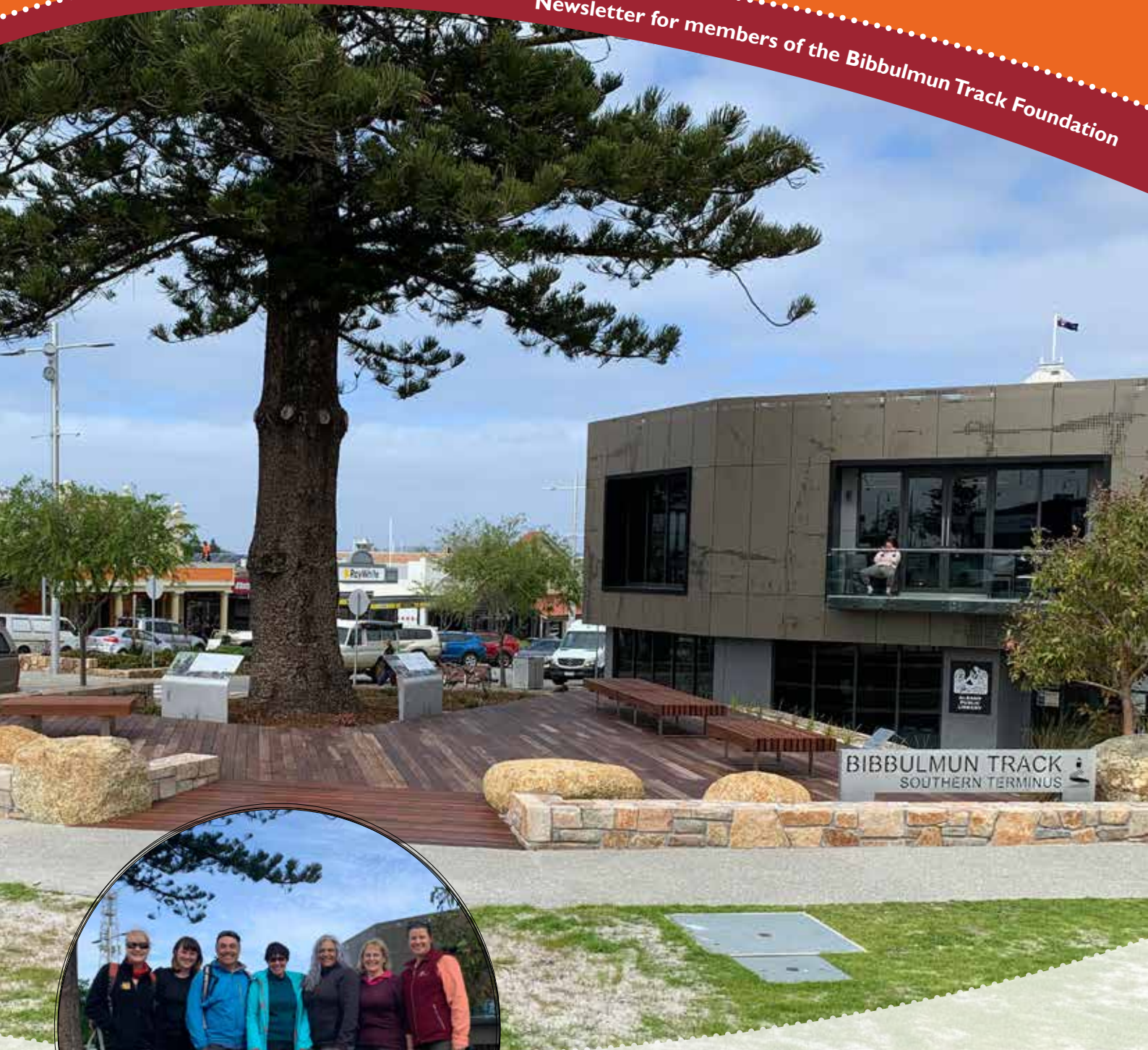


Bibbulmun NEWS

DEC'21 - APR'22
ISSUE #88
RRP \$8.00



Newsletter for members of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation



The new Southern Terminus was officially opened in November. The BTF staff team took a look when in Albany for the WA Trails Forum.

L to R: Linda Daniels, Laura Wainwright, Steve Sertis, Sue Morley, Ash Gibson, Ce Kealley and Helen Grimm.

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.

Unique Bibbulmun Track branded items

- Number plate surrounds - \$22.00
- Head Sox - \$25.00
- KeepCup - \$17.60
- Peak cap - \$32.95
- RockTape - \$22.50

Christmas stocking fillers:

- Nalgene water bottles - \$18.00
- 2nd ed guidebooks - \$11.95
- Replica Waugals - \$4.25
- Fridge magnets - \$2.20
- Snake bite kit - \$22.00
- Track maps - \$11.50
- Bush books - \$6.95
- Posters - \$10.00

NEW - Good Reads

Naturalist on the Bibbulmun by Leigh Simmons

Naturalist on the Bibbulmun is the story of one man's journey with his son through this ancient and extraordinary corner of the world. Part field guide, part travelogue, part love song to the Southwest region of WA, you'll be enchanted by Leigh W. Simmons's documentation of plants, animals and Noongar seasons.

\$39.99

Noongar Bush Tucker by Vivienne Hansen & John Horsfall

Bush food plants and fungi of the south-west. This book is an attempt to preserve bush tucker knowledge for future generations of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to ensure the information is not lost with the passing of Elders.

\$34.99

Birds of Perth Hills by Talitha Huston

World class photographs with first class observations of birds and their behaviour.

\$15.00

10% off
for BTF
members

One for the Kids...

Off the Track by Cristy Burne

An adventure for young readers written by Cristy Burne about falling in love with the bush, hiking and being in the wild. It's about disconnecting from technology and discovering yourself.

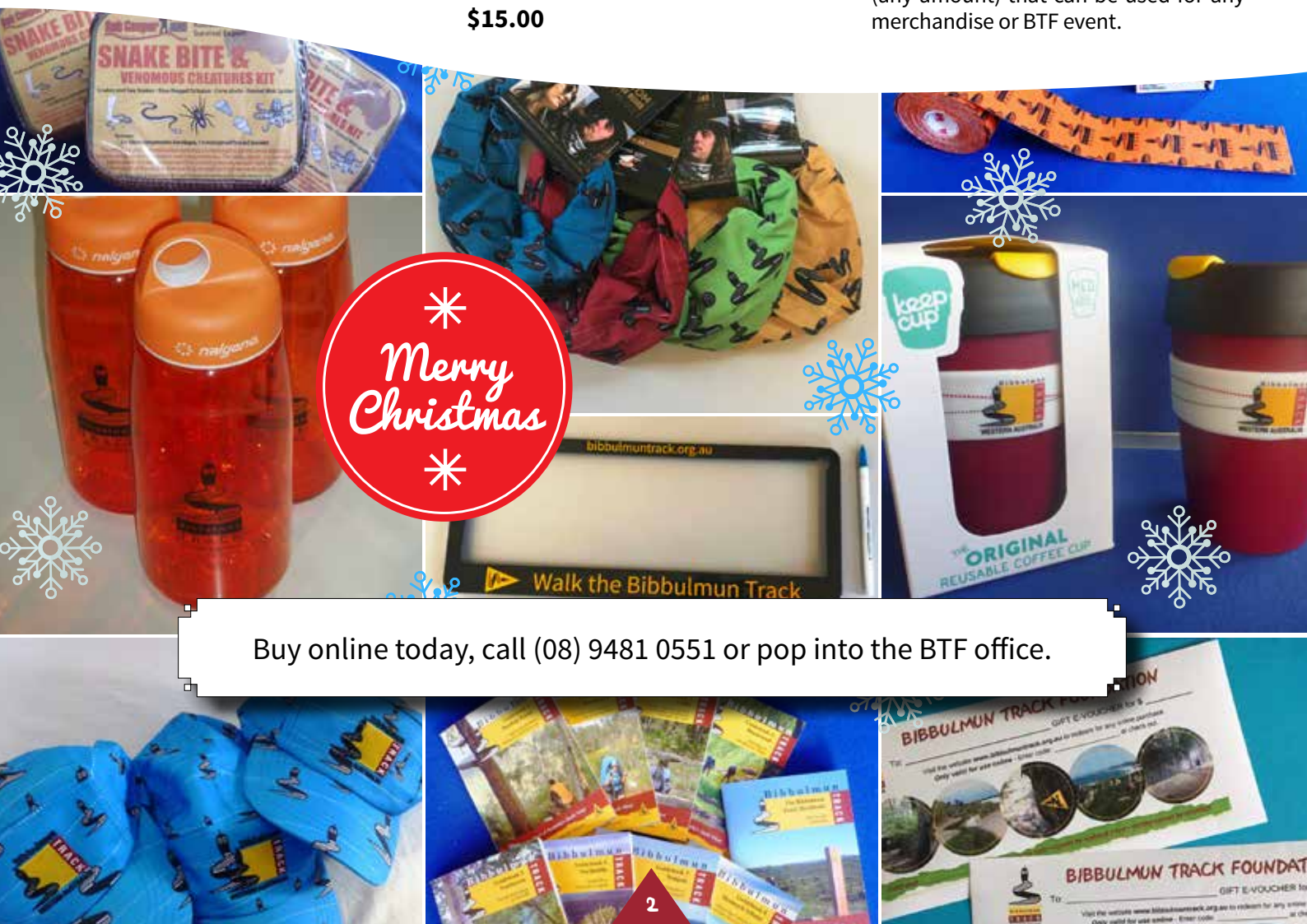
\$15.00

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.



Merry
Christmas

Buy online today, call (08) 9481 0551 or pop into the BTF office.



FROM MY Desk

Welcome to the Summer Edition of Bibbulmun News.

It took a while, but we've settled into our new premises in Northbridge. It was a tight fit, but the atmosphere is good and we even managed to find space for the Munda Biddi team. If you get a chance, pop in to do some Christmas shopping and say hi to our volunteers.

We held our AGM on 28 October and managed to fit nearly 30 people in our meeting room with more attending online. Over the 2020/21 financial year we ran approximately 80 guided walks and workshops, four extended tours, ten Field Days and multiple maintenance projects along the length of the Track. Volunteers contributed almost 40,000 hours in a multitude of roles and, as always, we are grateful to have their support, skills and enthusiasm.

The Annual Report is on our website and for a more detailed overview of past and upcoming maintenance projects, read the article *Maintenance and improvement projects update* under News. You will also find updates on pages 7 and 8 of this magazine.

We have just been advised that our NRM grant application for Phase 2 of the erosion control project on the south coast was successful and planning is underway to commence this campaign early next year. I look forward to providing more detail in the next edition.

Additionally, after our application two years ago was put on hold due to COVID, Lotterywest has just granted us \$81,400 to upgrade our website and we are very happy to get this important project underway. You can read more about this on page 11.

Other key projects in progress include the development of training modules for Track maintenance and an introductory Guide Training program. The BTF has been asked to develop these resources in response to industry demand.

The increasing interest in hiking and acknowledgement of the BTF's expertise in track maintenance and guide training is very positive but it has certainly increased our workload and we are looking forward to the quieter summer months and Christmas holidays!

I hope you and your loved ones also enjoy some time to relax and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Linda Daniels
Executive Director

Join us on



Thank you!
THANK YOU!
Thank you!

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

Carol Newton-Smith
David Hill
David Slatyer
Fred McGlashan
Gabrielle Caratti
Gwen McNaught
Hursh Dodhia-Shah
Jane McGuire

Janette Lawson
Julie South
Kaye Heelan
Lewis Grant
Linda Petrusa
Maelle Girard
Sam Kemp
Walter Rethon

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.

STOP PRESS!

We are very pleased to welcome outdoor adventure retailer, Anaconda, as a new Gold Sponsor.

The Australian owned company is designed to be a one-stop-shop for outdoor and adventure equipment. There are currently eight stores in WA with another four in the pipeline.

We look forward to bringing our members some great offers.



Season's Greetings

The office will be closed from:
4:00pm Friday 10 December until
10:00am Monday 24 January 2022.



YOUR Letters

Good afternoon,
Given that the Bibbulmun Track website profiles Dwellingup Transfers, I thought I would take the opportunity to provide some feedback.

