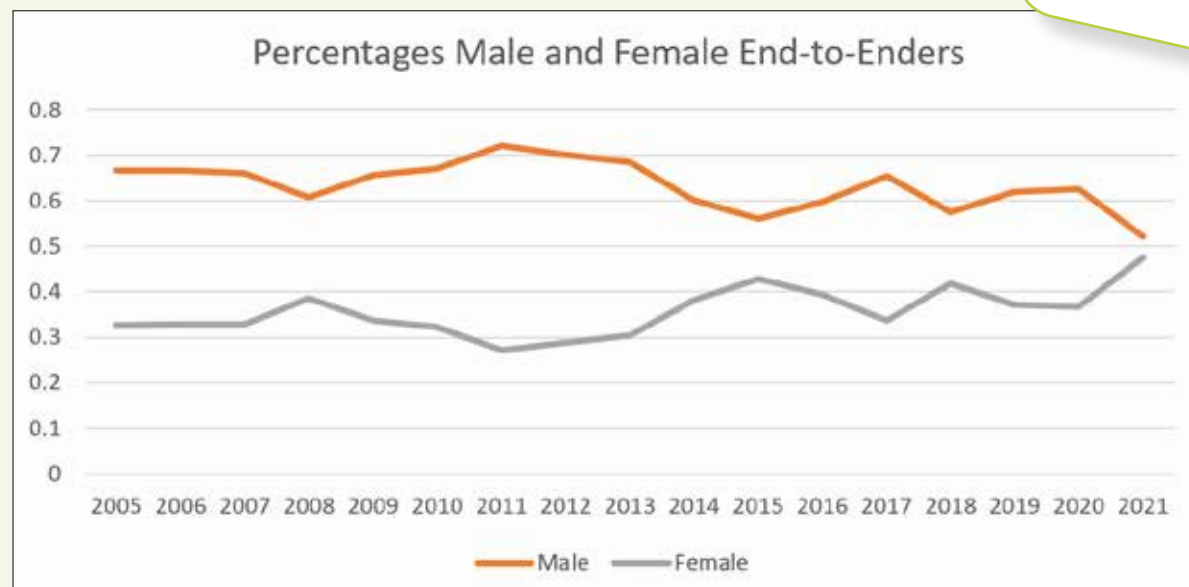
## Bibb Track Facts & Stats

by Dr Barry Bastow

I met a lovely lady on the Track between Dwellingup and Collie pursuing her end to end. Alongside the campfire one night she posed the question; "What is the percentage of male v female end-to-end walkers?"

The answer lies in the graph below. In the early days around 2005 the percentage favoured males around 68% to 32%. Since then, there has been a slow but steady increase in the female participation such that in 2021 it was nearly a 50 - 50 split.

Many thanks to the many volunteers who enter the data from the campsite log books, enabling us to gain an insight into who is walking the Track.





## Thank you! THANK YOU! Thank you!

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

Angela Loucaides	Eamon Barrett	Karen Buckner
Bernice Thomas	Gabriele Caratti	Kaye Heelan
Dana Kerr	Jane Andrews	Paul Harris
David Mossop	Janette Delaney	Phillippa Bennett
David Wrigley	Jody Stevens	Stuart Weston
Diana Smith	Joe Gaspar	Kim Nadine Kirchhoff
Didier Monot	Julie & Julian Mulholland	

### 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.



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# Social Sunday walks

Free for members. See booking conditions online.

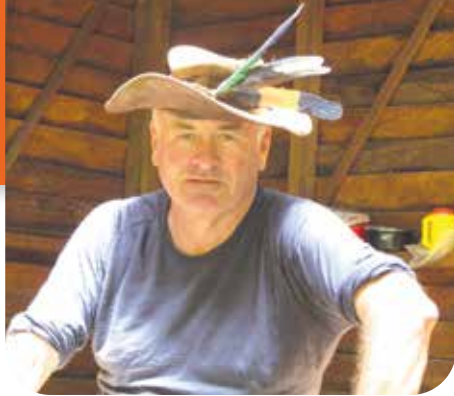
**WALK RATINGS:** BEGINNERS INTERMEDIATE EXPERIENCED

