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Printed on environmentally-friendly paper

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Bibbulmun NEWS

WINTER 2008
ISSUE # 47
RRP \$6.00



Newsletter for the friends of the Bibbulmun Track

10th Anniversary - the journey of a decade



HAPPY 10th BIRTHDAY! - Come to the Party

Planning for the 10th Anniversary celebrations is in full-swing and we invite all our members and friends to join us for at least one of the ten events that will be held along the Track.

As well as providing an excellent opportunity for members, volunteers, staff, walkers and supporters of the Track to meet and get together, the events will provide an opportunity for the Foundation and the Department of Environment and Conservation to recognise and thank the community and various organisations for their incredible support.

From those involved with building the 'new' track and campsites, to those who have maintained the Track and our members who have supported the Foundation, literally thousands of people have contributed to the success of this wonderful resource which provides so many with the opportunity to discover the true nature of the south west.

So please - mark these dates in your calendar and join us - so we can thank you!
Please RSVP to assist us with planning. All details and the RSVP form are on www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au.

the journey of a decade

ALBANY - the Southern Terminus WEDNESDAY 16 JULY

The event will begin with a special ceremony in Albany on Wednesday 16 July 2008.

An official send off ceremony will be held at the Albany Town Hall at 9.15am, followed by a parade down York Street, led by a piper (or two). The parade will be joined by locals, school children and volunteers and will proceed to the Southern Terminus for the start of the walk at 10am, when the official end-to-end walkers will begin their journey to Kalamunda. You are invited to join the walkers for the parade from the Town Hall and also for the first few kilometres out of Albany. A bus will return you to the Southern Terminus. If you wish to join in please let us know so that we can reserve a seat for you on the bus.

Coming down? Why not join us the night before (Tuesday 15 July) at the Tanglehead Brewery (Stirling Terrace) from 7.30pm for a casual get together. Meet the walkers, volunteers and staff.

COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

As the walkers arrive at each of the towns, members of the local community will welcome them with a special celebration.

The celebration is to recognise the contribution of the local community in building and maintaining the Track as well as providing hospitality and services to the walkers. Schools have been invited to participate to encourage the next generation to care about the Track and the surrounding environment. The celebrations will vary from town to town, so check out what's happening in the table on page 2. Updates will also be posted on our 10th Anniversary webpage.

At each community event a new group of sectional walkers will join the end-to-enders to walk the next stage. A 'half-way' party will also be held at Donnelly River Village.

KALAMUNDA - the Northern Terminus SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

The anniversary celebrations will culminate in a mammoth gathering at the Northern Terminus in Kalamunda, where the walkers will finish their great adventure on Saturday 13 September.

Join us at the Northern Terminus at 11.15am where the Sambanistas will welcome the walkers with a cacophony of drums as they take their last few steps into Kalamunda. The Minister for the Environment Hon Dave Templeman MLA and the Minister for Sport and Recreation Hon John Kobelke MLA will officially welcome the walkers. There will be stalls, marquees, music and a special voucher booklet to use at the cafes and other businesses in the surrounding area. Make a day of it! See you there!



COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

Where	Date	What's Planned
DENMARK	Sunday 20 July	The walkers will arrive at the Rivermouth Caravan Park at 1pm. Locals and school children are invited to join the walkers at the Rivermouth Caravan Park (or Berridge Park) to walk with the official walkers along the riverside nature trail, through Berridge Park, to the Highway. They will then be joined by a police escort to continue left up the highway, left down Strickland St, right onto Barnett St and left onto Brazier St to the Recreation Centre for the celebration and BBQ.

ALL WELCOME!

WALPOLE	Monday 28 July	TBA
NORTHCLIFFE	Tuesday 5 August	Locals and school students will join the walkers at the DEC office at 1.10pm or at Boorara Rd at 1.20pm as they parade into town. The parade will generate some excitement as we make our way to the Northcliffe Visitor Information Centre, Telecentre and Gallery where local entertainment will be provided as well as a sausage sizzle and a photo exhibition.

SEE YOU THERE!

PEMBERTON	Saturday 9 August	Join the walkers at 3.30pm as they parade from the car park opposite the Pemberton Hotel in the main street, through town, to the Pemberton Sports Club. There the town will host a sausage sizzle and local entertainment.
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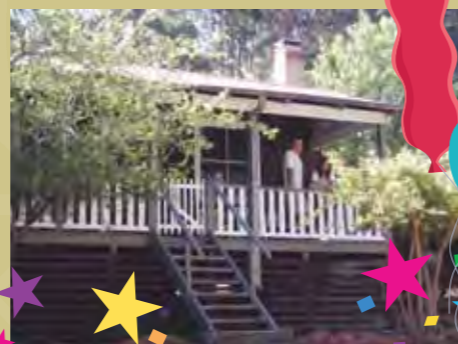
GET ON DOWN THERE!