Quite simply "Excellent". I trekked from Mt Wells to Dwellingup yesterday (4/8/21) and was 900m short of Dwellingup at sundown. I managed to get a phone signal and called Glenn at Dwellingup Transfers and told him where I was on the Track, just out of town and asked if it was OK to book a ride to Armadale. Glenn asked where I was and said, "No problem, stay there, I'll come and grab you", this was because it was nearing dark.

After walking 30-odd kilometres I was glad to see the coach bus headlights and Glenn. The trip to Armadale was reasonably priced \$105 and the service was brilliant. I thought it was worth letting you guys know.

Kind regards,
Glen Palmer

ED: We always like to hear feedback about our Walker Friendly Businesses.

Hi Steve

I was one of two walkers, along with Patrick and Chris, who undertook the Over the Hill (2) Bibbulmun Track walk Thursday 16 September 2021.

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

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

Regards
Jennifer Williams

ED: This event was nearly called off as most people pulled out due to the weather forecast. More often than not the weather is nowhere near as bad as forecast - all that is needed is appropriate weather-proof gear and a positive attitude!

The following feedback was received from Jessy Gupta after joining our Bibbulmun Blossoms event in September.

What can I say - I got way more than I expected from the walk - well-chosen path with exceptional display and biodiversity of wildflowers.

The walk leaders and guides were awesome as usual - Steve is still the same devoted and awesome walk leader besides the great knowledge of Aussie bush. He managed to turn on the glorious weather too for us. Michael again is as awesome. I really appreciate the patience of walk leaders - they took good care of all the variety of walkers including an 8-month-old baby walking the trail with his parents and grandpa.

I myself tend to fall back on the walk sometimes due to spending some time admiring the beautiful wonders of nature and sometimes due to my pace slower than others - especially on steep ascents. My only complaint is this walk occurs only once a year - it needs to be more frequent - had to wait five years to get a spot on it - every time gets booked out so quickly.

ED: Thank you Jessy for the fantastic feedback.

PHOTO CAPTION COMPETITION

**Denmark locals and BTF volunteers
John Hosking and Bo English doing
some re-marking on Mt Hallowell.**

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

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



Send us your caption!

Walker Story – Hiking for a Cause

BTF Life Member Kristopher (Kriss) Soord undertook to walk the Bibbulmun Track between Kalamunda and Dwellingup in seven days to raise money for the Pink Jade Educational Fund—no mean feat, averaging 30km a day. This is his story:

I completed the 211km hike from Kalamunda to Dwellingup on 7 October raising over \$6000 for Pink Jade.

PJEF is a Perth based charity which provides education, housing, food, clothes and other essentials to Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Myanmar. The charity predominantly assists children of the ethnic minority Karen peoples who have faced ethnic cleansing, genocide and civil war for the last 70 years.

To this day Karen peoples' bamboo and traditional houses and villages are being bombed by the Tatmadaw, leaving many children homeless and in some cases making the children orphans. Many children have not known peace or safety during their lifetime. No child should face this growing up and PJEF are doing their best to at least give these children some hope of a brighter future. I am proud that I have been

able to raise funds to help this noble cause and hope to continue to assist Pink Jade in the future with fund raising and even assisting with teaching and support in Myanmar.

On my seven-day trek I doublehugged every day and even triple hugged on days two and three. I had a break every two hours for morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. These two hourly hikes coincided with the time it takes Karen kindergarteners to hike through the jungle to one of the Pink Jade schools every morning. I wasn't about to complain about my problems or blisters if young children were simply grateful they could attend class for an education after a two-hour hike.

To find out more about this cause and support my fundraiser please search Trek Against Tragedy which will link you to my GoFundMe account.

My event was also set up to make people more aware of the Bibbulmun Track and create interest in this amazing treasure we have in our backyard. Bibbulmun Track hiking can be a great way to assist fundraising and



Kriss Soord raised over \$6000 for Pink Jade

awareness for charitable causes. I urge people who use the Track to give back to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation. I have been using the Track since childhood and thought it was time to give something back.

I have recently become a Life Member and would encourage anyone who plans to or has used the Track to consider donating, becoming a member or volunteering.

Kriss Soord

Direct link to Kriss's GoFundMe is: <https://gofund.me/c59f6b82>

Enviro Night a Big Hit with Members

On Wednesday the 15th of September, over 65 BTF members and guests came along to Universal Bar to hear a passionate author sharing his knowledge of the south-western corner of Western Australia's environment and more.

Leigh Simmons, the author of *Naturalist on the Bibbulmun: A walking companion* shared his 1000km journey along the Track with his son and promoted his book—part field guide, part travelogue, part love song to the southwest region of WA. The audience was captivated by Leigh's documentation of plants, animals and Noongar seasons. Hearing about the ecology and evolutionary biology of the animals and plants found during the Noongar seasons of Kambarang and Birak was both enlightening and humorous.

Thanks to Leigh for sharing his knowledge, experience and photographs with us. We received so much positive feedback from the audience that we have booked another night and we look forward to having Leigh back next year for all those who missed out first time round.



Leigh Simmons' presentation was both informative and entertaining.

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 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.

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

Parks and Wildlife Contacts:

Recreation and Trails Unit

recreationandtrails@dbca.wa.gov.au

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

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

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

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

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

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

LEAVE NO TRACE TIP: MINIMISE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS

A reminder during summer (generally December to April) all campfires are prohibited. Campfires are never allowed at the Yourdamung and Blackwood Campsites or any campsites south of Pingerup Road as these are in high fire risk areas.

If you must have a fire during the cooler months...

1. Never leave a fire unattended.
2. Light only in fireplace provided.
3. Use only dead fallen wood.
4. Extinguish embers with soil.
5. Make sure your fire is completely out before leaving.





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,

In mid-October I had the pleasure of attending the WA Trails and Recreation Forum in Albany, along with most of the Recreation and Trails Unit team. It was great to experience the collective excitement and interest in trails and learn about some of the great initiatives and work happening in trails and outdoor recreation. This spring will no doubt be a very busy period for the Bibbulmun Track and there is certainly a lot of excellent work being done to improve it.

New Southern Terminus

The long awaited new Southern Terminus was completed in early September, providing an iconic and fitting start or finish point for users of both the Bibbulmun Track and Munda Biddi Trail. The terminus is nestled under the huge Norfolk Island Pine next to the visitor centre on York St and integrates seamlessly with the existing park and streetscape. The project was part funded by a grant from Great Southern Development Commission and the construction phase was project-managed by City of Albany, so thanks go to both for their part in the project.

Campsite Upgrades

The campsite upgrade project, involving eight of the ageing campsites, is progressing steadily. Shelter upgrade works were completed some time ago at the Gringer Creek, White Horse Hills, Yourdamung, Boarding House and Yabberup Campsites. Tenders have been received for the remaining package of planned works, encompassing shelter upgrades at the remaining sites of Harris Dam, Gregory Brook and Grimwade. Tent site and path upgrades have been completed at White Horse Hills and Grimwade Campsites. The remaining works will be prioritised, and contracts awarded within the remaining budget.

New Group Campsite

Planning for a new Group Campsite at Monadnocks is progressing well. The campsite will be perched on the eastern side of the ridge with spectacular sweeping views out to the east. Concept

designs are being developed for the campsite layout and shelter design, and various planning and approval steps are in progress. Approval has been granted for development of the new campsite site within the drinking water catchment (under DWER Policy 13). A flora survey has been completed with no issues identified and dieback and aboriginal heritage surveys are being arranged.

William Bay

The dual-use coastal trail between Elephant Rocks and Waterfall Beach in William Bay National Park was completed and opened in mid-October. This trail was a challenging build in a very sensitive environment, with a helicopter transport used for cartage of trail surfacing material along some sections. The trail serves as the new Munda Biddi alignment, but also complements the Bibbulmun Track, providing a fantastic loop walk option.

Nullaki Peninsula

Planning is underway to formalise a route for the Bibbulmun Track through the tip of the Nullaki Peninsula near Denmark. This will provide a formalised,

appropriate trail link from the Wilson Inlet sandbar, when it is crossable, to the existing Bibbulmun Track. A suitable trail alignment has been mapped out, skirting around the saltmarsh Threatened Ecological Community and winding through the foredunes. The proposed new trail will require the usual suite of surveys and approvals before proceeding to the construction phase.

New maps

The new style Bibbulmun Track maps are now all printed and delivered and most are now in circulation, with just a few maps having some old stock remaining. The environmentally responsible move to paper maps and cardboard map packs has also enabled us to avoid price increases, and whilst they've received mixed feedback, we trust they will be well received by the majority of trail users.

Once again, the work achieved by BTF volunteers over the last few months has been really impressive, and the contribution made by every volunteer is to be commended.

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. In recent years the Track has been severely impacted by bushfires with the destruction of campsites and other structures which fire fighters were not able to save due to the ferocity of the fires. Much of the Track is difficult to access quickly in an emergency and more so during a bushfire.

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 very 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, which 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

With the unprecedented amount of wet weather this year, there have been more Track maintenance issues than usual. Flooding, washouts, diversions, trees down; our maintenance volunteers have more than likely come across all of these.

As a result, everyone from maintenance volunteers, support volunteers and PaWS district officers have made a concerted effort in keeping the Track open and safe for hikers.

It's been an interesting time as the newly appointed Maintenance Manager, looking at ways we can improve maintenance processes and training office maintenance staff. We have also been busy looking at ways we can upskill our maintenance volunteers through the development of training modules and practical sessions.

In response to our recent Maintenance Volunteer Survey, we hope next year to provide our volunteers with training in best practice standards in track maintenance. The development of a Track Maintenance Course will be the first of its kind in Western Australia, so it's great to see the Bibbulmun Track Foundation leading the way in this area!

Maintenance highlights

- Led by Support Volunteers (SVs) a large group of volunteers spent two days restoring the Mt Dale Circuit, a delightful loop off the Bibbulmun Track just one and a half hours from Perth.

This trail had been closed for several months due to lack of maintenance. Our aim is to eventually realign the Bibbulmun Track to take in more of this scenic route and incorporate the entire loop trail into our maintenance program to ensure that this excellent day walk remains open.

- Two sections along Lights Beach were re-marked, much to the enjoyment of the volunteers involved.
- Gringer Creek and White Horse Hills campsites received a makeover where timber was sanded and oiled and new signage put up.
- Volunteers spent some time attending to neglected railings at One Tree Bridge and were busy fixing the rails, and painting.
- After fires destroyed track markers, volunteers re-marked a large section between White Horse Hill and Mt Wells.
- Volunteers working in groups were involved in way marking posts, fixing signage and addressing erosion across the Bibbulmun Track near Mutton Bird Beach, in the Albany area. Many of those involved learnt the various techniques used in erosion control in coastal areas.

- DBCA and BTF SVs managed to find a route on the Nullaki Peninsula for hikers crossing the Wilson Inlet using the sandbar when available. Read more about this on page 7.

The final Field Day of the year was held at Blackwood Campsite.

Despite the bleak weather forecast an enthusiastic bunch of volunteers joined BTF and PaWS staff to nurture the 900 trees and shrubs planted to revegetate the area after bushfires; give the shelter some TLC; and improve signage along the Track.

In recent months we have also:

- Scoped the functionality for an improved volunteer management and maintenance reporting portal.
- Surveyed our maintenance volunteers to get feedback and input into plans for improved training and reporting processes.
- Provided input into WA guidelines for developing and maintaining hiking trails.

Sue Morley
Maintenance Manager



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



Tending to the young plants at Blackwood Campsite.



Cutting a gap for hikers to pass through.

Volunteer Story - Caro Knight

Caro has been a maintenance volunteer for 15 years, looking after a bit of the Track north of Collie. Sadly, she's just decided to retire; we'll miss her jolly spirit and smiling face at Wellington District Field Days! This is her story:

I first got involved with the Bibbulmun Track with a friend named Keith Hill, who was already a volunteer; he suggested I get involved with track maintenance. Keith was maintaining two sections from Possum Springs Campsite to Trees Road and was finding it difficult to do it all in the time that he had...so I joined him. As time went on, he became too unwell to do the section between Possum Springs Campsite and Dee Vee Road, so I worked both the sections with his help. We would stay overnight at Possum Springs.

Mostly it was not difficult, and I loved it. It was quite an undertaking, but I was younger and fitter then. Eventually I ended up maintaining the section from the campsite to Dee Vee Road, which I loved as it was more manageable with my employment in Perth.