DATE	DETAILS	RATING
26 March @ 4:00pm	6km return sunset walk from Camel Farm to Hewett's Hill	
16 April @ 9:00am	14km return walk from Albany Hwy to Boonering Hill	
30 April @ 9:30am	13km return from River Rd to the Murray River via Swamp Oak Campsite return (Dwellingup sth)	
14 May @ 8:30am	19km return walk from Dale Road to Beraking Campsite. (Fit and experienced walkers only!)	
21 May @ 9:00am	12km return walk from Kinsella Rd to Canning Campsite	
28 May @ 8:30am	20.4km return walk from Kalamunda to Hewett's Hill Campsite. (Fit and experienced walkers only!)	

**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 Tragic!

In my last lot of rambling I reminisced, so I thought it only appropriate that I should start this article with a few thoughts about the future. We are in the grip of a technological age, something which I, as a trained scientist—albeit a long time ago—welcome on the one hand but have deep reservations about on the other. For many people, myself included, getting out in the wilderness, whether it's the Bibbulmun Track or savouring the bleak beauty of the Himalayas, means an escape from technology—television, traffic, mobile phones, computers—but as hard as we try, we don't really escape.

Unlike the early explorers, people such as George Mallory who almost reached the summit of Everest (or did he get there?), wearing a tweed suit, three sweaters, woolly socks and hobnail boots, we use technological advances, like it or not.

Yes, we eschew computer games and Netflix but our equipment nowadays has been improved beyond measure by technology—lighter and warmer clothing, better cookware, much better

tents and raingear. And all of that is fine. You can still go out into the wilderness, more comfortable and better fed without compromising the true spirit of escaping the rat-race.

But now we come onto my favourite bugbear in trekking—electronic mapping devices. Honestly, I'm not a Luddite, I've changed from quills to biro and I'm considering risking a microwave but I still become concerned with walkers who rely solely on Apps like Far Out for guidance on the Track with no physical back-up. Enough said, we've been there before.

Now technology has moved forward; two innovations on show are piston equipped hiking boots and bush walking robots!

The boots are said to be constructed with technology that prevents the type of twists and turns that cause injury, apparently reacting three times faster than the body is capable of. This is made possible by an intelligent fluid system that stiffens within a few milliseconds if critical movements are made too quickly and then immediately returns to its flexible initial state. If you have any concerns about your feet becoming three times more intelligent than the rest of your body, think carefully before committing yourself.

I can see the next stage as being rocket boots; get to the bottom of Cardiac Hill, press a button on your belt and rockets ignite in your boots, sending you flying effortlessly to the Blackwood Campsite.

Swiss researchers have created a four-legged robot called ANYmal and outfitted it with the tools it needs to survive in rugged environments. This wee beastie can negotiate extremely rugged terrain, carrying heavy loads, at least as quickly as a hiker of average fitness. This is clearly a big step forward in the possibility of the



Swiss boffins teach a robot to bushwalk!

use of such robots in rescue situations where people are stranded in remote locations. Unlike humans, robots can keep going for long periods of time with no rest. As such, this is an excellent innovation.

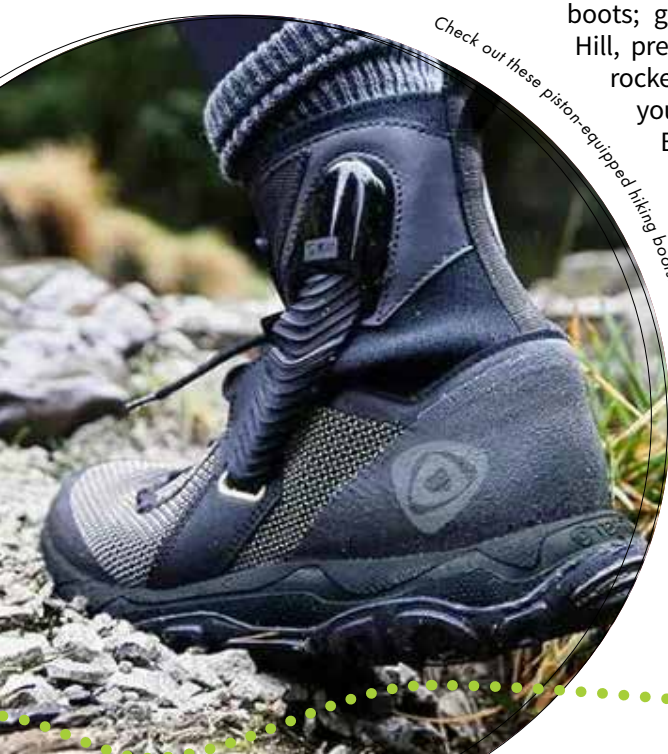
What fascinated me, however, was the suggestion that these robots could supersede human guides on guided walks.