DONNELLY RIVER VILLAGE - 15, 16 & 17 August

At the halfway point of the Track, Donnelly River Village, we are having a huge party – and you are invited! The walkers will arrive on the afternoon of Friday 15 August. The celebrations are on the evening of Saturday 16 August, but why not make a weekend out of it and come down on Friday afternoon? On Saturday evening we have booked the Club House with a band and some very yummy pizzas will be cooked on a mobile wood fired oven! Send off the walkers on Sunday morning.

RSVP to us at www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au and we'll book a cottage for you.

BE QUICK! – Over half the village is already booked!



Community	Date	What's Planned
BALINGUP	Tuesday 19 August	Join the walkers from the Golden Valley Tree Park at 1.30pm or at the Bibbulmun Track Trail Head opposite the Tinder Box at 2pm for the parade through town. In the true spirit of Balingup - the locals are even getting into colourful costume! The walkers, locals and students will make their way to the Sport and Recreation Centre for a sausage sizzle, local music and a great deal of cheer!

YOU'RE INVITED!

COLLIE	Saturday 23 August	Join the walkers, (bus kindly supplied by DEC), from near Yabberup Campsite or at any point along the highway into town. From the Trail Head at 3pm, walkers, locals and students will parade down the main street to Energy West Hall for the celebration. This parade will generate a lot of excitement and atmosphere to welcome the walkers with drums and all sorts of hoo-hah! The local Lions, Rotary and CWA have offered to put on a sausage sizzle and other yummy snacks. There will also be a local band playing.
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CATCH YOU WHERE THE ACTION IS!

DWELLINGUP	Sunday 31st August	Meet the walkers at Nanga Rd at 10.30am and walk the last 6km into town or on the Bibbulmun Track outside the primary school just before noon. The walkers will arrive in Dwellingup at 12pm and parade down the main street to the Log Chop reserve (opp the hotel) where the WA Rogainers will put on a sausage sizzle and the Shire will provide entertainment. Dwellingup Adventures are sponsoring a bus to transport people out to Nanga Rd to join the walkers (by prior arrangement only).
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SEE YOU THERE!

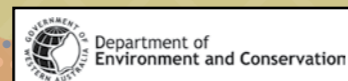
VIRTUAL END-TO-END

You don't have to miss out on the journey of the decade! Walk the Track from end-to-end, from Albany to Kalamunda, without spending a single night under the stars. See how on page 15

SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Schools in the south west are invited to take part in the Bibbulmun Track School Challenge – for more information see Page 29

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS FOR SUPPORTING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS:



FROM MY Desk



Welcome to the latest edition of Bibbulmun News. I hope you find it an enjoyable read. We receive lots of letters and stories in the office and it is wonderful to have the opportunity, through this magazine, to share them with our members.

I am very pleased to welcome a new sponsor to the Foundation. The Curtin Growth Programme at Curtin University's School of Entrepreneurship has joined us as a Gold Sponsor for an initial period of three years. We thank them for their support and look forward to developing a strong partnership.

The year got off to a flying start with Jean, Steve and I visiting all the towns along the Track to meet with community and Shire representatives to discuss the 10th Anniversary celebrations. We received a warm welcome and the events will reflect the enthusiasm and unique qualities of each of the towns. I hope all our members will be able to attend at least one of these events between July and September.

We're also having a party at the half-way mark - Donnelly River Village - so if you're free on the weekend of 16 & 17 August - come and join us!

We're looking forward to a terrific celebration at the Northern Terminus on 13 September. The Kalamunda Scouts and the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Hon John Kobelke MLA, are joining the end-to-enders for the final day's walk into Kalamunda where they will be greeted by the Minister for the Environment, Hon David Templeman MLA.

The celebration is to recognise the support of all our members, volunteers, sponsors and supporters over the past 10 years - so please be sure to join us!

The Kalamunda Visitors Centre has put together a book of vouchers to use at various businesses in the area, so why not make a day of it and enjoy lunch at one of the wonderful cafes or wineries in the area, visit Mundaring Weir or take the kids to the Perth Hills National Parks Centre to see the animals on display.

For those of you who have always wanted to do an end-to-end, but don't have the time to do it - here's your chance! Sign up for our 10th Anniversary Virtual end-to-end at www.walkingwithattitude.com. OK - so it's not the 'real deal' - but it will get you into training for the real thing - and you can follow the progress of the 'real' end-to-enders online! (see page 15)

Other than the Anniversary, we have been busy promoting our usual events calendar, contributing to the new Adventure Activity Standards for bushwalking, coordinating the Top Trails marketing project and answering hundreds of enquiries. Thank you to all the volunteers who are continuing to undertake surveys on the Track and sending in their reports.

