

Sponsors Update

We are very pleased to welcome two new Silver sponsors to the Foundation, Back Country Foods and Ranger Outdoors.

Back Country Foods produce the delicious range of freeze dried meals known as Back Country Cuisine. The owners, Arthur and Shirley Ballantyne, pride themselves on producing high quality, tasty meals that are easy to prepare and provide high nutritional value. Their products are available from Mountain Designs and Paddy Pallin stores and we encourage you to give them a try... they even have Strawberry ice-cream dessert!

We will bring you more information about their products in the next edition of Bibbulmun News – in the meantime, have a look at their website at www.backcountrycuisine.co.nz

As outlined in the article on page 2 Ranger Outdoors, formerly known as Ranger Camping, has nine stores throughout the metro region. Ranger Outdoors is pleased to offer our members a 10% discount (Refrigeration and electronic items excepted) and invites you to check out a store near you.

We are also very pleased to formalise our long-standing relationship with Westnet and welcome them as a Bronze Sponsor. As our ISP (Internet Service Provider) Westnet hosts our website and looks after all our internet requirements including email.

We thank these companies for their tremendous support and look forward to a long and happy association.

We are also happy to announce that Mountain Designs is now officially a Diamond Sponsor. Mountain Designs has been a major sponsor of the Foundation since 1998, providing our office space in Hay Street, donating the annual volunteer rewards and monthly membership prizes and, for the

past 5 years, has also sponsored the Mountain Designs Bibbulmun Team Challenge. Previously a Gold Sponsor, the Diamond level more accurately reflects the level of support provided by Mountain Designs and we thank Mike Wood in particular for his enthusiasm and passion for the Foundation and the Bibbulmun Track.

Both Adcorp, who produce this newsletter and our events calendar, and Lasermail, who mail out the events calendar, have recently renewed their sponsorship agreements with the Foundation for a further three years.

We are very grateful to all our sponsors for their tremendous support. Please have a look at who they are below – and support them with your business if you can.

A Big 'Thank you' to Lotterywest...



Special thanks must go to Lotterywest who, over the years, has supported many projects through the Trails Grants funding programme administered by the Department of Sport and Recreation. Projects currently in progress include the design and installation of a viewing platform and boardwalk at Mandalay Beach and the upgrade of the information panels on the Trail Heads along the Track.

Lotterywest also granted the Foundation a \$15,000 information technology grant to enable us to upgrade our computer network in the office. Our old network was a medley of second-hand computers bought over the years and the increasing demands on our services was starting to take its toll. We are very grateful to Lotterywest for bringing our systems up to date to ensure the quality and efficiency of our service continues for many years to come.

With grateful thanks to our sponsors:

Premier



Silver



Bronze



Diamond



THE BIBBULMUN TRACK FOUNDATION

PO Box 7605, Cloisters Square
PERTH Western Australia 6850

Telephone: (08) 9481 0551 OR 9321 0649

Facsimile: (08) 9481 054

Email: friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Website: www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Printed on environmentally-friendly paper

OFFICE LOCATION:

1st Floor, Mountain Designs Adventure Building,
862 Hay Street Perth

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Friday 9am – 4.00pm

Editor: Linda Daniels

Sub Editor: Jim Baker

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



Bibbulmun NEWS

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Newsletter for the friends of the Bibbulmun Track

Ernie Dingo on the Bibbulmun Track



Photo by Linda Daniels

On Monday 15 May the Bibbulmun Track featured on the popular travel show *The Great Outdoors*, promoting the Track around Australia and New Zealand.

Hosted by Ernie Dingo, the segment was filmed around the Walpole/Denmark area showing spectacular coastal views before entering into the tall timber country around Frankland campsite.

Pretending he was in for the long-haul, Ernie donned a backpack and interviewed our events manager, Steve Sertis, about the excellent facilities the Track has to offer hikers. He then discarded his pack in favour of a small daypack and the 'comforts of home' at Mt. Lindsay View Bed & Breakfast in Denmark; highlighting the alternative way to walk the Track by taking a

Bibbulmun Walking Break – our popular walking and accommodation packages.

A Bibbulmun Walking Break is a 2 day/2 night walking and accommodation package in selected B&B's at 8 different locations near the Track. A day walk map pack, all meals and drop offs to the Track are included in the Break. They are the perfect way to recharge your batteries – all you need is a comfortable pair of walking shoes and the Foundation looks after the rest.

Bookings have increased dramatically over the last couple of years, especially international and interstate clients, with many people linking 6 or 7 locations as they work their way through the south west over a two to three week period.

The Foundation has received some outstanding feedback and many repeat bookings. Clients are extremely impressed with the service provided, and the first-rate accommodation and warm hospitality provided by the selected Bibbulmun Walking Break hosts.

The Great Outdoors programme was terrific publicity for the Bibbulmun Track and the south west region in general. Many thanks to the Great Outdoors team for the opportunity – and to Ron and Debbie from Mt Lindsay View B & B who generously provided free accommodation for Ernie and the Crew at very short notice.

See the article on page 29 about our new Bibbulmun Break destination – Collie! 🌀



Great Gifts for FATHER'S DAY

Sunday 3 September

'Spring Into Action Pack' – Guaranteed to inspire even the most stubborn couch potato!

- 'Getting on Track' DVD
- Day Walk Map Pack (includes map and walknotes)
- Bibbulmun Track Water Bottle

Father's Day Special
only \$45 + \$5.00 postage
(RRP \$54.05)

Spring special - Flora Book
only \$17.00 (RRP \$20)

For that extra special gift -
an exquisite Handcrafted Walking Stick.

See the great range we have on display.

Members Special price
\$65 + post (RRP\$75)

Non-members Special price
\$88 + post (RRP \$98)

Fathers Day Gift Vouchers
(any amount) – can be used for merchandise, membership or an event from the Calendar of Events.

Great gift for Dad or Grandad
- Bibbulmun Track Membership
\$40.00
Senior \$30.00

Our Great Range of Merchandise

can be viewed and ordered online at www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au or pop into the office, above Mountain Designs, Hay Street, Perth.

- Maps & Guide Books
- T-shirts
- Caps & hats
- Water bottles
- Badges & Magnets

To order phone:
9481 0551 or email:
friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Welcome to Ranger Outdoors - our new Silver Sponsor!

We are very pleased to welcome Ranger Outdoors as a Silver sponsor of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation.



Ranger Outdoors has been part of the Australian camping industry for over 20 years. Retailing quality outdoor camping products and accessories to family campers, travellers and caravan users alike. Boating and Fishing products are also well represented across their 9 stores along with a comprehensive range of gear suitable for hiking and those overseas adventures. Show your Bibbulmun Track Foundation membership card and receive a 10% discount! (Refrigerated & electronic items excepted).

Ranger Outdoors invited the Foundation to join them at the Everywoman Expo held from Friday 16 to Sunday 18 June at the Perth Convention Centre. The Bibbulmun Track featured prominently on the stand and it was a great opportunity to highlight our 'women only' walks



and Bibbulmun Walking Breaks. We also encouraged memberships with a fabulous prize supplied by Ranger Outdoors.

The event was a great success and we thank Ranger Outdoors for the opportunity, and our willing volunteers who helped out on the stand:

Martin & Christine Johnson, Barbara White, Sandy Nielson, Elsie Grygiel, Freda Bajrovic, Rosalind Miles, Fiona Noble, Julie Renwick and Richard Whitfield

Ranger Outdoors stores are open 7 days a week in the following locations: Bentley, Balcatta, Canningvale, Morley, Joondalup, O'Connor, Osborne Park, Rockingham and now in Midland.



TURN YOUR WALK INTO A WILDFLOWER EXPERIENCE

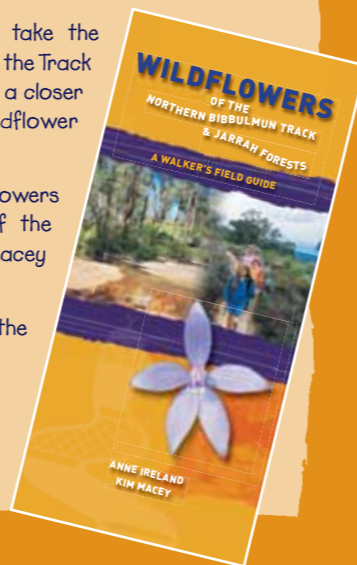
Spring is nearly here, so take the opportunity to get out onto the Track and right into the bush for a closer view of magnificent wildflower displays.

But don't just look at them! Identify some of the 300 wildflowers featured in the compact field guide 'Wildflowers of the Northern Bibbulmun Track and Jarrah Forests' by Kim Macey and Anne Ireland.

Filled with fascinating facts and colour photographs the guide is the perfect walker's companion.

Members Spring Special \$17.00

(normally \$20.00) + \$2.50 postage



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FROM MY Desk



Welcome to the Spring edition of Bibbulmun News.

I am delighted to welcome three new sponsors to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation; Ranger Outdoors, Back Country Foods and Westnet. We sincerely thank them, and all our ongoing sponsors, for their tremendous support which helps to keep the Foundation financially sustainable and, in turn, the Track well maintained.

Our sponsors support us in many ways, from providing direct financial support and equipment to training our volunteers and subsidising the cost of printing and mailing this magazine for our members.

A full sponsor update is on the back cover of this edition of Bibbulmun News and I encourage you to support our sponsors with your patronage if you can.

As you know, one of the core roles of the Foundation is to assist The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC, formerly CALM) with the maintenance of the Bibbulmun Track – a huge task which is only possible due to the energy and enthusiasm of over 300 terrific volunteers. As of this year, the Bibbulmun Track 'Eyes on the Ground' maintenance programme is being generously sponsored by the Boddington Gold Mine and this edition of Bibbulmun News will give you a bit more insight into the people and activities which make the programme a success.

The feature on pages 10 and 11 will give you an idea of the important role played by Gwen Plunkett, our office manager and volunteer coordinator. Gwen recently spent 10 days in the south west coordinating the Field Days and meeting with the DEC rangers to discuss Track issues raised by walkers and maintenance volunteers.

The Tracks and Trails unit article on page 9 gives a brief overview of some of the capital works and improvements undertaken in the past few months by DEC and our walker story will give you an insight into a maintenance trip by a 'newbie' volunteer.

In addition to the maintenance programme, we have been busy with a number of major projects including the transition of our website to a new content management system, the upgrade of our computer network, our 2006 WA Tourism Awards submission, the new Calendar of Events and strategic planning for the next three years. If you live in WA, keep an eye out for the special Bibbulmun Track feature in the Travel section of The West Australian on Saturday 2nd September.

We are also looking at ways to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of the 'new' Bibbulmun Track in 2008, and would love to hear from our members. So please fill out the survey on page 25 and send us your thoughts and ideas! If you would like to be involved with the planning or assist with the event in any way then please get in touch.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Bibbulmun News and have the opportunity to head out to the Track as we enter into Spring and the wildflower season.

Linda Daniels
Executive Director

Notice of AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation will be held at 6.30pm on Thursday October 26, 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, Bruce Manning and Simon Holthouse 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 26, 2005.

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

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

Thank you...
Thank you

A sincere thank you to the following walkers who have generously made donations to the Foundation. Some after completing an end-to-end, others after only a few days on the Track. Some inspired by the damage inflicted by bush fires, others by the wonderful work undertaken by our maintenance volunteers.

We are pleased to have been able to raise enough funds through recent donations to purchase three new canoes and paddles for the crossing at Irwin Inlet and three gates to place at strategic campsites where vehicle access has been a problem.

Thank you to...

- Adam Gittens
- Ann Wood, Sydney
- Bill and Jeanette Maunder, Gwelup
- David Breen, Shenton Park
- Hans Mihkelson, Sydney
- Joanna McLean, Melville
- Kathy Moylan, Alice Springs
- Lia, Canada
- Pamela and John Paton
- Peter Aberdeen

DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

Through the National Trust, donations made to the Foundation are put into a special account and assigned specifically to projects which enhance the environmental sustainability of the Track (such as the gates mentioned above). To make a tax deductible donation cheques need to be made out to The National Trust and sent to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation with your name and address. Cash donations are also welcome of course if you come into the office! We will then provide you with a receipt from the National Trust receipt book which indicates the donation is specifically for the Bibbulmun Track.

All donations, large and small, are gratefully received and all help to preserve our beautiful Bib Track.

YOUR LETTERS

Our mail-bag has been very full lately. Sadly, we can't print all your letters – but please keep them coming as we like to receive your feedback and enjoy reading about your adventures.

Thank You

We have just completed our first end-to-end walk of this famous Track. We have attached a record of the dates and campsites we stayed in along the way and await our Certificates.

Walking the Track marked the end of our professional and paid working lives and the start of our play time! As planned, we took 62 days to complete our walk, including staying in delightful country towns.

We wish to thank those inspired people who dreamt of the Track, those who fought hard to make it a reality, and the countless hundreds of volunteers and others who maintain the Track and shelters to such a high standard.

This was a benchmark experience for us both. It was hard, challenging, difficult, wonderful and life changing. We met some of the friendliest people in the world along the Track and at the campsites and townships. We experienced deeply the unique South West environment and reconnected with the Australian bush we both love so much. We also reconnected with each other as we encouraged, supported, cajoled and shared the Track together. Our family and friends provided additional support to continue and to complete the walk.

We are well satisfied with ourselves and are quietly readjusting to this new time in our lives. Later we will volunteer our time to the Foundation to provide whatever assistance is required.

We have also attached a donation to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation in recognition and appreciation of all that has been and continues to be done to maintain this special walk. If it was ours to allocate we would use the monies to build gates at those very vulnerable access roads to some campsites. On pay for the successful prosecution of those who drive up to those campsites and harass and intimidate Bibbulmun Track walkers.

