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THE BIBBULMUN TRACK FOUNDATION

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Patron: Hon. Dr Geoff Gallop,
Premier of Western Australia

OFFICE LOCATION:

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862 Hay Street Perth

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Friday 9am – 4.30pm

Editor: Linda Daniels

Design and artwork by Adcorp
Telephone: (08) 9210 9500

Printed on environmentally-friendly paper



New! Bibbulmun Track calendar for 2006

(Fantastic Christmas gift for family & friends)

The Bibbulmun Track calendar features 36 stunning photos by photographer and Bibbulmun Track 'end-to-ender' Hanspeter Kaempf, illustrating a variety of outstanding landscapes, facilities, flora and fauna along the Track.

The quality, full colour calendar is approximately 32 x 21 cm and includes interesting facts about the Track.

A wonderful way to share the beauty of the Track with your family and friends and raise funds for the Bibbulmun Track. ONLY \$12 + pp for members! (\$15 + pp for non-members).

Limited number printed, so order yours today on www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au, email friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au or call (08) 9481 0551.



The photographs in the Bibbulmun Track calendar were taken by photographer Hanspeter Kaempf during his end-to-end walk.

"My ambition was to combine an adventure activity, fun and the art of my photography. There were so many memorable moments but the encounter with the eagle on Mt. Cooke was outstanding. For me it was a walk of a lifetime..."

See Hanspeter's online gallery at www.ozkaempf.com

PHOTO COMPETITION

Get out your camera or start looking through your photo collection – we are searching for the best Bibbulmun Track photos.

Stephen Scourfield, Editor of the travel section of The West Australian, will again be one of the judges and the best photograph in each category will be printed in The West Australian. Winners will also receive an enlargement courtesy of Custom Colour.

The overall winner will also win 2 nights bed & breakfast plus packed lunches and track transfers courtesy of Berryvale Lodge in Dwellingup.

Look out for the competition entry form on page 17.



BERRYVALE LODGE

Photographs for Sale

We have a selection of photographs by Hanspeter Kaempf for sale.

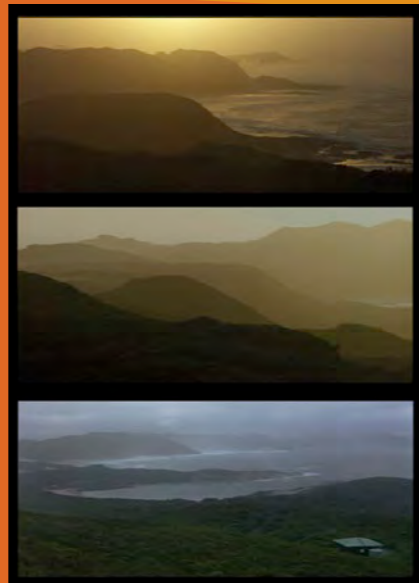
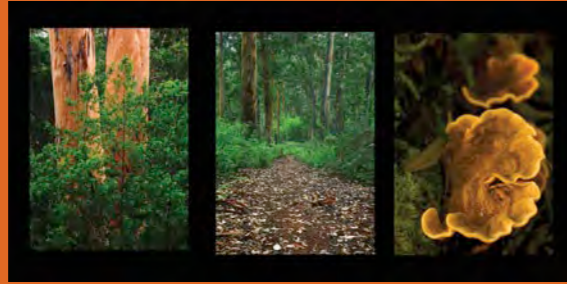
Framed 40 x 50 cm prints \$150 each.

Set of 3 mounted prints \$75 each.

Single mounted prints \$25 each. (large mount)

Single mounted prints \$20 each. (small mount)

Pop into our office above Mountain Designs to view or email friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au for a flyer.



GLORY ON TRACK

The official launch of the 2005 Mountain Designs Bibbulmun Team Challenge was held recently on the Central Park lawns in the heart of the city. Onlookers were treated to a spectacle when players from Perth Glory Football Club took on team members from last year's event.

The entire Perth Glory team, including coaches, also spent a day out on the Track as part of their pre-season training and the club has entered a corporate team into this year's Team Challenge commencing in October.

Glory head coach, Steve McMahon, said: "The goals of the Challenge such as building positive relationships and communication between participants mirror those we have for the players. The Challenge also adds a different element to their pre-season training schedule."

The city launches led to a number of new companies signing up this year. Teams already registered include National Australia Bank, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Perth Glory, CALM, Geraldton Grammar School, The West Australian, Pitcher Partners, State Records Office, Government Employee Superannuation Board and Ernst and Young.

The four heats take place during October and November and there are only two places available – so don't miss out on this once in a lifetime event – get your team of 4 together NOW from workmates, friends, sporting buddies and enjoy...

- 4 days walking 60km in the wilderness
- Full-on physical and mental challenges
- Fantastic prizes
- Whole lot of fun
- Leadership, team-building, communication
- Hiking gear supplied
- Raise funds for the Bibbulmun Track

As one participant summed it up...

"Anyone given the opportunity of participating in a future Bibbulmun Track Challenge should not just take it but grab it with both hands".

So 'Grab it with both hands' - pick up the phone and call Steve Sertis on 9481 0551 or email events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au



Channel 10 and The West Australian get close to the action at the launch of the Mountain Designs Bibbulmun Team Challenge.



Members of Perth Glory Football Club get into the spirit of the Challenge.

RALLY AUSTRALIA

10 – 13 November

Rally Australia will be running from 10 to 13 November 2005 and will affect the Perth Hills section of the Track. In addition to the main event, rally vehicles also participate in testing and reconnaissance beforehand. Reconnaissance involves the car travelling on the rally route and following all traffic laws and speed limits, enabling them to take 'pace notes' for the main event. Please note that there will be NO rally marshals on the reconnaissance days. Testing will take place over two days in the two week period leading up to the event, the specific dates have not been finalised yet.

Rally details including dates, times and maps will be placed at trailheads and campsite noticeboards on either side of locations where the rally route intersects the Track. Please take time to read these and determine if you will encounter any roads being used by Rally Australia. Exercise extreme caution during event times and always heed the directions of rally marshals. While the actual event is in progress, rally officials are authorized to stop walkers from crossing or walking along the rally route affected. (See Latest Track News on pages 6 and 7 for further details.)

Rally Australia Dates

- **Reconnaissance Days:**
8-9 November 2005.
- **Actual Race Days:**
10 -13 November 2005.
- **Testing Days:**
Testing will take place over two days in the two weeks just prior to the event. Specific dates have not yet been finalised.

Details about all rally activities will be posted on CALM's NatureBase webpage www.calm.wa.gov.au/tourism/bib_news



FROM MY Desk



Welcome to the Spring edition of Bibbulmun News.

It has been all systems go in the office with the start of a new Calendar of Events; production of the 2006 wall calendar; submissions for funding and the upcoming Tourism Awards; Mountain Designs Bibbulmun Team Challenge promotions and field days for our maintenance volunteers being just some of the many projects undertaken since the last newsletter.

A very exciting development is the allocation of funding from the Trails Grants Program for a joint trails marketing project with the Munda Biddi Foundation and Friends of the Cape to Cape. The funding is to develop a business and strategic plan to promote (and help develop where there are gaps) a diverse range of West Australian trails experiences to the people of WA and beyond. The plan must also be environmentally sustainable and deliver economic benefits to the regional communities and the 'Friends of' groups that support the trails.

The project would deliver an improved level of service to existing and potential trail users by providing information on products and services for a number of trails in one place. By working together on marketing, we aim to increase the profile of WA as a unique trails destination and bring more visitors to the State.

Extensive consultation will take place within the trails community including our members, other trail users, existing service providers and government agencies. It will be an exciting and challenging process and I look forward to bringing you more news as the project develops.

If you're ever in town, remember to pop upstairs to our office above Mountain Designs to say hello. We love meeting our members and thank you for your continued support.

Linda Daniels
Executive Director Bibbulmun Track Foundation

Funding

We are very pleased to have received confirmation of the following funding and thank The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM), Lotterywest and the Peel Development Commission for their support.



CALM has renewed its commitment to provide \$50,000 per annum to the Foundation for a three-year period. This funding is vital to the organisation as, unlike most grants, which are allocated to specific projects, the funding from CALM assists with ongoing administration costs including the management of the 'Eyes on the Ground' maintenance programme.

The following two projects are being funded through the Trails Grants Program administered by the Department of Sport and Recreation and supported by Lotterywest.



\$50,000 for a joint trails marketing project with the Munda Biddi Foundation and Friends of the Cape to Cape. This grant is for phase one of the project, which includes the development of strategic and business plans for the three organisations to work together on marketing and product development.

\$25,000 to update information panels on the 12 trailheads in towns and popular access points along the Bibbulmun Track, and to produce an information booklet.



The Foundation has also received a grant of \$5000 from the Peel Development Commission to be used for upgrading the Bibbulmun Track along the northern corridor.

Thank you...
Thank you

Thank you to Geoff and Susan Bell for the donation of a printer for our office.

Thank you to Robert Butler, Paul Stephan and to Soroptimists International, Darling Range Branch, for their kind donations to the Foundation.

Thank you to everyone who bought an Entertainment Book from the Foundation this year – we sold 150 books raising a total of \$1800. Thank you for your support – we hope you enjoy lots of great times using the vouchers!



NOTICE OF AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation will be held at 6.30pm on Thursday October 27, at Level 1, Mountain Designs Building, 862 Hay St, Perth.

RSVP to Gwen 9481 0551
email: friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation, two members of the Board, Mike Wood and Leonie Kirke have completed their term as members. However, they are eligible for re-election for a further term each and offer themselves accordingly, for re-election at the AGM on October 27th, 2005.

A big thank you to all our Board Members who bring a wide range of experience and knowledge to the Foundation:

Steve Crawford	Bruce Manning
Simon Holthouse	Patrick Tremlet
Annie Keating	Jim Sharp
Leonie Kirke	Mike Wood
Geoff Klem	

YOUR LETTERS

Dear Staff and volunteers

We would like to express our thanks to you all for the wonderful walks that are available to us on the Bibbulmun Track. Over Easter about 30 members of our club went to Albany, camping at the Happy Days Caravan Park on the King River.

The walk past the Wind farm, past the Hidden Valley Campsite on to Mutton Bird carpark was a delight. The views were spectacular in the clear weather and we thoroughly appreciated the work done to maintain the Track in good condition. The range of vegetation, including the many wildflowers, provided lots of interest along the route.

Please pass on our thanks to all involved in making such a lovely walk possible.

Helen Farrington
Western Walking Club Member

Dear Editor,

We attended the Fundraising evening in the pouring rain in April this year and won three nights' accommodation in the auction which we have just used. We drove down to Albany and spent Friday night at the Motel Le Grande. This is situated on the outskirts of Albany and although not on the Track it provides very comfortable accommodation. On Saturday we drove through to Denmark and spent the next two nights at the Great Southern Comfort which is a self catering ground floor unit that sleeps four in superior surroundings. Anita and Michael Burt, who live upstairs, made us feel welcome with a bottle of wine and home made jams in the fridge. The unit looks out onto a beautiful garden with bird feeders that were well patronised. Great Southern Comfort is only about 50 metres from the Track. On Monday morning before we left for the drive back to Perth we walked a few kilometers on the Bibbulmun Track along the shores of the Wilson Inlet watching the sunrise. Thanks to both the Motel Le Grande and Great Southern Comfort for supporting the Bibbulmun Track and contributing to a great weekend for us.

Colleen & Richard Clayden
26th July 2005

Dear Editor

On the Foundation Day long weekend four of us decided to walk from Kirup-Grimwade Rd to Mumballup Tavern. With the long-range weather forecast that read something like rain, rain and more rain we expected a quiet time on the Track. We reached Grimwade Campsite at 4.00pm and found seven people already there. Half an hour later a group of six UWA students arrived. As the Track notes say this campsite sleeps 12 comfortably, we found sleeping seventeen no problem. The following night there were sixteen sleeping over at Noggerup. Everybody was fantastic about the unexpected numbers and we had two great nights out.

Julie, Elena, Jane and Raelene



Bunbury Adventure Pursuits Club boasts Five End-to-Enders

Bunbury Adventure Pursuits Club recently acknowledged their club members who achieved End-to-End status, by presenting them with a Bibbulmun Track Foundation Certificate and a pair of bright purple socks to mark the auspicious occasion.

L to R: Guy Watson- 2000-2001, Brain Paddon 2000-2001, Geoff Dunbar 2000-2001, Raymond Hingston 2001- 2004 & Neill Phillips 2000-2001.



Getting into Gear - Lightweight Stoves

Imagine walking into a Bibbulmun Track campsite in the pouring rain, the bush is dripping, your pack's heavy and sodden, all you want is a nice, hot cup of tea. Now all you have to do is make a fire (if fires are actually allowed – not all campsites have fire rings), you have to hunt around for dry wood, there's none, the last walkers have used it all up. The wet wood just won't fire up no matter how much you blow on it, you're stuck out in the rain unable to even get dry clothes on while you tend the failing fire. In the end you just give up, frustrated, and pull out the muesli bars for dinner!



Then another walker arrives for the night. They drop their pack under the shelter, throw open the top, reach in and pull out a Trangia, which they place on the table in the shelter. They pour the metho in the burner, light it, put a pot of water on to boil and then take off their waterproof Gore-Tex jacket – under which, of course, they are completely dry! You can only watch as you chew on the raw muesli bar, it does have chocolate chips I suppose; that's some consolation!

There are so many well priced, light, small and incredibly efficient stoves on the market that I don't understand why some walkers put themselves in that first situation. Sure a fire is nice to sit around and chat with our fellow walkers but why would anyone want to be dependant on a fire for their food and water?

There are different types of stoves to consider; I'll divide them into fuel stoves, gas stoves, solid fuel stoves and non-pressurised fuel stoves.

Fuel stoves need to be pressurised to, firstly get the fuel to flow from the fuel tank to the stove itself, and secondly to get it to vaporise to burn. One of the most popular brands of this type is MSR, Mountain Safety Research. They have several stoves ranging from the Whisperlite to the XGK EX. The MSR Whisperlite Internationale is one of the best stoves in my opinion; it takes two different fuels now, white gas (basically lighter fluid or a purer unleaded petrol) and kero. This means that no matter what country you're in you can find a fuel to suit. It also makes it very fast to boil; the Whisperlite boils a litre of water in around 3.5 minutes. The stoves are all very light, weighing in at around 330 grams plus fuel.

Having your fuel bottle as your fuel tank also saves on weight, it also means that you don't have to leave your stove behind when you fly, just bring a new bottle so that it's safe on the plane.

MSR also do the XGK EX, which takes both white gas and kero plus diesel. This new model is quieter and still fully field maintainable. The Simmerlite and the Dragonfly were introduced a few years ago and offer more flexibility in simmering and controlling the heat from the stove – better for the gourmets!