Event: Walk with Mum. Situation: Little Johnny has had enough after half an hour walking in the rain, pulls off his pack, sits down, screams, cries and refuses to walk any further. Mum is at the end of her tether. Along comes our guide, a child caring, compassionate Swiss robot...or maybe humans will still have a part to play after all?

Or perhaps these robots could be an answer to people who advertise for a companion to accompany them on an end-to-end. This has always seemed a bit strange to me—what do you do if after the first two days you find you can't stand each other's company and you're stuck to walking together for another fifty? A robot could be the perfect answer. It won't snore, it won't argue, doesn't need toilet paper and won't annoy others in the campsite. It could carry your pack (or you, for that matter) up the steeper hills along the way.

Ah, this Brave New World in which we live.

**Happy Walking,  
Wrong Way Jim**



Check out these piston-equipped hiking boots!



# REFLECTIONS FROM THE REGISTERS

## WOODBALES

One more day 'til we get to the sea  
A pretty big milestone for Chunky and me  
It has to be thirty-eight days at least  
But now we can turn and start heading east  
We've come a long way from the hills  
around Perth  
Now it's on to the waves, the wind and  
the surf.  
*Red Dog and Chunky Monkey 11/11/2008*

## POSSUM SPRINGS

It's official. I'm an idiot! Pretty sure I  
plugged in my phone charger when I got  
to Dwellingup, but I must have turned  
the power off at the wall! Last night I  
tried to charge my phone but had no  
power in the charger. Instant blind panic  
as I've come to rely on Guthook and now  
I have to just follow the Waugals, which I  
managed to do today to get here!  
*Justin 03/03/2019*

*Ed: Relying entirely on electronic devices  
can lead to problems, which is why the  
BTF always recommends walkers to carry  
maps!*

## MT CLARE

Warm and sunny, so the snakes are out!  
Lots of marks on the Track but I only saw  
one, which resulted in half of me trying  
to run and the other half freezing in fear.  
This led to me lying face down on the  
Track. Luckily the snake quit the scene  
and I hiked the next kilometre or so with  
legs of jelly.  
*Jenny 06/09/2021*

## GARDNER

This is our last leg walking to raise money  
for lung cancer awareness. We'll be  
back in July for Northcliffe to Collie and  
in October to finish off at Hewett's Hill.  
Hewett's Hill is named after our father,  
Peter Hewett, who was a founder of  
the Bibbulmun Track and who played  
an integral part in making it happen  
when recreational bush walking was not  
common. Thanks to all the volunteers  
and everyone else involved in keeping  
the Track and the shelters in such great  
condition. It has been awesome!

*Carolyn Riordan (née Hewett);  
Penni Ellis (née Hewett);  
Keren Huck; Lyn Ellis 04/05/2019*



*Art-work 11/10/2020*

## BEEDELUP

Concern has been raised amongst  
CALM and the FOBT regarding excessive  
use of toilet paper in Track dunnies.  
Careful examination has shown that  
some pits contain appreciably more  
paper than excreta. Extensive research  
by the Australian Defence Force (ADF)  
and in particular the SAS Mobile Latrine  
Division has determined that three  
sheets per bowel movement (BM) are  
perfectly adequate. Henceforth walkers  
are required to restrict themselves three  
sheets per BM and to one BM per day.  
In cases of special need walkers may  
apply to the nearest CALM office for  
a Supplementary BM Permit (SBMP).  
SBMPs are \$4.99 each are strictly non-  
transferable.