We thank you again for the privilege of walking this very special Track.

Yours sincerely

Pamela and John Paton

6 June 2006

To the Editor

Three of us hiked from Collie to Balingup over Easter. The Bibbulmun News was in the letter box the night before we headed off but I didn't have time to read it so popped it in the car to read travelling down.

As I was driving, my partner read sections of it out to us and we all felt very emotionally moved by Elsie Grygiel's story, Me & Grygiel's Bear. What an amazing and inspirational woman she is. Many of us have completed an end-to-end but few, if any, under these circumstances. By coincidence, we were in the Southern Terminus a few days after Elsie had finished and one of the girls in the office there had told us of Elsie's story. She, too, had been very moved.

I wish Elsie all the very best for the future and I'm sure she will definitely be able to handle "anything life deals her".

Jane Greenwood

What a surprise - being winner of the June membership renewal prize draw. I am thrilled with the Gore Hurricane Windstopper Vest.

Thank you to the Foundation and also to the Bronze sponsor, Paddy Pallin - it is a great prize as I am currently walking the track in stages.

Best regards

Peta Day

I have successfully sold 2 backpacks and 2 tents via the Bibbulmun Track Foundation web site in the past 18 months, to people in Darwin, Sydney, Cairns and Perth. The site definitely gets viewed by people Australia-wide

Pieter Nienaber

It was a wonderful surprise to receive your letter telling me that I had won the Mountain Designs 'Bibbulmun' rucksack in the mid year draw. It certainly is a great pack & I'm looking forward to showing it some of the country-side, & resting my weary feet on it occasionally.

My thanks specifically to Mountain Designs and generally to the other corporate sponsors for their support of the Track Foundation aims & goals.

Congratulations to the Track Foundation staff & volunteers for building & running such a great organisation & a track that so many of us can enjoy through-out the year. Thanks for drawing my name out of the hat & I hope to see you in the great out-doors somewhere.

Sincerely yours,

Tony Miller

VALE SUE FEAR

As most Foundation members might have heard, Australia's premier woman mountaineer Sue Fear was tragically lost on Manaslu, an 8,000m giant in central Nepal, last May. Sue was one of the first Australian women to summit Everest and it was through this that Sue first came to the attention of the Australian public.

Sue contributed her time and energy to many organisations. Apart from her work with the Fred Hollows Foundation and her efforts to encourage students, particularly young women, to get into the outdoors, Sue also assisted the Bibbulmun Track Foundation. From every slide show Sue did with World Expeditions in WA money was donated to the Foundation. Sue also led a walk and gave a fascinating talk at the State Trail Day in 2002.

Sue will be missed by us all in the Foundation and her many friends in WA.

Mike Wood.

Ed - The Foundation made a donation to the Fred Hollows Foundation in Sue's memory.

Physical Facets maintaining your No. 1 asset

by Isabel Busch

I have been asked to produce a regular article for the Newsletter along the lines of how to maintain your body so that you can undertake all those walks you have dreamed of doing.

I am a physiotherapist by profession and an outdoor enthusiast by choice, so I decided to start by giving some tips and thoughts on the use of trekking poles.

As this is not a thesis, I have not researched the history and use of poles over the ages, but I did do a quick "Google", and also referred to the information that came with the poles I use myself.

The most interesting thing I found was that "homo sapiens has paid the price of achieving mobility on two legs". We now have back, hip, knee and muscle problems that our ancestors, who moved on all fours, did not suffer.

Hence the reason to use two poles and become four-legged again!

Why are two poles better than one? Because when we use two poles to trek over rough ground with a heavy pack, we always maintain three points of contact with the ground when moving. This gives a greater base of support, thus better balance and greater forward momentum. Plus you can get into an even rhythm and your whole walking action is done in a natural sequence. This promotes correct posture, helps you to breathe more efficiently and increases your stamina.

If you use one pole, you only have two points of contact with the ground as you walk. This means that your body movement is uneven, and as you tend to carry the pole in the same hand all the time, one leg and one arm work harder than the others.

One quote I found stated that during an eight-hour walk on hills, the use of a pair of poles will relieve the strain on your knees by 250 tonnes - the equivalent to the weight of 31 male African bush elephants accompanied by 31 females, give or take an elephant or two!

Just think about that - as we age, our joint surfaces deteriorate due to wear and tear. The less strain we put on them, the longer they will allow us to trek to all those places we want to visit.

As you go up and down hills, the poles act as a stair rail, helping to propel you up and steadying you as you come down. They help you to get the load off your back, even on

the flat, and give your knees a better chance to stay free from problems.

However, many people do not know how to use their poles correctly and as a result they get little or no benefit from using them.

When you walk on even ground, your poles should be held with your elbows bent at an angle 90 degrees. Use the poles as a cross country skier would - the walking sequence being right pole, left leg, left pole, right leg, just like a normal, relaxed arm swinging gait pattern.

Unfortunately, I am noted for walking incorrectly - two poles forward together style. As a result of this I provided much entertainment to my walking companions during my end-to-end by "face planting" at least three times! This style is not recommended!

It is also recommended that with adjustable poles, their length should be reduced for going up hill and increased for going down, although I know from experience this is rarely done.

Most poles come with recommendations from the manufacturer on how to adjust them correctly, so it is not my intention to be any more specific here.

Some poles come with "anti-shock" features, which reduce the strain even more. The angle of the "grip" section of the pole is also important - an angle of 15 degrees is recommended as it increases safety, cushions shock better and the hand/wrist component is in a more relaxed position. Wrist straps need to be positioned appropriately and for this I suggest you go to the web page I have included at the end of this paragraph. (I can't explain it any better than Pete!) The important thing to note is that you don't need to hold on to them like "grim death". <http://www.personal.dundee.ac.uk/~pjclinch/poles2.htm>

To summarise, the use of two trekking poles reduces tiredness, provides good stability and has the potential to increase the distance travelled each day. Your walking speed may be increased; the accumulated stress on your feet, ankles, knees, hips and back will certainly be lessened.

I hope the above advice will help to make your trekking experiences pain free and your trekking life longer. 🌸

New improved website is now live!

Regular visitors to the web will have noticed that the long-awaited new and improved Bibbulmun Track website (www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au) went live in July.

We now have the capacity to update the entire website ourselves which will ensure that all the information is current and allow us to highlight key information on the home page.

Other improvements include:

- Home page provides shortcuts to useful pages such as FAQs, Track conditions and maps.
- The home page has also been made more dynamic by including a slide-show of Bibbulmun Track photos and highlighting the top 3 news articles and top 3 events.
- The 'Track town' information has been improved to provide information on how to get there using public transport, an overview of services available in the town, what attractions can be found in the area and suggested walks.
- The merchandise section has been divided into categories allowing people to find items and make their selection more easily.

Our thanks go to Graeme Heath and Jeremy Thake at Alphawest for the updated look and development of the new framework.

Thoughts from a Vollie

I can't say I enjoy maintenance visits in summertime. The creek is dry. Flies, ants and mozzies are in abundance and it's too hot to work.

And yet, last February, soon after a local bushfire, these were the things I saw:

A kangaroo with her large joey. Two emus. A big goanna, at least 80 centimetres long.

A big flock of white tailed cockatoos, and a superb iridescent fairy wren, a breeding male.

Two robins, one scarlet and one white breasted.

And up above, as night fell, the new moon waxing and a myriad of stars.

Negatives?

Well, there was the large tick, removed from my arm with a loop of cotton, and too many karri hazel shrubs in my corridor of the track, which had to be removed. A real pain in the neck, so I concocted a little poem as I toiled to shift them:

There's a section of the track
Which I love to maintain,
But Trymalium Floribundum*
Will drive me insane!

A Vollie.

*Ed: Trymalium Floribundum is karri hazel

L a t e s t T r a c k N e w s

Compiled by Tracks & Trails Unit, DEC. (Formerly 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

NOTICE

The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) and the Department of Environment amalgamated on July 1st 2006 to become the new Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

Notification of Intent for Organised Non-commercial Groups to Conduct Overnight Expeditions on DEC Tracks and Trails

The DEC Tracks and Trails Unit requests that groups (with 8 or more members), planning to conduct an overnight expedition on a DEC track or trail, notify the Unit of their intentions prior to their planned activity. The notification process is used to help to manage and record group usage, and also to preserve the conservation values and the enjoyment level of all track/trail users. The information collected also assists DEC during emergency response situations such as a wildfire. We would also appreciate large groups (15 members or more) that are planning day walks to notify the Unit of their intentions. For a Notice of Intent form, contact the Tracks and Trails Unit on 9334 0265.

NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS

Mundaring Section of Perth Hills District.

Covers Kalamunda to Gringer Creek Campsite near Albany Highway.

Map 1 or Sections 1 to 12 in the Northern Guidebook

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

A number of diversions will soon be put in place for the prescribed burning season in spring. Notification of these burns will be placed at the campsites and on the website.

Sections of the Track will be utilised for Rally Australia in the Mundaring district during October. The sections chosen are those that are suitable for the activity, and can be managed to ensure there is minimal conflict with walkers and minimal environmental damage. The Track will be clearly signposted and notification will be placed on the website. See the 'Rally Australia' notice in this newsletter.

The Forest Products Commission will be conducting site preparation for an operation to remove old and burnt pines in the Beraking Pine Plantation over the coming months. A 4km section of the Bibbulmun Track between Beraking campsite and Dale Road will form the boundary to this operation. The Track will remain open for walkers and staff members will be onsite during operations

Dwellingup Section of Perth Hills District.

Covers Gringer Creek Campsite to Harvey-Quindanning Road.

Map 2 or Sections 13 to 20 in the Northern Guidebook

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

The section of the Track between Dwellingup and Harvey Quindanning Road affected by fire earlier in the year has been reopened. However, for your own safety and to allow the bushland to recover, please do not walk off the Track. Erosion is a concern after fire as all stabilising vegetation is removed, leaving an opportunity for water to erode the soil. Erosion control is still being managed in this area and a team from Department of Corrective Services has constructed some rock steps in the deep gully areas and vegetation is being controlled by pruning and removing all new shoots that are growing on the Track. Winter rains will allow us to find the erosion weak spots and control them before significant damage to the Track occurs.

Sections of the Track will be utilised for Rally Australia in the Dwellingup district during October. The sections chosen are those that are suitable for the activity, and can be managed to ensure there is minimal conflict with walkers and minimal environmental damage.

The Track will be clearly signposted and notification will be placed on the website. See the 'Rally Australia' notice in this newsletter.

The Dual Sport Riders Association will be conducting their approved Dwellingup event on 24 September, with up to 27 trail bikes crossing the Track near Holyoake.

Both these events will be marshalled and signposted. Walkers should proceed with caution.

Wellington District (Collie and Harvey)

Covers Harvey -Quindanning Road to Mumballup

Map 3 or Section 20 to 25 in Northern Guidebook

Contact: Bev Gardiner (08) 9735 1912 or beverlyg@calm.wa.gov.au

Wellington District has spent some time lately doing a spring clean. Possum Springs, Yourdamung and Harris Dam Shelters have all been oiled and painted for the forthcoming year. However, due to the lingering sweet smell, we will not be continuing to the Yabberup shelter until later in the year. The old timber stepping stones near Dee Jay Road (south of Harris Dam) are in the process of being upgraded to a timber walkway. The project is half complete, and should be finished in the next month.

The next month will also see a consolidation of Bibbulmun Track works and projects for the forthcoming year, as well as some minor maintenance to the shelters. The Yabberup water tank has been given a good clean out and has been patched up. In the meantime DEC staff have placed a number of 20 litre bottles at the campsite, which are being refilled regularly. Walkers are asked to carry in as much water as possible until the tank has been refilled by rainfall.

Blackwood-Balingup District

Covers Mumballup to Willow Springs

Map 4 or Sections 25 to 30 in the Northern Guidebook

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

A prescribed burn has been completed approximately 4km south of Gregory Brook campsite and until the Track is checked, the following diversion will be in place: The burn involves an area south of the Brockman Highway through to the Yornup-Nannup power line north of Willow Springs. Starting at Brockman Hwy the diversion heads west along Brockman Hwy to Stallard Road and follows Stallard Road south to the power line, then turns east along the power line until it re-joins the Track, increasing the distance by 2km. Watch for traffic on roads, especially on the Brockman Hwy.

Another prescribed burn is planned which, if it goes ahead, will affect the Track north-east of the Balingup town site (section 27) between Balingup-Grimwade Road and Jayes Road. Starting at Grimwade-Balingup Road in the north, the diversion heads in a south westerly direction along Balingup-Grimwade Road to Walter Road, turning south along Walter Road and rejoining the Track near the Balingup Brook - decreasing the distance by 3kms.

Pine Harvesting

An area of pine harvesting in the Balingup plantation is planned. This operation affects the eastern boundary of the plantation where the Track leaves the Balingup Brook heading north. A diversion will be in place when this operation commences and will follow the same alignment as the for the burn above, starting at Grimwade-Balingup Road.

Manjimup & Pemberton - Donnelly District

Covers Willow Springs to Pingerup Road

Maps 5 and 6, Section 30 in the Northern Guidebook and Sections 31 to 42 in the Southern Guidebook

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

The Bibbulmun Track within the Donnelly River Valley is generally in good condition. There have been reports of some trees down on the Track, which will be removed soon. Reports are also coming in that suggest some of the bridges and boardwalks are becoming slippery when wet. We will be doing work to remove the hazard soon but in the meantime be mindful that some bridges are slippery. Sections of the Donnelly River valley are steep in places, as is the section of Track from Boarding House to Beavis so some care will need to be taken as they can be slippery at times. If a karri tree has fallen across the Track do not step onto the logs as karri trees become very slippery when wet. Tom Road, Boarding House and Beavis shelters are all in very good condition.