MSR's gas canister stove is the Pocket Rocket, a great little stove that only weighs 85 grams and still boils a litre of water in 3.5 minutes! Be careful what canisters you use, not all gases are made equal. Try to find canisters that screw on or off rather than piercing the canister, this means you can remove the canister from the stove without losing any gas. Also try to find canisters that are a combination of gases like Iso-Butane, the burn rate is more even so the flame is as powerful at the end of the canister's life as it was at the start. Kovea also make a good range of light gas stoves, other brands are Coleman, Primus and Gaz.

One of the great mainstays of bushwalking stoves is the old faithful Trangia. Trangias burn methylated spirits, which makes them slower than pressurised fuel stoves but definitely safer, most schools for instance use Trangias. They come in two sizes, 1 – 2 persons or 2 – 3 persons, and in three different metals. Aluminium, Teflon coated or Duossal, a combination of stainless steel on the inside and aluminium on the outside. They also come with two pots and a frypan, and some models add a kettle as well. The most useful part of the set up though is the combination windshield and stand that allows air to move under the burner, fuelling the flame, but prevents wind from reducing the burner's effectiveness. Like a gas canister stove they are quick to start and easy to extinguish.

As I say in most of these articles, talk to an Outdoor Store shop assistant, they would have used some stoves and certainly heard lots of feedback about others.

Mike Wood
Mountain Designs WA



Merino Wool Thermals save the day...

As a follow up to the article on Merino Wool in the last edition of Bibbulmun News we are publishing the following message sent to us regarding a potentially disastrous situation that was minimised due to the fire resistant properties of merino wool...

"Wendy fell into the campfire at Waalegh. (No joke, and only on her first mug of wine!) Could have been an absolute disaster complete with emergency evacuation, but ended OK. The best advert ever for merino wool thermals because that's all that saved her. Her shorts melted onto the

thermals which didn't burn. Polypropylene thermals would have melted onto her skin. Shorts have massive holes in them - allowed a lot of bum to hang out! Fleece also melted. Wendy more concerned about her singed hair than body! Also singed eyebrow and eyelashes. Allen was the quickest of us to move and hauled her out. Blistered part of her hand, a thumb, bum and thigh. Became the fixomul kid! Lots of bruising as well. We can't believe it all ended as well as it did. Most scary thing I've ever seen at a campfire."

Compiled by Tracks & Trails Unit, CALM. The following Track news is accurate and up to date at time of printing. For the very latest updates it is important that you check the Latest Track News web page, which can be accessed via a link from the Foundation's home page at www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au or www.calm.wa.gov.au/tourism/bib_news

Rally Australia – November 2005

See Article on page 2 and the Mundaring and Dwellingup Section reports for details.

Mundaring Section of Perth Hills District

Covers Kalamunda to Gringer Creek Campsite near Albany Highway

Map 1 or Section 1 to 12 in Northern Guidebook

Contact: Kym Pearce (08) 9538 0006 or kymp@calm.wa.gov.au

The Perth Hills district has been busy with capital works projects over the past few months. One major project underway is the upgrade and re-surfacing of the Bibbulmun Track entering Kalamunda National Park. This steep and rocky section of track has created problems for walkers in the past with reports of twisted ankles. The Department of Justice's Karnet Prison work crew are doing this work and constructing a series of rock steps in the process. They have also hardened a section of the Track located on an old vehicle track where the combination of deep clay and saturated soils had created quite a deep bog. Some unfortunate walkers could be forgiven for thinking they were on a New Zealand or Tasmanian track as they sank to knee depth in mud.

The section of Track between Waalegh campsite and Dale Road remains closed due to hazardous conditions created by the January fire. The temporary track diversion and campsite with water and toilet facilities are still in place. For your own safety please heed all warnings and instructions about diversions.

Prescribed burns are planned which, if they go ahead, will affect the following sections of Track this spring:

- Old Dale Rd to Brookton Highway – will affect Mt Dale and Brookton Campsite. Guide Book Section 6, 7 and 8.

- Abbyssinia Rock – will affect Canning Campsite. Guide sections 8 and 9.

The Rally Australia route crosses the Bibbulmun Track four times between Hills Forest Discovery Centre and Waalegh campsite:

- Allen Road near Hills Forest carpark (Guide section 2);

- Mann's Gully (section 3);

- Gravel road 5km south of Ball Creek campsite (section 3); and

- Allen Rd 5km south of Helena campsite where Track crosses Helena River (section 4).

These sections will be affected on reconnaissance days 8 November 10am-6pm.

Cars will be racing here Sunday 13 November so it may be impossible to pass between 8am and 2pm on this day.

The Track crosses the rally route twice between the Darkin River and Old Dale Road (Guide section 6). Cars may be using the route on reconnaissance day, 8 November and race conditions will apply on Saturday 12 November between 4pm and 7pm.

Dwellingup Section of Perth Hills District

Covers Gringer Creek Campsite to Harvey-Quindanning Rd

Map 2 or Section 13 to 20 in Northern Guidebook

Contact: Kym Pearce (08) 9538 0006 or kymp@calm.wa.gov.au

Note the announcement about Rally Australia above.

Prescribed burns are planned which, if they go ahead, will affect the following sections of Track this spring south of Dwellingup:

- From the pine plantation boundary, south of River Road through to Yarragil Form. – Swamp Oak Campsite and Guide Book sections 17 and 18 affected.

The Rally Australia route crosses the Bibbulmun Track four times between 6 and 8 kilometres south of Dwellingup. Activity is focused in the pine plantation areas between Nanga Road and where the Track leaves the plantations. Reconnaissance day is Wednesday 9 November with rally cars likely to be active between 8am and 6pm. Race day is Friday 11 November when cars may be in the area between 8.30am and 2.00pm. Please take note of the general instructions and warnings above about the rally.

Mornington (Collie) District

Covers Harvey -Quindanning Road to Mumballup

Map 3 or Section 20 to 25 in Northern Guidebook

Contact: Peter Morris or Scott Hunter (08) 9734 1988

The Track has been well maintained by volunteers and CALM crews over the past months so overall it is in good condition.

Some maintenance works have been completed on a steep section of Track south of Glen Mervyn Dam to repair the erosion damage caused by trail bikes. A mini excavator repaired the eroded section of Track and additional water bars were installed to minimize further erosion.

A gate was installed near Harris River Campsite, however within a week of the gate been installed a vehicle had found a way to get around it. This has been fixed for the time being with the addition of a log. The district would like to put another gate on the entrance to Possum Springs campsite to stop night time intrusion by vehicles.

CALM work crews will include a section of the Track near Glen Mervyn Dam to deal with reported litter problems. Redevelopments at the eastern side of the Dam mean that walkers can access day use facilities such as toilet, picnic tables and barbecues just to the north of the Track.

The district is replacing the toilet at the Harris Dam campsite but they have run into a couple of problems. The sealed tank seems to be letting water in and the area around the toilet is wet and boggy causing access problems. Apologies to walkers for the delay.

There is a permanent 'No Fires' site at Yourdamung campsite. No fires are permitted within the entire Lane Poole Special Conservation Zone.

Prescribed burns are planned which, if they go ahead, will affect the following sections of Track this spring in the Collie area:

Between Harvey Quindanning Road and Worsely conveyor belt – Section 20 in Guide.

Between Mistley Road and Narambeen Road affecting Yourdamung campsite and Sections 21 and 22 in guidebook.

A thank you to our team of volunteers whose ongoing commitment is very much appreciated.

Blackwood - Balingup District

Covers Mumballup to Willow Springs

Map 4 or Section 25 to 30 in Northern Guidebook

Contact: Dave Lathwell (08) 9731 6232 or davel@calm.wa.gov.au

Blackwood campsite is a permanent 'No Fires' site, due to its location in the pines.

This year several prescribed burns are likely to go ahead in the Blackwood Valley. No campsites will be affected.

- South of Noggerup Campsite between Bennett Road and Lowden-Grimwade Road. Diversion will increase the distance by around 6km.

- South of Grimwade Campsite from Towers Road through to Kirup – Grimwade Rd. Diversion will be to the west of Track and will increase distance by about 4km.

- From Balingup-Grimwade Rd to Jayes Rd.

- Brockman Highway to powerline (south of highway) near Weston Road. Diversion will go down Stallard Road.

Manjimup & Pemberton - Donnelly District

Willow Springs to Pingerup Road

Map 5 and part of Map 6 or Section 30 in Northern and Section 31 to 42 in Southern Guidebook

Contact: John McKenzie (08) 9776 1207 or johnm@calm.wa.gov.au

Due to the large amount of rain that has fallen over the winter months be prepared to get your feet, and possibly knees, wet at various points along the Track between Gardner and Dog Pool Campsites, especially sections south of Chesapeake Road, Deeside and Dog Road

Due to flooding of two creeks, a section of Track has been diverted between Pemberton and Warren campsite. The diversion is clearly marked with white diversion markers and likely to be in place to at least the beginning of October.

The annual upgrade and maintenance has been timed to clean up the Track after winter.

Please check with the local district office or on the Latest News web pages for up to date information on planned prescribed burns.

Walpole - Frankland District

Covers Pingerup Road to Denmark

Map 6, 7 and 8 or Section 42 to 53 in Southern Guidebook

Contact: Andrea Bidwell or Alison Driscoll (08) 9840 1027

CALM crews have started their spring clean up of all campsites.

Parry Inlet (Section 52) is open and currently impassable, therefore walkers will need to use the alternate route, marked on the 2nd edition maps. This will add a further 10km to the journey.

As the levels in Parry Inlet fall CALM still advises walkers to use the alternate route. If you decide to ignore this advice and make the crossing, please exercise extreme care. Be sure to unfasten the hip and chest straps of your backpack before crossing.

Walkers leaving cars at the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk are reminded to please ensure staff at the ticket kiosk are informed as the car park is locked overnight.

Please be aware that all campsites from Mt Chance (section 43) to Albany are 'No Fire' sites.

Albany

Covers Denmark to Albany

Map 8 or section 53 to 58 in Southern Guidebook

Contact: Luke Coney (08) 9842 4500 or lukec@calm.wa.gov.au

The Torbay Inlet (Section 57) channel is open and walkers need to cross the inlet using extreme caution. Seawater is washing into the inlet and further rain is expected. If, on inspection, the water appears to be flowing quite swiftly upstream then walk across at the sea end of the inlet where both waters meet.

As the Albany wool stores section of the Track is still around the perimeter fence of the building site containing the remains of the wool store sheds, please follow the Track markers.

WILSON INLET

At the time of printing the Denmark Ocean Beach sandbar had not reformed therefore walkers need to either cross by boat or use one of the land options north of Wilson Inlet for re-joining the Track on the other side. Local taxi or drop-off operators who can drive walkers to Nullaki Peninsula are: Denmark Cabs: 9848 2295, Little River Discovery Tours: 9848 2604 or Windrose Bed and Breakfast: 9848 3502.

There is a boat hire operation at the mouth of Denmark River. The operator will bring the boat back to Denmark after taking walkers across the inlet. It is essential that you contact the proprietor on 0429 421 786 to arrange your crossing in advance, especially if you are coming from the Albany side of the inlet.

Walkers can walk along the alternative route beside the road to the north of the Inlet. The roads are busy with vehicular traffic (please make yourself visible when walking along highway). This alternative route will add a further 20km to your walk.

PRESCRIBED BURNS

CALM conducts a program of controlled fuel reduction burns at the end of the rains in spring or after the opening rains in autumn. These burns are carefully planned, however they may cause some disruption to the Track. As a result temporary diversions may be put in place. To obtain further track information, contact the relevant CALM office or check the Latest Track News web page, which can be accessed via a link from the Foundation's home page at www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au or www.calm.wa.gov.au/tourism/bib_news

The primary purpose of this burning is to maintain biological diversity at the landscape level by creating a mosaic of unburnt and recently burnt areas and to stimulate bio-diversity and ecological processes within the burn area.

GROUPS ON TRACK

This time of the year there are many groups using the Track, especially in the northern half. If you are planning a group walk involving more than 8 people, please contact the CALM Tracks & Trails Unit on 08 9334 0265 or bibtrack@calm.wa.gov.au. Once a group has notified CALM of their intentions to use the Track, a notice is placed on the Latest Track News web page to inform all walkers that there will be a group using certain campsites on the given dates.

If you are planning a walk and want to avoid the potential of over crowding and clashing with a group please check the Latest Track News web page prior to your walk. Needless to say, not all groups register their intentions of using the Track.

A very BIG THANK YOU to all the Bibbulmun Track volunteers, CALM staff and the Bibbulmun Track Foundation for their on-going support and commitment to the Bibbulmun Track.

Accommodation, Tours and Services

The following business have supported the Track by becoming an Affiliated member. Please take a look and remember them when you next book a tour or accommodation.

We are happy to welcome ALBANY VISITOR CENTRE, WILDSIDE WALKS, NORTHCLIFFE CARAVAN PARK & BACKPACKERS, PREMIER HOTEL, KARRI FOREST MOTEL, MOONWATERS HOLIDAY COTTAGE and BLUE WREN TRAVELLERS REST who have joined recently. Thanks to all our Affiliated Organisations for their support!