*Ron Buttock  
(Toilet Officer CALM Perth) 29/10/2005*

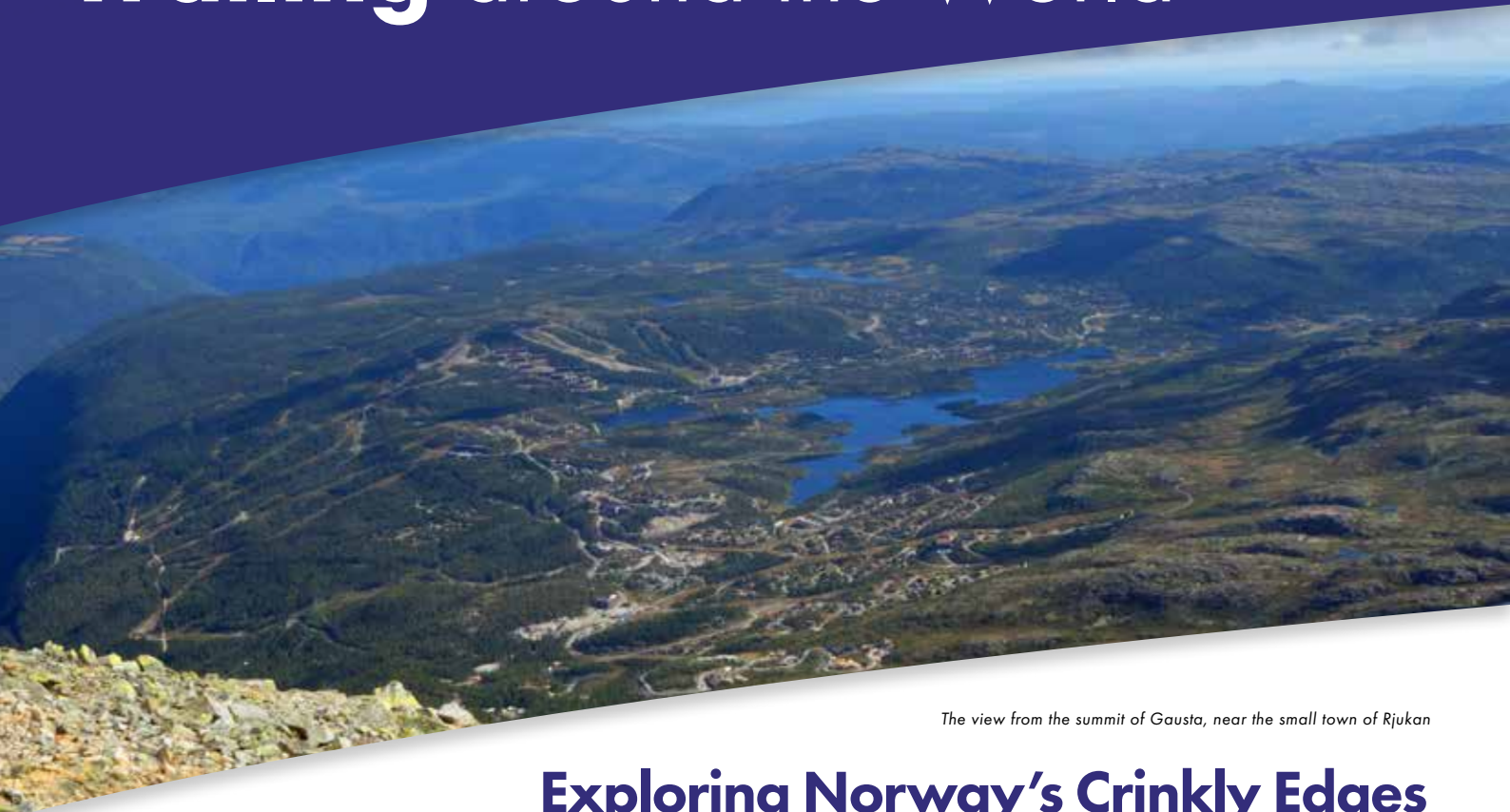
This is possibly my last night on the  
Track and already I miss it! It has been  
a great trek and special experience  
walking from Balingup. The Bibbulmun  
is without doubt a world-class track. In  
my experience of travelling through the  
USA, South America and the Pacific, this  
is the best long-distance trail. Cheers to  
WA, CALM and the BTF for making this  
trail available!