I saw lots of kangaroos. On one of the trips, I came across two kangaroos, one was a juvenile, the other was a mother who was attempting to attach the baby. Although I moved well away and stayed very still, she decided not to go

ahead with that and to my distress left it there. Another time I met a large pig with youngsters.

One trip was going well until I found Dee Vee Road blocked by a tree from one side to nearly the other. I did a bit of pruning and made enough space to take the vehicle I was driving to get around. On my way home there was another tree across which needed the same attention!

I met many fellow travelers. The one that impacted me most was a lady in her twenties who was walking a section or two after a cancer diagnosis. We were overnighing at Possum Springs and she was trying to message her father but couldn't get a signal. Some little time later she excitedly said she had managed to get a very short signal. A wonderful fluke as it is not normally possible to achieve that.

Another memorable time was when a small group of teenagers from a religious school in the northern suburbs were staying at the shelter. Somehow a girl spilled a full mug of boiling water on herself. We managed to treat her hand and arm (fortunately, I had a very good first aid kit) and as I was going back to Perth the next day, I offered to phone her parents for a possible pick-up. She stoically decided to continue with her trip and I watched them all quietly reallocate her gear so she was able to continue. I have often thought of her bravery and the support she had from her group.



Caro Knight

As volunteers we meet many adventurous folks from all walks of life who take up the challenge of the Bibbulmun Track. It has been a great pleasure to meet with them, share their stories and to admire their determination. I am sad not to be able to continue being a vullie, as it has taken me to another life of sharing with quite a few people the pleasure of being in the bush, seeing them achieve their goals and the solace that their trip gives them.

Caro Knight

New Southern Terminus officially open

On 9 November 2021, Albany's new Bibbulmun Track and Munda Biddi Trail Terminus was officially opened on York Street, ready to guide visitors directly to the heart of the city.

Work on the \$178,000 project started in April to move the southern terminus of the two trails from Proudlove Parade near the old visitor centre to Alison Hartman Gardens.

The new terminus features decking, bike racks, seating and signs, and provides easy access to the Albany Visitor Centre.

The concept design was developed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, which funded the project in partnership with the Great Southern Development Commission. Construction was managed by the City of Albany.

At the official opening of the terminus on Monday, Albany MLA Rebecca Stephens said it was a fitting way for hikers and cyclists to celebrate the start or completion of the trails.

"The new terminus complements the visitor centre's role in promoting tourism in the Great Southern region, catering to the significant increase in active walking and cycling holidays we've seen develop worldwide over the last year, and now locally," she said.

"The Great Southern Adventure Trails project will raise the profile of the Albany region and is great for the Albany community and families to enjoy this wonderful part of the world."



Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' Jarred Pedro & Mike Shepard, City of Albany chief executive Andrew Sharpe, Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington, Albany MLA Rebecca Stephens & DBCA's Peter Hatley & Luke Coney.
Credit: Laurie Benson/Albany Advertiser

Getting into Gear

Day Packs

There has been an explosion in the number of people walking trails all over WA, Australia and the world where they walk from one form of accommodation to another, either directly or by using transportation at pre-arranged pick-up points.

This means that walkers can generally make do with a day pack as they are not carrying camping gear, cooking equipment or much food.

By a day pack I mean one of such a size will carry gear for one day of walking, not one that will take gear for overnight walk. Pack size is measured in litres, so while overnight packs are between 55L and 80L, with the most common sizes being 65L to 75L, day packs should be between 20L and 50L.

We also need to make a distinction between day packs for bushwalking and those used for travelling or for urban use. These have different requirements to bushwalking daypacks and can often be smaller in size.

I consider a pack of between 30L and 40L gives me enough space to carry everything I need during the day and generally has all the features I require.

One of the big issues with a day pack is getting the correct size for your body. Day packs generally have very little capacity for adjusting the length of the harness. Males generally need a longer harness to match their torso length, whereas females generally have a shorter torso.

A day pack will be more comfortable if it has a wide waist belt, not 25mm webbing, to keep the weight of the load on your hips and not on your shoulders. If you're a tall male you may need to go to a bigger, longer pack. Even if the load is under 10kg it can still be irritating to have the weight on your shoulders.

A day pack for bushwalking should have these key features:

- Most importantly, a ventilated and breathable back harness to prevent direct contact between your back and the nylon or other pack fabric. A mesh frame, with minimal contact on your back, makes a big difference to how much your back will sweat.
- A wide, comfortable waist belt with some light padding.
- Expandable water bottle holders on the outside of the pack
- Water bladder holder inside the pack
- A pop top lid with a pocket is more waterproof than a zip closure.
- Pockets on the outside of the waist belt for small items such as lip balm, snacks, etc.
- A waterproof pack cover. Some packs come with one included, otherwise Sea to Summit sell them separately.
- If you're really worried about waterproofness, then consider a Sea to Summit pack liner made of Ultrasil.
- Outside, a stretchable, mesh pocket for quick storage, or somewhere to secure wet items.

If you are buying a pack, visit your local outdoor store and try some packs on, with some weight inside. Packs are like boots; they are very individual. I think the most cutting edge, lightest and best quality brand available at the moment is Osprey. I now own several of their packs.

Next would be Deuter, German designed, well made, well featured, quality products. Both brands have the ventilated, mesh back harness that reduces sweat and provides for a comfortable walking experience.

Visit your local stores, try these packs on, and get out on the trails before it gets too hot!

Mike Wood





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Partnering with the Children's University of Australasia

The Children's University program opens a world of learning possibilities to young minds by fostering wellbeing and encouraging children to discover new passions, visit new places and, above all, have fun!

This is achieved by providing local Learning Destinations such as the Bibbulmun Track, zoos, parks, museums and art galleries.

All Children's University learning experiences are designed to have links to university courses and to take place outside the classroom, during lunchtime, after school, at weekends and holidays. Through a Passport to Learning, children participate in activities of their choice and are recognised for hours of participation through formal certificates at an on-campus graduation ceremony.

Children's University members can earn up to three hours in their Passport to Learning for walking the Bibbulmun Track and answering questions.

Students need to walk part of a Track section as a day trip - or do a whole section as a holiday adventure. Using the Family-friendly itineraries provided by the BTF makes planning the walk easy. See:

www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/walk-the-track/bibbulmun-walking-breaks/family-friendly-itineraries

To learn more about the program visit cuaustralasia.com



Lotterywest Grant Funds New Tech for Bibbulmun Track

Hikers and volunteers who use the Bibbulmun Track will soon benefit from new online resources to help make their journey easier.

A Lotterywest grant of \$81,400 will fund the development of a new website including a much improved training and reporting system for our volunteers.

The grant was presented to BTF Chair Kathleen Broderick at Parliament House by Minister for Sport and Recreation, Tony Buti and Minister for Volunteering, Reece Whitby on 9 November.

Minister Whitby said, "The Bibbulmun Track Foundation is a great example of volunteering bringing out the best in people. The members have a shared interest in the history of the Bibbulmun Track and in promoting it so others can enjoy it too. The sheer length of the Bibbulmun Track means volunteers play a vital role

in helping to promote and maintain the Track and educating others on how to make the best use of it."

Minister Buti, who is planning to hike the Track himself next year, agreed, saying "Education and preparation is key to a safe hike, so this website will be an extremely valuable resource to bushwalkers who want to attempt one of the world's best tracks. The Bibbulmun Track is an icon of Western Australia and like many trails throughout our State, it's growing in popularity. WA is currently enjoying a huge resurgence in bushwalking, with participation increasing by more than 45 per cent in the four years to June 2020."

The Foundation thanks Lotterywest for supporting this important project which we aim to launch in 2022.



A Lotterywest grant for \$81,400 was presented to the BTF at Parliament House. L to R: BTF volunteers, James Young and Isabelle Busch, BTF Chair Kathleen Broderick, Minister for Sport & Recreation Tony Buti, BTF Marketing Manager Ash Gibson and Minister for Volunteering Reece Whitby.

Yes, they did it!

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

With the WA borders remaining restricted to some from the Eastern States plans of hiking the Track have, again, been delayed for a few.

Many more, including from overseas who are anxiously waiting for interstate and international borders to open, are in the planning stages with several taking advantage of our members' only Trip Planning Advice service.

General Comments

Incredible journey. The maintenance and upkeep of the track was better than I ever could have imagined.
Salty Davenport, East Perth.

Phew....That was very cold n wet.
Joel Malcolm, Denmark, (3rd E2E).

It absolutely surpassed my expectations, taught me so much more about my capabilities, and gave me a deeper appreciation of the stunning natural beauty of southern WA.
Alyce Nehme, Belmont.

Loved it! Pleasure and pain.
Dion Jennings, Bunbury.

Great adventure and time with my daughter.
Alice + Anton, Padbury.

This has changed my life forever.
Trent Rojahn, Fremantle.

I loved it, I hated it, I wouldn't take it back for the world. It pushed me mentally and physically and it was wonderful. So many memories, so many Kms!
Nicholas Warrand, Mt Claremont.

Food/Supplies

Best track town meal we enjoyed was fish and chips from "Flaming Hot Food" in Walpole. Loved the free fruit for hikers after Blackwood shelter.
Travelwithless, Parkerville.

Snake lollies are a must have reward system.
Brent Buffham, Kelmscott.

Homemade dehydrated meals are awesome, and dried sausage and cheese (Denmark butcher had great ones) were great to deal with the fat and protein cravings.
Sally Longley, Beaconsfield.

Favourite Section

All sections had their attractions and difficulties, but I nominate Mt Helena to Kalamunda because it is scenic and almost home.
David Curtis, East Fremantle.

It is hard to single out one section only, I loved and occasionally loathed bits of all sections.
Cass Harris-Moroney, Goode Beach.

So many good bits: the coastline, the plains, the forests. Can't play favourites.
Monican, Queenscliff.

Highlights

Finally reaching the south coast, hiking with my dad, seeing my dog in Denmark.
Nicholas Warrand, Mt Claremont.

So many. Honestly the whole thing was like one big highlights reel.
Jenny 'from the Track', Scarborough.

People met and yarns spun along the way, food (burgers in Donnelly River, fish and chips at Peaceful Bay, Naughty Noodle in Northcliffe),

sunrise at Blackwood, swimming, wading through the plains, beautiful south coast, climbing Gloucester tree, animals along the way, learning to make a fire, finding Indiana Jones on DVD after 4 weeks of looking, getting my trail name.
Soup, Willagee.

The privilege of walking through Noongar country. Being hit in the head by a roving frog in the Beedleup shelter. Waking up in the middle of the night with a critter trying to drag my loo paper away.
Cass Harris-Moroney, Goode Beach.

Big storms, adventurous weather.
Meg Pardoe, Margaret River.

Sunrise from the top of Mt Cuthbert. Sunset from Blackwood. The beautiful (terrifying in a storm) Karri forests. Hailstorms in the Pingerup Plains. Watching the ocean from the lookout behind Long Point. Hiking by starlight along Quarram's Beach. Stargazing from the rock at William Bay.
Elmo, Bayswater.

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



Walter Rothern ringing the bell at the Albany visitor centre.

Our CONGRATULATIONS to the following 63 walkers on completing an end-to-end, 49 from WA, one from New Zealand and the rest from interstate. 52 people completed a continuous end-to-end with one doing a double, and 11 a sectional.