BUSINESS NAME	TOWN	TYPE OF BUSINESS	PHONE NO.	DISCOUNT OFFERED TO MEMBERS
BERRYVALE LODGE	DWELLINGUP	Accommodation/ Transport prov.	(08) 9538 1239	10% Sun-Thurs inclusive (excl public hols and long w/e).
DWELLINGUP ADVENTURES	DWELLINGUP	Tour	(08) 9538 1127	10% on self-guided tours.
DWELLINGUP BUNKHOUSES	DWELLINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9538 1314	10%.
DWELLINGUP CHALET & CARAVAN PARK	DWELLINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9538 1157	No.
TEHILLAH DWELLINGUP'S FOREST RETREAT	DWELLINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9538 1388	10% for mid-week accommodation.
COLLIE VISITOR CENTRE	COLLIE	Tourist Bureau	(08) 9734 2051	10% on souvenirs. Excl. CALM books, maps and craft.
PREMIER HOTEL	COLLIE	Accommodation	(08) 9734 1899	\$15 sgl, \$10 dbl.
WHISPERING PINES B&B	COLLIE	Accommodation	(08) 9734 3883	10%.
BALINGUP BUDGET ACCOM. - 'THE HIKERS HIDEAWAY'	BALINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9764 1049	10% for 2 or more nights.
CHESTNUT BROOK COTTAGE	BALINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9764 1606	10% (direct bookings only).
JALBROOK COTTAGES - ALPACAS & KNITWEAR GALLERY	BALINGUP	Accommodation - Attraction	(08) 9764 1616	10% with 'first dawn' breakfast basket inc. (excl. specials and long w/e). Direct bookings only.
HOLBERRY HOUSE	NANNUP	Accommodation	(08) 9756 1276	10% (excl. WA public hols or special event w/e).
KARRI FOREST MOTEL	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 1019	10%.
KARRI VALLEY RESORT	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 2020	10%. Not available on public holidays.
PEMBERTON CAMP SCHOOL	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 1277	No.
PEMBERTON DISCOVERY TOURS	PEMBERTON	Tour/Transport prov.	(08) 9776 0484	\$5 p.p. off tours (direct bookings only).
PEMBERTON TOURIST CENTRE INC	PEMBERTON	Tourist Bureau	1800 671 133 or (08) 9776 1133	Through members possibly.
WANDERING VINTAGE SCENIC BUS TOURS	PEMBERTON	Tour/Transport prov.	(08) 9776 1757 or 0429 776 175	No.
BIBBULMUN BREAK MOTEL	NORTHCLIFFE	Accommodation	(08) 9776 6060	\$5 sgl, \$7 dbl/twin on presentation of card.
NORTHCLIFFE CARAVAN PARK & BACKPACKERS	NORTHCLIFFE	Accommodation	(08) 9776 7295	On application.
WATERMARK KILNS	NORTHCLIFFE	Accommodation	(08) 9776 7349	\$5 in double kiln (shared facilities) or \$10 for the single kilns. Pre-booking recommended.
TINGLE ALL OVER' BUDGET ACCOM and WALPOLE TAXI & TOURS	WALPOLE	Accommodation - Tour/Transport prov.	(08) 9840 1041	YHA rate.
WALPOLE LODGE	WALPOLE	Accommodation	(08) 9840 1244	\$2 p.p., p.n.
BLUE WREN TRAVELLERS REST	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 3300	5%.
GUM GROVE CHALETS	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 1378	10% (excl. public & school hols).
MOONWATERS HOLIDAY COTTAGE	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9431 7015	10% (excl. public hols and specials).
TREE-ELLE RETREAT	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9414 1315	Members get the best available offer at the time.
CAPE HOWE COTTAGES	LOWLANDS BEACH	Accommodation	(08) 9845 1295	10% off normal tariff.
ALBANY VISITOR CENTRE	ALBANY	Tourist Bureau	1800 644 088 or (08) 9841 1088	No.
NORMAN HOUSE	ALBANY	Accommodation	(08) 9841 5995	5%.
ORANJE TRACTOR WINE	ALBANY	Winery	(08) 9842 5175	
WILDSIDE WALKS	ALBANY	Tour	(08) 9844 8091	10%.



CALM Tracks and Trails Unit

Annie Keating, Unit Coordinator and Foundation Board Member

Locked Bag 104 Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983 Tel: 9334 0265 Email: bibtrack@calm.wa.gov.au

Everyone seems to want to get out into the bush - into the parks and forests and to get active – and they all want to do it NOW! This is wonderful and praiseworthy, especially when you know that the main motivation for this rush into the bush is to experience it at close quarters and to really get 'nearer to nature' while having lots of fun and getting fit in the process.

Things start to get interesting when we consider all of the different preferences people have for doing these last two things. It almost goes without saying that walking is the most popular recreation of all on our conservation lands. A significant number of people also love to ride their horses along bush trails. To others the epitome of a fun day in the bush is to tear about with a couple of mates on trail bikes or, when they get older, to take the family out four wheel driving along the old forestry tracks in the jarrah forests behind Perth.

These activities and trail uses, along with others such as canoeing, swimming and snorkelling are all legitimate forms of recreation when conducted sustainably on appropriately designed and managed tracks or trails. When planning for recreation in parks and regions CALM takes into account the whole range of visitor needs and expectations for the areas in question. Needless to say, due to other planning considerations such as the need to protect biodiversity, sustainability issues and conflicting recreational needs, not all activities are catered for in all cases.

I hope you will all be patient and bear with me because most of what follows isn't about walking at all, but about mountain biking. Those walkers who encounter bike riders along the Bibbulmun Track will appreciate that managing this pastime and finding better alternative places for people to ride is an important and pressing need for all of us.

Over the years many Bibbulmun Track walkers have expressed dissatisfaction with the apparently large amount of mountain bike use that occurs on the Track, particularly near Perth. We have found that this is just the tip of the iceberg, with many bike trails popping up on a range of CALM lands from Perth through to Margaret River and beyond. "Why don't they use the Munda Biddi Trail?" many people ask, and we sought to get an answer by asking the mountain bikers themselves, through their clubs, what it was they looked for in a bike trail.

In asking this simple question we in CALM who build and manage trails, opened a veritable

Pandora's box on the world of mountain biking. We have found out that there are a number of different, quite distinct types of mountain biking, most of which are not adequately covered by the Munda Biddi Trail. It is both a sport, in which a number of West Australians perform at an elite, international level and, for the vast majority, a recreational pursuit. It can be incredibly skilful, even at an amateur level, and it is very exciting to participate in and a thrill to watch.

A natural setting is a pre-requisite for the cross-country (X country in MTB parlance) version of the activity, although this is not so important for some of the other styles including downhill. Current international downhill cyclists from WA have no facilities where they can legally train. There are very large numbers of people mountain biking in all of the parks and reserves in the hills near Perth. On the Bibbulmun Track you see some of these but, as I indicated before, they are but a fraction of the total numbers out riding in the bush.

At the Australian Trails Conference in South Australia last year I saw how the development of regional mountain biking facilities and support services is benefiting local communities in USA and SA, in much the same way that the Bibbulmun Track has boosted regional tourism in the South West of WA. The case studies and presentations I saw, along with a variety of trails on the ground, convinced me that it is possible through good design and construction techniques, to develop top quality mountain bike trails in natural areas that are environmentally sustainable.

A big problem we have had here in WA is that we have judged the impact of mountain bikes by the effect they have on trails that were only designed for walking. Now CALM is working with mountain bike clubs to develop bike trail classes and design and construction standards for sustainable bike trails, based on International Mountain Bike Association standards. Over the next few years we hope to roll out some really top notch mountain bike facilities that can be used and enjoyed by a very wide range of riders of all abilities. I'm sure a lot of Bibbulmun Track Friends, children and grandchildren will also benefit from these developments so watch out in future years for some new, sustainable, best practise mountain bike trails.

Bibbulmun Track

There has been a changing of the guard in the Tracks and Trails office with Therese Jones – back from 12 months parental leave – taking over the Bibbulmun Track duties from Kristy Vella, who

is travelling the world on twelve months leave without pay.

There was a flurry of work on the Track during the last months of the financial year as CALM districts finished a range of jobs along its entire length. We have finally been able to fix the severely eroded section of track in Kalamunda National Park just beyond Jorgenson Park. The Karnet Prison crew have spent months building steps, erosion control and drainage works along several hundred metres of track.

You might also have noticed the spick and span appearance of many campsites after they have been treated with a high quality, organic timber treatment that will help to extend their life. Conservation Volunteers Australia treated the shelters in the Perth Hills district and also did some much needed maintenance on Mt Cooke and installed erosion bars on the new stretch of track into Mt Cooke campsite from the north.

The accommodation arrangements at Donnelly River Village have changed recently. The old school and lunch sheds are no longer owned by CALM and the village's leaseholder has taken over their management. Backpacker, dormitory style accommodation is now available in the converted school building for a modest cost, although walkers can still use the lunch sheds at no charge. We will monitor this arrangement to make sure walkers needs are being met and to gauge the need or otherwise for an alternative campsite away from the village.

In July I did a walk over Mt Cooke and I'm predicting that after two and a half years of growth the flowers are going to be spectacular soon. The understorey was very thick and lush, with masses of buds, but alas many of the trees are going to take a lot longer to reach their former glory. The regeneration after January's fire between Helena and Dale Road will be a lot quicker. I'm looking forward to seeing how the bush out that way is faring.

I hope you have plenty of opportunities to get out and enjoy the Track and the wildflowers in the fast approaching spring walking season.

Annie Keating

moonwaters

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Dwellingup Transport Services.

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Bibbulmun Track drops can be done at the following locations. Harvey/Quindanning Rd, Driver Rd, Murray Campsite, Yarragil Form, Swamp Oak, River Rd, Inglehope, Pindalup Rd & North Bannister

Up to 4 people in our 4wd or up to 21 in our bus. Both vehicles are licensed & insured for public transport.

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Track Town - Dwellingup

So you've just finished a section of the Bibbulmun Track and come into Dwellingup.

No doubt a shower, good food and a warm bed are the order of the day. These can all be provided for in Dwellingup as we have a range of accommodation and food outlets to take care of these needs.

But before you leave us, why not enjoy some of the extras that we can provide. Make the most of your stop over by visiting:

The Dwellingup History & Visitor Information Centre – yes we have the Bibbulmun Track register, so you can sign in. We also have a wide range of up to date information on Dwellingup and its surrounding areas, and a display of the history of the timber towns that were a part of the Scarp.

The Forest Heritage Centre will give you another perspective on the forests you have just walked through. This distinctive leaf-shaped building houses a Fine Wood Gallery that showcases some of the finest woodcraft in Western Australia. You will discover work by outstanding artisans who utilise a wide variety of Western Australia's unique timbers. The School of Fine Wood is Australia's only specialist fine wood training facility. Watch the students in action and view their work on display in the gallery and, for a bird's eye view of the forest, take a stroll along the 11-metre high, 60-metre long tree top walk.

Why not give your feet a rest, **Dwellingup Adventures** can provide canoes for a paddle down the Murray River. What better way to enjoy nature at its best with the water gently lapping at the sides of the canoe and the sun twinkling between the tops of the trees?

For those of you who prefer to sit back and relax over a wine or coffee, visit the **Wine Tree**, which specialises in fruit wines and ciders. The café looks out over the orchard, which should be a seasonal destination as nature changes its colours from deep greens to red and gold hues.

So, remember to stop over the next time you walk along the Bibbulmun Track, we love sharing our little piece of heaven with you! 🌸

Dwellingup History and Visitors Information Centre is located in Marginata St. The centre is open daily and the staff will be happy to offer you assistance on your visit to beautiful Dwellingup. Phone: (08) 9538 1108

Book a Bibbulmun Walking Break in Dwellingup – call Jean today on (08) 9321 0649 for a free quote.

Our self guided supported tour range lets you travel at your own pace on your own private adventure with the security and back up support of Dwellingup Adventures

Paddle 'n' Picnic

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This is the ideal beginners adventure. Park your vehicle at the the finish and we transport you and your canoe upstream. Spend the return journey stopping for a picnic where you choose or exploring the forested banks of the river We collect the canoes at the finish. From \$60.00 for a two person canoe. Half and full day tours available

Pack 'n' Paddle

Enjoy a walk along the Bibbulmun Track followed the next day by a paddle out along the Murray River.

Day one you walk the 13kms to Swamp Oak Hut along the Bibbulmun Track. We meet you the next day with your canoe for your paddle back to the pick up point. From \$60.00 for a two person canoe

Murray Explorer

Explore the upper reaches of the Murray River on an overnight adventure

More suitable for those with a little canoe experience. Park your vehicle in town and we transport you and your canoe and camping equipment to the start point. In true expedition style you camp along the river bank to be met at the finish point and transported in to town. From \$115.00 for a two person canoe.

Munda Biddi Explorer

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Yes, THEY DID IT!

We congratulate 20 end-to-enders on their great achievement.



My motto is "Age and health are no barrier" – Bernice Colvin (78)

No less than 10 of our latest group of end-to-enders came from outside Western Australia and of the 13 who completed the walk in one go 10 walked from South to North. We also salute a walker who was 78 years young which must make her one of the oldest to date to complete the journey.

We show the direction they walked in using N for Kalamunda in the North and S for Albany in the South, along with start and finish dates.

As usual we will begin with our international visitors.

Janet Nicholson (39) Maidstone, Kent, UK. S to N. 10 March to 6 May 2005. Highlights included the unreal views between Monadnocks and Nerang, the campsite at Waalegh, seeing wildlife, the views from Mts Cooke, Cuthbert and Vincent and the amazing coastal scenery. She urges other walkers to respect the Track, wildlife and plants.

Brian Toward (57) 'Mr Zippy' from Weeling, Kent, UK. S to N. 1 March to 6 May 2005. Brian had good weather, as one would expect at that time of the year. The area around Boat Harbour merits special mention as does the fact that he found 'resealable' gas in Dwellingup! Whilst he gives his walking poles the thumbs up the same cannot be said for his 'water repellent' trousers.

Sita and Andrew Turner, Christchurch, NZ. S to N. 6 April to 21 May 2005. They found the Track far more isolated than the SWCP in England but were especially impressed with the excellent shelters. They loved the Karri forests between Denmark and Pemberton and make mention of the variety of wildlife and sitting on Mt Chance to view the sunset. Once again walking poles get an approval rating but not their non-breathable wet weather gear.

And so to our interstate visitors:

Jonathon Abolins (25), Sydney, NSW, walked with mum **Diane Eklund-Abolins** (59) of Kariang, NSW. S to N. 19 March to 2 May 2005. They were joined for part of the walk by dad Andris so it was quite a family affair. Jonathon was in his element wandering through the ever-changing bush though it was great to reach the campsite after the day's walk. He really appreciated his thin, warm and light thermals but suffered from boots that weren't waterproof. Jonathon highlights the section from Gregory Brook to Balingup. Diane liked both the coast and the forests. Highlights included the Wind Farm, Mt Cooke, the Karri forests, early morning mist around the Blackwood and the heathlands.

'The Great Grannies' **Prue Cooper** (45) from Newee, NSW and **Bernice Colvin** (78) from Westleigh, NSW, walked the Track in sections between April 2003 and April 2004. Prue

enjoyed canoeing (presumably across the Irwin Inlet) and the Donnelly River area. She has praise for her bandages and walking stick but not her boots which had not been broken in. To walk the Track from end-to-end was the personal goal of Bernice who had previously walked in Tasmania and elsewhere in Australia.

Geoff Ellis (55), Sunrise Beach, QLD. S to N. 1 March to 12 April 2005. He received good family support and encouragement from his partner Rosemary who sent him messages by mobile phone daily. He enjoyed the whole of the walk but experienced some loneliness and monotony through meeting few other walkers. Geoff was very pleased with his Ecco boots.

The last of our interstate walkers is **Paul Lahiffe** (50) from Coburg, VIC. N to S. 16 April to 3 June 2005. Paul's favourite section was from Dog Pool to Mt Chance and a highlight was being able to take an ocean swim without freezing!

And so to our Western Australian walkers:

Mark Stewart (44) of Bullsbrook completed his walk in sections between August 2001 and September 2004 taking a couple of weeks each year over 4 years. He loved seeing an echidna near Dookanelly but hated the wild pigs around Dwellingup. Northcliffe to Walpole was his favourite section whilst dinner and breakfast on the granite dome of Mt Chance was a noteworthy experience along with his first sighting of the Southern Ocean.