The section of Track from Seven Day Road through to Pemberton is again in good condition. There may be the odd tree down and some scrub overhanging the Track but generally a pleasant walk is expected. The new bridge across the top of the Beedelup Falls is a fantastic addition to the Beedelup Falls Recreation site and to the Bibbulmun Track. Walkers have the choice of walking along the top bridge and heading along the sealed path to the interpretation shelter and then up to the Bibbulmun Track. The other option is to walk along the Falls, cross the suspension bridge up the concrete steps to the interpretation shelter, and walk on to the Bibbulmun Track heading to Beedelup Campsite.

The section of the Track from Pemberton to Northcliffe is at present very popular. Sections around the Raspy Road area get crowded with over hanging scrub during wet weather so look out for this.

The fire season has finished for another year. The section of Track immediately south of Pemberton to Hairpin Road underwent a prescribed burn in March, so expect to be walking on burnt bush along the Eastbrook for approximately 6 km. The forest is beginning to grow back very quickly. Over the next few years this section will prove very popular to walkers as the wildflowers will dominate the forest floor. In winter the Eastbrook will start flowing which is a nice sight as the Bibbulmun Track is on an old railway formation above the Brook.

A bridge across the Lefroy Brook has collapsed at the Cascades recreation site. The bridge is the first one that walkers arrive at after leaving the Bibbulmun Track and crossing Power Road. Access to Cascades is still possible by following the walk track through to and across the railway, cross the bridge to the site and then returning the same way back to the Bibbulmun Track. A new bridge will be constructed in the new financial year.

Sections of the Bibbulmun Track have been upgraded since the prescribed burn. The sealed section from the Pine Mill to the Gloucester Tree has been re-sealed with hot mix and the section from the Gloucester Tree to Burma Road has been redeveloped to minimise erosion.

The section of the Track south of Bradley Road along the Warren River will be temporarily diverted for approximately 500 metres due to the Warren River rising during heavy rains. This usually occurs in July to August. Call the above number for more information regarding the river levels.

The Track from Northcliffe to Dog Pool is in good condition. From Chesapeake Road through to Dog Pool Road the amount of water on the Track will gradually rise from now on. From July and into late spring expect the water levels to be up to knee deep for up to 100 metres at a time. Most of the sections that are under water in this area are on hard road surfaces so walking through the water will not present any major problems. It is likely that a temporary diversion will be put in place on a section from Deeside Coast Road through to Dog Road. Reports received last winter indicate this section gets more than knee deep. This will be monitored over the next couple of months. Call the Pemberton office for information on water levels in the Maringup- Dog Pool sections.

Walpole-Frankland District

Covers Pingerup Road to Denmark

Maps 6, 7, 8 or Sections 42 to 53 in the Southern Guidebook

Contact Andrea Bidwell or Allison Donovan (08) 9840 1027

Parry Inlet channel (p233 in the Southern Guidebook and/or Map 7 2003 Ed) has now broken through to the sea and cannot be crossed by walkers. This will probably be the case for the rest of winter and most of spring. Walkers will have to use the alternative route as shown on Map 7b or in the Southern Guidebook Pg 233 via Parry Road, the South Coast Hwy and William Bay Road which adds an extra 10km to your journey. Further information is available from the DEC Walpole office on 9840 1027.

WALKERS ARE REMINDED THAT ALL CAMPSITES FROM MT CHANCE TO ALBANY ARE 'NO CAMP FIRE' SITES - FUEL STOVES ONLY

Even though WA experienced a long dry spell before the rain came recently, sections of the Track around Walpole are quite wet. We have just received three brand new canoes for the crossing at Irwin Inlet and they will be in place shortly. The construction of a boardwalk near Peaceful Bay has been completed, making it easier to travel through a couple of wet sections close to the town. The construction of some box steps at Quarram, through some highly eroded dunes, has also been completed, which will make the walk through these dunes much easier.

Albany

Covers Denmark to Albany

Map 8 or Sections 53 to 58 in the Southern Guidebook

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

Over the past three months, a program of vegetation trimming has been undertaken along the South Coast section of the Bibbulmun Track. This work has been undertaken by two casual employees, Jarrod and Scott, who have been doing a tremendous job come rain, hail or shine.

At this stage, they have completed trimming and water bar maintenance from Sand Patch to Mutton Bird. Sections between Sand Patch and Little Grove have also been trimmed. Track conditions and marking from Little Grove to Albany Terminus were checked and improved upon, and the area around the Albany Terminus has been tidied up and weeded. Jarrod and Scott are currently trimming the Track between Tennessee South Road and Bornholm. When they finish this section, it is intended that they will commence work from Tennessee South Road and head westward to the Nullaki.

Torbay Inlet

The Water Corporation advise that it may be necessary at times to breach the Torbay Inlet sand bar in order to reduce the incidence of flooding on properties surrounding Torbay Inlet, as it nears full capacity due to the increased inflows from rainfall.

Walkers are reminded that conditions can change quickly if heavy rainfall occurs. If walkers find the sandbar is open, they are advised to assess the water depth and flow rate before attempting to cross the outflow. If walkers have any doubt regarding their ability to cross the outflow safely, they should follow the advice in the track guide, and walk around the inlet. (Map 8 or Southern Guidebook 2004 edition pages 280-281)

Wilson Inlet

The boat hire service, which operates between the mouth of the Denmark River and the Nullaki Peninsula (pg 259 Southern Guide Book), has begun operating again. This service can be booked by telephoning 0429 421 786, and is always subject to weather conditions. Walkers can, at the moment, also walk across the sandbar between Nullaki Point and Ocean Beach (Map 8 or Southern Guidebook 2004 edition page 263) 🌸

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

The Foundation is happy to welcome WOOZ & SUZ CAFÉ, TREE CHANGE SHACK, GLEN MERVYN FARMSTAY, BLUE WREN B&B and SURFSIDE OCEAN BEACH 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
ATTRACTIVE TOURS	PERTH	Tour	(08) 9477 4997	
INSPIRATION OUTDOORS	PERTH	Tour	(08) 9378 2523	5%.
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.
TREE CHANGE SHACK	DWELLINGUP	Accommodation	0412 722 823	
BLUE WREN B&B	COLLIE	Accommodation	(08) 9734 7939	
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%.
PEPPERMINT LANE LODGE	WELLINGTON MILL	Accommodation	(08) 9728 3138	On application.
GLEN MERVYN FARMSTAY	MUMBALLUP	Accommodation	(08) 9732 2208	10%.
WANJEDDA HILLTOP B&B	MUMBALLUP	Accommodation	(08) 9732 2004	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.
KARRI VALLEY RESORT	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 2020	10%. Not available on public holidays.
KARRI GLADE CHALET	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 1120	
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.
WOOZ & SUZ CAFÉ	WALPOLE	Restaurant/Café	(08) 9840 1214	
BLUE WREN TRAVELLERS REST	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 3300	5%.
DENMARK BUDGET ACCOMMODATION	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 1700	10%.
GUM GROVE CHALET	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 1378	10% (excl. public & school hols).
MOONWATERS HOLIDAY COTTAGE	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 2055	10% (excl. public hols and specials).
SURFSIDE OCEAN BEACH	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 2248	10%.
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	

Tree Change Shack

"Tree Change Shack" is shared budget accommodation in a mill cottage right in the heart of Dwellingup opposite the Hotham Valley Railway station. Just \$27.50 per person per night. The cottage is fully self contained, linen supplied. Tree Change Shack is accommodation where like minded people may meet, share their adventures, read the 'what's on' notice board or explorers book, have a cuppa, play a board game or just beg out. You may be the only person there or there may be others who are enjoying all that Dwellingup has to offer – so what are you waiting for? Pack your bag and go exploring!

For bookings email treechange@westnet.com.au or phone Louise on 0412 722 823. Prior arrangement for 'whole cottage' booking may be available on request.



DEC Tracks and Trails Unit

Stuart Harrison, Acting Unit Coordinator

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

Where is our winter weather? The glorious sunny days we have been experiencing have been perfect for walking. And all this has followed on from what was a relatively mild summer. I hope you've been making the most of it!

Although we haven't had much rain yet, the wet and wild winter weather can create some problems for walkers along the Track. After a storm, the Track can be littered with fallen trees and branches, and possibly be eroded in places. Some sections of the Track can also become quite slippery. Please remember to take care when you are out walking this winter.

A New Name

On July 1st, the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) officially merged with the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). Over the coming months, you may notice our new name and logo appearing on and around the Track. However, despite the name changes, it is pretty much business as usual for the Tracks & Trails Unit.

Logbooks

At the campsites, walkers will come across the green Tracks & Trails Logbooks. We would like to thank everyone who has entered their details into these books. The information requested is very important to the Department in planning for our ongoing management of the Track. It also important for the up to date information it contains regarding who may be on the trail in the event of an emergency, such as a wildfire. By entering your details as you progress down the

Track, we can track you down if necessary. If you don't want to use your real name, feel free to use a nickname—just make sure your friends and family know your 'identity' prior to your walk.

A couple of interesting little statistics that we have interpreted from the logbooks include –

- 14% of walkers are from overseas or from interstate. It is great to see that our Track is being experienced by so many visitors to the state.
- The Track is equally popular for the 25–44 and the 45–64 age ranges, with each age range accounting for 36% of walkers, therefore totalling 72% of people using the Track.

The information we gain from the log books is vital in demonstrating the popularity of the Track and the many benefits it brings to the communities along the Track.

We have several dedicated volunteers who have been helping us with the task of entering that logbook data into a spreadsheet – many thanks to them! Given the large number of people who are walking the Track and filling out the logbooks, we have a backlog of data that needs to be entered. Anyone who may be interested in assisting please let us know!

Track Improvement Works

Those of you who have been out walking on the Track may have noticed some of the improvement works undertaken at various locations. Some of the works have included:

- Upgrade of the Mt Wells hut. The Mt Wells hut is based at the top of Mt Wells, which is 40km north-east of Dwellingup. The hut was originally the accommodation for the fire towermen, back in the 1960s. The original hut was destroyed in 1961 Dwellingup fires,

but was rebuilt in 1962 and renovated in 1997. The adjacent firetower is still maintained as a backup to our more modern aerial fire detection methods. Over the past few months, the asbestos walls and ceiling on the hut have been replaced, in combination with a general cleanup around the site.

- Peaceful Bay Boardwalk: Walkers to the section of trail east of the Peaceful Bay town site will no longer be getting their feet wet! A 150m section of low boardwalk has been constructed over a section of track that is frequently inundated. This boardwalk will help to conserve this fragile section of track and enhance the experience for walkers.
- Quarram Beach Steps. New steps have been constructed in the dunes to minimise the erosion in this fragile area.
- South Coast Pruning. A huge amount of pruning and erosion control work has been completed along the south coast west of Albany to open up the heavily overgrown sections of the Track.

These works have been funded through DEC's maintenance program and profits from the sale of the maps and guidebooks. Further improvements are currently being planned for this year.

On the subject of the weather, as I was preparing this report for the newsletter, we experienced quite a few very wet days, including every single day I managed to get away from my desk and out in the field. It's a good thing that I don't mind walking in the rain... ⚙️

Stuart Harrison
Acting Tracks and Trails Unit Coordinator



Track Maintenance by John Balde

Entry from our 2005 photo competition

BODDINGTON GOLD MINE Eyes on the Ground MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME



Running the BGM Eyes on the Ground Maintenance Programme is one of the core roles of the Foundation. At present we have nearly 300 volunteers who look after 123 of the 147* maintenance sections of the Bibbulmun Track.

As the coordinator I am privileged to work with this amazing group of committed volunteers who deserve all the praise walkers lavish upon them.

In May I spent ten days out of the office, attending Field Days in the Blackwood, Donnelly, Frankland (Walpole) and Albany Districts. Field Days serve many purposes including on-the-spot training and workshops on various topics such as weed management. They provide an opportunity for volunteers to meet each other, the DEC District Officer and me; and it's a great chance for everyone to ask questions, discuss any issues which might be arising and to share their experiences.

In the week between the Field Days, I spent time with John McKenzie from the Donnelly District looking at some sections of Track which tend to become very wet in the winter. We identified the location of a possible winter diversion around the wettest areas and discussed the use of tall poles to mark the Track more clearly in the absence of trees.

I took a look at the new bridge at Beedelup Falls - a great asset to the Track - and the new steps and boardwalk at Conspicuous Beach which were built to replace those burnt out some time ago. I also had a good look at the burnt out section between Mt Chance and Mandalay Beach. Although not



Albany maintenance volunteers 2006



Gwen weeds the brush at the Frankland boot cleaning station



New bridge at Beedelup Falls

especially pleasant walking when we were there, walkers will find this a fascinating area as the vegetation regrows.

A couple of days walking in Denmark with volunteers provided the opportunity to discuss a few problems in the area and we saw some of the work being undertaken by DEC to clear and widen overgrown sections.

The week concluded with a relaxing dinner with the Frankland volunteers. A very sincere thank you to District Coordinator Peter Burgess and his wife Kathy for their hospitality and to Jennifer Robinson and Bill Ginbey for their company and help.

Closer to home, my weekend walking is often dictated by reports from maintenance volunteers or from walkers. After hearing all about them, I have been very impressed with the new foot-bridges between Sullivan Rock and Mt Cooke and over the Canning River as well as the realignment immediately to the north of Mt Cooke Campsite. Although uphill, the new alignment is just delightful and should be a fantastic sight in the wildflower season.