Name	Track Name	Age	Date Started	Date Ended	Days on Track	Direction	From
Matt Diver		32	01/07/18	30/06/21	46	Sectional	Trigg
Josip Magdic	<i>Josip</i>	35	12/03/21	01/06/21	45	N-S	Belmont
Michael Anderson	<i>Michael & Sue</i>	66	24/04/00	21/05/21	66	Sectional	Swanbourne
Sue Anderson	<i>Michael & Sue</i>		24/04/00	21/05/21	66	Sectional	Swanbourne
Mike Druce	<i>Mike "3 Hats" Druce</i>	58	04/05/21	17/06/21	58	S-N	Gerringong
Garry Thompson		67	27/04/21	12/06/21	44	S-N	Albany
Christine Onley		71	29/04/21	06/07/21	69	S-N	Dalkeith
Davenport Salty		33	04/10/20	08/04/21	45	Sectional	East Perth
Esa Mitchell		N/A	04/10/20	08/04/21	45	Sectional	East Perth
Prashanti Manchikanti		N/A	21/03/21	16/05/21	49	S-N	Glen Iris
Daniel Yore		N/A	21/03/21	16/05/21	49	S-N	Glen Iris
Kevin Berry	<i>Just Kev</i>	52	31/03/21	18/05/21	47	S-N	Edithvale
Estelle Bancroft	<i>Hobbit</i>	54	20/04/21	04/06/21	46	N-S	Carindale
Dougal Murray Knight		59	02/06/21	16/07/21	40	S-N	Gooseberry Hill
Kevin Collins		60	20/04/21	08/06/21	44	N-S	Manly Vale
Heather Davey	<i>Travelwithless</i>	66	16/05/21	23/07/21	66	N-S	Parkerville
Avan Davey	<i>Travelwithless</i>	69	16/05/21	23/07/21	66	N-S	Parkerville
Joel Malcolm		53	14/04/21	31/07/21	53	DE2E	Denmark
Brent Buffham		46	03/07/21	15/08/21	43	N-S	Kelmscott
Roanne Stewart		53	04/06/20	16/08/21	36	N-S	Wannanup
Barbara Stevens		65	04/06/20	16/08/21	36	N-S	Wanaka
Craig Barrett		56	30/07/10	24/07/21	55	Sectional	Como
Monique Kittler	<i>Elmo</i>	29	28/06/21	10/08/21	42	N-S	Bayswater
James Laurence		22	12/06/21	23/07/21	41	N-S	Gungahlin
Walter Rotheron		59	15/05/21	11/07/21	50	N-S	Redland bay
Daniel Elsdon		39	19/10/20	21/11/20	31	N-S	Boya
Tom Hilliar		73	27/07/20	10/07/21	40	N-S	Cooloongup
David Curtis		60	30/04/21	13/06/21	44	S-N	East Fremantle
Peter Brian Torpy		N/A	28/03/21	09/06/21	50	Sectional	Quinns Rock
Julie McAllister	<i>Odd Man Out</i>	65	18/04/10	16/10/20	59	Sectional	Peppermint Grove
Meg Pardoe		25	11/06/21	21/07/21	40	N-S	Margaret River
Geert van Keulen		63	27/06/21	21/08/21	53	N-S	Bowden
Abigail McConnell		25	09/07/21	27/08/21	45	S-N	South Hedland
Colin Fleay	<i>Col and Old Ted</i>	62	08/07/21	23/08/21	45	N-S	Wilson
Timothy Green		49	06/07/21	29/08/21	52	N-S	Palmyra
Alyce Nehme		31	14/10/20	25/11/20	40	N-S	Belmont
Dave Harrison	<i>Dave H</i>	50	30/09/19	01/09/21	41	Sectional	East Victoria Park
Cass Harris-Moroney		45	04/08/20	04/10/20	61	N-S	Goode Beach
Matthew Goadby	<i>TrackMatt</i>	41	01/08/21	18/09/21	49	N-S	Rivervale
Shayne Boyle		N/A	17/05/21	29/06/21	41	S-N	Coolbellup
Andrew Stevenson		59	17/05/21	29/06/21	41	S-N	Maffra
Dion Jennings		42	23/04/21	05/07/21	43	N-S	Bunbury
Evan Hall		49	07/05/21	20/06/21	43	S-N	Inglewood
Erik Haymann	<i>Erik the Red</i>	38	25/05/21	22/07/21	58	N-S	Jurien Bay
Karen Jury		50	01/05/21	12/07/21	56	S-N	Bayonet Head

Yes, they did it! (cont'd)

Name	Track Name	Age	Date Started	Date Ended	Days on Track	Direction	From
Monica Nitz	<i>MoniCan</i>	56	29/07/21	15/09/21	46	N-S	Queenscliff
Anton Parfenov	<i>Alice + Anton</i>	44	23/04/20	05/10/21	52	Sectional	Padbury
Alice Parfenov	<i>Alice + Anton</i>	10	23/04/20	05/10/21	52	Sectional	Padbury
Alan Nelson		68	02/04/21	22/09/21	45	S-N	Claremont
Dolly Meates	<i>Not Far Now</i>	67	23/07/21	24/09/21	53	N-S	Lesmurdie
Scott Warwick		50	05/06/21	21/07/21	45	N-S	Gwelup
Wendy Holmes		43	05/06/21	21/07/21	45	N-S	Gwelup
Des Cook	<i>Des</i>	61	24/08/21	07/10/21	43	N-S	Heathridge
Sandra Herbert	<i>Sherby</i>	57	24/08/21	14/10/21	47	S-N	Sorrento
Trent Rojahn		57	19/04/21	09/06/21	51	N-S	Fremantle
Nicholas Warrant		32	21/06/21	28/07/21	37	N-S	Mt Claremont
Jenny Robinson	<i>Jenny 'from the track'</i>	22	31/07/21	15/09/21	46	N-S	Scarborough
Sally Longley		28	13/04/21	16/06/21	64	N-S	Beaconsfield
Joshua Lovelock	<i>Soup</i>	51	17/08/21	30/09/21	44	N-S	Willagee
Jack Logan	<i>Jack the Map</i>	24	03/08/21	25/09/21	53	N-S	Bunbury
Christopher Miles	<i>Miles to Go</i>	59	19/07/21	04/09/21	47	N-S	Currumbin Waters
Linda Wilkins		58	10/05/17	30/06/17	51	N-S	Hamilton Hill
Simon Reynolds		62	10/07/21	02/09/21	54	N-S	Encounter bay

The morning chorus, first sun through the trees, the strange new flowers, a lunchtime cuppa in the forest, great companionship, the Milky Way, 10-hours of sleep each night, and the first meal in each track town.

Just Kev, Edithvale.

Personal Reactions

I'm overwhelmed by how beautiful this experience was, and how lucky we are to have this track. The kindness of the people I met along the way blew me away. Thank you so much to all the vollies and those who give time, energy and funds to support the track.

Elmo, Bayswater.

It is beautiful out there, raw and natural. Magical sometimes.

David Curtis, East Fremantle.

Such a simple life and peaceful place to be.

Dave Harrison, East Victoria Park.

It was great to feel myself getting stronger, mentally & physically, the sense of self-reliance & learning the power of positivity.

Karen Jury, Bayonet Head.

Wildlife

Psycho roo at Warren. DPAW rangers came out and drove it off with a leaf blower which they then left with me for the night in case said roo returned!

Timothy Green, Palmyra.

Don't eat while walking in DRV, crazy emus see you a mile away and come running.

Joel Malcalm, Denmark.

Comparisons with other Walks/Countries

This is an Australian treasure. Our own backyard is beautiful and precious.

Michael & Sue, Swanbourne.

Not as physically challenging as many thru hikes in the mountains overseas, however, a world class walk accessible to nearly everyone with the best logistics.

Mike '3-Hats' Druce, Gerringong.

Wanaka, NZ is my home usually. I have been on a few walking trips over the years. The Bibbulmun Track will remain a special place for me forever. It is absolutely stunning.

Barbara Stevens, Wanaka.

It's up there with the best. I'm a little envious of the excellent shelters and campsites as a Heysen Trail walker.

Geert van Keulen, Bowden.

All mountain and high-altitude lovers be warned - the landscapes and types of challenges are not comparable. It's unique. This is 1000km of rugged Australian bush, forest, and oceans. The sheer length is the challenge and should not be underestimated.

Alyce Nehme, Belmont.



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Much better than the Cape to Cape.
TrackMatt, Rivervale.

Yet to complete any but inspired to hike the Bruce Trail in Canada now.
Jenny 'from the Track', Scarborough.

(The Bruce Trail is a 'Friendship Trail' with the Donnelly River Village to Balingup section.)

Best Equipment

My old, well-travelled hat that went missing in action around Dog Pool.
Jack the Map, Bunbury.

The fact that some blogs referred to hiking poles as nonessential is astounding to me.
Trent Rojahn, Fremantle.

All our gear was purpose-built and used so very happy with everything we took.
Scott Warwick, Gwelup.

Jet boil-worth every cent! I don't get Trangia's, sorry. Toe socks are the answer to blister-free hiking. My electric blue fishing shirt which I wore every day. It was super light and quick drying.
Alyce Nehme, Belmont.

Single walking pole and Backpacker guitar I carried from Walpole to Albany.
Craig Barrett, Como.

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

Worst Equipment

Thongs.
Walter Rothon, Redland Bay.

Waterproof socks... don't bother.
Scott Warwick, Gwelup.

Left knee.
Simon Reynolds, Encounter Bay.

Advice for others

Be flexible, respect the environment and walk your own walk. Join the Foundation - their advice and support are invaluable.
Andrew Stevenson, Maffra.

Take whatever you need to make the journey enjoyable regardless of the weight.
Des Cook, Heathridge.

Make the trip your own - your pace, your gear, your way!
Monican, Queenscliff.

Always look up at night when the skies are clear. You'll never forget the explosion of stars above and the Dark Emu stretching across the Milky Way for as long as you live. Special.
Erik the Red, Jurien Bay.

Don't just think about it...do it!
Not Far Now, Lesmurdie.

Just do it!
Alan Nelson, Claremont.

Everyone can do it!
Alice + Anton, Padbury.

Don't procrastinate. Just do it.
Tom Hilliar, Cooloongup.

Get out and do it!
Roanne Stewart, Wannanup.

Best to have a little port at the end of the day!
Odd Man Out, Peppermint Grove.

WEEKLY EQUIPMENT HIRE PRICES

ITEMS	MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS	BOND
BACKPACK (ADULT)	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$300
BACKPACK (CHILD)	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$150
SLEEPING BAG & LINER	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$170
SLEEPING MAT	\$5.00	\$8.00	\$30
TRANGIA METHO STOVE	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$120
JET BOIL ZIP GAS STOVE	\$40.00	\$45.00	\$150
DEHYDRATOR	\$40.00	N/A	\$280
TENT	\$45.00	\$50.00	\$150
PLB	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$300
PLB (E2E 2 MONTHS)	\$200.00	\$250.00	\$300

**All prices include GST and are for one to seven days.
A bond is required prior to hiring equipment**

**Payment may be made by cash, cheque or credit card.
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**Email: friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au
or download the booking form on our website under
Trip Planner / Equipment & Hire**

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.

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Please support the Walker Friendly Businesses that support the Track.

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Albany Bayview Backpackers YHA	ALBANY	🏠	(08) 9841 8848	albanybackpackers.com.au
Albany Harbourside Apartments	ALBANY	🏠	(08) 9842 1769	albanyharbourside.com.au
Dunmoyle House B&B	ALBANY	🏠	(08) 9842 5235	dunmoyle.com.au
Rainbow Coast Taxis	ALBANY	🚗	(08) 9844 1115	rainbowcoasttaxis.business.site
Southampton Homestead	BALINGUP	🏠	0412 229 564	southamptonhomestead.com
Time Travel Tours & Transport	BALINGUP/DONNELLY RIVER	🚗	0417 099 268	facebook.com/TimeTravelToursandTransport/
Mandia B&B	COLLIE	🏠	0417 179 260	mandia.com.au
The Colliefields	COLLIE	🏠	(08) 9734 2052	colliefields.com
TraaVerse	COLLIE	🚗	0417 654 426	traaverse.com.au
Whispering Pines B & B	COLLIE	🏠	(08) 9734 3883	whisperingpinesbandb.com.au
Boddington Retreat	BODDINGTON	🏠	0422 441 973	boddingtonretreat.com.au
Blue Wren Travellers' Rest	DENMARK	🏠	(08) 9848 3300	denmarkbluewren.com.au
Cape Howe Cottages	DENMARK	🏠	(08) 9845 1295	capehowe.com.au
Denmark Co-Operative	DENMARK	🚗	(08) 9848 1200	denmark-coop.com.au
Denmark Forest Retreat	DENMARK	🏠	0438 938 798	denmarkforestretreat.com.au
The Cove	DENMARK	🏠	(08) 9848 1770	thecovechalets.com
Windrose B & B	DENMARK	🏠	(08) 9848 3502	windrose.com.au
Donnelly River Holiday Village	DONNELLY RIVER	🏠	(08) 9772 1244	donnellyriver.com.au
Blue Moon Forest Lodge	GLENORAN (DONNELLY)	🏠	0488 321 470	bluemoonforestlodge.com.au
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Coalmine Beach Holiday Park	WALPOLE	🏠	(08) 9840 1026	coalminebeach.com.au
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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
Simply Trekking	0427 058 866	simplytrekking.com.au
Walk into Luxury	1300 662 452	walkintoluxury.com.au

VISITOR CENTRES			
ALBANY	Albany Visitor Centre	(08) 6820 3700	theamazingsouthcoast.com
BALINGUP	Balingup Visitor Centre	(08) 9764 1818	balinguptourism.com.au
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DWELLINGUP	Dwellingup History & Visitor Centre	(08) 9538 1108	murray.wa.gov.au/tourism
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PEMBERTON	Pemberton Visitor Centre	(08) 9776 1133	pembertonvisitor.com.au
PERTH	Western Australian Visitor Centre	(08) 9483 1111	wavisorcentre.com.au
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COMPETITION TIME!