By way of a change we salute **Raymond Hingston, Neil Phillips, Geoff Dunbar, Guy Watson and Brian Paddon** who all come from Bunbury and walked the Track as members of the Bunbury Adventure Pursuit Club. Starting in 2000 they variously completed the journey in sections between 2001 and 2004. Raymond thanks all the fantastic people he met on the Track along with his long suffering family for sparing the time he was away from family duties. He praises his Trangia stove and non stick pans and has fond memories of the surprise party organised by his mates when he finished his walk. Neil has a lasting memory of wading for 10 kilometres through knee deep water between Woolbales and Broke Inlet Road. He used his drinking bladder for a shower and speaks well of his full length thermarest mattress, sleeping bag and small gas lighter. Geoff enjoyed a small port on Mt Chance whilst watching the mist come in, the moon on the rise and the plains subsiding below the mist with the high points standing out like islands. The following morning he observed the sun shining on damp laden cobwebs. Guy recalls a fun time at Tom Road on a very cold night in the company of good friends. He says his boots were great – always reliable – and after



doing duty on the Track and at 5600 metres in Nepal were still going strong. Brian's favourite places were the shelters, especially those with fire rings. His most memorable moment was walking into Kalamunda with his friend Penny.

Rosemary Dixon (47) 'Hobbit' of Belmont. N to S. 11 November to 18 December 2004. It was a tough trip both mentally and physically. She arranged 8 food drops and this worked well. Her Gore-tex boots were great in wet and cool weather but she found her 0° sleeping bag was not warm enough. It was hard to identify a favourite section but she mentions Donnelly River to Albany with Mt Cooke, the Warren area and her first sighting of the Southern Ocean being highlights.

Dave Foster of Bedfordale. S to N. 16 April to 1 June 2005. The highlights of his walk were Mounts Vincent and Cuthbert and Lake Maringup. He doesn't see the need for food drops. Dave's worst piece of equipment was his 40 year old sleeping bag that lost its feathers.

Frank Trybulec (42) of Rockingham. Previously completed an end-to-end in 2003. N to S. 8 April to 27 May 2005. He chooses Balingup to Northcliffe as his favourite section but the highlights were reaching the coast and walking the isolated beaches between Peaceful Bay and Denmark. His food included packets of rice, beef jerky, porridge, noodles, dried fruit and nuts. Best equipment; Trangia stove. Worst: sleeping bag.

We end with **Michael Paterson** of Bicton who records that he completed the Track in sections but was unable to furnish particulars, walked with an un-named couple from Embleton whose track name was "Silent Forest". S to N. Commencing 10 March and finishing on 4 May 2005. They were surprised by the popularity of the Track and regarded the campsites as luxury, especially not having to cook in the dirt! The southern section and Donnelly River system earned their approbation. Finally we note that they enjoyed having the shelters to themselves and watching the birdlife especially the company of red tailed black cockatoos and blue wrens. 🌿

Tips, Tricks and Exhortations!

The experience

Wow! I've spent two months in the woods. I've lived the life others may only dream of (Janet)

I met lots of interesting people both on and off the Track (Brian Toward)

An exceptionally good walk (Jonathon)

An absolutely wonderful experience (Diane)

Personal development and sense of achievement (Prue)

Impressed by spirit and warmth of fellow walkers and motivated by the way they admired what we were doing (Bernice)

Satisfied to fulfil a personal goal (Geoff Ellis)

A fantastic walk with great scenery and shelters (Paul)

Time to think, wonder and ponder (Mark)

The smells and quiet of the forests are something everyone should experience (Geoff Dunbar)

I escaped from life and gained fitness and strength of spirit (Jonathon)

Tips and exhortations

Accommodation & services guide was a great help. Take Fixomul for blisters. Plan your walk with the maps, but take the guidebooks (Diane and Jonathan Abolins)

Don't have expectations just keep an open heart and mind and bare your sole to the Track (Janet)

Make sure you are fit and well prepared (Brian Toward)

Take at least two months to train, pack light and use good quality gear (Sita & Andrew)

If you think you need it – leave it. If you know you need it – take it (Geoff)

Walk with someone. Missing a waugal usually means a steep climb (Neil)

See what gear others have and ask lots of questions before deciding what to buy – even borrow gear before you buy (Guy)

Get a good quality rain jacket (Rosemary)

Use stockings for catching wriggles flushed from water tanks (unknown)

Do it! (Dave)

Trip Planning – Questions and Answers

Trip planning for those who don't know, is a free service whereby experienced walkers offer advice to members of the Friends of the Track who are intending to do extended walks. It's especially popular with walkers who come from other states or from overseas to walk on the Track, and particularly those who intend to become "end-to-enders".

It usually entails sitting down for a couple of hours in the office with one of our trip planners who will answer any questions and go through all the do's and don'ts of spending a long time on the Track. Trip planning is also available by e-mail.

I have been involved with it for about eighteen months now, and these are a few of the stranger questions I've been asked and my attempts at replying.

Will it rain while I'm walking? [Regularly asked.]

Probably, but I'm not the weather bureau. Assume it will, take good wet weather gear, keep it easily accessible in your pack. Get a cover for your pack and put a plastic liner inside – a bin-bag will do.

What do I do if I see a crocodile?

Close your eyes, count to ten, open them again. If it's still there, photograph it. Check your map!

Is it true there are travelators on some steep hills? [Asked by a German gentleman, who swore he had read that this was the case, but couldn't remember where.]

No, but we're thinking of installing cold beer machines.

Do I need to carry any food on the Track? [A very pretty young French girl.]

It's a good idea if you intend to eat. If not, don't bother. Then you won't need a stove either.

What about taking a horse? [The same girl.]

No, you can't take a horse. It won't fit in the canoe at Irwin Inlet. [Actually the concept of old Dobbin snuggling down in his sleeping bag was quite appealing!]

Are there any dangerous big animals on the Track? [Young Englishman.]

Not unless you count bikies and bad tempered front-row forwards, but they're pretty rare.

Is it all 240 volts in the shelters? [Two English ladies.]

Well now ladies, I think I need to explain a few basics about the Track. [I blame the Mad Axeman for this, as those who know the Dookanelly shelter will appreciate!]

Will I be able to swim on the Track? [Aussie from Tasmania.]

Not on the Track, no. At least, I hope not. If the weather's been really bad down in the Pingerup you might get a bit of deep wading.

I would hasten to add that my initial response was always qualified with sensible advice afterwards, as in example number one!

Humour apart, we have a number of people who have a wealth of experience on the Track between them. If you are a member thinking of undertaking a long walk and you feel you could benefit from that experience, please get in touch with the office. You will get serious advice!

Besides the questions, there was a Swedish girl I met walking near Albany who had been convinced by some humorist that the wind-farm was a set of fans that came on automatically at 35 deg C to cool down the sheep!

And I liked the response of a youngster from Scotch College who, when asked if anything on the Track could be improved, suggested clear panels in the dunny roof to, quote, "make it easier to see what you're doing", unquote.

Best of all though, was this story told to me by a lady who runs a very comfortable motel in a town on the Track.

An American woman turned up one afternoon and took a room for the night, having been driven in by friends. She announced her intention of walking a considerable distance on the Track where these same friends would collect her.

After enjoying the comforts of the room, and breakfast the next morning, she was at last ready to go. Before she set off, she turned to the motel owner.

"Honey," she enquired sweetly. "Are all the shelters on the Track as nice as this one?"

Good walking, everybody!

Jim Baker

Foundation Volunteer and end-to-ender

LIFE MEMBER PROFILE

Percy Boyes



Percy Boyes at Beedelup Falls on the Bibbulmun Track.

I was born in New Zealand. Mountains and bush have always been an important part of my life. In my early years I spent a great deal of time exploring the Fiordland National Park from a base at the family cabin at Lake Te Anau. At that time the area was remote and undeveloped with the Milford Track the only commercial walking track, and the Homer Tunnel just opened.

I left my hometown of Invercargill to study at the University of Canterbury. Upon completing my studies in Christchurch, I moved to Perth with my wife Philippa and young son. I was at ease in the temperate rain forest of New Zealand with its numerous streams, lakes and mountains, frequent rain, frosts and occasional snow. The hot dry bush around Perth seemed to be harsh, full of poisonous snakes and spiders, and a constant threat of heatstroke or terminal dehydration. It was all rather threatening. It took some years for us to be adventurous enough to overcome the threat of the alien and seemingly hostile environment.

Now, we are both at ease in the WA bush and are aware of the precautions that we need to take to ensure our safety.

Over the last 25 years or so, we have walked with a group of friends (about 20 people) in the bush around Perth. In the early stages we largely created our own walks using compass, forestry maps and old logging roads, with marker trees for precise location. We looked for and often failed to find, the old Bibbulmun Track. Our group is now a little older (average near 65 years) and infirmities have caught up with some of us, arthritis, hip and knee replacements etc, so we find the new Bibbulmun Track splendid for us. We have to adjust the difficulty of our fortnightly walks to be within our capabilities. (We still manage up to 9km on a walk.)

When the Bibbulmun Track Foundation (previously Friends of the Bibbulmun) was formed, I thought it such an important venture

for the people of WA and visitors to the State, I decided to become a foundation life member, a decision I have never regretted.

With advancing years the focus of our bush walking has moved from competition to companionship, from speed to serenity, from energetic exercise to amiable amble. The walk becomes an opportunity to observe, to contemplate, to admire, to explore in a leisurely way; to stop and admire a tree, a rock, a flower, and animal, bird or insect; to listen to the noises and the quiet of the bush, the vista, and even the historical artefacts left from earlier times; to wonder who has been over the ground before and what they may have thought; to experience both solitude and companionship in the natural environment. Now we do not walk as far as we did when younger. We do not need to be out overnight. We walk at a rate that suits our physical capacity. Our presence in the bush triggers memories of previous journeys; journeys that might have been; and we reminisce with fellow walkers. Now the walks are rarely silent, there is much chatter and laughter.

I am now retired and live a very full life. I have extended my interest in the bush by taking up woodcarving and thus see the bush in a different light. I also enjoy introducing my grandchildren to the WA bush. In the years since we came to Perth there has been a surge in interest in the outdoors. This has seen the development of many walking tracks in WA. The Bibbulmun track is the centrepiece of this movement. It provides a focus for walkers, and the impetus to get out in the bush. While it is a long distance track, it has made numerous shorter bush walks easily available to people in settlements near to the track throughout its length. Don't just sit back and watch the TV. Get out and enjoy your Bibbulmun Track. You are never too young and never too old to get out and walk some part of the great Bibbulmun Track. Just do it and maybe I'll see you there one day? 🌸

Prison officers go to the extreme for sick kids

Five prison officers from Casuarina prison will attempt to walk the entire length of the Bibbulmun Track in just 16 days, breaking the 171/2 day record set by Gary Muir from Walpole in 2002.

The officers are members of the 'Extreme Walkers Fundraising Group' and support the Bluey Day Foundation which raises money for the cancer and burns units at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children. "The Extreme Walkers grew out of a desire to combine a recreational activity with fundraising and, at the same time, raise the public profile of prison staff" said Uwe Thiel, the team coordinator and one of the walkers. "The group seeks to undertake walks that are unusual and distinctive."

To walk the Bibbulmun Track in just 16 days, the Extreme Walkers will need to average 60 kilometres a day. As many of you will be aware, this is no mean feat on the Bibbulmun Track with its varied terrain – and certainly not something we would encourage less-experienced and well-prepared walkers

to attempt. The walkers will be backed up by a support crew and medical personnel. They also hope to connect with Ministry of Justice work crews who undertake maintenance projects on the Track.

Since 2003 members of the group have undertaken a number of extreme walks including: walking the 560 kilometre Holland Track from Coolgardie to Broomehill in 14 days; the Kalgoorlie Pipeline from Mundaring to Kalgoorlie – again averaging 40 kilometres a day to finish in 14 days; and a world individual non-stop walk record attempt undertaken inside the Fremantle prison. Two walkers surpassed the record set in 1986 of 6 days 10 hours and 58 minutes by 67 minutes.

We wish the Extreme Walkers well in their record breaking attempt and will let you know how they got on in the next newsletter. 🌸

If you would like to make a donation, please email Sandra.Smith@justice.wa.gov.au

Office Gossip

Gossip
Gossip

We have declared this to be the Year of the Holiday in the office with postcards from our volunteers arriving from all over Australia and the world.

A warm welcome to new volunteers **Ian Bell** and **Jennifer Robinson** and Year 12 work experience students **Michelle Foulis** from Cecil Andrews Senior High School and **Scott Van der Wacht** from Seven Oaks Senior College who will be with us for most of the year.

We are also delighted to welcome Curtin University students **Sarah Wiley** and **Rachel Gierczycki** who are gaining work experience in tourism and marketing. This is great timing as **Mylene** will be on Maternity Leave from mid-August and it will be a big help to have Sarah and Rachel in the office.

With so many of our regulars away, we would be happy to hear from anyone who has some time to spare!!

Gwen Plunkett
Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator

SAVE \$\$'s on accommodation around Australia

Easy On-line Accommodation Bookings

Did you know...not only can you make all your WA accommodation bookings on-line with immediate confirmations, but you will **save \$\$\$** on accommodation rates **AND** a percentage of your total spend goes directly to fund the **Bibbulmun Track Foundation!**

What better way to support our Foundation and get a bargain hotel rate!

The accommodation search facility provides a selection of motels, hotels and resorts throughout WA at discounted rates and provides immediate confirmation of your booking.

You will find the booking service under 'Travel and Supplies' on www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

We hope you will find this service useful the next time you are planning a holiday or business trip and thank you for supporting the Bibbulmun Track Foundation. Don't forget to tell your friends!

PLEASE NOTE: this booking service is for larger hotels, motels and resorts all over the country. To find the B&B's and self-contained accommodation along the Bibbulmun Track, please refer to the **accommodation and services map**, also located under 'Travel and Supplies' or purchase our **Accommodation & Services Guide** for only \$12.

AND THE WINNER IS...

Pam Bradley won the recent prize draw for new Life Members. Pam will be able to make good use of the Bibbulmun Rucksack generously donated by Foundation Gold Sponsor Mountain Designs. See her story on page 30 about the Grand Traverse across the Drakensburg in South Africa

Congratulations to the winners of our monthly membership renewal prizes:

Alan Talbot of Victoria (April) won a 25-litre Mountain Designs daypack.

Gerald Ranzetta won the 2nd prize of a hat and water bottle.

Steve Murdoch (May) won a Cabernova bottle of wine and a family pass to the Forest Heritage Centre in Dwellingup. Donated by Piesse Brook wines & Dwellingup Forest Heritage Centre.

Brian Smith won the 2nd prize of a hat and water bottle.

Naomi Yellowlees (June) won a first aid kit kindly donated by Equip.

Graeme Johnstone won the 2nd prize of a hat and water bottle.

Nadine Wells (July) won an informative book on kangaroo paws and catspaws kindly donated by WA Naturally.

Toni Mason won the 2nd prize of a hat and water bottle.

A very big THANK YOU to all those who generously donated the prizes.