A call from walkers who became geographically embarrassed, prompted another walk to check on a possible problem with signage which has since been rectified.

Preliminary figures show that nearly 5000 volunteer hours have been spent



Peter Burgess, Frankland Regional Co-ordinator (left) enjoys the Frankland Field Day with Bill Ginbey



Balingup Field Day 2006

on maintaining the Track over the past financial year. Every maintenance visit is followed up with a report to the Foundation outlining the condition of the section and facilities; tasks undertaken and maintenance issues to be passed onto DEC. Key points are compiled for the Tracks and Trails unit and all reports are passed on and filed at DEC.

As the name of the maintenance programme states, maintenance volunteers are our 'eyes on the ground' and their feedback, along with the feedback from other walkers, is extremely valuable when considering which improvements or major maintenance projects to undertake each year. In addition to the projects mentioned above other major works undertaken by DEC over the past year have included the removal of asbestos and refurbishment of the hut at Mt Wells and repair of Track erosion and damage caused by trail bikes in the Wellington area. Materials have been purchased for the construction of a bridge at Pemberton Swimming Pool and the design of a viewing platform and boardwalk at Mandalay Beach has been completed.

We thank all our volunteers for donating so much of their valuable time to us each year. And a special thanks to our Premier sponsor, Boddington Gold Mine, for their tremendous support of the programme.

Gwen Plunkett

Maintenance Volunteer Coordinator

*Some of the remaining sections are underwater for much of the year but others are waiting for enthusiastic volunteers who would be willing to offer their services. If this is you, please contact me as sections in Blackwood, Donnelly and Frankland Districts are available. 🌻



Chris Goodsell, DEC District Officer, using a rake hoe to make a water bar at the Frankland Field Day



Donnelly volunteer Diana Krakoeur demonstrating with the pruning shears



Canning Bridge just prior to completion



Dave Lathwell, DEC District Officer, at the Blackwood Field Day

Yes, THEY DID IT!

We congratulate 3
overseas, 6 interstate
and 41 WA walkers
in this edition.



While most walkers headed north to south, many more than usual started from Albany, which may have had something to do with the time of the year. Ages where shown relate to the age when the walk was completed.

We begin with our international and interstate visitors:

Second time end-to-end **Richard Bazley** (46) 'St Rick' of Bristol in the UK, reached Albany on 24 September 2005 after 45 days on the Track. He says it might seem crazy to do it twice but he has always really liked this trail. His happy experience the first time around gave him the strength to hike the Appalachian Trail in 2004. Richard makes an interesting comment on food in that he has what he calls 'the system'. This basically means he buys the same things every time in the supermarket, which means he doesn't have to think! Now that's food for thought.

Frank Meyer (46) from Ernstthal in Germany walked south to north with his friend **Ron Crane** (57) from Watsonia in Victoria. 47 days walking brought them to Kalamunda on 19 March 2006. They were impressed with the excellent facilities, well marked and maintained track and very helpful guidebooks.

Walking in the same direction, **Amit Geva** (23) of Ramat Hashoran, Israel, left Albany on 26 February and reached Kalamunda on 7 April 2006. He writes: 'What a memory. Too many snakes. Hardest walk I've ever done just because it was long. Blackwood hut felt like home with all the pines'.

Anna Broome (42) and **Adam Grittens** (44) 'The Grimey Limeys' from Glebe in New South Wales walked to Albany, which they reached in 65 days on 30 December 2005. Anna gives thanks for a fabulous holiday and a life changing experience. A highlight was her husband's fantastic camp cooking every night. She actually gained a little bit of weight! This may have been due to Adam's 'bush pizza' made with one-minute polenta rather than dough. Adam found it hard not to turn around and start again. It was a kind of 65-day meditation, boot camp and detox all rolled into one.

Going the opposite way **Karin Tracey** (26) of Yungaburra, Queensland arrived in Kalamunda on 24 March 2006 after a 60-day walk. It was a very worthwhile experience although she didn't meet many people and on 15 consecutive nights had the shelter to herself. She experienced every reaction and emotion possible but it was all worth it despite the pain, the blisters, the snakes, the ticks, the March flies, the isolation and loneliness, the dust, the heat, the wind and the drizzle!

Also heading north **Rohani Savage** (27) 'Limp' from Bendigo, Victoria walked with **Bruce Greenop** (31) of Greenmount. They took 49 days to reach Kalamunda on 6 June 2006. For Rohani it was a wonderfully rewarding experience he'll never forget. He finished feeling

"This was a benchmark experience for us both. It was hard, challenging, difficult, wonderful and life changing. We met some of the friendliest people in the world along the Track and at the campsites and townships. We experienced deeply the unique South West environment and reconnected with the Australian bush we love so much -

Pamela and John Paton

rejuvenated, at peace and full of energy. Bruce felt much the same way and says it was a great way to learn more about the south-west of WA.

We end this section celebrating the achievement of Eddie Cheetham from Reid in ACT who as a member of the Canberra Bushwalking Club completed his walk in Albany on 25 November 2005 at the age of 68. Sadly, Eddie passed away on 12 March this year.

And so to our WA walkers:

Ryan (26) and **Liz Brogden** (21) of Wilson did not head for Tahiti for their honeymoon. Instead, they walked the Track, reaching Albany on 26 January 2006, 44 days after setting out. Ryan was amazed just how close they continued to find themselves to civilisation. In an area where rivers have no water, the shelters and water tanks

were especially appreciated. He says he will never leave home without Wilson, his trusty walking stick. He felt they rushed things - with 45 kms on one day followed by 38.6 kms on the next - and missed out on breaks in the beautiful towns down south. Liz's reactions ranged from extreme fatigue to elation. As to cooking, she says sun dried tomatoes make anything taste good and the oil can be used as cooking oil. Then add banana chips!

After 59 days on the Track **Michael Chung** (59) of Maylands reached Albany on 9 March this year. The highlight was meeting Jozui and Richard at Mutton Bird Beach. As he was labouring with a badly designed pack, they gave it a 'lift' to Albany!

Des Cook (45) of Ballajura walked the Track in sections between January 2001 and February 2006 sometimes with his children but mainly with his good friend **Dirk Botje**. Dirk is a geologist and knows rocks but very little about reading track notes or guidebooks. Des has now forgiven him for the extra 2 kms walked in drenching rain and mud when Dirk misread the map! He made a big mistake early on by taking too much food. Des is pleased his kids walked some sections with him as they grew to appreciate there are joys in life even when power points and fast food outlets aren't available.

'Spiderman' aka **Daniel Brassington** (21) from Como walked from Albany. His walk took 48 days and ended on 18 February 2006. Much as he loved the Track with its sights, smells, night skies

and animals he cannot deny his dislike for spiders and recommends having a small stick or branch for clearing spider webs! He also comments that by the end going uphill was more comfortable than going downhill.

David Breen (49) 'Hat-trick' from Shenton Park also headed north to reach Kalamunda on 21 May this year. It was a trip conceived to 'celebrate' the occasion of his 50th birthday but became a 51-day selfish and indulgent journey of a lifetime. He says of the Track that while lacking the altitude of many overseas walks it surpasses them with the diversity of flora and fauna.

'Great walk. It is easy and enjoyable, just put one foot in front of the other till you get there' writes **Bjarne Fallesen** (54) of Dianella. Applying this principle, it took him 63 days to reach Albany on

6 June 1999 but 7 years to tell us about it.

Bruce Fowler of Bunbury walked the Track in sections with **Cheryl Hirniak** (54) of Sorrento between April 2002 and May 2006. Cheryl highlights: experiencing an all night thunderstorm at Monadnocks, resting atop Boonering Hill and watching dolphins surfing. Chocolate formed an essential part of her diet!

Another pair to walk together were **Jim Willshire** (55) of Kallaroo and **Wladyslaw Kaczmarek** (59) of Woodvale. Kaz and Jim walked in sections between October 2002 and February 2006. Kaz felt a great sense of achievement in completing the walk because between times he suffered a heart attack requiring major surgery. Jim had a great time walking with his mate who never gave up. It was a highlight just to see Kaz achieve his goal after the major setbacks he had experienced.

Elaine (64) and **Garry Keymer** (65) from Goode Beach chose to start at Kalamunda. They arrived home 58 days later on 22 May 2006. Elaine did the walk 'primarily as a retirement gift' to her husband of 44 years. They now agree it was the best thing they have ever done. She says some of the sections were personally challenging but there was no going back and it was good to overcome the fears she felt in doing such things as completing a canoeing leg and crossing a suspension bridge. They both recommend taking the occasional rest day. Garry loved every moment; even the tough sections such as Donnelly River to Pemberton and Peaceful Bay to Denmark.

Pamela (58) and **John Paton** (60) of Parkwood also elected to walk the Track to mark the end of their professional and paid working lives and the start of playtime! Walking north to south they arrived in Albany on 24 May this year. As planned, they took 62 days, which included staying in delightful country towns.

Paul Kovalevs (66) of Subiaco walked the Track in sections between May 2003 and December 2005. 'Where else', he writes, 'can one walk over 100 kilometres in a pristine environment without encountering another soul?' He isn't sure whether his best meal was a taste of marron on hot home made bread from Watermark Kilns or muesli in rainwater garnished with mosquito larvae!

Shannon Maisey (21) 'The Imperial Seafood Domination' of Claremont set out on 20 March to reach Albany on 17 May this year. It seems that Shannon missed his family more than he

expected and a few times had to force himself to keep going but of course he did win through. Ultimately he concluded the Track was 'sneakily designed to make you fall deeply in love with Western Australia'.

Walking the Track in sections between October 2003 and March 2006 **Lari McDonald** (51) of Success says it was an amazing experience that only an end-to-end can appreciate. It was a journey that comprised a love of forests, friendships and discovery. He will be able to compare the Track with the Kokoda Trail after he walks the latter in July.

As part of the 2004 Telethon Bibbulmun Track Challenge, heading out from Albany, **Kevin Martin** (57) of Gelorup completed - in 21 days - his second end-to-end, in November of that year. He highlights the day when 57 kilometres were covered between Long Point and Dog Pool, an overnigher at Jalbrook Cottages, morning light at Monadnocks, a golden sunset at Beraking and companionship with the group. He plans to go back and walk the Track in sections at a casual pace to enjoy it as it was intended.

Ray Martin (69) of Walliston walked the Track in sections between June 2002 and January 2005. Every day was a highlight and he has now started the second time around.

Those who have stayed over in Denmark may have met **Graham Mason** at the Blue Wren. Graham (52) started out on 27 October 2001 and reached Albany on 23 December that year. He loved the experience including 3 great days at the Bridgetown Blues Festival!

Sue Miles (55) of Hazelmere, who may have walked the Track with others, did so in sections between July 2002 and March 2006. It was a wonderful experience for Sue who was surprised at the peacefulness and serenity it brought to her life.

Back in 2002, the Windmill Walkers finished their end-to-end. Unfortunately one of the team, **Jill Parnell**, was able to complete sections 13 and 14 only on 7 May this year. Well done, Jill.

Andy (36) and **Kelly** (34) **Peacock** 'Tin Legs & Twinkle Toes' from Carine headed north on 2 April to reach Kalamunda on 22 May 2006. They say they have never felt so fit - or distressed - in their lives and it's a wonderful feeling to have completed the walk. They really enjoyed the variation from coast, to forest, to granite outcrops, to hills.

Murray Robbins (41) 'Carp' of Mosman Park walked south to north and took 30 days to arrive in Kalamunda on 14 April 2002. A friend met him with a food supply every 7 days. Having since walked the Appalachian Trail he now appreciates how it was used as a model for the Bibbulmun Track. His 27-year-old pack proved to be a bit of a disaster but his mosquito net was superb.

And so to **Eddie Shackleton** (74 years young) of Albany who was on his second end-to-end. This time he changed direction and walked from the south, which in general he found easier. He took 6 weeks and arrived in Kalamunda on 6 April 2006. The Track was harder than the ridge

walk in the Stirling Range.

Peter Tate (57) 'Boomer' of Stoneville walked in sections between August 1999 and September 2005. It was a wonderful experience but he still feels a bit of a stranger out on the Track. Peter is keen to learn more about its flora, fauna and geography. In this regard, he feels the occasional interpretive sign would be of significant help.

Completing what appears to be his third end-to-end **Frank Trybulec** (43) of Rockingham reached Albany on 18 May 2006 after a 46-day walk. One of the highlights for Frank was - as for many of us - hearing the sound of the ocean at Lake Maringup.

Not to be outdone **Jim Freeman** (69) 'The Mad Axeman' of Mandurah has now completed another end-to-end walk - his ninth!! He commenced this end-to-end in July 2002 and completed it in April 2006, fitting this one in around his seventh and eighth!! Jim, whose equipment is always A1, has now allowed himself the luxury of a set of new walking poles.

April 2006 marks the time when **Sallie Watson** of Tapping completed the walk she began in October 2003.

In similar fashion **Linda** (50) and **Paul Wilkins** (51) of Hamilton Hill finished in March this year a walk they commenced in July 2002. Linda and maybe Paul now plan to walk end-to-end between September and October 2007.

Kim Townsend of Swanview was 47 when he walked north to south over a 48-day period to



reach Albany on 21 October 2002. It appears that he too has now completed more than one end-to-end walk. He has sent us an interesting note that includes the following encounters with wildlife: - Quendas wandering into several of the campsites; male emus escorting large broods of chicks; a couple of splendid young blue wrens devouring termites at his feet after he had broken up firewood at Helena campsite; a lizard grabbing March flies off his shoes and a mother possum with baby on her back visiting Monadnocks campsite at night.