Find the travelling Bibb Book for your chance to win! Leigh Simmons' 'Naturalist on The Bibbulmun' is making the rounds from shelter to shelter.. if you spot it, snap a pic and tag us @bibbulmun. Remember to match the page to the section you're in for bonus points! There's 3 copies up for grabs. Good luck and happy hunting!



PHOTO COMPETITION WINNER

Congratulations to Bridget Leggett who sent in the winning caption

"And you made it with chicken stock?!"

You must know that our Event Manager, Steve, is a vegetarian!

A prize is in the post!



Vollie Corner

Data Entry Volunteers



Helen Grimm

It's a beautiful spring day in the Perth Hills. You decide to head out with the family – maybe a short walk out to Ball Creek with the kids, or a day to Helena and back. Perhaps stop at the pub on the way home.

You get to the shelter, chuck off your pack, have a look around, have a snack.

But you're not staying, so there's nothing else to do, right?

Actually, there is...

An important aspect of any trail management is an understanding of how the trail is being used, who by and how often. Which sections are the most popular? Are people out for the day, the weekend or a week or more? Where are they from? Are they alone or in a group?

These kinds of questions are typically answered by data. In our case, user data. As any scientist knows, data isn't simply a bundle of anecdotes. To be effective, it needs to be collected with intention and without bias. Track user data is collected in a variety of ways – Track-side surveys, digital Track counters in strategic locations and campsite access records.

As a source of data which can be analysed, the green campsite logbooks are the most accessible and simplest for walkers. They have the added function of an immediate reference for emergency services of walkers in the area, and enhance the social aspect of a walk – who hasn't followed the progress of walkers several days ahead by their logbook entries, or looked for their own entry in an old logbook at an end-to-end picnic?

The critical transfer of data from the books to a digital format is performed by a dedicated group of volunteers. Following a recruitment drive several years ago, we currently have nearly 40 data entry volunteers. Working from home, they methodically transfer each field of every record, one at a time, into an online form. The dataset is periodically downloaded and added to all previous records in a database

which now consists of over 320,000 records. In this process we are deeply grateful for the invaluable contribution of Dr Barry Bastow, who has given more than 200 hours over the last couple of years cleaning up the data and developing an analytical database.

The results are used to support strategic planning and resourcing decisions, and for funding applications. The Track is a dynamic resource, and the database can produce a large range of interesting results which can be used to further the amenity of the Track.

So how can you help your DE vollie and the Foundation to give you a better Track?

Get yourself on the page – record your presence, whether you're there for a brief stopover on a day walk, a single overnight, or an end-to-end. Diversity in data will give the best picture of what's happening on the Track. We recognise that some people don't want to be visible in the logbooks for personal reasons. In this case, any record is better than nothing; and you

can use a pseudonym (Track name). The most useful data fields are origin (town, state, country), age (or age range) and duration of your walk, typically shown by number of days on the Track and/or start and finish points.

Complete one entry per person, or at least summary entries which clearly show the group size and age/gender breakdown. This is a particularly common problem with organized groups and school groups. The age and gender are the most likely fields needing distinction. Therefore, for a minimum entry a school group could have all teachers complete a personal entry. They would also make 1-2 other entries recording the number of students of each gender and the age range. The DE volunteer will convert this information to individual entries for each student using the same start/finish points etc. Of course, each student could engage with the process and complete their own entry!

Write your hometown, state, start/finish point clearly – if the volunteer can't decipher it and can't guess it, the data is useless.



Volunteer Daphne completing a data entry session

The comments column is for very general comments only; this field doesn't usually get entered into the database. It's not the best place to record issues since it might not be officially picked up for several weeks or even months (e.g. the campsite maintenance volunteer might have just visited and not be back there for 3-4 months). For the best chance of immediate receipt and action, please submit issues/problems via our online Track problem report form. You can find a link to the form for each region at www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/contact.

Data entry suits volunteers who are comfortable with the format and can typically take short blocks of time regularly, to work through another set of records. More than one of them have said to me – when returning a completed book – “I hope you've got another one for me, I miss my hour of data entry every day!”

Whenever we've lost a shelter to fire, the logbook and all its records have been destroyed. To reduce the chance of loss, we ask our campsite maintenance volunteers to swap their logbook at least every 12 months (the best time in this regard being at the start of summer). We recognize that this frequency breaks the continuity over the walking season. The red registers are continuous from first to last page, so you can follow walkers ahead in that book. We have multiple books in rotation for each campsite; to allow for the time spent in data entry and transfer between campsite/office/DE, we have up to five books created over the years for some campsites. I'm helped by an office volunteer in the task of keeping track of these movements, so we don't lose books, using a second database developed by Dr Bastow.

We are so grateful for our data entry volunteers – it can be a tedious job but an essential part of a comprehensive understanding of your use of our Track.

Some recent feedback from Dr Bastow indicates both the job our data entrants do, and also his own volunteer contribution:

“Wow. What a magnificent job the data entrants are doing. Yesterday, I downloaded the next 25,000 entries to put into the campsite database and expected, as was the case when I first downloaded this data nearly two years ago, to have to do a few days of data cleansing before I could copy it across. However, the quality of data entrants was fantastic. I had all the columns cleaned and sorted within 2 hours. Even the dates which were a real problem before only had about six discernable errors out of 25,000 entries.”

Thank you all

Helen Grimm
Volunteer Manager

Data Insights - Sullivan Rock carpark

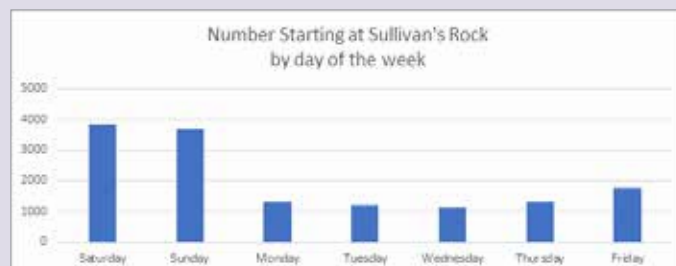
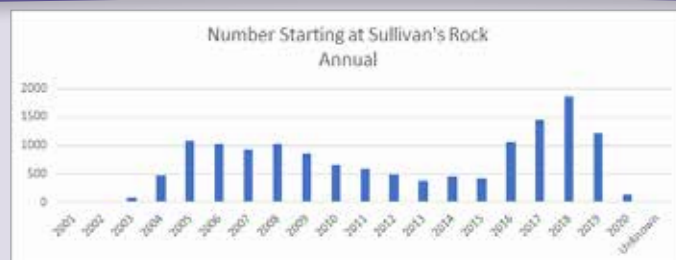
Information derived from the logbook database was recently used in a submission to Main Roads to upgrade the facilities at Sullivan Rock carpark on Albany Highway. Large numbers of Bibbulmun Track walkers start or finish at this trailhead, but there is insufficient parking and no facilities.

These results were included in the submission and illustrate how useful the data can be.

Over time, usage of the trailhead is gradually increasing; especially in recent years (the 2019-21 numbers appear low due to the delay in accessing the logbooks and transferring records to the database).

The number of walkers is fairly consistent through the year, with the exception of the summer months. This graph was produced from logbook data collated over from all years on record; unfortunately, we know that many people using Sullivan Rock carpark are day walkers who probably don't sign a logbook. Track counter data showed 800 walkers per day in peak season, pre-COVID.

Usage of the carpark peaks on weekends but is consistent at lower numbers throughout the weekdays (data collated over from all years on record).



Member Survey - Thank you for your feedback.

Over 300 people responded to our member survey – 289 members and 37 non-members!

Most commentary was very positive, a few were negative, and many suggestions on how to improve were from the non-members who, if they

were members, would have known that many of their suggestions were already in place. However, this does highlight that we need to be more proactive in promoting certain things and we will address this on our new website and in future editions of e-newsletters and social media.

Our thanks to BTF volunteer, Sandra, who did a great job of sorting the open-ended responses into common themes. The suggestions that came to the fore are outlined below:

Member Feedback	Our Response
Keep the Track as it is - don't over develop the existing structures.	Absolutely agree. The following statements are in the BTFs Vision for the Track document on our website: Facilities, structures and regulations should be simple and pragmatic. Materials and design features should be rustic, minimalist and practical and not detract from the predominant sense of a natural, primitive environment.
Some requests for facilities for those that want to experience the Track but cannot carry a backpack due to health and age.	Unfortunately, we do not yet have a viable Sherpa service – however, there is an increasing number of operators (including the BTF) that provide guided events and tours with transport to off-track accommodation at the end of each day.
Bibbulmun Track brand clothing including shirts, hats, bandannas etc. Those that completed an end-to-end would love a badge or icon to hang off their pack to show their status.	BTF offers a range of branded clothing including an option to buy items from redbubble.com.au . End-to-end cloth badges are already available and FREE to those that register their first end-to-end.
A few comments regarding what a membership offers other than a newsletter.	Free and discounted BTF events, 10% discount on all merchandise, free one-on-one trip planning advice service, discounted equipment hire, special offers and discounts with numerous Track related service providers and Landscape magazine. We hope to announce an outdoor equipment store partnership soon.
Advertise at shelters that the Track and facilities only exist because of members. Encourage walkers to join up to keep the track maintained and free for all.	We do put posters up in campsite notice boards. We will put membership info in the register boxes as well.
Member recognition and direct contact. Get to know our members more.	We will profile a long-term member in each edition of Bibbulmun News. More frequent member events are planned for the coming year. Encourage all members to wear their membership tags on their packs.
Positive feedback re. plans to improve Aboriginal interpretation.	We are working towards this, but it is a slow process so please bear with us.

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback and to all our members for your continued support - we hope to see you at the next members' event!

TRACK TOWN - KALAMUNDA

Only 35 minutes from the Perth CBD, Kalamunda offers a glorious mix of natural bushland, waterways, wildflowers, vineyards, sweeping views, art galleries, markets and much more.

Twenty-five years ago, the Kalamunda & District Tourist Association produced a brochure with this glowing statement: "There are few places left in this world where one can, within 35 minutes of a capital city, enjoy native bushland, magnificent escarpment views, drive through beautiful working stone fruit and apple orchards, meander along scenic bush trails, or wander around a historical village. Kalamunda is such a place." Truly a town to experience it all and a place that so many call home. It is believed that cala munnda, in the

Wajuk language of the local Beelu people meant "a home in the forest", cala meaning home and munnda meaning forest.

As most Bibbulmun Track walkers are aware, Kalamunda is home to the Northern Terminus of the Track. For walkers who are tackling the Track end-to-end in one hit, Kalamunda represents either an exciting place to start the walk of a lifetime, or a huge sense of achievement at the end of their journey. The Track register is in the Perth Hills Visitor Centre, together with the bell that End-to-Enders should ring to proclaim their feat! Walkers have access to showers (BYO towel), which can be pure luxury to those who have not seen civilisation since they left Dwellingup!

For the artistically inclined, the Kalamunda Library houses the largest stained-glass window in the Southern Hemisphere. This mammoth task was undertaken by the Kalamunda Stained Glass group in 1987 and features the green-grey foliage and the dramatic hills landscape, distinctive features of the region. The window is best viewed at night when it is lit from within.

Kalamunda Open Studios is an annual event held in Spring and Autumn where professional artists open their studios to the public for conversation, information and art sales. Kalamunda has a very large and diverse population of artists who enjoy the lifestyle and find inspiration for their work in the creative community.