*Grigory Petrov Moscow Russia 14/05/2006*

## 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.**

# Trailing around the World



The view from the summit of Gausta, near the small town of Rjukan

## Exploring Norway's Crinkly Edges

Slartibartfast was especially proud of Norway. He had every right to be. *“Won an award, you know. Lovely crinkly edges,”* he said of Norway’s coastline.

Slartibartfast is, of course, a character created by author Douglas Adams in his series of science fiction novels, the *Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*. The story told by Adams is that Slartibartfast had a hand in designing planet Earth, and his favourite part of the job was creating the notable Norwegian fjords.

Norway is, indeed, remarkable. We were lucky enough to recently spend two weeks there admiring some of Slartibartfast’s work. We’ve been there twice, now, having done all of the obligatory Norway-in-a-nutshell things during our first trip in 2015. During that trip, we sailed the Hurtigruten mail run from Kirkenes in the north, 10km shy of the Russian border, to Bergen in the south. We explored Bergen, Norway’s stunning second city, sailed the magnificent Aurlandsfjord, travelled on the famous Flåm railway, and visited the Viking Museum in Oslo. It left us free, this trip, to indulge in Norway’s adventure and outdoors culture, which I think is a far better reflection of the real Norway.

In my first week, this trip, I was travelling solo. I decided the best use of my freedom was to head to a little town with a population of about 3,000, called Rjukan, to do some hiking.

Rjukan is in southern Norway, roughly between Oslo and Bergen. It sits at the bottom of the impossibly deep and steep Vestfjorddalen. As a result, Rjukan stretches like a ribbon on the valley floor less than 500m wide, but over 6km long. It is overshadowed to the south by the highest mountain in southern Norway, Gausta, at 1,883m. To the north is Europe’s largest mountain plateau, Hardangervidda, a vast wilderness which is also Norway’s oldest and largest national park. All of this, of course, describes a place perfect for hiking.

With mountains to the north and mountains to the south, the northern winter sun fails to climb high enough to illuminate the valley floor, leaving Rjukan starved of direct sunlight for six months of the year. The solution? In 2017, three huge mirrors were placed on the mountain to the north to reflect the sun down to the town square below, giving the locals a place to gather to feel the rays for a brief couple of hours each winter’s day. A very Norwegian solution to a very Norwegian problem!

Rjukan was originally built, in 1907, as Norway’s first company town to house the workers for Norse Hydro. It has since played a crucial role in Norway’s industrial and cultural fabric. In recognition of this, Rjukan and its surrounds were UNESCO-listed

*Wedged between a mountain and a high place, the UNESCO-listed town of Rjukan, in southern Norway, offers a fascinating history and hiking to die for.*



in 2015, I think a source of great pride to its residents.

What has happened in Rjukan of such significance, I hear you ask? Well, in 1910, Norse Hydro commissioned a hydroelectric plant that was, at the time, the world's largest power plant. The abundance of power and water attracted industrial development, placing Rjukan at the heart of Norway's great industrial revolution in the first couple of decades of the 20th century. That is all pretty significant, but of equal significance is the role played by this power plant, and a number of Rjukan locals, during World War II.

During the war, the Nazis occupied the power plant, along with much of Norway. The power plant had, attached to it, a massive hydrogen plant capable of producing quantities of heavy water, a compound thought to be vital to Nazi efforts to develop an atomic bomb. The Allies decided something needed to be done to prevent this, and enlisted nine members of the Norwegian special forces, half of whom were Rjukan locals.

The Norwegian soldiers parachuted into the wilderness of the Hardangervidda plateau and spent a bleak winter there gathering intelligence and planning. Then, on a winter night in February 1943, these soldiers stole into the hydrogen plant to bomb the heavy water tanks, delaying the Nazi atomic program and saving the world the consequences of such a dreadful threat. Apparently, not a shot was fired, and no lives were lost. A miraculous outcome by any estimation.