As the walking season starts, I hope you get the opportunity to head out onto the Track and I look forward to seeing you at the celebrations!

Linda Daniels
Executive Director

IN MEMORIAM Geoff Gibson

'Tingle All Over' YHA

Everyone at the Bibbulmun Track Foundation would like to extend their deepest sympathy to Mrs. Kerry Gibson and family on the loss of Geoff, who passed away on Friday February 1st.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.



Thank you!
Thank you!

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

J.W. Dobson
Paul Mackay
Patsy Sutton
Veronica Ritchie
Walpole Taxi

Curtin

University of Technology

Curtin Growth Program

New Gold Sponsor for Foundation

The Curtin Growth Program, the flagship product of Curtin University's Centre for Entrepreneurship is very proud to become a gold sponsor of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation.

The characteristics of the Bibbulmun Track are aligned very closely with those of the Curtin Growth Program. We, at Curtin Growth, are also unique, popular, constantly seeking excellence, grow businesses and are without enemies.

Established since 1995, the Curtin Growth Program is a must for small to medium enterprises looking to take their business to new levels. The unique and proven program has helped many of WA's successful business owners and managers sharpen their business skills.

In the end, our aim is to help SME's achieve growth in both personal and business life.

Visit business.curtin.edu.au/growth or call 9266 4550 for more information.

Curtin's Growth Program wishes the Bibbulmun Track a happy 10th anniversary and looks forward to a strong partnership in the coming years.

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.

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 and credit card donations are also welcome of course! 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 Bibbulmun Track.

YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor:

What a difference an 'e' makes!

We caught the bus after work to North Bannister. As it was a moonless night, the torches came in handy for our trek to Gringer Creek campsite. It is fun finding the Waugals in the dark. Next morning before our departure I dutifully filled out the register. One of our guys meant to make the comment: 'I got here in the dark.' But he left the 'e' off the word 'here'. Shrieks of laughter followed and quick comments from the ladies of our group: 'It wasn't not me!' 'Nor me!' 'Wishful thinking!' I can assure you he did not get her in the darkness!

Our apologies to the originator of this story; in the chaos of the festive season, we misplaced your name. Please forgive us!

Isabel,

Thank you for all your help on the Track. I absolutely loved my trek. I saw tons of kangaroos and emus, five wild pigs, a fox, a cat, countless beautiful birds, tiger snakes and dugites, small marsupials that I didn't recognise and dolphins down south.

There was water at every single shelter along the Track—what a blessing! I want to extend my deepest thanks to you and Gwen for making this trip easy, organised and extremely enjoyable. The Foundation does a phenomenal job and I wish many more US trails had the kind of support provided by the Bibbulmun Track Foundation.

Thanks for everything,

Jennifer Pharr

North Carolina USA

Dear Editor:

We completed our end-to-end in two stages. In Sep/Oct 2006 we walked from Kalamunda to Dog Pool, where a medical emergency caused us to pull out. (Thanks to John Hamel of DEC for his help.) Then in October 2007 we returned to finish the rest and walked from Northcliffe to Albany successfully. The northern section is marvellous for its endless bush scenery, but the southern section takes the prize for spectacular coastal views, although it is harder to walk. The greatest excitement was wading the Wilson Inlet at the sanbar, where the water was at least chest deep. A tall young German hiker came in useful there!

The whole Bibbulmun Track is a fantastic experience and we are very thankful to the Foundation, the DEC and the many volunteers for giving us the opportunity to achieve this dream

Diana Hill and Bruce Hartwell from Sydney

This letter was received from one of the younger walkers on the Track, who seemingly is kind enough to allow his mum to accompany him on his adventures...

Hello Everyone,

My name is Eirik, I am the one in the picture with the blue hat, I am four and I just love the Bibbulmun Track!

Last year, when my mum first took me for a walk on the Track, I understood it was different from a simple walk in the park. First there was a bit of preparation with some special gear; my backpack was filled with all sorts of nice things to eat and my own drink bottle.

Then I learnt about the markers and that was a bit of a highlight during the walk because I always wanted to be the first to spot them. I quickly learnt what they meant and how to read them to find our direction and follow the Track. Now I am mad about the Waugal and I can't get enough of those yellow stickers with black snakes on them.

One day we walked all the way to a campsite and we even camped there overnight! That was unbelievable! Playing in the shelter and exploring the area was great, just right there in the middle of nature, no cars to watch out for, no doors to close and waking up with the birds. It was so special, I just loved it. Unfortunately there was total fire ban and we could not have a campfire. Next time!

What I enjoy most in my walks is looking for animals and listening to the wind in the trees, finding strange stones, sticks and nuts, and whenever there are some information panels I ask my mum to read them for me. I also enjoy having a break and just sitting in the middle of the Track to have a snack. I don't have to worry about my chair or being close to the table, and I can eat with my fingers and that's freedom!