If it's scenic views you're after, head to Lesmurdie Falls and Lions Lookout, drive down the Zig Zag or tour through the spectacular Bickley Valley, renowned for delicious boutique wineries, cider and produce. Visit the Hills at dusk to see a spectacular sunset over the Perth skyline and at night for the twinkling lights of the metropolitan area. Or head to the Perth Observatory for a night-time tour of the skies.

With so much nature and community to discover with events running all year long, you really must experience it all in Kalamunda.



Lions Lookout, Korung National Park. Photo by Tourism Western Australia.

Fact file:

Perth Hills Visitor Centre is open:
9am – 4pm Monday to Friday
10am – 4pm Weekends & Public Holidays

visitor.centre@kalamunda.wa.gov.au
www.experienceperthhills.com.au/
(08) 9257 9998

Please support our Walker Friendly Businesses in the Perth Hills

Mundaring Weir Hotel
(08) 9295 1106



WALKER STORY - An Unexpected Gift

Tanya Gawthorne was born in South Australia, raised in Western Australia, and has travelled extensively both in Australia and overseas. She can usually be found at her desk as a public administrator and has been celebrating her 50th birthday by exploring new activities and hobbies. She is currently training as a yoga teacher, learning how to rescue trapped or sick seabirds and about to get into wildlife and landscape photography. A relatively inexperienced trekker, she set out with her partner last spring to walk the Bibbulmun Track end-to-end. This is her story:

The 2020 Covid pandemic upended the plans of many people, mine included. I had booked leave in the latter half of the year with the idea of doing a multi-day hike overseas—heading out each day knowing that waiting for me at the finish would be a soft bed, shower and cooked food. With that in mind my partner and I settled on hiking the Shikoku pilgrimage in Japan. Sadly, once the pandemic hit, it became obvious that not only were we unable to leave Australia, but we also were

unable to leave the State and had no idea when that situation would change. If I wanted to do some hiking while I was on leave I had only one choice; to walk the 1000km Bibbulmun Track.

Walking the Bibbulmun Track is not a decision for the fainthearted—it has a total ascent and descent of 18,523m, several sections that are not accessible by car, and definitely no showers, beds or people serving cooked food. Compared to the Shikoku, the Bibbulmun Track is much tougher. I would need to carry significantly more weight, to camp and cook each night, and problem solve my own issues since help was a long way away. But the alternative—to do nothing—was deeply disappointing. In the end I took several deep breaths and decided to tackle the Bibbulmun.

My partner is a trekker and so I had a fair idea of what was required and how to prepare. I threw myself into the preparation, spending hundreds of hours researching, trying out and buying the best gear, preparing and distributing food parcels, conditioning my mind and training my body. My partner awarded me the title *Best Preparation Ever*. I suspect he was trying to encourage me.



Sunset at Schafer Campsite.

We started off from Kalamunda on a cool Sunday morning. It's only 12kms to the first shelter which I thought would be easy. And indeed, if the Track was flat, it would have been easy, but most of that section is not flat! My first lesson was to take ascent and descent into account when gauging the difficulty of a section, not just the distance.

More lessons followed: What to do when you've accidentally cooked your breakfast for dessert, and you don't have any extra. How to stay motivated when every day and shelter looks exactly the same as the previous one. How to keep going when your pain starts skyrocketing and there's no relief until you get to a campsite. How to maintain your relationship when you've been directed to take a 7km extra *detour* (aka: your partner gets you lost). How to help others keep going when they've lost the will and the patience for yet another hard day on the Track.

But the most valuable thing I gained while walking the Track wasn't about the trekking at all—or about my strengths, although I certainly discovered I have many more than I thought. What I gained was something more profound.

To understand what I gained requires a bit of background. I'm the first-born child of immigrant parents, a mix of races that make it very hard to visually pinpoint my ancestry apart from being non-white. Growing up in Australia was great; I had a fabulous childhood, good schools and lots of friends. But I've always had this sense that I don't quite fit in, here or anywhere else. I'm not indigenous, not white Australian, and don't identify as coming from either of my parent's cultures. It's as if I fall between the cracks of everyone else's groups and actually am just part of a tribe of two—me and my sister.



A welcome sight at the end of a day's journey.



Banksia flowers.

With sections of the white population rejecting people who look like me and without being able to claim the indigenous connection to land I can feel lost and disconnected even when at home.

It was with this unconscious sense of being both at home and disconnected that I set out to hike the Bibbulmun Track, and it was amongst the grass trees, giant karri, and granite outcrops that I was given an unexpected gift. I learned that I truly belong, I belong to Country.

Even though I wasn't born in the south-west of Western Australia, and I can't point to generations of ancestors who walked the earth before me, I now have the intimate knowledge of hiking 1000kms through heat, dust and rain. I have followed the rhythms of sunrise and sunset, waking with the birds, and sleeping when it's dark. I have seen the ecology change through jarrah, marri and wandoo forests, karri and tingle, coastal heathland and dunes. I can now predict which flowers I will see based on the surrounding geography and am able to smell the ocean miles before arriving.

This ancient land, my Country, is now in my heart. As I walked the trail, my separation from Country began to dissolve and I merged into the land. Her rocks and boulders became my bones, her crests and cliffs the knobs of my spine, her valleys the dips and shadows of my flesh. Her dirt made up my muscles, her rivers the blood that pumps through my veins and her creatures the force that gives me life.

We became bound together, me and her, one and the same.

This gift has been so profound for me I don't know what to do with it. It's hard to explain what it's like to spend 50 years on the outside and be finally claimed, to know where you belong. There's a sense of ease, of peace inside me and it drives me to care for the land and her wildlife as if it were my own family.

I don't imagine I am the first person to feel this way and I wonder if we all have this inside us—an unspoken, unfelt connection to the land on which we live that surfaces when we become close to it. Perhaps this is a belonging that speaks of our animal being—known to the indigenous and ignored by colonisers. A belonging that recognises our interrelationship with the environment in a visceral way; a deep understanding with what brings and sustains our life.

I'm writing these words in Albany, the southern terminus of the Bibbulmun Track. I am rested, clean and dry, drinking a coffee made with beans sourced from overseas and eating biscuits that someone else has baked. The wind is blowing, and it looks like rain but none of that will impact on what I'm doing or where I'm going today. I can see evidence of colonisation in the flowers decorating the gardens and houses that surround me. They look nice



The distinctive Waugal trail markers.

but somehow not quite right for this environment, a bit like how I feel. In the distance I see hills and beaches and I can hear black cockatoos calling as they wheel overhead. I see the wind shaking the gum trees and imagine I can smell the fresh scent as I crush their leaves underfoot. And in an instant, I am connected to Country. I sit taller and press my feet into the floor, imagining I am standing on the precious land beneath this house. A deep sense of ease passes through me as I remember that I belong here, that I am also part of Country. I get on with my day knowing my place in this world, that my home is right here where I am.



Tanya at the halfway point.

Tanya Gawthorne



Notice board

FOR SALE

OSPREY PACK

Women's Osprey Aura 50 litre AG pack. Size M.

Used but no damage and very good condition, super comfortable pack. \$110 ono.

Contact: Yolande
0427303130
Email: perthwinter@gmail.com

LADIES SALOMONS ULTRA 4 GTX

Brand new in box, never worn.

ONLY \$180

(RRP \$299)

Newest model of the X Ultra series.

Design improvements are a wider toe box than the X Ultra 3's, improved stability, all terrain grip, rapid lacing system, softer heel collar.

Selling as I have another two pairs of Salomon's and am saving up for a new lightweight sleeping bag!
ONLY \$180

Contact: Gillian
0407 775 379
Email: g.groom@iinet.net.au

TYVEK TENT GROUND SHEET

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

Sold per metre off a 3m wide roll.

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

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

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

WOMEN'S MERRELL MOAB GTX HIKING SHOES

Women's Merrell Moab 2 Gortex wide-fit.

US 7.5, UK 6, EUR 38 Only \$120
(RRP \$259)

In fantastic condition having been worn for less than 20 km.

Contact: Gillian
0407 775 379
Email: g.groom@iinet.net.au

WANTED

WALKING BUDDY

I have recently retired and would like a walking buddy to walk the Track with me from end to end. Being a senior and having family commitments I plan to only walk 4-5 nights at a time then come home, rest up for a week or two, restock supplies and then continue the Track at the last point finished off. This should take us anything from 3-6 months depending on weather and possibly rest up over the summer months. Anyone interested please call me as I am ready to go but don't want to travel alone in case of snake bites or getting lost.

Contact: Joe
0419 242 297
Email: joe@catenacci.com.au

LOST

HIKING POLES

Lost 22nd September north of Yourdamung campsite, near Collie, between Yourdamung Catchment area and campsite. Silver Coleman stick with cork handle.

Contact: Anne
0428 710 552
Email: noisywren@gmail.com

OSPREY EJA BACKPACK

Travelling from Gringer Creek to Nerang campsite, the pack and Leki poles were lost in the bush on the right-hand side of the Track approximately 3km before Pike Rd. Reward offered.

Contact: Dezra
0447 528 076
Email: dezzzy@dodo.com.au

CHANGED ADDRESS?

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

Not sure how?
Visit our Website Help page under Contact Us at
www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

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

Want to advertise on our notice board?

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

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

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

Cost is \$5 for 3 months.

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

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

Favourite Short Walk - Harris Dam

Map: #3 Difficulty: **Easy**

Distance: **7.6km return**

Time: **2-3 hours**

Starting point: **Harris River Dam carpark, end of Harris River Road.**

This Track walk takes you from Harris Dam picnic area to the Harris Dam Campsite and back, passing through lush jarrah and marri forest along the way. During spring, colourful native wildflowers and orchids fill the forest.

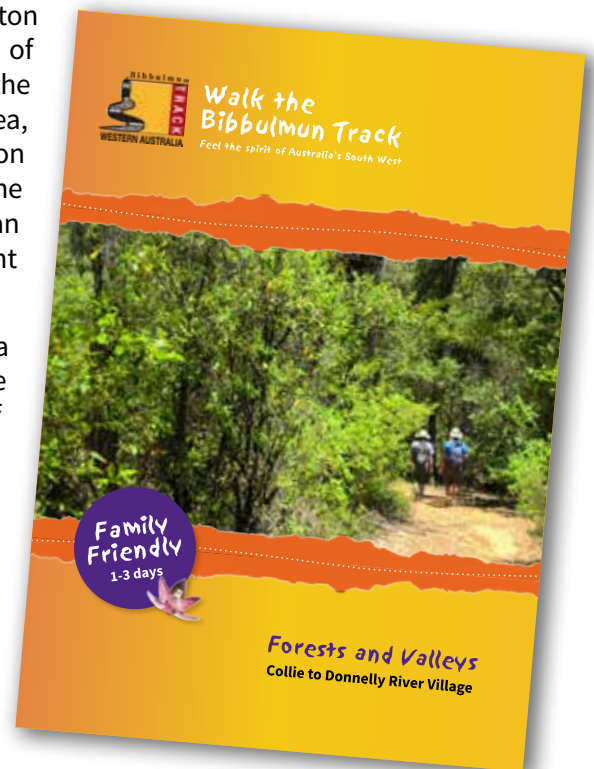
The Harris Dam Campsite is about an hour's walk from the dam and has picnic tables and a toilet, making it a handy spot for the family to rest and enjoy a picnic lunch.

Afternoon

Make your way to Wellington National Park for an afternoon of outdoor adventure. Pop into the Kiosk at the Dam for afternoon tea, before heading to the Wellington Dam wall to check out the world's largest dam mural and an impressive view over the ancient Collie River Gorge.

If the weather is warm, hire a kayak from the kiosk and paddle down Collie River, or cool off with a swim at Potter's Gorge or the peppermint tree-lined Honeymoon Pool.

This is from our family friendly Forests and Valleys itinerary which has lots of excellent short walks to explore over two to three days between Collie and Donnelly River Village.



Track Tucker - Thai Green Curry—feeds four hungry hikers.

Ingredients (for one serve):

- 500gm skinless chicken breast cut into 2cm cubes
- 1 tbsp. soy sauce
- 1 tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 2 tbsp. sesame oil
- 2 tbsp. Thai green curry paste (buy from supermarket)
- 3 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped
- 2 tbsp. fresh ginger, peeled and shaved
- 2 cups coconut milk
- 10 small mushrooms, sliced
- 10 stringless green beans, cut into 1cm lengths
- 6 small green Thai chillies, finely chopped (optional)
- 1 cup white rice.