Eric and Meryl Rous (both 56) of York walked from north to south in sections between April 2001 and June this year. Meryl writes that each section was exciting even when she was hurting. Paddling over the Irwin Inlet and wading across the Torbay Inlet up to her waist were among several recorded highlights. They feel a great sense of achievement especially as their 4 children are ever so impressed with them! Eric was amazed how many times they had the shelters to themselves.

Another couple to walk - north to south mostly - in sections was **Colleen** (60) and **Richard** (66) **Clayden** from Karryinup. Their adventure began in April 2002 and ended in June this year. The highlights of their walk included seeing an owl in broad daylight.

We end with **Debra** (45) and **Peter** (52) **Holst** of Hillarys who walked from south to north in sections between April 2004 and May 2006. They set off on five different occasions and enjoyed every single day. In contrast to walking in Tanzania and Nepal there was no need for guides and they always felt safe. The highlight was meeting lots of wonderful people - some more than once - and sharing/listening to their life experiences and trekking advice.

We will conclude with a brief summary of some of the more pertinent and oft repeated bits of advice gleaned from the reports received from our walkers:

- Walk with a friend and take your time
- Buy the best and lightest gear - especially

- boots and pack - you can afford
- Comfortable shoes are essential
- Ensure your pack is well designed and properly fitted and balanced
- Plan well
- Ensure new boots are well walked in
- Don't push yourself too hard - listen to your body
- Wear comfortable clothing
- Don't arrive late at campsites
- Keep double section days to a minimum.
- Deal immediately with blisters
- Don't carry too much weight
- Become a member of and support the Foundation

Congratulations to all our end-to-enders on your remarkable achievement.

Compiled by Don Briers, Foundation volunteer and end-to-end. 🌸

End-to-End Walk for Charity

Stuart and Mary Gray will start from Kalamunda on July 29th 2006 to walk to Albany in an effort to raise funds for the Lymphoedema Association of WA.

Lymphoedema is a distressing, debilitating and often uncomfortable swelling of the limbs and body. The condition occurs in approximately 30% of people who undergo surgery for cancer, and can also be a congenital problem.

The Lymphoedema Association relies entirely on membership subscriptions and donations. If you would like to support Stuart and Mary please send your donation to the LAWA Treasurer, Kay Dawson, 329 Onslow Rd., Shenton Park, 6008.

For further information and a progress report ring Kay on 9381 8197.

FINAL LOG ENTRY

BIBBULMUN TRACK END-END TRIP

My end-to-end trip was conceived as an extended holiday to 'celebrate' the occasion of my 50th birthday. Hence the name HAT-TRICK (my Half A Ton - Trick). It became a 51 day selfish and indulgent journey of a lifetime.

I enjoyed the friendship of fellow walkers, the hospitality of townsfolk along the way and the stunning beauty of the forests and coastline.

Special thanks to all the VOULUNTEERS for their tireless work their attitude serves as a good example for us all - they are the true CHAMPIONS OF THE TRACK.

I will continue to return to this wonderland as even when taken in small doses the Bibbulmun Track instils strength to body and soul.

I leave my end-to-end trek with sweet memories and hundreds of wonderful photographs to savour.

HAT-TRICK

aka David Breen E2E S-N 25/5/06

Ed: A sincere thank you to David for his very generous donation, which, together with that from Pamela and John Paton, will go towards the installation of vehicle exclusion gates.

Getting into Gear -

KEEPING WARM ON THE BIBBULMUN TRACK

I've just returned from a glorious three-day walk on the Bibbulmun Track with two of my children; Callan (15) and Tahlia (12). We were accompanied by our good friend Mark Hudson and his 11 year-old son Carter. Mark and his partner Dale run the Pemberton Camp School for the Education Department. Nearly every person that we mentioned it to when we got back to Perth exclaimed, "Wasn't it cold?" or, "My God, but it's winter, weren't you freezing?"

I have to confess we jaggged it! Three days of perfect walking weather with sunshine the whole time; some days were actually a little warm. And no rain - until the drive back, anyway. Winter in Western Australia is a fantastic time to walk on the Bibbulmun Track. The forests drip, the streams are flowing, the wild life is moving, the water tanks are full and the shelters are, as always, a very welcome sight. I know from reading the registers at the shelters that not everyone has the same experience. There was lots of talk about rain and cold and arduous walking, as though it was all rather unexpected. Those red books provide a great insight into the minds and the thinking (sometimes the lack thereof!) of the walking public, and I always make a point of reading through them when I get into camp.

So how did we keep so warm at night, when the skies were clear and there was no cloud cover to keep the warmth down at ground level? We had good gear of course! We started with good self-inflating sleeping mats. I used a three-quarter length Thermarest because I drew the short straw, whereas the others all used full length ones. Most people like the new 3.8cm thick mats, but weight and I are arch enemies, so if I have to carry it myself (i.e. no Sherpas!), it's the lighter the better, hence 2.5cm thick and three-quarter length. Thermarests are more than just for comfort though, they also insulate you from the ground so the cold earth doesn't suck the warm air out of your sleeping bag.

Next, sleeping bags; I always use a down bag. I like the size they pack down to, I like the weight to warmth ratio and I like the fact that they last for decades. I also like the feature of being able to move the fill around the bag from bottom to top to make the bag warmer, or top to bottom to cool it down. Remember, all bags work by your body heat actually heating the air trapped by the fill, regardless of whether it's a down bag or a synthetic one. It's the trapped air that's the insulator, not the fill. Always get a good quality down that uses "loft" as a measurement of the quality. Down suppliers measure the quality of down by putting one ounce of it into a clear Perspex cylinder, with



Sleeping - Mount Chance

standard humidity and temperature conditions, and measuring how much the down "lofts" and fills the space - measured in cubic inches. The good quality downs will start lofting and filling around 550 cubic inches, so a bag of this quality will be labelled "550 loft", better quality downs might fill 650 cubic inches, and be labelled "650 loft". Some of the best downs in the world loft to 800 cubic inches. The good downs can get very expensive though, with "800 loft" bags often selling for around \$1,000!

Why buy better quality down? Because the better the down the less of it you actually need to get the same performance. So a bag with say 600 grams of "550 loft" might be rated as comfortable down to minus 5 degrees Celsius, a bag with 600 grams of "650 loft" will go down as low as minus 15 degrees, a bag with 600 grams of "800 loft" might go below minus 20! So follow the old outdoor gear maxim, "pay more and get less - weight!"

Then you have to look at the construction of the bag. Is it baffled? That is, does it have walls between the inner and outer fabrics to keep the

down in place and stop it moving up and down the bag? If it's just stitched through, inner to outer, to create the compartments you'll get a heat loss through the stitching. Does it have a hood? Remember you lose 30% of your body heat through your head. Are the zips constructed so you can vent hot air out of the bag if you get too hot, can you use it as a doona in warmer climates? The bag should be flexible enough to use in a variety of situations, but unfortunately you're never going to find that elusive bag that we all want, which works from plus 10 to minus 40, packs up to the size of a loaf and only costs a dollar!

Remember to do some research before you buy a bag and be realistic about the conditions in which you expect to use it. 🌸

Mike Wood
Mountain Designs WA



TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE - AND RAISE FUNDS FOR THE TRACK



If you are looking for adventure, there are only 3 places left for the 2006 Mountain Designs Bibbulmun Team Challenge!!

Teams walk 60kms over four days along the Track to experience physical and mental challenges, gain leadership and team building skills and have a whole lot of fun.

Entry is \$2,300 for a team of four.



To find out more, contact Steve on 9481 0551, email events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au or visit www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Office Gossip

Gossip Gossip Gossip
Gossip Gossip Gossip
Gossip Gossip Gossip

A very big thank you to Lotterywest who granted the Foundation \$15,000 towards the much needed upgrade of our computer network through their Information Technology grants programme.

The past few months have been quite exciting as we watched the new computers being installed, followed by the completion of the new website. After starting with two work stations in 1997 with only one of them linked to email, it is hard to believe that we now have seven, all linked to the Internet and email, and that most days they are all in use. There was very little disruption throughout the week or so it took for the installation to be completed, and we were able to continue working with our usual efficiency and good humour.

A very warm welcome to:

Elsie Grygiel, whose story in the last edition of Bibbulmun News touched many hearts. Elsie is a valuable addition to our Trip Planning Advice team - good timing really as we have Jim Baker in the UK for a couple of months and Jim Freeman (The Mad Axeman) out on the Track.

Peter Whittle, who has swapped the cockpit of a 747 for the more humble surroundings of the Foundation office.

We have missed the cheery company of Ian Bell over the last few months. Unfortunately ill-health has prevented Ian from coming in, and we are very pleased to know that he is recovering.

Our postcard collection has grown considerably over the past few weeks with nearly everyone taking leave at some time. My grateful thanks to our wonderful volunteers who helped me to keep things running smoothly during the time everyone was away and to the visitors who kept us supplied with Tim Tams!

Please pop in to say hello if you are in the city— we would love to see you

Gwen Plunkett
Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator

PS. For those who have been asking, Jim and Mavis Freeman are going well. Jim is doing end-to-end #10 and Mavis #4

New trail opens in Balingup

On 2 April 2006 a new trail was opened between Balingup and the Golden Valley Tree Park. This is a very welcome development in the area for locals and Bibbulmun Track walkers alike as walkers can now weave their way under shady trees rather than walk against oncoming traffic!

The trail was funded through the Lotterywest Trails Funding programme administered by the Department of Sport and Recreation.



The first 10 people to book will go into a draw for TWO GRASSED AREA TICKETS WITH WINE for the JALBROOK BALINUP CONCERT in NOVEMBER.
9764 1616
www.jalbrook.com.au

Winter Walking Break

\$650 for two people in Ibis or Rosella (Normally \$790)

\$740 for four people in Blue Wren or Red Robin (normally \$950)

Stay FOUR nights in superbly appointed rammed earth cottages, and enjoy the following.

1. Soup and crusty bread with cheese and local wine on your night of choice.
2. Breakfast basket for the first morning with crusty home made breads, marmalade, and fresh eggs.
3. Complimentary track drops
4. Paper delivered daily.
5. \$15.00 discount voucher for two people at Balingup Bronze Gallery Tea and Coffee House where organic and gluten free lunches are served.

Jalbrook Cottages overlook the Bibbulmun Track with a crossing over Balingup Brook to link you directly to the track. Your choice of Red Robin or Blue Wren our two bedroom cottages are perfect for small groups and families and have spacious balconies with gas bbq, crackling log fires and delightful water views to watch the water birds playing.

Ibis and Rosella are for "couples only" with king size beds with fabulous valley views and a steaming hot tub spa set in its own pavillion high amongst the tree tops to relax and rejuvenate after your walk.

The hardest thing you will have to do is leave!



Enjoy the Medieval Carnivale in August

The Balingup Small Farm Field Day is held in April

TRACK TOWN BALINGUP

THE ARBORETUM TOWN OF WA

The historic village of Balingup is situated at the northern entrance of the Blackwood River Valley – and is surrounded by winding rivers, rolling hills, lush vineyards, abundant orchards and majestic forests. It is said that the name 'Balingup' is derived from the aboriginal word 'balinga', meaning to climb (particularly relevant given that the town is located in the middle of three valleys).

Balingup is a great entry point for the Bibbulmun Track which passes through the town. The Track trails along the gentle Balingup Brook and meanders to the south through the beautiful Golden Valley Tree Park, a unique collection of beautiful and interesting trees from around the world. Follow it through beautiful forests and rolling farmland to reach the Blackwood campsite. Admire the stunning view, then follow the Track further south along the banks of the Blackwood River.

Balingup is fast becoming famous for its creative soul, master craftsmen and women, boutique wineries, and local produce – so make sure you leave a bit of time to explore these. Visitors to Balingup can also enjoy a different shopping experience, with a great diversity of unique specialty shops, perfect for browsing. The 'strip' offers all sorts of foods, clothing, jewellery, cosmetics and herbal preparations, artworks, gifts and bits and pieces all with that touch of magic about them.

Fairs and festivals are part of the community culture. Just look for that event with a bit of difference and you can be sure it will be in Balingup!! Major events include the Small Farm Field Day in April, the Medieval Carnivale in August and the Jalbrook Classic Concert in November, but, to be honest, there is always something happening in Balingup!!

A leisurely three hour drive from Perth. Balingup offers some of the finest accommodation in WA – and is fast becoming renowned as an alternative destination from which to explore both the wine and coastal regions of the South West and Southern Forests. To spend time in Balingup is to enjoy the experience of the ever changing seasons. The winter valley mists, spring blossoms, glowing sunsets and the russet red tinting of the autumn leaves are all part of the magical Balingup experience.

Balingup awaits you. The hardest thing you have to do is leave.

Balingup Visitors Information Centre 'The Gallery' is located on the corner of Jayes Rd & South West Highway. The centre is open daily and the staff will be happy to offer you assistance on your visit to beautiful Balingup. Phone: (08) 9764 1818 or visit www.balinguptourism.com.au

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

A Magical Hide Away

CHESTNUT BROOK COTTAGE



Prepare to be absolutely enchanted when you stay at Chestnut Brook Cottage. Our 10 acre property is situated right on the Bibbulmun Track so is the perfect base for walking in the Balingup area. We will drop you off at your preferred starting point and you can then walk back to indulge yourselves in the superbly appointed 4 star rated cottage.

The fully self contained 2 bedroom cottage accommodates up to 6 people, so is ideal for small groups of friends wishing to share costs, as well as for couples or families.