Sometimes we meet other walkers and I explain them how to read the Waugals, just in case they get lost, you never know. Unfortunately there are not so many kids of my age walking on the Track and that's a pity because it's really fun and interesting and if you take it easy you can do it. Of course I can't walk too far but eight kilometres a day is okay, with many stops. Wait for my legs to grow a bit and you'll see! With my mum we're talking about walking end-to-end one day...in a couple of years may be...because for the moment we've just done day walks and a couple of overnight walks.

My mum says we can venture on the Track for a couple of days in a row when I can understand what is a goal and the notion of distance left to walk. Right now I have no idea what she is talking about. The other thing is I can't carry much. I carry my backpack but it's virtually empty so my poor mum has to carry all the rest.

One of my best memories is when we saw a mum kangaroo and her joey hopping across the Track just in front of us. A bit startling but what a sight.

So see you on the Track!

Eirik

P.S. My mum's name is Lorraine Hildebert



Hi,

We came in today to register our end-to-end. It was great to meet and chat. Our thanks to all those involved with the Bibbulmun Track, it allows everyone to experience our WA forests and coastline in a unique and special way.

Sincerely,

Rose and Chris McGarraghy

Dear Editor:

Our family of four walked the Walpole to Northcliffe section of the Track during the October school holidays. We love the Track and our kids, (Jenni 15, Katie 11), always look forward to our annual walk. We've been taking them since they were toddlers and are slowly working towards completing the entire Track.

Being out in the bush as a family is a fantastic bonding experience. As you know, that part of the track can be very wet. Snoring campers, mozzies, and the lack of our usual creature comforts also add to the challenge. During the walk we came up with lots of games to keep ourselves motivated and entertained. Singing is one of the best pastimes, even if you are out of tune! During one of these recitals my youngest daughter, Katie, and I decided to re-write the national anthem with a Bibbulmun Track flavour! We also decided to call ourselves The Creek Singers as we seemed to be constantly walking in water or mud. Naturally we put on several performances for my wife and eldest daughter, but decided to spare our fellow campers the trauma of our singing! Katie and I are particularly proud of our composition and wonder if you would like to publish it in one of your newsletters.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the Foundation and all of those who contribute to the Track. It is a truly magnificent facility that all West Australians should be proud of.

Kind regards,

Mark Schutze

Mount Hawthorn

Keep up-to-date with the latest Track News, Special Offers and Events with our email newsletter:
email_events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au
and ask to go on our mailing list.
Remember to let us know if your email or postal address changes!

Advance the Bibbulmun Track by the Creek Singers

Australians all let us go walking
For we are dirty and smelly,
With mud and sweat our feet are wet
And all we crave is chocolate.
Our path abounds in broken sticks,
Tadpoles, flies and mosquitoes.
In history's page, let every stage
Advance the Bibbulmun Track.
In joyful strains then let us sing
Advance the Bibbulmun Track.

Beneath the gathering stormy skies
We advance towards our camp,
Anticipating dehyd food
And long drop toilets YUCK!
We hope there's no other walkers there
Who snore and fart all night!
In history's page, let every stage
Advance the Bibbulmun Track.
In joyful strains then let us sing
Advance the Bibbulmun Track.

Dear Editor:

Just a short story:

My son's 15th birthday was in May 2005, and we decided to spend it at the Gringer Creek shelter. What my son did not know at the time was that I had his birthday present in my pack. It was a functional knife, not one with a fancy handle or blade, very plain, but of extremely good quality. I had inscribed on one side of the blade his birth-date and the acronym SREC. On the other side was the meaning of the acronym, Strength, Reliability, Endurance and Compassion. We talked about what each word meant and what his moving into manhood meant. After this, as he looked down there, was a bandicoot at his feet.

It was quite a moving experience.

Keith Thomas-Wurth

2008 MOUNTAIN DESIGNS BIBBULMUN TEAM CHALLENGE



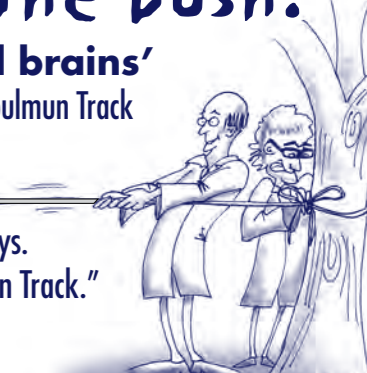
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- Walking 60km and camping out on the Bibbulmun Track
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"I was part of a great team and heat and I will remember it always. It was also a great introduction to bushwalking and the Bibbulmun Track."
Tammi Atherton, AngloGold.