Method:

Toss the chicken in the soy sauce and then in the flour until well covered.

Heat the oil to medium high heat in a wok, add the chicken and cook until browned.

Put the chicken aside, reduce the heat to medium, stir in the curry paste, ginger and garlic and cook for about two minutes stirring constantly, then add the chicken and continue to stir to coat it with the mixture.

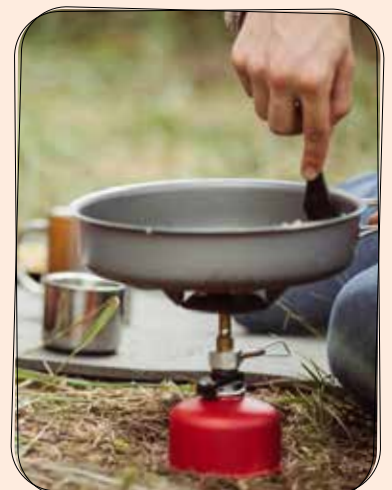
Add the coconut milk, turn the heat down until the mixture is just simmering and add the mushrooms, beans and chillies (to taste).

Simmer for about 40 minutes with constant stirring.

Boil the rice separately, strain and wash well with boiling water.

Mix the rice in with the curry, strain off excess liquid, dehydrate and split into four portions. Enjoy!

Wrong Way Jim



WA Trails and Recreation Forum 2021

In late October, the BTF team attended the WA Trails and Recreation Forum in Albany.

We heard about adventure therapy, developing trail towns, trail planning, Aboriginal connection and a host of other interesting and relevant topics.

BTF Event Manager, Steve Sertis presented our Guide Training Program



The Albany Shantymen entertained delegates at the opening night function at the Town Hall.

and plans for a Train the Trainer program including resources for other organisations to access to ensure they are complying with industry standards including the Australian Adventure Activity Standards.

The final presentation was a preview of the new Trails WA website, which was the perfect opportunity to recognise our Executive Director, Linda Daniels who, after 14 years, stepped back from her role with Trails WA. During this time Linda managed a wide range of projects including development, design and branding of the Top Trails, Trail Town and Trail Friendly Business programs and the development of the current website which now features over 700 trails.

She also played a key role



Linda Daniels (left) was recognised for her work with Trails WA.

in development of the new Trails WA website and secured funding for the organisation which is now an incorporated not-for-profit.

Thank you to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Parks and Wildlife Service, Outdoors Great Southern and the City of Albany for putting together a wonderful three days!

Farewell and Thank You

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation has been in existence, in its various forms, for more than 20 years. Sadly, as time goes on, we have to accept that some of those who have supported it from the very beginning are leaving us.

It is with great sadness that we recognise the recent passing of three of our faithful volunteers, Lesley Kerr, Peter Addenbrook, and Jan Read, all of whom gave many hours of service to the Track and the way of life it represents.

Our sincere condolences to all their friends and their families.

The following entry was noticed in the Brookton shelter Red Book in May this year:

“Just came out for a looksee, haven’t been out for a long time. Last time I was here my wife Jan was with me, we

looked after the old Brookton Campsite. She passed away recently, and I am going to leave her ashes along the Track. We walked together for many years and had some wonderful times out here, looking after the Brookton Campsite for 20 years. The best years of our life. Thanks.”

The entry was made by Colin Read. Colin and Jan were maintenance volunteers for over 20 years. They also supplied the Foundation with beautifully crafted souvenir walking sticks that depicted the Track campsites and the flora and fauna of the Track.



The Nyoongar Seasons

There are six seasons in the Noongar annual cycle each corresponding to changes in the landscape and while not tied to fixed dates on the calendar are loosely tied to two-monthly periods.

Birak Season of the Young

First summer: Dec-January

Birak season sees the rains ease up and the warm weather really start to take hold.

The afternoons are cooled by the sea breezes that abound from the southwest.

An almost clockwork style of easterly winds in the morning and sea breezes in the afternoon meant that traditionally this was the burning time of year for Noongar people. They would burn the country in mosaic patterns for several reasons including fuel reduction, increasing the grazing pastures for some animals, to aid in seed germination for some plants and for ease of mobility across the country.

Many fledglings are now venturing out of nests, though some are still staying close to their parents. Reptiles are looking to shed their old skin for a new one. With the rising temperatures and the decreasing rainfall, it's also time for the baby frogs to complete their transformation into adulthood.

Bunuru Season of Adolescence

Second summer: Feb-March

Bunuru is the hottest time of the year with little to no rain.

Hot easterly winds continue with a cooling sea breeze most afternoons. Traditionally this was, and still is, a great time for living and fishing by the coast, rivers and estuaries. Freshwater foods and seafood made up major parts of the diet during this time of year.

Bunuru is also a time of the white flowers with lots of white flowering gums in full bloom, including jarrah, marri and ghost gums.

Another striking flower that is hard to go past is the female zamia (*Macrozamia riedlei*). Being much larger than that of its male counterpart, the huge cones emerge from the centre of the plant with masses of a cotton wool like substance.



As the hot, dry weather continues the seeds on the cones change from green to bright red, indicating they're ripening and becoming more attractive to animals, particularly the emu, that eats the toxic fleshy outer.



During Bunuru the seeds of the Zamia cones change from green to red.

Social Sunday walks

Free for members. See booking conditions online.

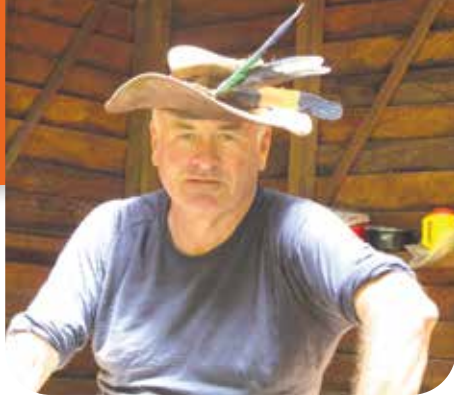
WALK RATINGS: BEGINNERS INTERMEDIATE EXPERIENCED

DATE	DETAILS	RATING
27 March 2022 @ 4:00pm	6km return sunset walk from Camel Farm to Hewett's Hill	
10 April 2022 @ 9:00am	14km return walk from Albany Hwy to Boonering Hill	
1 May 2022 @ 9:30am	13km return from River Rd to the Murray River via Swamp Oak Campsite return (Dwellingup sth)	
1 May 2022 @ 10:00am	A 10.4km return walk from Frenchman Bay Rd to Sandpatch Campsite (near Albany)	
15 May 2022 @ 8:30am	19km return walk from Dale Road to Beraking Campsite. (Fit and experienced walkers only!)	
22 May 2022 @ 9:00am	12km return walk from Kinsella Rd to Canning Campsite	
29 May 2022 @ 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 Track lovers!

I'm reluctant to say fellow walkers any more as the onset of old age and arthritis now limits severely my sojourns into the bush, making me a sort of vicarious walker, if such an animal exists.

Speaking of animals I am reminded of the question I have been asked often by overseas visitors about safety on the Track: "Are there any big, savage animals in the bush?" The real answer is of course "no"—they have probably read stories about the bears on the Appalachian Trail. Large, hairy, illegal pig hunters can be a bit of a worry but they aren't ferocious, except to the pigs.

Turning to the question of safety on the Track, what does it really mean? The Bibbulmun Track is rightly considered one of the safest and most walker friendly tracks in the world, while still retaining its title as a wilderness trail.

If you are planning a walk on the Track, especially a long walk, maybe an end-to-end, what do you need to keep yourself safe? Of course carrying maps and/or guidebooks is essential to your safety. I have known walkers who prepared a detailed risk analysis plan before they embarked on their trek and while this might seem extreme, it is worth thinking about what could put you into a potentially hazardous situation.

Firstly, don't undertake long walks in the hot summer months. We are currently approaching summer, meaning potential extreme heat, bushfire danger and the hazards of dehydration, sunburn and heat exhaustion. A day walk in the shade of the karri forest may be fine but be careful!

Possibly the biggest concern of many walkers, especially non-Australians, is snake bite and certainly snakes offer

the greatest danger of any form of wildlife. The question posed is "What do I do if I get bitten by a snake?" My response is, "Let's just go back one stage—firstly make sure that you are minimising your chances of being bitten by a snake." There are venomous snakes out there, the bush has been their home for thousands of years and you are the intruder, so respect them.

Snakes are very rarely antagonistic, they will flee at the sound of walkers and will only strike as a means of defence if they are startled. So wear the proper clothing, especially long gaiters to protect the lower leg; don't forage for firewood with bare hands, check before stepping over a fallen log or taking a seat on one to rest—good idea also to check for ants as well. Ants won't kill you but sitting down amongst bull ants is a memorable experience, especially for those wearing shorts!

Always carry a snake bite kit and know how to use it in case you are bitten, or encounter someone who has been bitten.

Injury or illness that strikes you down and prevents you reaching a place of safety is always a potential hazard, especially for solo walkers. So make yourself aware of how to treat injuries by becoming first aid trained and if possible, undertaking a wilderness first aid course. Avoid becoming sick by taking sensible precautions such as using antiseptic hand gel and treating water before drinking—and carry a first-aid kit.

Of course, if you get into trouble, contacting the outside world to get help is vital. Before you start your walk, ensure that someone back home is aware of your intentions and arrange to contact them on a regular basis. How? Well obviously with a mobile phone as the first resort.

However, mobile phones have limitations. To ensure maximum coverage you need Telstra 4G or 5G. There are many areas along the Track where coverage is patchy or nonexistent

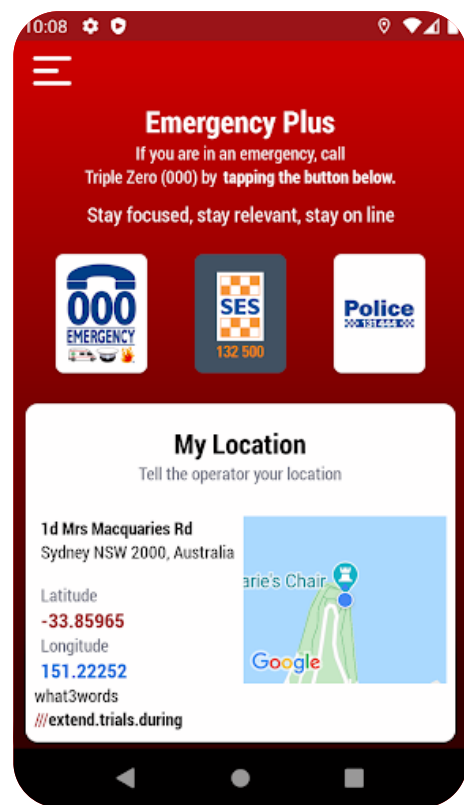
so a mobile phone cannot be depended upon as an emergency contact device. Keep your phone off or in flight mode to conserve the battery and carry some form of charging device. Remember that calling 000 is your first contact in the case of emergency.

Carry an emergency device such as a PLB or a SPOT Contact to enable you to alert emergency services if you are in real strife.

Good planning of your walk, talking to others who have already been out there, reading the information and advice on the BTF website are all things that help you not only to enjoy the experience but make it safer. Also remember that as a member you are entitled to a trip planning advice session with one of our experienced walkers, either face-to-face in our office or by email.

Happy Walking,

Wrong Way Jim



Install the Emergency Plus APP on your phone. It gives you the coordinates for your location to provide to your family - or emergency services if it's life threatening.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE REGISTERS

LAKE MARINGUP

When I arrived here, I thought “What is that noise?” It was distant and at first, I thought it was a river. Then I realised it was the ocean—a big moment to suddenly hear the ocean after leaving Kalamunda a long time ago!

Anon 25/05/2017

So nice to arrive here early! Only 1pm—yay finally some camp relax time. About to go for a swim in the lake. Might try and find that ukulele later and sing kumba-ya.

Beautiful campsite. Some puddles along the way, maybe a warmup for what’s coming. We shot some nice adventurous footage for the show.