Sit in front of a cosy wood fire on cold evenings after soaking those tired muscles in a hot bath. In the warmer months sit out on the front balcony with a glass of wine and the birds for company, and enjoy the stunning views over Balingup and the surrounding hills, before having a BBQ on the large rear deck. A short walk from town, yet hidden away in a peaceful world of your own with privacy and seclusion.

Check out our web site or phone us for more details.

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Walker Story -

THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF A "NEWBIE" TRACK MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEER

BY PETER EVANS

I visited the Bibbulmun Track Foundation Office to discuss becoming a Track Maintenance Volunteer. Gwen Plunkett advised me which sections of the Track were available, and I nominated one.

"Okay," she said. "This is now your section of the Track."

"My section," I thought. "Hey, that's pretty cool."

Fine, but this was a two-way deal - I had the incentive to get back to bush walking, and The Foundation and the users of the Track would benefit from my input.

I have dreamed of "Doing the Track" ever since I was posted to Perth. Unfortunately, because of injuries sustained in the work place, I have been limited in what I can do physically. My ambitions have often outstripped my capabilities.

To remedy this, I could think of no better way than to volunteer my services, which would force me to do something about "Going Bush".

It was shortly before Easter before I could get out on to the Track. Gwen informed me that the section between Wetherley Road and the Brockman Highway had not been attended to for some time. I could afford two days. I threw some things together, trying to limit the weight in my pack. Over 30kg! But it was only a four-kilometre walk...

I made a quick phone call to DEC Officer Dave Lathwell to inform him that I was going out, and asked if he wanted me to do anything specific while I was "On the Other Side of the Wire".

Dave suggested that I report on the presence of the "The Bucket Bush". This, according to him, grew on each side of the Track, and then joined together. It makes a barrier for hikers, and dumps water on anything that passes. I assured Dave I would watch out for this predator, (not sure whether he was having me on), and headed south, from Joondalup.

I arrived at Karri Gully later than expected. I was weary from the drive, but the smell of the bush had me eager to get moving.

Getting my pack on wasn't easy (it has been a few years). After about 200 metres I thought, "Bugger me, this pack is heavy. I'm only here for two days. However do people manage on an end-to-end?"

Then I had my first contact with the dreaded hiker predator, the "Bucket Bush". Let me tell those of you who haven't experienced this dreaded creature, it is a major pain.

Not only does it grow profusely, but also has a tendency to grab you on your way past. Forgive me, Dave, you were accurate in your description.

When disturbed, it lets go buckets of water gathered during the rain, and soaks unwary hikers. It had rained earlier, and I got absolutely drenched. I elected to take my revenge, and pruned this evil plant away from the Track.

I walked on and noted the worst places for regrowth across the Track, including a few fallen trees. I was enjoying being in the bush again. I trudged into the campsite about one thirty in the afternoon, and was impressed with the quality of the construction and the layout. I took off my pack and had that incredible "I'm going to fly away" feeling.

The campsite area needed a lot of work, as did the Track to the south. I decided to clear the worst parts of the southern section. After two hours, I figured that I had covered about 500 metres. Enough was enough; I got back to camp about four o'clock.

I had a quick look at a hundred metres of the Track north of the campsite,

which looked worse than the southern part. It was seriously overgrown. Enough. I returned to the camp, made notes for my report and cooked a meal, which I savoured with an excellent bottle of Victorian red. After cleaning up, I sat back and enjoyed the rest of the wine, the solace, and the bush.

"Ahhh, the serenity!"

I realized how important the job of the Track Maintenance Volunteer is, to both DEC and the Foundation. With that in mind, and a plan for the next day, I settled down to sleep.

I woke and lay back in my sleeping bag for an hour, enjoying the sounds of the bush awakening around me. Then, after a couple of mugs of coffee, a hearty breakfast and a chat with a few friendly robins, I started a major clean up of the campsite area.

I cleared the ground around the hut, cleaned the gutters, removed the regrowth on the tracks leading to the tent-site and the toilet, and cleaned the toilet.

I finished by early afternoon and I was making notes in the campsite register when my first human visitor arrived. He was doing a solo end-to-end—sorry, mate, I've forgotten your name, but I have no doubts that you made it!

Two couples, who have lived in Nannup for the past fourteen years, turned up on their first visit to the Track. They were suitably impressed and swore to return, with their families. They departed a short time later, and so did I. My pack felt a lot lighter.

As I left the campsite, I turned and looked back at the hut. I felt sadness in leaving a place I had really enjoyed. But I'll soon be back!

I trekked back to Karri Gully, and noted any obstacles to hikers along the way. The trip home was long, but safe, and I thought a lot about how much I had enjoyed the previous two days. Although I might have not been refreshed physically, the time that I spent working on the Track had been unbelievably good for the soul.

I felt a new appreciation of the work being done by the Bibbulmun Track Foundation.

I would suggest that anyone who is contemplating becoming a member of the Track Maintenance Volunteers should do so without hesitation. You won't regret it! 🌿



RALLY AUSTRALIA

From the 26th to 29th October, 2006, and during the two preceding weeks, Rally Australia may have an impact on users of the Bibbulmun Track. Some sections of the Track will be affected by testing, reconnaissance and the event itself. Walkers are urged to use caution during this time and to follow instructions/directions given by Rally marshals.

A trial event will be held on Saturday 7th October. The Track will be affected between Hills Forest Discovery Centre and Ball Creek Campsite. Cars are due between 12:15pm - 4:20pm.

During the two weeks prior to the event (9th Oct to 22nd Oct), several areas may be affected by testing for the rally. At points where the trail intersects with these testing stages the intersections will be manned by marshals, with the Track being temporarily closed during the actual testing.

For further information, please contact the Tracks and Trails Unit on 9334 0265 or visit our website: see Track Info/Track Conditions.

HANG UP YOUR BOOTS AT SURFSIDE!

Staying Surfside is the perfect compliment to a walk on the Track. Relax in one of our spa chalets after a days hike, or put your feet up on 'The Lookout's' balcony, which has the best views of Ocean Beach. We are only 3 mins drive from one of the most scenic sections of the Bibbulmun Track. Self-contained chalets from \$95/night.



Phn / Fax : 9848 2248 www.surfsideoceanbeach.com.au

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End-to-End Fundraiser for the Track and the Cancer Foundation

Bibbulmun Track members and maintenance volunteers, Kristen Davies and Terry O'Donnell are now well on their way to completing their end-to-end trek which they started on Tuesday 25 July. They plan to complete their fundraising walk in 40 days, with the proceeds being divided between the Cancer Foundation of WA and the Bibbulmun Track Foundation.

The pair are not new to walking the Track. Kristen has walked most of it in sections over the last four years and Terry has been walking the Track since 1999 completing one sectional end-to-end and another in 30 days. In 2004 they both participated in the Telethon Bibbulmun Track Challenge where they walked end-to-end in 21 days to raise money for Telethon.

They chose charities close to their hearts to benefit from their walk. Their families have been touched by cancer, but they also felt they wanted to give something back to the Track - "Terry and I have both travelled to New Zealand and other places and done walks and they are not free like the Bibbulmun Track and we thought by fundraising we could show our appreciation for having this beautiful Track on our doorstep" said Kristen.

If you would like to sponsor Kristen and Terry, we have sponsorship forms in the office and can take cash, cheque or credit card donations. Please make cheques payable to 'The National Trust'. Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible. Please provide your full postal address when making donations by post or by phone to enable us to post out a tax receipt or visit their website <http://bibbulmuntrackfundraisingwalk.bravehost.com>

A big thank you to the many businesses who have helped Kristen and Terry along the way...

Dwellingup Bunkhouses

Collie Premier Hotel

Jalbrook Cottages

Donnelly River Holiday Village

Blue Wren Travellers Rest Denmark.

The Pemberton camp school.

Just some thoughts on planning a walk on the TRACK

By Jim Freeman

When out in the bush doing day walks for the friends

A lot of people ask me about my many end-to-ends

After telling them of some of my many trips way out there

I start thinking how it would be great to breathe the bush air

The bug starts to bite me and I can't resist the push

To gather all my gear together, for one more sojourn in the bush

While trying to get organised for my next Bibbulmun caper

Gwen rings me up to tell me to put my thoughts on paper

Then I start to think about all that has to be done

Like months and months of training, it really isn't fun

Then I start to think about all the great sights that I've seen

This tends to get me going, and once more I am very keen

The thing that really worries me is leaving Mavis all alone

But when I asked her to accompany me, she said that she would come

This meant some detailed planning about what and how much food to take

Also planning the itinerary so we could take much longer breaks

Lining up some posh accommodation when we stop in some small town

Not using the park bench somewhere, this may cause a frown

To get someone in to feed the chooks, and also the cat

And get rid of all the junk mail and other things like that

The final day approaches and at last we fill the pack

Hoping we have all we need for eight weeks on the track

At last we are upon the bus and we being to wonder

Will we find the starting point when we reach Kalamunda

And then we start to panic, have we everything we need

Or are we taking too much stuff to slow down our speed

We leave all our cares behind and not with a little dread

Prepare for the great adventure that awaits us up ahead

Ed- Jim wrote this for us as he took off on his 10th End-to-End walk on the Track. He and Mavis are due to arrive in Albany on 5th September.

In the Community

ENJOY A DAY AT THE ROYAL SHOW – FOR FREE!!

There is a catch though! – We have once again been invited to be included in the CALM Landcare Pavilion at the Perth Royal Show from Saturday 30 September to Saturday 7 October. This is a fantastic opportunity to promote the Track.

As always we will need some help in manning the display. This involves giving a couple of hours of your time to talk to people about the Track and your experiences.

If you are interested call Jean on 9321 0649 or email: marketing@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

CALM also needs volunteers to help put the whole exhibit together. This involves many different tasks, from painting murals (if you're artistically inclined!), carpentry, painting, landscaping, putting up hessian and the list goes on.

Help is required from 30 August right up to the opening on 30 September. If you can spare some time and would like to get involved email Monica Durcan on mdurcan@iinet.net.au

TREK THE TRAIL, MUNDARING – SATURDAY 19 & SUNDAY 20 AUGUST – CAN YOU HELP?

Join us, and thousands of others, at this free community event in the hills.

Have breakfast and be entertained at Sculpture Park, Mundaring before walking or cycling as much or as little of the 9 kilometre scenic Railway Reserve Heritage Trail between Mundaring and Darlington. Free shuttle buses will be available along the trail to return you to Mundaring or to the community celebration at the finish in Darlington.

Times: 8.30am breakfast Sculpture Park

9.00 – 9.30 cyclists leave

10.00am walkers leave

10am – 4pm Darlington Community Celebration, Darlington Oval

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation will be running a display stand at the Darlington Oval and also free guided walks on the Bibbulmun Track on the Saturday. If you can help with the walks, or on the stand, please call Jean on 9321 0649.

For more information about the event in general to www.mundaringtourism.com.au or 9295 0202.

BE ACTIVE EXPO - MAY

Our diamond sponsor Mountain Designs invited the Foundation to take part in the 'Be Active' expo in Forest Place in the City. Basil Zempris hosted stage performances by local businesses throughout the day which gave us the opportunity to demo some of the activities from the Team Challenge. Thanks to all those who helped out...

Peter Whittle
Edith Thomas
Hans Hoette
Tony Jennings
Jim Freeman
Wolfgang Schlieben
Rusty Slaughter
along with Linda, Mylene, Jean and Steve from the office while Gwen held the fort!

EVERYWOMAN EXPO - JUNE

The Everywoman Expo, held from Friday 16 to Sunday 18 June at the Perth Convention Centre was a great success and we are grateful to our new silver sponsor, Ranger Camping & Outdoors for inviting us to feature on their stand. It was a great opportunity to highlight our 'women only' walks and Bibbulmun Walking Breaks. We also encouraged memberships with a prize supplied by Ranger Camping.

Thank you to all those who willingly gave up their time to help on the stand...

Martin & Christine Johnson
Barbara White
Sandy Nielson
Elsie Grygiel
Freda Bajrovic
Rosalind Miles
Fiona Noble
Julie Renwick



Everywoman Expo 2006

NOTICE BOARD

Walking companion wanted

Self-sufficient 30-year old woman seeks young female company on Track for 2 to 7 day walks over long weekends and school holidays. Interested?

Contact: Khalin
Phone: 9446 8190

Hiking boots for sale

1 pair women's ASOLO Axis ML shoes, Vibram sole, colour grey; UK 6-1/2, US 8, EU 40 Shoes are brand new: they have never been worn as size is not correct. Cost \$169.00, sell \$85.00 ono.

Contact: Joy
Phone: 9291 6795
Email: jamvray@bigpond.com

Walking companion wanted

Walking partner wanted to walk Track 1 – 2 days per week. Preferably day walks of approximately 12kms in the Northern Section. Possibly some overnights at the campsites.

Contact: Graeme
Phone: 0402 117 580

Backpack wanted to buy

Used Bibbulmun 75 by Mountain Designs.

Contact: Stephen
Phone: 0429 189 749
Email: StephenLansdown@hotmail.com

Backpack for sale

Osprey Crescent 90. Ideal for end-to-enders. In immaculate condition. \$250

Contact: Pieter
Phone: 9216 4420 or 9384 3392
Email: pnienaber@chevron.com

Pure silk 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 & quickly dry. 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
Phone: 0423175382
Email: cocochine@westnet.com.au

Hiking boots for sale

Columbia (Trail Grinder). Light-weight, very sturdy and hardwearing. Size: women's UK 6, USA 8, EU 39 (CM 24.5). Colour: Camel/Olive. Material: a combination of mainly leather, and some rubber and water-resistant synthetic. These shoes are brand-new and have never been worn outside!! Cost \$250, sell \$125 ONO.