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events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Latest Track News AND CONDITIONS

The following Track news is accurate and up to date at time of printing. For more current updates, refer to the "Latest Track News" accessible from www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Notification of Intent for Organised Non-Commercial Groups Conducting Overnight Expeditions on DEC Tracks and Trails

The DEC Recreation and Trails Unit request any group of 8 or more people intending to conduct an overnight expedition on any DEC track or trail to notify the Unit prior to their planned activity. The notification process is used to help to manage and record group usage, and to preserve the conservation values and the enjoyment level of all track/trail users. The information collected assists DEC during emergency response situations such as a wildfire. We would also appreciate any group of 15 members or more planning day walks to notify the Unit of their intentions.

For a Notice of Intent Form, contact the DEC Recreation and Trails Unit on 9334 0265.

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

Prescribed Autumn Burning Operations.

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

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

NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS:

Perth Hills District.

Kalamunda to the Harvey-Quindanning Road.
Map 1& 2 or Sections 1 to 20 in the Northern Guidebook
Contact Elisa Skillen (08) 9295 9100 or elisa.skillen@dec.wa.gov.au

Maintenance has been completed along a few hundred meters of the Track near Fern Road, (approx. 5km south of the Kalamunda Northern Terminus, Map 1a). The vegetation has been pruned and the fire break upgraded.

Western Power work is continuing on power lines south of Mt Wells campsite (Map 2a). The work will continue until late September 2008. The Bibbulmun Track crosses the work area at three points between Mt Wells and Chadoora campsites - once across Wells Form Road and twice across the power line corridors that are being upgraded. Walkers should watch out for construction vehicles and exercise caution when crossing power line corridors.

A section of the Track was damaged by a wildfire near the Gringer Creek campsite. The track has been reopened-re-opened and walkers are requested to follow the Waugal markers carefully.

A prescribed burn is planned this autumn for the area between Yarragil Form and Swamp Oak campsite. A diversion will be in place. Contact the local DEC office for further information.

Please use tank water sparingly. Campsites in the Perth Hills area are most heavily used on the Track.

Wellington District (Collie and Harvey)

Covers Harvey -Quindanning Road to Mumballup
Map 3 or Section 20 to 25 in Northern Guidebook
Contact: Leon Price (08) 9734 1988

The Track is in good condition, with the exception of the odd fallen tree and some minor maintenance required at campsites. There will be some works and upgrades occurring at the crossings near Trees Rd and Mornington Road in the next few months before the winter rains. A small section of the Track will be realigned along the Glen Mervyn Dam. The toilets at Possum Springs and Yabberup Campsites are starting to fill up - these will be pumped out ASAP. We have had reports that the signage between Collie and Harris Dam isn't very clear; this will be reviewed when work is done on the Track to the north of Mornington Road.

There are no autumn burns which will directly affect the Track in the Wellington District this year, although there will be burning in areas adjacent to the track. However walkers are advised to check the website or contact the District Office on (08) 9734 1988 for details when planning their trip.

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 dave.lathwell@dec.wa.gov.au

Restoration work has been completed on the steep section of the Track south of the Blackwood campsite, and water erosion bars are now in place.

Minor repairs to some of the shelters and gates has been completed and general minor maintenance on the Track itself is ongoing.

The prescribed burn in the Preston Forest block, north of Grimwade campsite, has not yet been completed. A diversion remains in place that requires walkers to skirt the burn area via Lowden Grimwade Road, Preston Road and Wild Dog Road. Walkers should follow the white Waugal markers until the diversion rejoins the Track.

Manjimup and Pemberton - Donnelly District

Covers Willow Springs to Pingerup Road
Maps 5 and 6, Section 30 in the Northern Guidebook and Sections 31 and 42 in the Southern Guidebook
Contact John Hanel (08) 9776 1207 or john.hanel@dec.wa.gov.au

The annual hand maintenance carried out by conservation workers has been completed.

The maintenance work by machine is still in progress. The section from Palings Road to Lease Road Bridge has been completed. Erosion control by a mini excavator has been carried out on the steep section south of Lease Road. The sections from Panda Road through to Gordon Road and Chesapeake Road to Deeside Coast Road will have some machine maintenance carried out in the near future.

Maintenance work is being carried out at some of the campsites. Walkers may encounter conservation employees oiling and repairing structures.

The autumn prescribed burning will begin soon.

Those sections of the Track that will be affected are around Donnelly River Village, The Cascades access track and a through Beedelup National Park.

All of these diversions or disruptions will be clearly signed and information posted on the web site. For further information please contact the office number above.

Walpole-Frankland District

Covers Pingerup Road to Denmark
Maps 6, 7, 8 or Sections 42 to 53 in the Southern Guidebook
Contact Chris Stewart (08) 9840 0400 or Chris.stewart@dec.wa.gov.au

No major work has been carried out on the Track in recent months other than regular maintenance, by the volunteers.

All water tanks have a reasonable level of water.