A Poem for the Pingerup Plains

Farewell to Lake Maringup, Dog Pool and Mt Chance

Where the water was high, right up to my pants

I hope after Woolbales the water level will ease

I'm tired of having wet knees

Walking in water up past your knees

And getting wet from the drips that fall from the trees

Get into camp all cold and wet

Not just from rain, you're soaking in sweat

Can't light a fire to dry out the togs

Can't sleep at night for the croaking of frogs

In the camp register there's an idea

You can warm up your hands if you have a Trangia

Too cold to wash, what will my mates think

Just as well I'm alone, I'm starting to stink

I'm sick of Deb 'taters, noodles and rice

A Mrs Macs pie now, would be real nice

One day into Walpole, my spirits are high

I'll have a salad roll, forgo the meat pie

Wash it down with hot chocolate, that'll do for now

Then off to my lodgings, for a lovely hot shower

Jim Freeman, The Mad Axeman

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT...

Look out for the 'Bibbulmun Track' in the second edition of Flourish magazine. This unique Perth women's magazine will feature hints and tips on overnight bushwalking.

Flourish is packed full of informative, fun and motivational articles designed to give inspiration and inspire action. The Foundation will be offering two 'Flourish Day Walks' for readers along with a special 'Walk with Mum' event.

You can pick up the Spring/Summer issue from your local newsagent.

The Track is also featured in the August/September edition of Outdoors Western Australia magazine with a focus on overnight bushwalking and guided events.



Reflections from the Registers...

Just a day-visit to revive memories of summer walk 400km two years ago. Now living in NSW – ah! the nostalgia for this track, and those wonderful huts, and jarrah, marri, grass trees ... the bush is so fresh from recent rain. I surrender to the magic of this place.

Steady drizzle makes for good walking and spectacular creeks and rivers and waterfalls.

Views from Boonering Hill are worth a day walk. On to Chadoora today. Showers last night but the day weather is a joy.

Terry Y Swamp Oak campsite
8 October 2002

G Ball Creek 14 July 2003

Andrew White Horse Hills
29 August 2003

Perfect day for a hike ... so far!
The Australian bush is heavenly... and this campsite's really neat.

12 noon. Got nicely set up outside for my lunch and the rain came. Quick rush inside the hut and enjoyed rain and Italian sausage etc.

Thanks to "Friends of Bib Track" we've had a wonderful walk from Balingup yesterday – it's meant I've been able to bring "first time walkers" to experience the Track.

Kok L and Lesley Y from Singapore
Ball Creek campsite 25 June 2003

Pierse Ball Creek 3 August 2003

Sonia Blackwood 22 August 2002

It's still pouring with rain and my pants are soaked right through and my socks are going squish and my boots have puddles inside them! IT'S FANTASTIC!!! I'm loving this and I hope it's wetter and muddier tomorrow!!! I want to jump IN MANY MORE PUDDLES!!!

Yesterday was fantastic, if a little challenging. Made it to the top of Boonering Hill for beaut views. The gale force winds threatening to blow us down into the valley only added to the exhilaration.

It's good to be back on the Track again after spending a week back in the city. Certainly won't miss all that noise and traffic. It's good to see so many people going end-to-end. Spending the night here resting my sore legs.

Edwina L Ball Creek 10 July 2003

Jason and Guy White Horse Hills
14 July 2003

Marko Blackwood
7 September 2002

Mum and the kids – our first backpacking camping together. I thought I was mad to try this but it was easy and very beautiful. I love listening to the silence, the frogs and the black cockatoos.

After the hottest and driest summer in 50 years in Holland we are a bit surprised to find here all the showers. But no worries. Tomorrow we go on to Waalegh.

We were looking forward to a long night's sleep ...but not to be. With horizontal rain and gale force swirling winds arriving in the form of a sooper dooper storm we had a very soggy night indeed. But this morning has more than made up for it – a fantastic sunrise and the clouds have cleared!

Julia Ball Creek 12 July 2003

Herman Ball Creek
10 September 2003

Craig, Elyse and Mon Blackwood
3 August 2003

Alfresco dining, pool, beautiful established gardens, outdoor water feature (waterfall) – Beautiful one day, Perfect the next.

Geoff Bell, Maintenance Volunteer,
Beavis Campsite



Share your experience -
volunteer at the ROYAL SHOW!
Saturday 24th September
– Saturday 1st October

The Bibbulmun Track will again be featured in the Landcare Pavilion at the Royal Show. This is a terrific location as it features a short stretch of 'Bibbulmun Track' winding its way past a miniature shelter. The Rogainers have kindly offered to erect the shelter as they did last year, and we are seeking volunteers to talk to those who take a walk on the 'Track'.

Volunteers receive free passes and this is a great way to enjoy the Show and pass on your enthusiasm for the Track to others.

If you would like to help, please contact Jean 9481 0551 marketing@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Walk the Bibbulmun Track
the easy way...



Day Walk Map Packs

with Red-Tailed Black
Cockatoo Sighting Kit.

Available for six locations along the
Bibbulmun Track.

Includes map in see-through map holder,
with detailed walk notes telling you
exactly how to
'Get on Track' and what you'll discover
when you get there.

Walking on the Bibbulmun Track
couldn't be easier!

Order online at
www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au or see
merchandise on page 26.

Have you got your
Bibbulmun Track T-Shirt?

LOOK WHAT WE HAVE JUST FOR YOU

Fantastic T-Shirts in Butternut, Olive & Cornflower Blue

Any one of these would look great on you

So why not order one now, so you'll have one too!

Caption on the back says "1000kms End to End (Well almost)"
ONLY \$27.50!

Thanks to our models – Cyndy Hawkins, Jim Baker and Mylene Bonnin.

MAKE IT SNAPPY AND WIN

Have a look through your photos - or head out with your camera - and send in the shots that you feel best capture the spirit of the Track and the people who walk it.

The winning photographs will be published in The West Australian, and each category winner will receive a beautiful 40 x 50cm print courtesy of Custom Colour in Leederville. The Overall winner will also win two nights Bed & Breakfast, packed lunches and track transfers, courtesy of Berryvale Lodge in Dwellingup. This luxury two-storey rammed earth home is the perfect base to enjoy day walks on the Track.

There are five categories:

- A. Wildflowers
- B. Forest
- C. Coastal
- D. Campsite
- E. People

Tip: Include something in the photo that relates to the Track, e.g. a campsite, trail marker, people, equipment, the Track itself.

To enter, fill in the entry form and send it with a print of your photograph to **Bibbulmun Track Photo Competition**, PO Box 7605, Cloisters Square, Perth WA 6850. Only prints can be accepted and they must be 15cm by 10cm or bigger. They must arrive by last post Friday, October 1. The judges are Stephen Scourfield, Travel Editor at The West Australian and Annie Keating, CALM's Tracks & Trails unit coordinator. Winners will be notified.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Track Location: _____

Category: A B C D E

I agree that photographs entered in this competition will become the property of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation and may be used for any purpose by the Foundation.

Signed _____

NOTICE BOARD

End-to-End Walking companion/s welcome

End-to-end, older couple, Sept-Oct 05. Walking companion/s welcome. We're leaving around 1 Sept from Kalamunda; Join us for part/all. We're not speedsters.

Contact: "Charlie" 0421 574 380
Email: descartesinoz@hotmail.com

End-to-End Companions Wanted

Looking for walkers 18/19 years old to walk most, if not all, of the Track starting mid-November, 2005. If you are serious about what sounds like an exciting 6 weeks walking, please ring

Mark 0417 945 309
Email: mark_499@hotmail.com

Women's Hiking Boots for Sale

Only 6 months old, size 8 (41) Kangangra (Mountain Designs) Grey. Full Gore-Tex lining, exceptionally light-weight, Vibram sole. Cost \$279 new. Will accept \$170 or near offer.

Contact: Claire (08) 9277 3793

House sitter available

Mature Reliable Police cleared house sitter. I am after house sits in 2005 that are within 30min drive radius of Balcatta.

Contact: Yvonne 0412 011 753
Email: yhill@justice.com

Family Walking Companions Wanted

Looking for families for overnight walks no longer than 7 days. Flexible time frame (during the week/weekend ok).

Contact: Lori 0419 930 706

Hiking Boots For Sale

Columbia (Trail Grinder). Light-weight and very sturdy. Size: women's UK 6, USA 8, EU 39. Colour: light brown. The boots are brand-new and have never been worn outside. As it turned out (unfortunately for me but lucky for 'you'), the size was not correct. Cost \$250, sell \$125 ONO.

Contact: Gerri or Martien (08) 9227 0609
Email: G.Box@ Murdoch.edu.au

Back Pack For Sale

Backpack, Foxlite, 50L +15. Very good condition, \$175

Contact: Annette (08) 9383 2614

Gear For Sale

SALE WA Sierra Leone two-person tent. 2 large vestibules, perfect conditions, 3-season. Cost \$550, sell \$250.

Contact: Wendy (08) 9250 8543

Walking Companions wanted with family

I'm a seasoned bush walker aged 36, who has lived in Perth 12 months and just began exploring the Bibbulmun Track. I carry my 2yo son in a backpack. I'm keen to explore and it's always lovely to enjoy the experience with fellow bush walkers. I work full time - so would be looking at weekend trips.

Contact: Wendy 9488 7100
Email: wmunday@dfr.com.au

Pure Silk sleeping bag/sleeping bag liner for sale

\$30. Best quality 100% silk, can be used as liner in sleeping bag or on its own in hotter climate.

Feather-light, very small when folded & dries quickly. Sleeping bag liner in sleeping bag provides extra comfort, warmth & keeps bag cleaner for longer. Silk is superior to any other fabric as it allows your skin to breathe and it feels AMAZING against your skin.

Contact: Thao Nguyen 0423175382
Email: cocochine@westnet.com.au

Walking Companion Wanted

I'm a fit, 51yr old woman, who has walked many tracks overseas and this year discovered what a fabulous track the Bibbulmun is. Have walked parts this year and intend to do lots more next year. Work full-time so have to fit it in when I can. Who would like to join in on my walking adventures? If so, email me.

Contact: Marie avonrtc@avon.net.au

End-to-end Companion Wanted Kalamunda to Albany, October/November 2005.

Fit, 63yr old, male walker coming out from UK. Dates flexible. Would welcome company for all or part of the way.

Contact: Robin robin@rpither.freemove.co.uk

EPIRB Wanted

We are planning our end-to-end (setting out in August), and are intending to take an EPIRB. If anyone would be happy to lend/rent one (lightweight) to us, please contact us if possible before the end of July. Many thanks.

Contact: Gerri or Martien 92270609
Email: G.Box@ Murdoch.edu.au

Walking companion wanted for end-to-end commencing mid Sept 2005, north to south.

Reasonably fit 28 year old female wanting campsite and trail buddy.

Contact: Helen
(08) 9328 4505, 0429 770 902,
helen.mcc@westnet.com.au

Self-sufficient 30-year old woman seeks

young female company on Track for 2-7 day walks over long weekends and school holidays. Interested?

Contact: Khalin
(08) 9446 8190

Want To Advertise on our Notice Board?

If you are a member just send us an email with your details, membership number and your text.

If you are not a member please phone us during office hours. Cost is \$5 for 3 months on the web and one edition of the newsletter if still current. All items will be deleted after 3 months if not renewed

Phone: (08) 9481 0551
Email: friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

The MainRoads Lifecycle Great WA Bike Ride will be a great adventure - and a great way to cross-train for your next trek on the Bibbulmun Track!



Cross Training for those with an Adventurous Spirit.

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation is pleased to be associated with a new and exciting event to be staged in WA next year.

On 18 March 2006, 3000 cyclists will commence their journey from Albany to Perth on the MainRoads Lifecycle Great WA Bike Ride. While the event is open to everyone, especially Western Australians, it is expected that many of the participants will be from Victoria, other Eastern States and from South Africa.

The Great WA Bike Ride is not a race, it's a fully supported cycle holiday for anyone keen for a new adventure. A moving 'tent-city' will go from town to town over the 14 days of the tour. Each participant is provided with three meals a day, luggage transfer, medical services, massage, entertainment, licensed bar and route support. All participants have to do is get on their bike and ride to the next campsite, (an average of 65km per day) and then put up their tent at the end of the day (unless they enter the Luxury Option, where their tent is put up for them!)

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation is excited to be associated with the event

and participants will be invited to book a Bibbulmun Walking Break to extend their stay before or after the Ride.

"It's a great opportunity for us to promote the Track to other markets," said Linda Daniels, Foundation Executive Director, "because the people who come to WA for the Great Ride will have an adventurous spirit much like the people who walk the Bibbulmun Track. Even if they don't book a package during this trip, the Ride will be great for raising our profile with these new visitors".

One of the greatest things about the Ride is the fact that everyone who enters before October 28th gets a FREE BIKE (and a good bike too!). The event organisers have offered this amazing deal, because it helps achieve their aim which is to get more people cycling more often. Proceeds from the event will go back into helping encourage more people to cycle in WA.

With an expected 3000 participants, the event will have a major impact on the local communities in the South West, many of which are the same communities that continue to support Bibbulmun Track walkers.

You can find out more about the Ride at www.bv.com.au. 🌸

A note from new Maintenance Volunteers at Donnelly River Village

We had a great time walking our section and it really is a very pretty area. Coffee after the walk was enjoyed with some of the area's locals dropping in for a chat. Great section we were assigned, thanks.

Derek Brown and Margaret Gibb

Ed: The locals to which Derek refers are the kangaroos resident at Donnelly River Village.



Volunteer profile - John Hardman

Birds twittering and calling announce first light. By 5.00am the dew on spider webs and trees is visible. Another beautiful dawn in the Australian bush. Where else would you find a workplace to compare with the Bibbulmun Track?

Most of my life has been spent in the country. Following a carefree childhood at Serpentine, Rockingham and Goomalling in the wheatbelt, I worked in Perth briefly in the 70s while playing football. Returning to Goomalling, I married Emily and took over the family electrical business. Being self-employed I had time to be involved in country town activities. After years in the Volunteer Fire Brigade and SES as well as most other organisations, we moved to Lesmurdie, as close to the city as I would go.

Our son Dustin joined the Venturer Scouts and I became a Leader. To encourage their involvement with the environment, the Venturers joined the 'Eyes on the Ground' Maintenance Program early in 1998, taking on two sections of the Bibbulmun Track at Dwellingup, one of which included Swamp Oak Campsite. Sadly the Walliston Venturers have since disbanded but I continue to maintain the section of Track from Plavins Boardwalk to Yarragil Form. The chance to get away from the city and to hike and camp in the bush is ample reward for the weeding (karri myrtle grows while you watch, I'm sure!), cleaning up and digging I do. Our involvement with the realignment immediately north of Yarragil Form is a proud achievement and we now have a much more pleasant walk winding its way up the hill with 38 waterbars along the way. (The group pic below is the opening of this section)

I have met some amazing people on the Track, including the 60 year-old lady walking from Dwellingup to Collie to try out her new artificial hip, the 70 year-old English lady who walked up Mt Cook and young families out with their kids.