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

Walking companions wanted

Fellow hikers, young or old, to join enthusiastic lady hiker based in Perth on easy to moderate walks overnighting at any Bibbulmun Track campsite in the northern section.

Contact: Rosalind
Phone: 9271 9248 after hours

Women's hiking boots for sale

Vgc, hardly worn, womens size 8 (41), Scarpa Lady Trek, lightweight leather, resoleable, \$290 new, sell \$100 or nearest offer.

Contact: Sabena
Phone: 9337 5025
Email: sabena_lund@yahoo.com.au

Tent for sale

MSR Microzoid Ultralight 1 person tent. Exc condition, 1.3 kg \$270.

Contact: 9339 5101

Wanted - Disused mobile phones

Being refurbished and sent to third world countries. Process to aid Cerebral Palsy Association. Will collect.

Contact: Hans
Phone: 0419906310

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 or email us to arrange your advert. Cost is \$5 per 3 months. All items will be deleted after 3 months if not renewed.

Phone: 9481 0551
Email: friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au



The 7 principles

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimise campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of visitors

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

Book online at www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au Email: events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au for a booking form or fax/post the booking form from the events calendar.

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.

Ladies only events

DWELLINGUP DAMSELS

Two days of bush rejuvenation for ladies with little or no previous overnight trekking experience. Join our experienced guides walking 17km over 2 days in the Dwellingup area and make friends with like minded women.

Planning night: Friday 18th August, 6.30pm.

Date: Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th August.

Cost: \$180 members. Includes return transport ex Perth city, foot soothing balm, comprehensive planning night, trip preparation manual, map and equipment hire. BYO food.

WOMEN'S ONE NIGHT ESCAPE

Time for a fun and challenging weekend on the Bibbulmun Track. Gain confidence, outdoor skills and new walking friends as you don a backpack for a more challenging walk (11km each day), spending Saturday night at Helena campsite perched over the delightful Helena valley. Finish the next day with a chance to have a relaxing afternoon at the local pub.

Planning night: Friday 20th October, 6.30pm.



Date: Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th October

Cost: \$135 members. Includes experienced guides, trip preparation manual, comprehensive planning night and equipment hire. BYO food. Own transport to Mundaring.

Overnight and extended walks

BALINGUP EXPLORER

One of our most popular events – this is the next level up from our Bibbulmun Trek for Beginners. It is set in the beautiful yet challenging Blackwood area. Experienced guides will instruct and support you in overnight trekking based on a typical distance walked during a day 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 and enjoying the wildflowers. Freshen up on Sunday afternoon with a hot shower before being transported home.

Planning night: Friday 1st September, 6.30pm.

Date: Friday 8th (5pm) to Sunday 10th September.

Cost: \$230 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. Max 10 people.

WILDFLOWER WANDER

Enjoy the beauty of the spring flowers as you spend four days hiking almost 70km in one of the most scenic sections of the Bibbulmun Track. Starting from Kalamunda (option 1), you will be amazed at the scenery each day has to offer – the mysterious boulders, the expansive views and the misty mornings. You can start from Mundaring (option 2) on the Saturday if you prefer. Great for sectional end-to-enders or those yet to explore the Track beyond Mundaring in the Perth Hills.

Planning night: Friday 15th September, 6.30pm.

Dates: Friday 29th Sept to Monday 2nd October (long weekend).

Cost option 1 (4 days): \$245 members.

Cost option 2 (3 days): \$200 members (own transport to Mundaring).

Includes return transport ex Perth (own transport to Mundaring for option 2 participants), comprehensive planning night, trip preparation manual, map, a copy of 'Wildflowers of the Northern Bibbulmun Track' (value \$24) and equipment hire. BYO food. Walkers must be fit and have previous overnight experience carrying full packs.

Day Walks

BLACKWOOD DAY WALK

If you live in our south-west and have always wanted to have a taste of walking the Bibbulmun but never managed to get out there and do it, this is for you. Your guide on this 13km walk near Balingup will answer any questions you have about getting out on track and walking any section of the Bibbulmun. Experience the tranquil jarrah forest while having the chance to walk to a typical Bibbulmun campsite. BYO lunch. Remember online bookings are always available.

Date: Saturday 9th September, 10am – approx 4pm.

Cost: \$20 members. Includes return transport from Balingup to walk start and trained guide.



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 17th September, 7.30am – approx 10.30am.

Cost: \$20 members.

WALK WITH MUM OR DAD

Remember what it was like to discover and explore the bush with your mum or dad? This is your chance to pass this childhood experience on. Get to know each other better and rediscover the Australian bush on this walk (around 10km each day) to a typical Bibbulmun campsite in the magnificent jarrah forest. Max 2 kids per adult.

Planning night: Friday 15th September, 6.30pm.

Date: Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th Sept.

Cost: \$165 (1 adult and 1 child), extra child \$45. Includes return transport from Perth city, guided walk, map, comprehensive planning night, trip preparation manual and equipment hire. BYO food.

P-PLATES DAY WALK

Already done a few day walks and want to get into overnight trekking? This innovative and challenging 15km circuit walk will teach you all you need to know for overnight bushwalking. Experience breathtaking views while walking to a typical Bibbulmun campsite. Experienced guides will introduce you to the equipment they use for overnight trekking and answer all your queries (1.5 hrs from Perth – own transport required). BYO lunch. Reasonable level of fitness required.

Date: Sunday 24th Sept, 9am – approx 4pm.

Cost: \$30 members, \$40 non-members. Includes morning tea on arrival and trained guides.

RAMBLE & PADDLE

A fantastic walking and paddling weekend escape in Dwellingup. Stay two nights at the Jarrah Forest Lodge, visit the leaf-shaped Forest Heritage Centre, walk 13km on the Bibbulmun Track with only a day pack, be fascinated by a tour of the historic Murrinup P.O.W camp by a POW camp expert and paddle down the Murray River.

Date: Friday 17th (5pm) to Sunday 19th November.

Cost: \$270 members, \$285 non-members. Includes 2 nights twin share bunk style accommodation, return transport from Perth city, all transfers, continental breakfast on Saturday and Sunday (other food not incl, we usually combine our Friday night briefing with a pub meal), FHC admission, guided P.O.W. tour, guided walk, canoe equipment and instruction.

Seminars & Workshops

GET LOST WITH STEVE

Do you have little or no direction in your life? Do you really know how to use a compass? Today we go through a series of practical and theoretical exercises on and near the Track in Mundaring. Get Lost with Steve and you will have fun learning and perfecting basic map reading and compass skills. BYO lunch. Own navigation compass required.

Date: Sunday 3rd September, 9am – approx 4.30pm.

Cost: \$60 members. Includes morning tea, map reading booklet and Track map.

GIRL'S GEAR GURUS

Come along for a fun and interesting evening run by female trekkers for female trekkers. Watch and learn from our guides as they show you the gear they like to use, talk about the gear they have used and don't use anymore, and give you those tips you never hear about! They will look at gear for day walks through to gear for an End-to-End journey. Want them to check your gear? Then bring it along! Expect to laugh a little and learn a lot! Places strictly limited. City location.

Date: Tuesday 12th September, 6pm to approx 8.30pm.

Cost: \$5 members. Includes a cuppa. ☘

Women's One Night Escape

by

Chris Sadler, 20/21 May 2006

Out on the track,

Nine women in tow,

Out to Helena,

Is where we did go,

In Mundaring's nature,

The birds and the trees

The Bibbulmun Track,

Is guaranteed to please,

Near a campfire in awe,

With stories and food,

We were under the stars,

In a most special mood,

Don't let it be said,

That we won't go again

We'll be back for sure,

We just don't know when!

Do you have a bus license?

We are in need of volunteers who hold a license suitable for driving coaster buses for our events. In the old system that is a 'B-Class' (or above), or in the new system LR or above. An 'F-Class' or and 'F-Endorsement' is certainly not essential but is preferred.

Drivers will be assisting in transporting either people or empty buses to various points on Map 1 on the Bibbulmun Track (ie not too far from Perth). Volunteers are needed as bookings come in for events on any day of the week, but especially weekdays. Most events are day walks only.

LIFE MEMBER PROFILE

Geoff Bell



Geoff Bell

The journey began on a day in 1998, when after many years of talking about doing some bushwalking, the entire family took its first steps along the Bibbulmun Track.

We started in Kalamunda, and that fateful day was the beginning of a four year end-to-end with my son Matthew, who was only eight at the time. Soon enough we realised what a great resource the Track is and what a fantastic opportunity for a father and son to share the wonders of the bush in each others company. As we stepped out, Matt and I often discussed becoming members of the Foundation, and eventually joined, with a family membership, in 2002. This was our small way of saying thanks to all those great volunteers who support the Track and help make it what it is today.

When I became a maintenance volunteer in 2003 I was able to take on the section just north of Beavis campsite, and the shelter itself. In this

The plunge



way I was able to 'force' a break from the rat-race every six weeks to add my contribution to the maintenance of the Track. With the help of my family and the understanding of my ever patient wife, we hold on to the maintenance of 'my' five kilometers of Track, even though I have spent the last twelve months in Antarctica. The Life Membership was a wonderful gift from my family before I headed down south. Although this last year has been a fantastic experience, I am looking forward to sitting under a gum tree again by Christmas, and to meeting you all on the Track again.

Winter Solstice

Down in Antarctica, where the penguins roam, a bit of tradition takes place at the Australian Stations, where a midwinter swim is undertaken. This seemingly crazy idea has been going on for years and it goes against everything we know to be sensible. The moment makes boys of us all! The plant inspector digs a hole in the ice for a 'pool', about six meters by one and a half meters. A wooden ladder is rigged to assist in getting out and everyone is required to wear a harness with a rope attached in case anything goes wrong, which you can see attached to me in the pictures. The doctor also has all the necessary medical equipment on standby just in case. Crazy as we appear, safety comes first.

The temperature on the day was minus twenty-ish, and the water, at minus two degrees felt warm by comparison, although getting out wet into the twenty km/hr breeze was another matter! After the swim we all retired to the lounge for a light buffet brunch, before relaxing for a while before dinner. Dinner is a first class affair, with the chefs really going all out to demonstrate their skills. Lots of food, photos, jokes and a few speeches. After dinner everyone had a great laugh watching the traditional play, a spoof of Cinderella. Midwinter is the winter solstice and is celebrated by all the nations in Antarctica. My mailbox is full of midwinter greetings from every other nation down here. It is a truly international event. 🌐

Geoff Bell

Supervising Communications Technical Officer 2006, Mawson Station, Antarctica.

The Pool



Prize Winning Members

Congratulations to the winners of the monthly membership renewal prizes...

Nicholas Gray (April) won a \$30 gift voucher kindly donated by Le Paris Brest Café in Kalamunda.

Beryl Allen won the 2nd prize of a t shirt and water bottle.

Lionel Lovell (May) won a children's book - "The Pipeline CY O'Connor Built" kindly donated by the National Trust.

Barry Tregenza won the 2nd prize of a t shirt and water bottle.

Peta Day (June) won a Gore Hurricane Windstopper Vest kindly donated to us by our Bronze sponsor Paddy Pallin.

Ben Toohey won the 2nd prize of a t shirt and water bottle.

Norman Hopp (July) won a pair of Mountain Designs Polartec gloves donated

to us by our Diamond sponsor Mountain Designs

The Giles family won the 2nd prize of a t shirt and water bottle.

Debbie Unwin joined as a new member at the 'Beginners Guide to the Bibbulmun' event held in May at UWA, winning a daypack donated by Mountain Designs.

The Life Members mid year prize draw winner was **Tony Miller** of Collie. Tony received a Mountain Designs Bibbulmun rucksack kindly donated by Mountain

Designs

Many thanks to our generous sponsors and supporters for donating the fabulous prizes.

Booking your 'Walk With the Friends'

Walk With the Friends (WWF) is a series of social Sunday walks led by trained volunteers. The walks are free for members using vouchers.

Each edition of Bibbulmun News contains a list of WWF dates and two printed WWF vouchers. Adult members are entitled to two vouchers per newsletter, so if you have a family membership and only receive one newsletter you can request two extra vouchers.

When you book your first one or two WWF, enclose the voucher/s with the booking form found in Bibbulmun News.

When you go on the walk you will receive the voucher back to book another WWF from the programme of walks found in the same newsletter. This way you can go on as many walks as you like but you can only book a maximum of two walks at any one time.

If you don't turn up, or you cancel your booking, you forfeit your voucher.

Each edition of Bibbulmun News (issued every four months) contains new vouchers and a new WWF programme.

Why the voucher system?

Many walks were being booked out far in advance precluding others from attending. Many of those that booked simply didn't show up, without any notification, which meant that we had no opportunity to contact those on the waiting list.

The voucher system prevents the walks being booked out in the first week of the schedule being released - and helps to ensure that people attend the walks they book.



Help us to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the 'new' Bibbulmun Track

On the 13th September 1998 the 'Perth to Albany Track' - known as the Bibbulmun Track - was officially opened. In preparation for the 10th Anniversary of this event we are asking you, our members, for your input.

Please complete the survey below and return it to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation via post or fax (see details on back cover) by 12th May.

For each question please circle your answer(s).