The Parry Inlet is currently negotiable on foot, with the water ankle deep.

Burns are planned in the vicinity of the Frankland shelter, John Rate look-out and the Coalmine-Hilltop area. Diversions and signage will be in place, but for further information please contact the number/email above

Thank You!

The Walpole Work Camp recently celebrated its 10th anniversary. This was the first work camp established in Western Australia and a strong bond has developed between the camp and the local community. The Work Camp has been a wonderful ally to the Frankland District in ensuring that the Bibbulmun Track is well maintained. DEC Walpole extends a huge thank you to everyone at the Work Camp for their assistance over the past 10 years

Albany District

Covers Denmark to Albany
Map 8 or Sections 53 to 58 in the Southern Guidebook
Contact Luke Coney (08) 9842 4500 or Luke.coney@dec.wa.gov.au

Vegetation management along the Albany section is continuing.

Between Eden Road and Nullaki Campsite, two sections of the Track follow grader constructed tracks which are associated with subdivision works. A vermin proof electric fence has been constructed along one of these sections. Walkers are asked to strictly follow Bibbulmun Track markers and to use caution walking adjacent to the electric fence. The Bibbulmun Track section that runs adjacent to the electric fence is approximately 400 meters long.

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

The Wilson Inlet is closed to the sea; therefore walkers are able to cross at the sandbar. Walkers are reminded to always exercise caution, and if you have any doubts about crossing the bar, use the dinghy crossing or arrange transport around the inlet.

Walkers should note that until the inlet is drained, parts of the Track along the shores of the Nullaki Peninsula may become inundated.

The Torbay Inlet has now closed to the sea and walkers are able to cross at the sandbar on Perkins Beach. Unless there is unprecedented rain it is likely that it will stay closed until winter.

If you have any doubts about crossing the inlet, follow the green diversion route (page 280 of the Southern Guidebook or map 8b) which goes around Torbay Inlet following the Lower Denmark Road.

A very big thank you to all Bibbulmun Track Volunteers, DEC staff and the Bibbulmun Track Foundation for their ongoing support to the Track. ⚙️

FREE Trip Planning Advice

GOING ON AN EXTENDED WALK OR END-TO-END?

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

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



BODDINGTON GOLD MINE

Eyes on the Ground

MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME



The Worsley Alumina maintenance team look after the section from Mumballup to Noggerup campsite

'Although the 10th Anniversary of the opening of the Track will not be celebrated until September 2008, the 10th Anniversary of the Track Maintenance Programme occurred in February.

The autumn 1998 edition of the Bibbulmun News carried a headline on page six proclaiming:-

'Volunteer Maintenance Program off to a Fiery Start'.

I can certainly attest to the truth of that statement!

I was one of the 50 volunteers who attended one of the two initial training sessions, run by Jesse Brampton at the Hills Forest Activity Centre. The temperature was 45 degrees - hardly conducive to being outdoors - so much of our training was done indoors. Instead of working on the Track itself, we had great fun looking at an amazing series of slides from Jesse's collection and learning how the programme would work and what we could expect as volunteers.

Today, Field Days are held on the Track and we have been fortunate that since that first time the weather has never again forced us to resort to an indoor venue.

Over the years there have been changes - we still talk about those mysterious rake hoes, the number one tool for the maintenance of the Track, and the installation of water bars (another mystery) - but safety is an important issue now and we also spend a lot of time advising volunteers about safe practices and discussing fire safety issues. When possible guest speakers are invited and many other interesting and varied topics have been covered.

The programme in February 1998 involved only the first 200kms of the Track. It was gradually extended to include the remaining districts, and finally covered the whole Track when the Frankland district was incorporated at the end of 1999.

The 'Eyes on the Ground' programme has proved a great success. Hundreds of volunteers have spent countless hours maintaining the Track over the past ten years, with many of the original group still looking after their sections.

This success is due to the enthusiasm and commitment of the volunteers, the DEC District Officers and the Recreation and Trails Unit, with whom we work very closely.

As the coordinator since 1999, I am delighted that the level of commitment remains as high as it was in 1998, when that first enthusiastic group met. It is very gratifying to see that volunteers still find involvement with their section of the Track so rewarding and fulfilling.

It would be impossible for the Track to be maintained to its present high standards without their great contribution - something which has been recognised and commented upon by more than a decade of walkers.

Gwen Plunkett

Volunteer Coordinator ⚙️



DEC Recreation and Trails Unit

Stuart Harrison, A/ Recreation and Trails Unit Coordinator

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

Well it would seem that the weather is now starting to cool down, with some very pleasant days over the Easter break! I hope everyone had an enjoyable break, mine being spent down on the south coast camping and relaxing.