Caroline Thomsen 21/10/2019

(Ed: The show referred to is a 17-episode series documenting Caroline’s end-to-end walk of the Track made by Great Walks of the World and available on YouTube. Well worth watching—watch episode ten to understand the reference to the ukulele.)

When your ‘friend’, who seems to hike 365 days a year, tells you (in my case a lazy sloth who never hiked in her life) that “You can’t train for the Track, just do it” do not listen! Hike at least 5km a day every day for three months with a full pack. I have been lifting my legs like a puppet and stopping every 50 steps until the spasms stopped. Luckily, I demanded a rest day today otherwise he would have been carrying my pack...and me. I love the campsite, the trees and the bush, but it’s not a race. I get peace from the sand, the birds, the wind, the smells, the trees and the colours. I will come back soon and bring my son.

Michelle 19/02/2020

BEEDELUP

Had a long walk from Beavis today and I’m tired. I have the maps from 2000 so I thought I was going to Schafer, then Warren and Pemberton. Got a surprise, I’m one day early! My thanks to the volunteers.

Anon 16/08/2018

(Ed: For once I’m totally baffled, I thought I had seen most examples of geographic embarrassment, but this takes the cake! And what has 2000 got to do with it?)

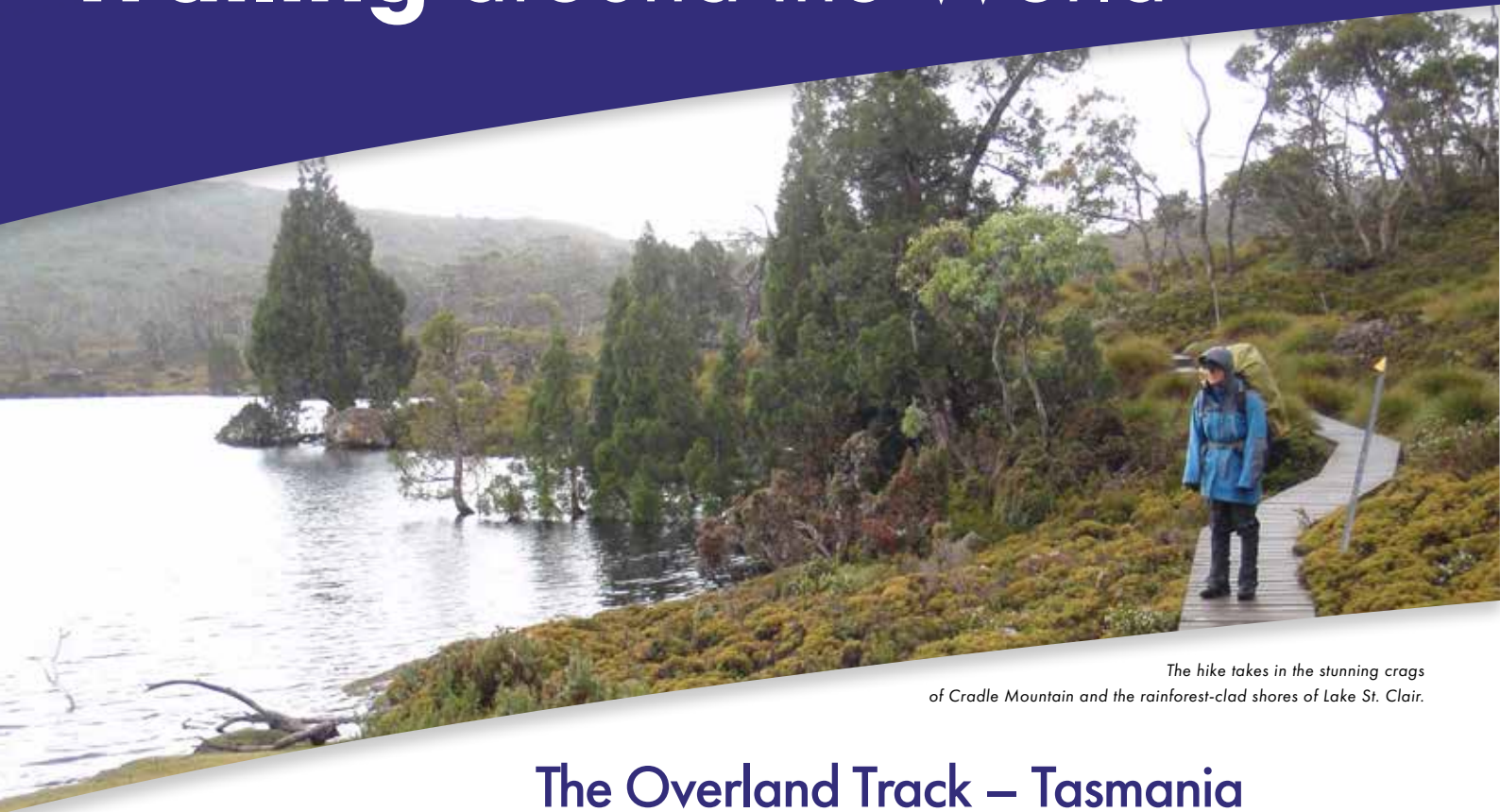


Wonderful drawing in a campsite register. “The Pioneer” reimagined as “The Hiker” by Jo Cooney Art

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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 hike takes in the stunning crags of Cradle Mountain and the rainforest-clad shores of Lake St. Clair.

The Overland Track – Tasmania

There are three ways of walking the Overland Track:

Firstly, as an independent walker using the public lodge/campsite system. Carry your pack, cook your own food, put up your tent, make your own way. You can camp at a Public Hut with your own tent or stay inside a Public Hut. You must take a tent in case the huts are full. Only 24 independent walkers are permitted to start each day during the pandemic and the maximum group size is eight. Between October and May, the track can be walked in one direction only, north to south. Outside the season you can pick your own direction, but good luck with the weather! Go to the Parks Tasmania website at: <https://parks.tas.gov.au/> where you can pay your fees and book your start date. When you finish is up to you.

Secondly, you can use a company such as Tasmanian Expeditions/World Expeditions or Inspiration Outdoors. Cost is around \$2,500 for 6 days; you carry all your own gear (no Sherpas!) food is provided and cooked by your guides and you sleep in a lightweight tent on a platform.

The third option is to stay in private huts owned by the Tasmania Walking Company or Cradle Mountain Huts.

Exclusive twin share accommodation, hot showers, drying rooms, gourmet meals and wine supplied. Composting toilets, environmentally designed, food drops twice a year by helicopter, all waste flown out. Cost around \$4,000 per person.

For the purposes of this article, we assume that you want to do the Overland Track as an independent walker and that you will take about nine days to walk the whole track and its extensions. You can tailor your walk to suit yourself, read the guidebook carefully and decide your preferred route and time. There are dedicated bus services that can drop you off, pick you up and store luggage you don't require on your trek.

The first thing to know about the Overland Track concerns the weather, which can be extreme and change constantly. We had snow on five of our days in January, so you must be prepared for these extreme conditions. Parks Tasmania will post you the permits, guidebooks, maps, etc. Read the information carefully before going on the trip! The information in the guidebook could save your life, or at the very least, prevent you from having an unpleasant experience. They also have a gear list and a walkers safety check list. Read them!

The Overland Track traverses Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park, within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. BTF Board Member Mike Wood and his wife Holly walked the track in January. Here are Mike's recommendations.

So here we go!

Day One:

Arrive in Cradle Mountain, where you have booked yourself into a comfortable hotel such as Peppers Cradle Mountain Lodge or Cradle Mountain Hotel. Use one of the bus companies on the website to book your journey to the start point and your return journey. Go to the Cradle Mountain Visitors Centre on the afternoon of your arrival day and get your compulsory Walkers Briefing from the Police and Parks Tasmania

It's a good idea to stay two nights in Cradle Mountain and do the day walks around the area, visit Crater Lake, circumnavigate Dove Lake, climb Marion's Lookout, visit Waldheim's Cabin. There is plenty to do here for one day, a good opportunity to warm up and start your trek the next day.

Day 2: (10.7km 6 – 8 hours) Ronny Creek to Waterfall Valley Hut

Start early, take the free bus service up to the start of the National Park at Ronny Creek and start walking. This first day spends a bit of time out on the exposed Cradle plateau (1,200m) via pockets of cool temperate rain forest. You will start to see the ubiquitous board walk that makes up a significant part of the trail, necessary to avoid damage to the environment.

There is an optional 2km side trip up Cradle Mountain, but don't do this in bad weather. You overnight in Waterfall Valley, where a new hut was built in 2020.

As on the Bibbulmun Track, water is available from the tanks attached to all huts and each has an outside composting toilet. Bring your own toilet paper, hand sanitiser and wet wipes. Ear plugs may also be a valuable commodity!

Day 3 (7.8km 2.5 – 3.5 hours) Waterfall Valley to Lake Windermere

This is a less strenuous section over alpine heathlands, the button grass moorlands, lakes and tarns. It is exposed and above 1000m. Camping is not permitted on the shores of the lake, but the campsite is close by. There is a 3km side trip available to Lake Will where you could have a swim, weather permitting. Make sure you secure your pack as the local birds have worked out how to open zippers!

Day 4 (16.8km 5 – 7 hours) Lake Windermere to Pelion Hut

This is a day of diverse scenery, as the trail meanders through alpine moorland, past intriguing rock formations and into ancient forests. Mt Oakleigh is a constant companion for the day. There are some good lunch spots on the banks of the creek coming off Mt Pelion West, surrounded by some beautiful myrtle beech rain forest.

Passing through Frog Flats you cross the mighty Forth River and ascend through a eucalypt forest before getting to camp at the impressive Pelion Hut which is built for 36 people. Look out for wombats! There is a side trip to one of the oldest standing huts in the park, the Old Pelion Hut, about 1km away.

Day 5 (8.6km 3 – 4 hours) Pelion Hut to Kia Ora Hut

Following Douglas Creek you ascend to the Pelion Gap between Mt Ossa and Pelion East then gradually descend through the button grass plains and eucalypt forest to Kia Ora Hut.

There is a 5km side trip up to Mt Ossa (1,617m), the highest peak in Tasmania, which doubles the walking time of today if you decide to attempt it. It adds another 500m of elevation gain but the views are spectacular; on a good day you can see up to a third of Tasmania from the top.

Day 6 (9.6km 3.5 – 4.5 hours) Kia Ora to Windy Ridge (Bert Nichols Hut)

This is a day of waterfalls. After passing by the historic Du Cane Hut, built in 1910, and used only in emergencies, you pass through some sassafras, myrtle and King Billy Pine Forest before reaching the junction of the trails to Fergusson and D'Alton Falls which makes an excellent 1km side trip. Further up the trail there is a side trip to Hartnett Falls (1.5km) on the Mersey River. Continue onto the Bert Nichols Hut at the top of the Narcissus Valley.

Day 7 (9km 3 – 4 hours) Windy Ridge (Bert Nichols Hut) to Narcissus Hut or do the Pine Valley Hut extension

Narcissus Hut is located on the banks of Lake St Clair and is one of the older huts, which sleeps only 18 people. It has a radio that you can use to book the ferry for the next day. Look out for platypus



in the river.

Alternatively, there is a bridge across the river to your right before you get to Narcissus Hut, take the turn and head up into Pine Valley. We camped here and didn't use the Pine Valley Hut, it was a bit rough and old, but the tent sites were sublime.

This extension is highly recommended.

Day 8 (15km 5 – 6 hours) Pine Valley to Echo Point beach

Leave Pine Valley and follow the river back to Narcissus Hut keeping an eye out for platypus along the way. Then cross the river and follow the bank of Lake St Clair south to the old hut at Echo Point beach.

We camped on the beach and went for a swim in the lake. Marvellous!

Day 9 (10km 2.5 – 3.5 hours) Echo Point Beach to Cynthia Bay

Continue the next morning following the shore of Australia's deepest freshwater lake through the lush forest to the visitor centre.

We had a bus booked to take us back to Hobart in the afternoon so with time to spare we accosted someone with a car in the car park to take us out to Derwent Bridge on the main highway. We had lunch at the pub and visited The Wall, a hand-built display depicting Tasmania's history carved into sheets of Huon Pine. Absolutely worth a visit.

So, you've completed The Overland Track—congratulations!

Now back to Hobart for a hearty meal, fine wine, long hot showers and a good night's sleep!

Mike Wood



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