- 1) If we planned a walk would you join in?
 - a) not at all
 - b) for a day
 - c) for a weekend
 - d) for a week or more
 - e) for an End-to-End
- 2) Would you join in on a walk
 - a) on your own
 - b) as a group of friends/family/ club
- 3) If we planned a gathering over a weekend would you attend if it was...
 - a) in the Perth hills
 - b) at the half-way point (e.g. Donnelly River Village)
 - c) if it was in Albany
- 4) Would you prefer...
 - a) one big event
 - b) several smaller events along the length of the Track
- 5) Would you be prepared to volunteer to help with...
 - a) logistics
 - b) administration
 - c) both of the above
 - d) unable to assist as this time

(if affirmative we will contact you closer to the anniversary)

Name: _____ Ph: _____

Email: _____

**Thank you for your time.
Your response will be collated and
once an event is decided upon you
will be notified!**

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 26 November 2006

v o u c h e r

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 26 November 2006

v o u c h e r

	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
Northern & Southern Guide Book combo		\$66.00
'Getting on Track' video or DVD (packed with useful information)		\$27.45
NEW! Bibbulmun Track Accommodation & Services Guide Places to stay, attractions, transport and tour ideas!		\$12.00
NEW! Bibbulmun Track Poster (Full colour 594 x 825mm) Features Shelters, National Parks & Track Photos ADD \$7pp within Australia		\$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
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	
Snakes 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 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		

WALK with the friends



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

BOOKING FORM
(PLEASE ALSO SIGN AND DATE CONDITIONS BELOW)

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 '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.)

Signature: _____

In making a booking I acknowledge that I, and any other persons that I am booking for, understand and agree to the above 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	No of Adults	
3 September 9.00am		15km circuit walk from Mt Cooke plantation to Mt Cooke Campsite & summit.
15km return from Brookton Hwy to Plunkett Rd		19 November 10am
17 September 9.00am		6.8km return from Driver Rd to Dookanelly Campsite (Dwellingup)
15km return from Sullivan Rock to Monadnocks Campsite		26 November 3.30pm
8 October 8.30am		8km return walk from Mundaring Weir Hotel to South Ledge
19.5km return walk from Dale Road to Beraking Campsite		
29 October 9.00am		
12km return walk from Kinsella Rd to the Canning River		

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.

BIBBULMUN TRACK FOUNDATION

Reflections from the Registers- MURRAY CAMPSITE

Gordon & Albrecht camped here last night. Magic place - a real swim!! Day 14 and still going strong on our way to Albany.

5 Oct 2003

Good walk - good swim - good company - HEAVEN!!

Sue
7 Oct 2003

Two dads & two daughters. Took a nice long swim in the chilly water. Great thing to do with the kids. The wildflowers - yellow ones in particular were like a chorus of thousands cheering us along. Feel the serenity. Highly recommend a swim to the log on the opposite shore. Life is good.

David
9 Oct 2003

Great to be back on the track again. This place is beautiful. Birds singing. Magic. Have a great time everyone. PS We saw an echidna today - fantastic. He (it) was so cute with it's long snout and bushy eyebrows checking you out to see if you were still there. A real buzz to see one in the bush.

17 Oct 2003

Hiking solo for the first time. Enjoying the peace and quiet.

Richard
8 Oct 2003

My favourite shelter since Tom Road down south. Must be the river view and brilliant bird life today! All the young birds are on the wing. Rufous Whistlers, Wrens, New Holland Honeyeaters, short-billed Black Cockatoos (white tailed), 28 parrots, Western yellow & white breasted & Scarlet Robins. Also saw Golden Whistler, Common Bronze-wing, heaps of Fantails, Red caped Parrots and 3 Kookaburras. 3 Roos and 1 very fast Wallaby.

Abercrouse, Macclesfield, UK
22 Oct 2003

Blue Wren Bed and Breakfast

Blue Wren Bed and Breakfast is set upon five acres, in the picturesque area of North Collie. Only minutes from town, we have everything to make your stay in the Collie area a truly unique experience.

Pick up and drop off arrangements can be organised, along with home cooked meals.

Come and enjoy a little luxury.



Your Hosts : Ray and Karena Rankin
Lot 11 Booth Street
Collie 6225
Western Australia
Phone/Fax : 08 97347939
Email : motherslove@westnet.net.au



New destination for Bibbulmun Walking Breaks - Collie

Set amidst State Forest and boasting an abundance of natural and man made water ways is the town of Collie, offering a unique setting with its steep, wooded hills and valleys. In addition to its natural beauty Collie is a town rich in industrial heritage through its coal mining and power generation industries.

Collie is the latest destination in the Bibbulmun Track Foundation's all inclusive walking and accommodation packages. Bibbulmun Walking Breaks ensure that everything is laid on for you.

Packages are for two days and two nights, with an optional third night and day for sightseeing and can also be combined with other destinations along the Track for longer trips of up to three weeks.

All you need is a comfortable pair of shoes (boots are preferable). We'll arrange your transfer to the Track. Walk back to your accommodation to a warm welcome, a hot shower, a home cooked meal and a comfy bed. You can choose an 'easy' or 'intermediate' section and walk independently at your own pace. The perfect escape!

The Bibbulmun Track surrounding Collie is dominated by jarrah and marri forest with a wealth of babbling creeks and beautiful wildflowers in the spring.

The man made waterways such as Harris Dam and its water-body Lake Ballingall, and the Mungilup Dam dominate the area and provide Collie with its water supply.

The town of Collie, reached by a 2.7km spur trail provides walkers with all the facilities of a major town.

South of Collie the Glen Mervyn Dam with its attractive water views, provides the opportunity for hikers to swim and the Preston River Valley is the dominant feature. A pleasant forested descent leads to the Forrest Tavern at the tiny settlement of Mumballup, a very welcome and popular watering hole for walkers.

For a free Bibbulmun Breaks quote fill in the form on our website (under Trip Planner/Bibbulmun Breaks), email tourism@bibbulmuntrack.org.au or call Jean on 9321 0649.

Wanjedda hilltop B. & B.

Hearle Rd, Mumballup
Between Collie & Balingup
(Bibbulmun Track crosses Hearle Rd
800m from front gate)



Two comfy double rooms, electric blankets, tea making facilities, guest fridge, shared bathroom and living area with open log fire.

Evening meals, cooked breakfast and packed lunches by prior arrangement.

Tariff \$90 double, \$65 single, includes generous continental breakfast. Mail holding, extended parking & free transport to track.

Laundry and drying facilities available.



Beautiful 150 acre property in the heart of the South West

Bruce & Leonie Marshall

166 Hearle Rd, Mumballup 6225

Ph: (08) 97322004

Email: wanjedda@westnet.com.au

Website: <http://members.westnet.com.au/wanjedda>



COLLIE VISITOR CENTRE INC



Open 7 days a week for

- Friendly personalised service
- Maps of the region
- Bibbulmun Track maps and guide books
- Accommodation booking service
- Transwa & South West Coachlines tickets
- Pack and parcel storage
- Local crafts

Whether you are looking for a Bibbulmun Walking Break or a long distance challenge, Collie has the services and facilities to make your walk an enjoyable one. Choose from backpackers, Aussie style pub accommodation, motels with spa facilities, or cosy country bed and breakfasts. Ask us about accommodation options near the Track.

Collie Visitor Centre Inc,
156 Throssell Street Collie

Ph (08)97 342 051 email:
info@collierivervalley.org.au

www.collierivervalley.org.au

Have you got your BUFF?

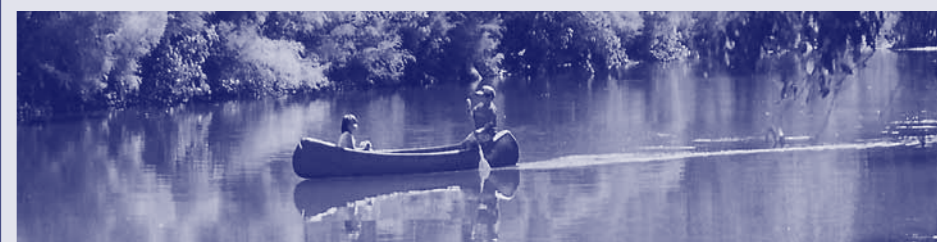


Buff® is famous among adventure-racers and outdoor enthusiasts in over 40 countries because it allows wearers to tackle all weather conditions on the fly by changing the way it is worn. A Buff® can be a neck gaiter, scarf, face mask, ear warmer, sweatband, hairband, legionnaire-style cap, beanie, helmet liner or balaclava. The unique micro-fibre fabric protects against heat, cold, wind, sun, dust whilst providing you with full breathability, moisture transfer and it feels great.



Get your Buff from Paddy Pallin, cnr Murray St and Shafto Lane

Whispering Pines



Nestled in the forest on the Collie River, Whispering Pines offers a chance to relax and unwind. Stroll along the wildflower walks, fish or canoe from our private jetty, or just relax with a good book in the tranquil garden. Accommodation includes one double and one twin bedroom with access to kitchen, laundry and BBQ facilities.

\$80 double/night
including continental breakfast.

10% discount for
Friends of the Bibbulmun Track.

Phone Wanda and John
on 9734 3883

or email the Collie River Valley Visitor Centre
on info@collierivervalley.org.au.



Walking in the Flinders Ranges – WITH WORLD EXPEDITIONS

by Steve Sertis



Wilpena Pound by John Murphy

A long, long time ago in a place not that far away, a mountain system was formed, which over time weathered away to become what we now call the Flinders Ranges.

The ranges themselves stretch from just south of Port Augusta toward the NT border, and cover an area that is nearly 400km from north to south, and about 200km from west to east. Within the Flinders Ranges are the spectacular Flinders Ranges National Park (125,000 hectares), the Gammon Ranges National Park (91,840 hectares), and of course a section of the Heysen Trail, which in total is around 1200km long.

Our journey with World Expeditions to this remarkable place took place in late April. It began with a long road trip from Adelaide, via Port Pirie and Hawker, to our first bush camp at Arkaba Station, just outside the Flinders Ranges National Park. As we arrived at nightfall, we could only imagine the landscape that awaited us at sunrise the next day.

The small section of the Heysen Trail from Moralana Creek to and including Wilpena Pound (Maps 4 & 5) is certainly worth walking. Our first views of the pound came as we ascended its southern rim via Black Gap. The pound is an amazing, almost perfectly formed geological bowl, the floor of which is 200 metres higher than the surrounding country. The pound is 17 km long and 8 km wide and contains 8960 hectares. Within the pound are a number of walk trails and quite a lot of history to experience. The Hill family, who leased the pound for farming, built a stone homestead there, in 1904. This now forms part of the many walk trails in and around the pound and is a great place for lunch or just a well deserved rest amongst the massive River Red Gums.

The highest point of the pound is St Mary's Peak which is 1188 metres above sea level. The walk itself begins easily enough, but all ascents provide some challenges as well as many rewards (yes, that's right - breathtaking views!). The walk is about 16km return and is a side trail adjoining the Heysen Trail. From the west of the peak,



Ascending Mt John Roberts by Steve Sertis

walkers can see flat, arid plains, the start of what eventually becomes the Nullarbor Plain. To the north, east and south, in stark contrast, is the rugged and uneven landscape of the Flinders Ranges.

The fourth day of our trip took us to Yanyanna Hut (an old homestead just north of Wilpena Pound) via Wilcolo Creek, at the head of the Bunyeroo Gorge Trail. St Mary's Peak, just to the south, was a constant companion and a reminder of the ascent the day before. As well as following part of the Heysen Trail, we also took in a section of the Mawson Trail – a 900km mountain bike trail with, as you would expect, its own distinct trail marker.

While the Heysen Trail always had its basic marker (a red arrow on a white base with its red and white logo on a separate sticker), there were variations. For example when the trail crosses a creek (and by the way what we call a creek on the

Bibbulmun Track is not what they call a creek!) you will find what is referred to as a paddle marker on either side. When you reach one, look for the corresponding paddle on the other side to see where to continue after the creek crossing, which can be a bit tricky when there is water flowing, as the creek can be anywhere up to 10m wide. In addition to these markers, the signage for the small walks is incredibly detailed. I was amazed to find a stage post with a metal plated map affixed to the top!

On day five we departed from the Flinders Ranges National Park (and the Heysen Trail) to head for the Gammon Ranges National Park to the north-east. We left our camp at Italowie Gorge and walked 15km to camp for two nights at Grindell's Hut. The current Grindell's Hut was built with stone in the early 1950's and is available for rent. It sleeps 8 people in three bedrooms and has solar powered lighting. The original building,

situated behind the new one, was originally the residence of John Grindell, who was suspected by his son-in-law and neighbour George Snell, of rustling cattle. George Snell disappeared in 1918 and Aboriginal trackers later helped police to find his cremated remains. Soon after, while drunk, John Grindell confessed to the crime and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Day six posed the biggest challenge for us – the steep ascent of Mt John Roberts (880m), the highest peak in the Gammon Ranges – a return walk of 18km. This walk certainly pushed some of us out of our comfort zone but once again the reward of views and achievement (and a return to a regular heartbeat) were immense. Some of the group wondered if they should have joined Catherine, who decided on a day of R&R at camp. However, these individuals would have missed seeing me distressed, when I reached the top, at finding two massive rocks planted in my backpack! Did we ever work out who put them in there? I bet it was someone very sneaky and devious!

Our final trek was a short and more relaxed walk through Weetootla Gorge (6km) on day seven. A few of us were lucky enough to spot the elusive rock wallabies, and we all enjoyed the final chance to enjoy the serenity, colours and beauty of the ranges before heading off to the Clare Valley for a little vino-therapy!

Our thanks to World Expeditions for organising this special Bibbulmun Track Foundation departure and to all the participants who helped raise the \$1100 donated by World Expeditions to the Foundation from the trip. Stay tuned for another Australian trek soon. 🌸



Crossing a creek with a paddle by Steve Sertis



Resting on top of St Mary's Peak by Steve Sertis



View from Mt John Roberts by Steve Sertis