There have been further changes to staffing within the Recreation and Trails Unit with the appointment of Kerstin Stender to the Unit. As some of you may already be aware, Annie Keating recently resigned from the Department to pursue other opportunities. Annie was employed on the 'Building a Better Bibbulmun Track Project' back in the mid 1990's and had been with the project right through until this year. My first meeting with Annie was actually out on the track when I was working as the Dwellingup District Project Officer and she was working with Jesse Brampton, GPS'ing the alignment through the White Horse Hills. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Annie on behalf of the Department, for all of her hard work over the years, and wish her all the best. I'm sure, given Annie's passion for the Bibbulmun Track, that we will still see her involved in the Track in some way!

Just prior to Easter, I attended the 5th National Tracks and Trails Conference over in Queensland. I'm happy to say that, even given the distance, Western Australia was very well represented at the conference, with staff from the Departments of Environment and Conservation, Sport and Recreation and local government, along with representatives from Outdoors WA, Munda Biddi Trail Foundation, Federation of WA Bushwalkers and Leave No Trace Australia.

The conference ran for four days, and I was able to attend numerous presentations on what was happening in other states, territories and overseas with regards to trails and their development and management. Two of the major topics of discussions were with regards to a national walking trail classification system for users, and the development of a national trails alliance to facilitate information exchange and advocacy.

I'm happy to say that, the Bibbulmun Track, along with the Munda Biddi Trail and the Cape to Cape Track, are held in high regard. The high level of volunteer involvement and support for the trails through the Foundations is reasonably unique, and not surprisingly, was the subject of many informal discussions with colleagues in

other land management agencies as to how to foster similar community partnerships!

During the conference, I managed to get out and do a day walk with one of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) Rangers on the Sunshine Coast Hinterland Great Walk. QPWS received \$10 million in funding from the Queensland Government to develop six Great Walks throughout Queensland, including Fraser Island, Gold Coast Hinterland, Mackay Highlands, Sunshine Coast Hinterland, Wet Tropics and on the Whitsunday Islands.

The Sunshine Hinterland Great Walk was one of the first to be developed and is located approximately 90km north of Brisbane. The walk is very similar in nature to the Bibbulmun Track, although only 58km long. The three campsites are fairly basic, with toilet, rainwater tank, tent pads and tables. Given the tropical nature of Queensland, the vegetation is quite different in places and the topography a little steeper than ours, which, given the high humidity, made for some testing walking even with just a day pack!

Stuart Harrison
A/Recreation Activities Coordinator



Field Day at Warren Campsite, August 2007

by Guy Spouge.

TOP TRAILS

UPDATE

166 NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO OUR SEARCH FOR WA'S TOP TRAILS.

We are now in the process of short-listing and assessing the trails and aim to have the Top 30 selected by the end of June 2008.



Getting into Gear - WATER PROOFING

Apparently it's supposed to be a wet winter this year. I'm not sure why people are saying that, maybe every time we have a very hot summer we try to comfort ourselves with the idea that we're just paying the price of future cooler seasons with heat. A cold, wet winter is the ideal foil for long, dry summer which discourages bushwalking

So if it's true and we're in for a wet winter, then water proofing for our walking gear is going to be essential. First line of defence is the Pack Cover. Whether you have a canvas pack or a synthetic fabric it's still a good idea to water proof the outside of your pack with a pack cover. Canvas can absorb water and consequently get very heavy; a synthetic can leak through the seams so with a cover you get double protection. These days some packs come with their own rain cover cleverly hidden in a pocket at the base of the pack and readily accessible from outside the pack.

Some people use a pack liner as well in case water seeps through the back of the pack on to which your harness is fixed. As with everything in



Gaiters are a good investment in wet conditions

bushwalking, weight is the major issue. Perth based Sea to Summit have an extensive range of water proof stuff sacks, covers and liners that they have developed over the last few years. Their "Ultrasil" fabric is exceptionally light and amazingly tough and very water proof. If used inside a pack where there is little abrasion (unlike the inside of a fibreglass kayak!), then it can replace items like your normal stuff sack for your sleeping bag. I now only use my ultrasil stuff sack with the roll down top because I know that when I get into camp my sleeping bag will be dry - until I spill my coffee on it anyway!

Sea to Summit also produce a range of Gore-tex Hats, great to wear when it's just lightly raining and you don't want to wear the hood on your jacket. A pair of light gaiters is also a good investment as wet feet from water dripping down inside the tops of your boots are extremely unpleasant and can seriously affect the quality of your experience. However, as a lot of walkers use gaiters as protection against the bush, and some times against a potential encounter with a snake, gaiters tend to be made of more robust fabrics.

So don't let the thought of wet weather put you off bushwalking - just protect yourself and your gear from the damp and enjoy yourself.

Mike Wood
Mountain Designs WA



Give Mum a 'Break' on Mothers Day

Reward Mum with a Bibbulmun Walking Break

2 days of hassle free walking - no cooking, no camping, no pressure! Breaks available in Dwellingup, Collie, Balingup, Pemberton, Northcliffe, Walpole or Denmark.