After completing the Sydney Harbour Bridge Climb in 2003, I approached Steve to become involved with events and am now a trained volunteer guide

assisting with Walk with the Friends, L-Plates, Get Lost with Steve and the Mountain Designs Bibbulmun Team Challenge.

After attending Central TAFE part-time, I now have a Certificate 3 in Tourism Guiding. I feel that the knowledge gained from formal training adds to our clients' experience and also my own, and I am sure I am now more professional as a guide. My ethic is that as guides we are there to help others enjoy the Track and feel safe and confident enough to return with their friends.

I am often asked if I have completed an end-to-end and I must admit that I have not. Running a small business (TBS Security) rarely gives time for holidays, let alone Long Service Leave, but I have managed to walk most of the Track from Kalamunda to Yarragil Form south of Dwellingup.

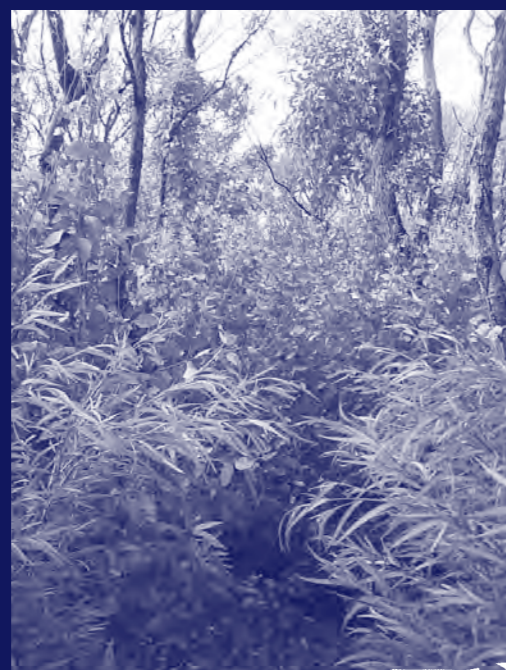
My goal now is to go hiking in the mountains of East Timor (July 2006, I hope). Money spent on guides, food and shelter in the villages will assist the local people.

The greatest learning experience I have had is spending four days on a Team Challenge heat along with Steve Sertis (Foundation Lead Guide and Events/Corporate Manager) and Jim Freeman (The Mad Axeman). To see the participants develop new skills and learn from Jim's camp craft is worth the hiking over the hills.

People pay money to experience what we think of as everyday. That is the reward for our efforts. 🌻

Maintenance volunteers Colleen & Richard Clayden sent us these 'before' & 'after' shots of their section of Track near Denmark

Before



After



John Hardman, Bibbulmun Track member, volunteer guide and maintenance volunteer.

Alphawest 'Eyes on the Ground' Maintenance Program



We have had a busy few months with all the 2005 Field Days being held in the first half of the year. Apart from general maintenance training, we cover a special topic each year. Die-back affects many areas through which the Track passes so made an ideal topic. Volunteers were given information about die-back and the affect it has on the forests as well as instructions on hygiene procedures such as keeping boots and equipment clean to avoid the spread of soil from an infected area of their section to one which is currently free of the disease. Volunteers whose sections are within quarantined areas must have a permit for their vehicle and can only access their section in dry weather or no sooner than three days after rain.

This can make it quite tricky to arrange maintenance trips in winter.

A warm welcome to our many new volunteers, most of whom I was able to meet at the Field Days. Volunteers often become very attached to their section as the photos and comments show!!

There are still some sections in Walpole, Manjimup and Pemberton Districts without a volunteer team, so if you would like to help us look after this amazing resource, please get in touch and I will send you some information.

Gwen Plunkett

Volunteer Coordinator



Annie Keating, from CALM's Tracks and Trails Unit, discussing die-back at the Blackwood District field day at Noggerup campsite.



The 2005 Field Days were funded by The Department of Sport and Recreation through a Club Improvement Grant.



Maintenance volunteer Maureen Potter taking a spell in an unusual armchair on the Track about 500m south of Hills Forest Activity Centre.

ASSET AUDIT

Many thanks to those who responded to our call for volunteers to assist with an audit of assets on the Bibbulmun Track in the Perth Hills District (Kalamunda to Harvey-Quindanning Rd). As this was such an interesting project, we had 40 offers of help. To ensure consistency in the audit, we chose to use fewer volunteers to walk longer sections.

Thanks to Jim Freeman, Adrian Taylor, John Farris, Jane Greenwood, Trish Bird, Marie and Marcus Blacklow who completed the audit on time and at times in rather inclement weather. Unfortunately Susie Ridderhof sustained an injury just prior to commencing her section and was unable to take part.

The audit included a count of all water bars and wooden structures including signs and bridges and an estimate of the number of trail markers. The positions of these were recorded by GPS readings and photos taken of any structure which differed from the standard.

At the same time, the green log books in each campsite were rotated and the data from these will be recorded on a program developed by volunteer Michael Farquhar.

BIBBULMUN TRACK POSTER

Get your fabulous full colour poster of the Bibbulmun Track.



This eye-catching poster shows the location of the 48 campsites along the Track, National Parks and car access points. \$12 + pp. (postage is \$7 within Australia)

Guide to Accommodation & Services

A pocket-size guide, designed to help you find local accommodation and services in towns along the Bibbulmun Track. Easy to use and packed full of walker-friendly establishments, the guide is divided into eight sections to coincide with the maps. Features include:

- 🌻 Icons indicating walker friendly services such as packed lunches, parcel holding and Track drop offs.
- 🌻 Town maps showing location of services such as laundry and post office.
- 🌻 District maps showing location of accommodation.
- 🌻 Transport providers in each area.
- 🌻 Useful contacts such as CALM offices.

The guide has a variety of accommodation and services to suit most tastes and budgets, whether you're walking end-to-end and need to find a laundromat or stock up at a grocery store when you walk into town, or you're planning a romantic weekend escape and want a touch of luxury. \$12 +pp.

Funding support for the guide was provided by the Trails Grants Program, administered by the Department of Sport & Recreation and supported by Lotterywest.



End-to-End for Amanda Young Foundation

On 10 June three young men set out from Kalamunda to walk the Bibbulmun Track to Albany – they completed their end-to-end on August 11th.

What is special about this particular exercise is that the three decided to embark on the journey as a means of drawing attention to the work of the Amanda Young Foundation which raises awareness and funds for research into Meningococcal Disease.

The Foundation, which originated in March 1998 following the sudden death of 18 year old environmental science student Amanda from Meningococcal Septicaemia, has three key aims:

- To create community awareness about this swift and lethal disease.
- To support relevant medical research into the disease.
- To sponsor Youth Leadership particularly in the areas of Health and the Environment.

Amanda Young's cousin, 25 year old Andrew Soley, was accompanied by friends Tim Williamson and Dave Robinson.

The boys were front-page news in all the towns they passed through and the response from locals was tremendous. In Dwellingup the primary school children walked the last few kilometres into town and asked lots of questions about their trek. Founder of the Amanda Young Foundation Lorraine Young said "We are very pleased and proud of the boys; they've done a great job in raising awareness of the disease". She added "Our grateful thanks to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation for their co-operation, advice and support and also for their promotion of the trek through the Tourism Telegraph. We are also extremely grateful for all the generous offers of accommodation and donations".

Our grateful thanks go to:

Daniel Lee from Paddy Pallin for their generous sponsorship.

Terry Clinch from Outbacker Communications for the loan of a satellite phone.

Accommodation:

Jeanette and Trevor Hulcup – Watermark Kilns

Sally Fitzgerald – Donnelly River Village

Bill Fraser & Kerry Botchell

Dwellingup Hotel

Karen McKenzie – Origins Centre, Balingup

Debbie & Ron Field – Mt Lindsay View

Matt Champion – Walpole Lodge

John & Linda – Vancouver House B&B Albany



Tim Williamson, Andrew Soley and Dave Robinson take off on their trek to raise awareness and funds for research into Meningococcal Disease.

If you would like to make a donation please call the Amanda Young Foundation on (08) 9398 7275

Email: bnlayf@bigpond.com or visit the website: www.amandayoungfoundation.org.au



Turn your passion for the environment into a sustainable career.



When it comes to environmental studies, ECU leaves other universities green with envy. That's because of the huge range of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees we have to offer - with each leading to an array of exciting and fulfilling career opportunities. The following undergraduate courses are available in 2005:

- Sustainable Forestry
- Biological Sciences
- Environmental Management
- Environmental Forensics
- Environmental Health

If you are interested in postgraduate study, we have courses available by research or coursework:

- Master of Environmental Management (coursework)
- Master of Science (research)
 - Environmental Science/Management
 - Biological Sciences
- Doctor of Philosophy (research)
 - Environmental Science/Management
 - Biological Sciences

Applications for mid-year entry open until Friday 27 May. For more information, contact (08) 6304 5726 or e-mail sons@ecu.edu.au Alternatively, visit www.chs.ecu.edu.au/org/sons



GEELONG COLLEGE EXPEDITION

In late June, a group of 25 Year 9-12 students and 9 staff from The Geelong College embarked on an 11-day hike from Albany to Walpole on the Bibbulmun Track.

Splitting into two groups (with one a day ahead), we marvelled at the changing landscape and the beauty that surrounded us: "We have fallen deeply in love with the spectacular views, walking on all sorts of terrains from beautiful beaches to the silence of the luscious tingle tree forests, in weather ranging from radiant sunshine, to refreshing rain, to stinging hail."

It was an experience we all will remember forever: "Some may think that we have just gone for a long walk, but to us it has been so much more. This trip has raised an inner awareness of ourselves and has opened our eyes to the wonders of the world..."

The group reflected on such lessons as appreciating what we have and to not take things for granted. They also learnt about themselves and each other, establishing and strengthening friendships.

We would like to thank the Bibbulmun Track Foundation for the establishment and maintenance of the Track and the opportunity to walk this adventure. We all look forward to one day coming back and finishing the Track.



ED - At the conclusion of their walk, staff and students from the College visited the Foundation's office to make a very generous donation towards the upkeep of the Track. Thank you!

BE ACTIVE

walk with the friends (value \$12)

Please send this voucher with your booking. You'll be given a replacement when you attend the walk.

Expires 27 November 2005

Voucher

BE ACTIVE

walk with the friends (value \$12)

Please send this voucher with your booking. You'll be given a replacement when you attend the walk.

Expires 27 November 2005

Voucher

UPCOMING EVENTS

Joining one of our events is a great way to experience the Track and meet other like-minded people at the same time!

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL ON ALL EVENTS – Call today to secure your place!

Ring 08 9481 0551 Email: events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au or book online at www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au



GOT A GROUP? WE'VE GOT THE GUIDE!

If you see an event that you like and you have a group, call us to schedule your own private event on a date that suits you! Just contact us with your details and we'll do the rest! Minimum numbers required, prices and dates subject to resource availability. Private groups only – organisations, schools or clubs may contact us for our corporate or tourism packages.

BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE BIBBULMUN

Regardless of age or fitness the Bibbulmun Track has something to offer everyone. Join the Foundation for an introduction seminar to walking the Track. A panel of experts will help you learn all aspects of bushwalking from planning your walk to food, equipment and minimal impact. Just the encouragement you need to stop dreaming and get going! Ring UWA Extension for bookings on 6488 2433.
Date: Tuesday 6th September, 6pm – 9pm.
Cost: \$44. Part proceeds go to the Foundation.

WILDFLOWER DISCOVERY WALK

Don't just gawk at them! Come and learn about the many wildflowers in bloom on a guided walk (7km) near Kalamunda this spring. Anne Ireland, co-author of 'Wildflowers of the Northern Bibbulmun Track and Jarrah Forests', will assist you to identify the flora along the way. A signed book is included (value \$24).
Date: Sunday 11th September, 8.30am – approx 3.30pm.
Cost: \$50 members, \$60 non-members

FOOD IN A FUEL STOVE

Have you resorted to 2-minute noodles or those horrible pre-made packet meals? There is a better way! Join Lead Guide and 'end-to-ender', Steve Sertis, for a fun and interactive evening learning exciting recipes and innovative ideas for preparing healthy food on a portable stove. Bring your own fuel stove to try out if you like! Ring for more dates or check our website. Don't be shy now, this one fills up quickly!
Date: Tuesday 13th September or 22nd November, 6.30pm, Perth city location.
Cost: \$45 members, \$55 non-members. Includes ingredients, menu, fuel stoves and recipes. You will be cooking and tasting your creation!

BALINGUP WEEKEND EXPLORER

One of our most popular events – an introduction to 'do it yourself' overnight bushwalking in the beautiful Blackwood area. Let experienced guides instruct you in all there is to know about overnight trekking on the Bibbulmun Track. Spend Friday night in Balingup before being transported 40kms

south for a two-day walk, with packs, back to town, camping out on Saturday night. Freshen up on Sunday afternoon with a hot shower before being transported home. Participants should have a reasonable level of fitness.
Planning night: Friday 9th September, 6.30pm.
Date: Friday 16th (5pm) to Sunday 18th September.
Cost: \$230 members, \$245 non-members. Includes comprehensive planning night, trip preparation manual, map, return transport from Perth and bus transfer to start of walk, plus accommodation on Friday night, showers on Sunday and equipment hire. BYO food.



BE ACTIVE BLACKWOOD L-PLATES DAY WALK (NEW!)

This is for those in our south-west who have already done a few day walks, are feeling fit and want to get into overnight trekking but don't know where to start. This 13km walk near Balingup will teach you all you need to know for overnight bushwalking. Experience the tranquil jarrah forest while walking to a typical Bibbulmun campsite. Experienced guides will introduce you to the best equipment for an overnight camp and answer all your queries. BYO lunch.
Date: Saturday 17th September, 10am – approx 4pm.
Cost: \$45 members, \$55 non-members. Includes map, transport from Balingup to walk start and return and trained guide.
All proceeds directly support the long term sustainability of the Bibbulmun Track.
Kindly sponsored by Healthway.



BLACKWOOD WALK WITH MUM OR DAD (NEW!)

Mum's, Dad's, Gran's or Grandad's time out with the kids (8yrs plus) to practise camping skills along the Track. Walk 9.5km to a typical Bibbulmun campsite in the magnificent karri and

jarrah forest near Bridgetown during wildflower season. Learn to set up camp and try out some camp cooking. Why not book online?
Planning night: Wednesday 7th September, 6.30pm. Bunbury location.
Date: Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th September.
Cost: \$145 (1 adult and 1 child), extra child \$35. Includes map (1 per team), guided walk, comprehensive planning night, trip preparation manual and equipment hire. Own transport to start point near Bridgetown. Kindly sponsored by Healthway.

BIBBULMUN TREK FOR BEGINNERS (NEW!)