I find all this endlessly fascinating. Rjukan is my kind of a place, with magnificent natural assets, an industrious and

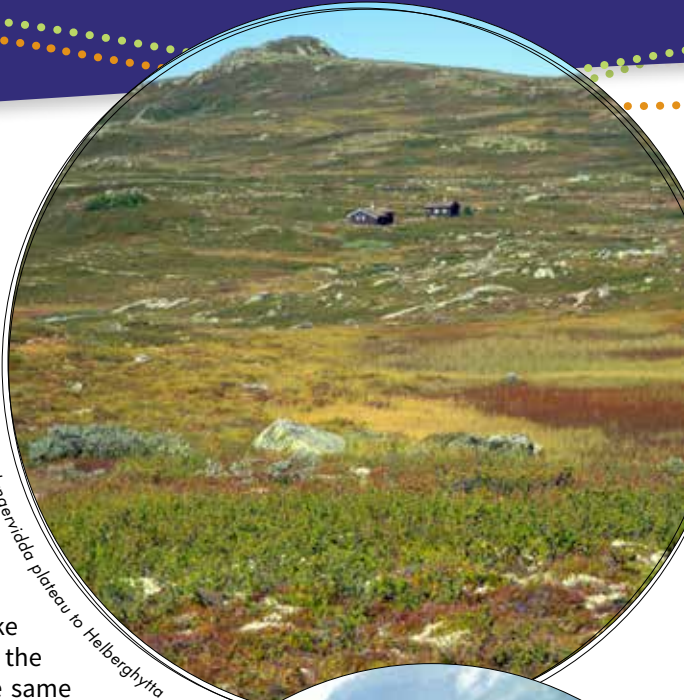
ingenious mindset, an intriguing back story, and stunning early 20th century industrial architecture. The latter, I would say, is the Norwegian equivalent of Victorian architecture, even if a decade or two late to be considered as such.

So, I spent almost a week in Rjukan sucking it all in and hiking. On the Monday, I did the 8km Saboteur's Trail, a hike along the southern edge of the Hardangervidda following the same route used by the Norwegian soldiers, during the war, to bomb the heavy water tanks. Some of it is through mountain goat country, I can tell you.

On the Tuesday, I caught the Krossobanen (cross roads) cableway, from Rjukan to the Hardangervidda plateau, to do a 10km hike on its windswept plains. Afterwards, I visited the Norwegian Industrial Workers Museum housed in the repurposed hydroelectric plant. I was able to walk amongst the massive AEG generators on the factory floor, and visit the newly-opened cellars where the heavy water tanks were housed. It was brilliant. I had the sense that it was a site of enormous historic significance, and also of cultural significance and pride to the Norwegians.

On the Wednesday, I climbed Gausta. The way I did it, I climbed 710m over 4.3kms. Up, and back down again. It's pretty steep in places. The total height is 1,883m above sea level. Apparently, on a clear day you can see one sixth of Norway from the top of it provided, of course, that you are facing in the right direction (I may not have been). The impressive thing is the description in the walking notes, "Child-friendly. For children not used to walking." What the...?

On the Thursday, I headed back to the Hardangervidda, once again, to do an 18km hike to Helberghytta (Helberg's Hut), a mountain hut named in honour of one of the Norwegian soldier saboteurs. It was wild and remote and astonishingly beautiful.



The view across the Hardangervidda plateau to Helberghytta



The Krossobanen (cross roads) aerial cableway, overlooking Rjukan

My impressions of Norway? Well, it's impossible not to admire the Norwegian people. They have a deep appreciation of their stunning environment, and really understand the value of beauty, both of the natural and built environments. They also have that Germanic sense of purpose, and can really get some stuff done. Norwegians always get a bad rap for being a distant and reserved people, but I haven't found them that way at all. I like Norwegians.

And the place? It's achingly beautiful, emotionally so. To spend time, on my own, on the windswept Hardangervidda was one of the hiking experiences of my life. Obviously, I haven't endured a brutal Norwegian winter there, devoid of the Rjukan sun, but I'd be prepared to give it a burl.

Slartibartfast, I love your work!

**Derek Bracken**

The hydroelectric plant seen from the Saboteur's Trail







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