Never done any overnight bushwalking before? For those who don't want to walk all day or tackle any unexpected 'cardiac hills' with an overnight pack this weekend is for you. We only walk around 8km each day camping out at a Bibbulmun campsite. Gain confidence and learn all the 'tricks of the trade' from your guides who are experienced end-to-enders. 11/4hr from Perth.
Planning night: Friday 23rd September, 6.30pm.
Date: Saturday 1st (5pm) to Sunday 2nd October.
Cost: \$135 members, \$150 non-members. Includes comprehensive planning night, trip preparation manual, map, experienced guides and equipment hire. BYO food. Own transport to walk start.

CHILDRENS' CAMP KITCHEN

A 4km return walk to a typical Track shelter. In a beautiful bush setting children will learn camp cooking through a hands-on experience! Just bring refreshments, snacks for kids and lunch for adults. Max 2 kids per adult. 1hr from Perth.
Date: Tuesday 4th October (school holidays), 10am – 2pm.
Cost: Kids: \$28 family members, \$33 non-members. Ages 5 and up. Adults Free. Includes ingredients for kids' light lunch. Max 2 adults per child.



WOMEN'S CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Join local Nyoongar woman, Marissa Maher, and an experienced Bibbulmun Track guide on a two day 'ladies only' walk learning about the role of women in Aboriginal culture. Spend a night camping on the Track, walking 7km each day.
Planning night: Friday 30th September, 6.30pm.
Date: Saturday 8th to Sunday 9th October.
Cost: \$135 members, \$150 non-members. Includes guided interpretive walk, map, comprehensive planning night, trip preparation manual and equipment hire. BYO food (advice provided). Own transport to Mundaring.

BIBBULMUN BIRDS

Encounter the birds of the jarrah forest on a 4km walk in the Perth hills with Sue Abbotts, amateur ornithologist and experienced bushwalker from 'Birds Australia'. Includes 'Common Birds of the South West Forests' Bush Book (value \$6.50). Don't forget your binoculars!
Date: Sunday 16th October, 7.30am – approx 11.30am.
Cost: \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

8-DAY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BIBBULMUN TRACK TOUR

"I have been on many organised tours around the world, and this is one of the best!"
This itinerary has been carefully compiled to enable you to experience a cross section of the Bibbulmun Track from the spectacular ocean views and coastal heath-lands in the far south, through the magnificent karri and tingle forest and up to the rolling hills and jarrah forests in the northern section.
Enjoy a range of full and half-day guided walks as we transport you to the Track each day. Experience a number of unique eco-tourism attractions and boutique wineries in the region. Each evening we will return to comfortable accommodation to relax and enjoy a delicious dinner.
Departing September 2006. Phone 9481 0551 or email events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au for more information. Maximum 13 people.

Wildlife weekend a real winner

On the weekend of 17,18, and 19 June, participants on the Dryandra Nature Weekend (Events Calendar February to June 2005) travelled to the Dryandra Woodland.

We had an amazing time bush walking, radio tracking, trapping and tagging native wildlife and spotlighting at the fantastic Barna Mia animal sanctuary. Other than spotting various possums, echidnas, quendas and wallabies, a highlight was to see a gorgeous little bilby and to trap and tag a very feisty woylie (brush tailed bettong). It was a fantastic educational weekend spent understanding our native fauna with CALM officers. I strongly recommend anyone interested in our native fauna to come along when next we run the event!

Steve Sertis, Events Manager

Claude and I would like to thank you for a wonderful weekend. It was all such a great experience for both of us.

Regards Cameron (event participant)

p.s keep up the great work.

Hi Steve, a quick sincere thanks for a great week-end to you and Andrew, even though Sunday morning I dreaded the thought of getting out of bed and almost threw a wobbly, however the enthusiasm of the rest of the crew finally had me crawling out of my sleeping bag, I am so glad I did!

Thanks again
Hellen (event participant)



Sunday 16 October 2005 'Walk Across Australia in a Day'

Join thousands of other bushwalkers on Australia's biggest single day of bushwalking – 100 walks across every State and Territory and a diverse range of country all on the one day. The walks are FREE and all about introducing new walkers to the fun and fitness of bushwalking. Take along a friend!

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation is conducting two walks. To register for a walk or find out more visit www.greataustralianbushwalk.org.au, email events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au or call (08) 9481 0551.

Presented nationally by the National Parks Association (NSW) in collaboration with the Bibbulmun Track Foundation and other leading bushwalking organisations nationwide.



	QUANTITY	TOTAL COST
Individual Maps		
Map 1 Darling Range		\$11.50 per map
Map 2 Dwellingup		
Map 3 Collie		
Map 4 Blackwood		
Map 5 Pemberton		
Map 6 Northcliffe		
Map 7 Walpole		
Map 8 Denmark/Albany		
Map Packs		
Northern Map Pack (Maps 1-4)		\$42.00
Southern Map Pack (Maps 5-8)		\$42.00
Northern Guide Book 2nd ed.(Pocket size with maps and track notes)		\$35.00
Southern Guide Book 2nd ed.(Pocket size with maps and track notes)		\$35.00
'Getting on Track' video or DVD (packed with useful information)		\$27.45
NEW! Bibbulmun Track Accommodation & Services Guide <i>Places to stay, attractions, transport and tour ideas!</i>		\$12.00
NEW! Bibbulmun Track Poster (Full colour 594 x 825mm) <i>Features Shelters, National Parks & Track Photos ADD \$7pp within Australia</i>		\$12.00
Polo shirt teal (with logo and 'Western Australia' on front) No. of shirts per size: S M L XL XXL		\$27.95
Polo shirt cream (with logo and 'Western Australia' on front) No. of shirts per size: S M L XL XXL		\$27.95
T-shirt Logo plus 'Western Australia' on front, '1000km end to end' on back BUTTERNUT No. of shirts per size: S M L XL XXL		
OLIVE No. of shirts per size: S M L XL XXL		
CORNFLOWER No. of shirts per size: S M L XL XXL		\$27.50
Brushed cotton cap with suede peak & logo with 'Western Australia' (cream & camel)		\$12.95
Cotton Bushwalker's Hat (cream with logo) S M L		\$14.95
Car Window Sticker		\$2.00
NEW! 'waugal' pendant (handcrafted in silver with an adjustable black cord)		\$16.00
Souvenir 'waugal' trail marker (plastic, real size with nail hole)		\$3.00
Souvenir 'waugal' fridge magnet		\$2.20
Panoramic Postcard (typical Bibbulmun Campsite)		\$1.10
Latest Bibbulmun News Magazine		\$6.00
Hand-made, Personalised Bibbulmun Walking Sticks		\$98.00
Special for members \$75.00 (No additional discount applies)		\$75.00
'Bibbulmun Track on the South Coast' – interactive CD		\$37.00
Wildflowers of the Northern Bibbulmun Track & Jarrah Forrests Field Guide, over 300 plants, glossy full colour (\$2.50 postage) Special for members \$20 (no additional discount applies)		\$24.00
The Cape to Cape Track Guidebook. Includes maps and description		\$21.95
Water Bottle (white with logo)		\$6.60
Exclusive Bibbulmun daypack (Navy) & water bottle		\$39.95
Forest Discovery Wheel. An easy guide to 18 of Western Australia's best known southern forest trees & plants.		\$6.60
Ocean Giants Look-out Kit (Albany)		\$3.95
On the Trail of the Red-Tail - Day Walk Map Packs includes map carrier, map, new walk notes, bird info & postcard plus prepaid sighting record card: choice of 6 locations COST: \$20 ea (includes donation to Cockatoo Care)	Darling Range	
	Dwellingup	
	Balingup	
	Pemberton	
	Walpole	
	Denmark	
BUSH BOOKS (POCKET SIZED, PRACTICAL FIELD GUIDES BY CALM)		
Wildflowers of the Sth-W	Fungi of the South-West	\$6.50 per book
Beachcomber's Guide to the Sth-W	Mammals of the South-West	
Common Trees of the Sth-W Forests	Bush Tucker Plants of the Sth-W	
Common Birds of the Sth-W Forests	Common Wildflowers of the Sth-W Forests	
Orchids of the Sth-W	Frogs of Western Australia	
SUB TOTAL		
Friends' Member discount (minus)	10%	
Postage and packing Australia (if not collected) (plus)	10%	
TOTAL		

PLEASE PAY BY

Cheque, payable to
'Bibbulmun Track Foundation'

or

Credit Card & post to:
Box 7605, Cloisters Square Perth WA 6850

or

Fax to
9481 0546

Telephone:
9481 0551 or 9321 0649

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel: _____

I have enclosed a cheque (tick)

I would like to pay by credit card. (tick)

Cardholder Name: _____

VISA BANKCARD MASTERCARD

Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: ____/____

Signature: _____

HIRE EQUIPMENT prices

ITEMS	MEMBERS	NON MEMBERS
Backpack	\$27.00	\$33.00
Sleeping Bag/Liner	\$20.00	\$25.00
Sleeping Mat	\$ 3.00	\$ 5.00
Stove	\$22.00	\$27.00
Tent	\$37.00	\$42.00
EPIRB	\$20.00	\$30.00
All prices include GST and are for one to seven days		
PACKAGE A	\$60.00	\$80.00
INCLUDES: Backpack, sleeping bag/liner, sleeping mat, stove		
PACKAGE B	\$90.00	\$115.00
INCLUDES: Backpack, sleeping bag/liner, sleeping mat, stove, tent		

BE ACTIVE WALK with the friends



A series of social walks with Foundation volunteers. BOOKINGS WITH THIS SIGNED FORM ESSENTIAL

BOOKING FORM (PLEASE ALSO SIGN AND DATE CONDITIONS AT BOTTOM OF PAGE)

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email for confirmation to be sent: _____

Friends membership No: _____

Tick here if you wish to car pool. Your first name, phone & suburb will be given out to others wishing to car pool.

Cost \$12 for non-members. Free for members (vouchers required). All proceeds support the Alphawest 'Eyes on the Ground maintenance Programme'.

PAYMENT DETAILS: Please make cheques payable to the BIBBULMUN TRACK FOUNDATION

Please also join me as a member, I have included \$30 concession, \$60 Senior plus (couple)

\$40 individual or \$65 family for membership \$600 Life Member

Cheque enclosed to the value of \$ _____ or debit my Visa Mastercard Bankcard

Expiry Date: ____/____

Card name: _____ Signature: _____

CONDITIONS

I acknowledge & assume all risks associated with participation in any events being conducted by the Bibbulmun Track Foundation & will hold the Board, Executive Director, employees, servants & agents free from all liability, caused of action, debt claims, & demands of every kind & nature whatsoever which may arise out of, or in connection with the use of facilities, equipment, &/or participation in the events I have chosen.

Walks are based on conditions at time of printing & may be subject to change. Event details will follow via email or post.

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation reserves the right to cancel a tour with a minimum of 24hrs notice.

NO REFUNDS OR EXCHANGES
(Except where an event has been altered or cancelled.)

In making a booking I acknowledge that I, and any other persons that I am booking for, have read & agree to abide by these conditions & I have included full payment/vouchers for the event/s in which I wish to take part. I understand that many events have limited places & that if my application is not accepted, my moneys/voucher will be refunded in full.

BOOKINGS CLOSE AT 12 NOON ON EACH THURSDAY PRIOR TO AN EVENT

WALK RATINGS: BEGINNERS INTERMEDIATE EXPERIENCED

WALK BOOKINGS	
11 September 8.30am	12km return walk from Kinsella Rd to Canning Campsite
22km return walk from Hills Forest Centre to Helena Campsite	20 November 9am
18 September 8.30am	12km return walk from Kinsella Rd to the Canning River
20km return walk from Dale Rd to Brookton Campsite	27 November 8.30am
25 September 9am	7.4km return walk Mundaring Weir Hotel to Ball creek Campsite
15km return from Sullivan Rock to Monadnocks Campsite	Send this back to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation, PO Box 7605, Cloisters Square, 6850 with vouchers or cheque OR fax to 9481 0546 with credit card details. Bookings cannot be made over the phone or by email. Vouchers must be posted. Kindly sponsored by
2 October 10am	Thank you to Healthway for supporting the Walk with the Friends Program
6.8km return from Driver Rd to Dookanelly Campsite (Dwellingup south)	
9 October 8.30am	
16.2km return walk from Sullivan Rock to Mt Cooke summi	

BIBBULMUN TRACK FOUNDATION

Walker Story - Claude Burro

KALAMUNDA to ALBANY

17 September 2004 - 6 November 2004



So many memories.

There were the changes in moods. Near depression on the first night at Ball Creek when reality set in and I wondered what had possessed me to take on such an enormous challenge. The sudden doubts and thoughts that it wasn't such a good idea. The sober realisation that I would be away from family, friends and the comforts of home for seven long weeks. By the next morning all negative thoughts and doubts were gone and I knew I was on my way. Exhilaration and excitement at the views and being amongst nature where few others would ever be. The emotion of finally reaching the Southern Ocean at Mandalay Beach after so many weeks of walking through the inland forests. Extreme satisfaction and pride at the enormous distance I was walking. The flat, tired feeling in Denmark



where I felt I had virtually finished and just wished it was over. The sadness of walking into Albany knowing I had lived in my own secluded world for so long and had completed a physically and mentally demanding odyssey but it had all come to an end.

There were the Track experiences. The distinct changes of scenery and vegetation from the beginning at Kalamunda to the end at Albany. Terrific valley views and awesome vistas from hill, ridge and mountain tops. Sparseness, dryness, tall trees, bridges, creeks, rivers, spectacular coastline that stretched forever, swamps, reeds, orchids, wildflowers by the acre, snakes and more snakes, birds in their hundreds, kangaroos, emus and other wildlife. The richness and beauty of the morning birdsong which started before dawn and continued on into the day. The calls of the red-tailed and white-tailed black cockatoos. The night call of the mopoke. The friendly little native animals that visited the huts in the middle of the night. The eagle at Mt Cooke that soared on a thermal just metres away from me. The kangaroos that had a party around my tent at Nerang. The submarine sonar "ping" of the musk duck at Lake Maringup. Those manic, rusty coloured birds that hopped around the hut sites and ran straight up tree trunks. The waterbush which was oh so nice to begin with, but ended up being cursed.

The genuine fear felt when caught in a jarrah forest during a violent storm when nature provided howling winds, rain, thunder, lightning and freezing hail. Fear again as a massive tree toppled over nearby, devastating everything in its path on the way down before smashing into the ground. The challenge of steep hills that had to be climbed and which were slippery and treacherous when descending, especially so during or just after rain. The relief of finally glimpsing the green roof of the next hut through the trees at the end of each day's walk.

The skipped heartbeat when I realised that I hadn't seen a "waugal" Track marker for a fair while and had probably taken a wrong turn. The freezing evenings and nights which had me jumping into my sleeping bag as early as 6:30pm just to keep warm. The gale force winds along the coast that continually threatened to blow me off the Track. The detour at Karri Valley Resort for tea, scones, jam and cream. Swimming in the dam in front of the Schafer hut. The amazing, surreal, swampy Pingerup Plains which took two days to walk through and when viewed from high vantage points at Mt Chance

and Woolbales, reminded me of the panoramic view of the assembling armies in Lord of the Rings. The granite domes of Mt Cooke, Boonerring Hill, Mt Chance, Mt Pingerup and Woolbales and the spectacular views they offered. The mud and the slush of the swamplands near Deeside Road - renamed the "Badlands" by



walkers who had passed through before me.

The never-ending physically exhausting slogs up and down the coastal dunes between Mandalay Beach and Denmark. The crossing of the Irwin Inlet by canoe. The amazing grassy flats and vast open "bowls" of the area of the Quarram Nature Reserve known as The Showgrounds. The massive tangle trees between Walpole and Giants. The never-ending rocks of Mt Hallowell. The enormously tall wind turbines near Albany which I first sighted when I was between West Cape Howe and Torbay. They looked like aliens and more so as I got closer and closer. Loos with views. Close encounters of the snake kind. And the constant, relentless march south. Step by step, kilometre after kilometre, until they were clicking over in their hundreds.

And there were the people. The couple at Waalegh who discovered that I was walking end-to-end and gave me half of their barbecued steak for tea. The lady at the Balingup Tourist Information Centre who kindly phoned the backpackers and local B&Bs for me because I was too exhausted to walk any further. The couple at Blackwood who shared their chicken and rice, red wine, Cougar & Cola and savoury biscuits and dip with me. The shop owner at Donnelly River who delivered the Sunday Times to me at 8:00pm on Sunday night because he knew I was desperate to



read a newspaper. The fellow just out of Northcliffe who looked like one of the hillbillies in the movie "Deliverance". Missing teeth, gumboots, the lot. He came running down the hill from his shack yelling at us and with arms flapping. Turned out he was simply starved for company and just wanted to chat with someone.

There were the people on the Track that I met including Mark from Queensland who I walked with from Murray to Balingup. Bing and Baldy a couple of oldies. They were a pair of real characters who popped up all over the place and seemed to live on the Track. Rachel, also from Queensland, who wore a yellow poncho over her and her backpack when it rained so I nicknamed her "the Bibbulmun Duck". Tim Ronchi who was carrying a 28kg backpack (20 - 23 kg is the accepted norm/maximum) mostly food, when I met him at Warren. We had a food cull feast at Schafer where I valiantly helped him lighten the load considerably. The courageous Cheryl Morris who had started at Albany and was walking north to Kalamunda. I met her at the backpackers in Walpole. She had injured her ankle while crossing

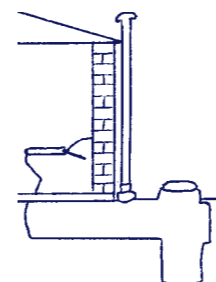
the Wilson Inlet sandbar (Denmark) but was struggling on in an attempt to finish the end-to-end.

And there were the regulars whose musings in the red comments books in each hut were mandatory reading on arrival. 'Fat Chick Goes AWOL' - never failed to crack me up with her humorous anecdotes and perfect, comical descriptions of the sections just walked. You could relate to and knew exactly what she had experienced. 'Slackpacker' and 'The Madhutter' - great sense of humour. 'Dougal' - the guy who walked to Albany and then on a whim, turned around and walked back. 'Richard' - the philosopher who quoted Chuang Tse. 'Kiwi Bob' - whose comments were always sane and sensible and had calming words of wisdom when debates were getting out of hand. 'Perry's Peaceful Pilgrimage' - always amusing and full of commonsense.

And finally, the memory of the final moments of the finish at Albany. The lovely, thoughtful Kaye was there with streamers flying, balloons festooned over all available structures and a "CONGRATULATIONS" banner taped to the Bibbulmun Track Southern Terminus sign. To top it off she had the Proclaimers blasting out "I'm Gonna Be (I Would Walk 500 Miles)" from a stereo CD player. A long embrace and perhaps a tear or two. Although it was sad to finish, her reception lifted my spirits and left me with a fantastic memory of what I had done and the feeling that it had all been worthwhile.

Wonderful, wonderful memories. 🌸

MITRE 10
10% Discount to
all "Friends of Bibbulmun Track"
cardholders**



Come in and see the EcoSan water free toilet system, ideal for water deficient areas, or as an alternative to sewerage systems. A complete unit, WA Health Department approved \$2499.00.

Visit our extensive Garden Centre. We also stock composters and rain water tanks.

Mandurah Hardware Mitre 10
Phone 9582 8111
16 Peelwood Parade, Halls Head WA

** Discount does not apply to all items in store, ie. builders hardware or sales items. Ask staff for details.

This is why

A lot of people ask me, why do I walk the Track?

Do I do it for a bet, or something smart like that

Please let me assure you before you ask again

One thing is for certain, I don't do it for a gain

One of the many reasons that I walk out there

Is the lack of traffic noises, and exhaust-polluted air

And the freedom that it gives me as I walk along

To stop where and when I please, away from the busy throng

To walk close to nature and all that she can teach

Whether in a leafy forest, or on a wind swept beach

Many and varied are the places, of peace, along the Track

Maybe that's the reason that I keep on going back

The big gumnuts of the Marri, like marbles 'neath your feet

Through the sandy swamps, and scent of Boronia sweet

The soft carpet of Sheoak needles, where you walk without a sound

The rugged beauty of the forest, when you pause to look around

To hear the Mopoke calling, from some place way out there

And the chilly mornings when your breath hangs out like smoke in the air

The squawking of red tail cockies, high up in the trees

The rustling of the branches, in the early morning breeze

Blue wrens and fantails flitting, all around my feet

Chasing insects that I've disturbed, to them it is a treat

The feeling of achievement, after climbing hills quite steep

Relaxing around a campfire, at night, before you go to sleep

To gaze down at the ocean, and see dolphins swimming by

Or look up, and see a wedgetail, drawing circles in the sky

Then see an old man kangaroo, bounding off into the night

Walk carefully and softly, and miss the tiger snakes quick bite

The relief of reaching a friendly campsite, before the rain sets in

And appreciate the dryness, as on the roof it makes a din

As I think about the past, and other Tracks where I went

When there were no friendly shelters, just a cheap old 'A' frame tent

So now you know the reasons, why I keep going back

To places that I've got to know, stretched out along the Track

So why don't you make the effort, and have a walk my friend

Don't be surprised to see me, I'm bound to be out there once again

Jim Freeman, The Mad Axeman 🌸



Ukhahlamba Drakensberg Park – South Africa/Lesotho

Fourteen hikers averaging 50 years of age tackled the 230 Grand Traverse - a gruelling 13-day hike across the top of the Drakensberg - to raise funds and promote awareness for children with cancer.

The group started at Sentinal Park in Qwa Qwa on April 24 and ended at Bushmen's Nek near Underberg in the southern Berg on May 6. They were re-supplied by members of the Mountain Backpackers Club who climbed up Bannerman's Pass on the sixth day. The second and final re-supply took place at Sani Pass Chalets on May 3 when the supplies for the last three days were transported to them.

Life Member Pam Bradley recounts her experience...

Altitude sickness, extreme cold, snow, sleet, mist, a few glorious days and climbing to heights of nearly 3500 meters was the combination that made up the 2005 Grand Traverse of the Drakensberg Mountains. Being ex-South African and a Mountain Backpackers Club member, I return regularly to South Africa to visit family and friends and, for many years, had had a penchant for completing the Grand Traverse. On a number of previous visits I had done pre-requisite hikes into the mountains to qualify for inclusion on the 230km trek.



The 250,000ha Ukhahlamba Drakensberg Park is World Heritage listed, and home to an extraordinary variety of plants and animals. The area is also rich in history with the original inhabitants the San (Bushman) people, followed by the Zulu's, British and Dutch with many ensuing wars over time. The high Drakensberg and the surrounding foothills form the major water source of two provinces as virtually all the major rivers have their sources in this mountain terrain.

On April 24, our party of 14 travelled to Sentinel Park to commence the trek. We made our way up to the 150-metre chain ladders that we used

to scale the mighty amphitheatre walls to reach the high 'Berg' and cross the first of the mighty rivers – the Tugela. We were now at a height of over 3000 meters and did I detect the first signs of altitude sickness – yes! For the next few days I dealt with headaches, nausea, hyperventilation and dizziness, but by day three the symptoms had started to ease and I was able to look forward to the strenuous hiking we were doing.

The Lesotho/South Africa border runs along the top of the escarpment and the general rule of thumb is that rivers running into South Africa are deemed South African territory and rivers running into Lesotho are in Lesotho territory. We hiked between the two for the 13 days, climbing between three and four ridges each day, which at these altitudes was no mean feat.

The weather was not kind to us and everyone assured me that it was an unusually cold snap before winter set in. The wind chill factor was difficult to deal with, especially when erecting tents, and the coldest morning registered a minus 10 degrees. Each morning the sleet or snow was piled on our tents and it took painful minutes to try and wipe this off before we could leave. Mist shrouded the majestic mountains for the first week and it was as though we were hiking through the clouds. I was so grateful for my Mountains Designs Gortex wet weather suit and, unfortunately, only had it off a couple of days! I was also very pleased with my Zamberlan boots which stood the test of the very rugged terrain.

The landscape was treeless and fires out of the question so the best place to be after sunset was in the tent in the down sleeping bag. A call of nature in the middle of the night was a most unpleasant experience. Watching the rare Lammergeyer bearded vultures soaring above the mountains and then landing at their nests perched

in the most inaccessible places was a wonderful sight. We encountered many buck, wild horses and a few baboons.

Members of The Mountain Backpackers club, through which the hike was organised, ascended the Bannerman Pass on Day 6 to bring our supplies for the next four days. Being a long weekend 32 members made the trip up into the mountains and it looked like tent city that night. Today was the first day the mist lifted and we were able to climb Cleft peak and look back on a wonderful view of the Cathedral ranges in the foreground to the Amphitheatre in the background. Unfortunately two members of the team decided to leave the hike and return with the resupply party – this hike was not for the faint hearted.



Pam with one of the Lesotho herdsmen.

As we hiked into the Giants Castle area we began to meet lone young Lesotho herdsman. I found this a very humbling experience. They live in these remote areas in mud brick huts surrounded by stone walls in which their animals are kept at night. They tend sheep and cattle and spend many months away from their townships with just their dogs, a blanket draped over their shoulders as clothes and gum boots. Their food consists of maize meal and occasionally meat; they tell the elders that one of the animals died! They burn dung for cooking fires. The offer of chocolates, biscuits and whatever else our party could spare was accepted with beaming smiles.

Another experience we had was the encounter with a 'dagga train', or commonly called Lesotho Gold. Marijuana is grown illegally in Lesotho,

bagged into 40kg bags and then walked from Lesotho down one of the Drakensberg passes into Natal to the dealers. The men transporting the bags are paid around R500 (approximately \$100) per bag and this enables them to feed, clothe and educate a child for a year. It amazed me that someone could shoulder a 40kg sack and descend one of the passes – which are very difficult to negotiate with a 20kg backpack and good sturdy hiking boots. As we approached the party of eight Lesotho men they dropped their bags and squatted on the ground, apparently waiting to see if we were genuine hikers or police patrolling. Had we been police they would have scattered leaving their goods behind but we greeted them and went cheerfully on our way. The unwritten rule is that hikers leave them alone and they leave hikers alone!

On the way to our last resupply point, Sani Pass Chalet, team members could climb the highest peak in Southern Africa, Thabana Ntlenyana (3482 m). This was covered in snow and, although not a difficult climb terrain wise, the thinner air was always a challenge. We looked forward to a night in the rustic mountain chalet; this meant a hot shower, crackling fires, a bed and wonderful smorgasbord evening meal served by the Lesotho people under the watchful eye of the owner. Not to mention a couple of bottles of good wine to top the evening off. Leaving this haven the following morning loaded with our last food supply and suffering the affects of 'one too many' and threatening rain and snow clouds made for a quiet few hours. Nevertheless we soon perked up once we had hauled ourselves through the first saddle of the day and got into stride on one of the many Lesotho tracks.

The last few days were very cold with rain, snow and ice. We attempted to stay overnight at the Sandleni Cave but it was so wet we had no option but to pitch tents again. Poles were the greatest invention, especially when descending ice bound rocky mountains. The waterfalls we passed in the morning were iced over with the water trickling behind the ice and as the day warmed so the ice would melt. We had our last lunch sitting on rocks in a mountain stream with the sun beating down on us. We descended Thamathu Pass and had a stopover in the Thamathu Cave. We shared this with a resident army unit who told us they were camped here for a few weeks to try and stop cattle rustling from Natal into Lesotho!

We finally arrived at the Bushman's Nek Border Post where our transport vehicles were waiting, with a magnificent lunch spread out on the lawns, to transport us back to our respective starting points.

The aim of the Grand Traverse 2005 was to raise money for the CHOC Foundation (Children with Cancer) and we were happy to know that approximately R150,000.00 (AU\$30,000) was raised for this cause.

Pam Bradley

HEYSEN TRAIL, TREKKING THE FLINDERS & GAMMON RANGES

Bibbulmun Track Foundation Special Departure

29 April – 7 May 2006



Join Foundation lead guide Steve Sertis on this trek to the Flinders Ranges and Gammon Ranges of South Australia – regarded as perhaps the most spectacular of all the arid mountain ranges

The arid ranges of Australia offer some of the finest walking country anywhere in the world. The combination of spectacular peaks, rugged gorges and the rich colours of the desert offer trekkers an unforgettable experience.

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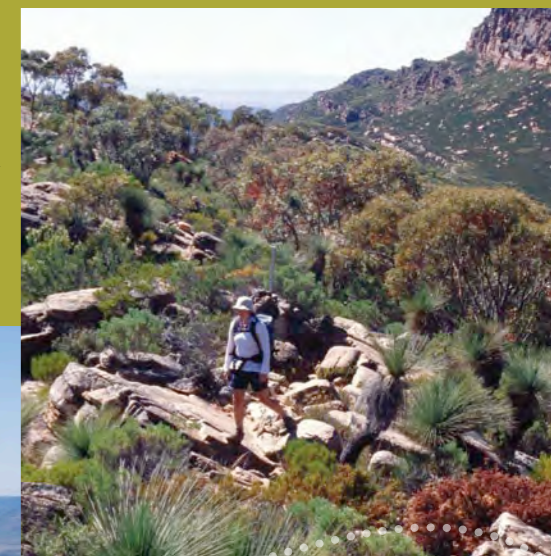
If this sounds like a trip for you, World Expeditions has arranged a special departure for Bibbulmun Track Members in 2006. Departing Perth on 29 April, we will have 7 days of moderate walking before returning to Adelaide via the Clare and Barossa Valleys.

The price of \$2750.00 includes:

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- all meals whilst trekking
- one nights accommodation in Adelaide
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For further details, please contact Melody at World Expeditions on 9486 9899 or by email melody@worldexpeditions.com.au

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