Vouchers available - Phone Millie for a quote 9321 0649 or email: tourism@bibbulmuntrack.org.au



Office Gossip

After our break at Christmas and a couple of weeks of comparative quiet, the office was busy once again and we were pleased to welcome back our team of office volunteers.

2008 will be an exciting year; in particular, we are looking forward to the 10th Anniversary celebrations that will culminate in a big party in September. Everyone in the office is involved in some way—there is an awful lot to do!

We are delighted to have Millie (aka Mylene) back after extended maternity leave that included a trip to France to introduce her new daughter Maelie to her family.

The walker survey is almost at the half-way mark and we have lots of interesting results coming in. Sometimes there are no walkers to be seen, but the local wildlife tends to wander by. Three feral goats have been reported as well as kangaroos, lizards sunning themselves on the rocks and a quokka which didn't have time to be interviewed. An emu came past one site after-hours and so missed being counted, but it did stop long enough to investigate the tent in which the volunteers were sleeping!

We can always use more volunteers, so if you want to check out the local wildlife, just let me know.

Gwen Plunkett
Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator

ED - On the subject of Office Gossip, Gwen recently became a grandmother - to twins! She now has an even busier life and will soon be reducing her days in the office to four. 🌻

Keep up-to-date
with the latest Track News, Special Offers and Events with our email newsletter:

email events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au and ask to go on our mailing list.

Remember to let us know if your email or postal address changes!

Prize Winning Members

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

November

Julien Harris won a fly veil and pair of walking socks donated by Sea to Summit.

Aaron Felton won the 2nd prize of a water bottle.

December

Valerie Hunt won a fly veil donated by Sea to Summit and a step-counter donated by Foundation member Geoff Bell.

Greg Williams won the 2nd prize of a water bottle.

January

Terry Burridge won a Beach & Forest Off-Road Adventure for two people donated by Pemberton Discovery Tours

Stuart Breden won the 2nd prize of a fly veil and a water bottle.

February

The Robinson Family won a pair of Bridgedale Women's Ascent walking socks and a fly veil kindly donated by Sea to Summit.

John Philpot won the 2nd prize of a water bottle.

March

Peter and Vera Clune won a book entitled 'Urbanantics' donated by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Linda Clark won the 2nd prize of a water bottle.

Annual Life Member prize draw

Adrian Clarke won a Windows Vista Ultimate software package donated by Foundation members Barry and Margaret Bryan (The Silvertops) from England.

Life Members prize draw 2

Jack Logan received a back pack donated by Diamond sponsor Mountain Designs.

The Entertainment Book is back!

Save big money and support the Bibbulmun Track at the same time! The Entertainment™ Book 2008/09 is filled with valuable 25% to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers from the best restaurants, cafés, family dining, entertainment, accommodation, sports, and much more. The books will be available mid-May for a limited time only and they are sure to sell out quickly... So reserve your copy online, by post, call 9481 0551 or email friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au now! Only \$65 collected from the office, plus \$7 for regular postage or \$9.50 for registered post (as we cannot replace books lost in the mail, we strongly recommend choosing registered post). Remember, you only have to use the Book a couple of times and it's paid for itself!!



ONLY \$65

Thank you to our wonderful Volunteers

In early December I travelled to Denmark and Albany to meet with volunteers in the Frankland and Albany districts and to thank them for their help over the previous year.

Frankland Regional Coordinator Peter Burgess and his wife Kathy welcomed us into their home for afternoon tea and we spent a very enjoyable few hours together. Volunteer rewards were presented to Stuart and Mary Gray who travel from Perth to maintain their section of Track near Rame Head, and John Murphy from York whose section is just south of Walpole. All those present received a copy of the interactive CD Bibbulmun Track on the South Coast courtesy of the producer, Tony Evans.

Next day the Albany volunteers gathered at the home of Regional Coordinator Bev Visser and her husband Gerry. CDs were presented and there was lots of laughter as we reminisced over lunch. Many of those present were amongst the first group of Albany volunteers when the programme began in 1999.

A big thank you to all of our wonderful team of volunteers who are involved with so many different activities—in the office and out on the Track, at community events, delivering calendars and much, much more. The Track wouldn't be what it is without them. Their contribution was recognised in December at the annual Volunteer Thank You Day at the Perth Hills National Park Centre where we all gathered for lunch. It was a great chance to catch up with everyone and especially pleasing to have a number of volunteers join us from the regions.

During the day Foundation Executive Director, Linda Daniels, presented the volunteer rewards, kindly sponsored by Mountain Designs. While those volunteers who receive rewards have all contributed many, many hours to the Track, all our volunteers are highly valued and much appreciated and each gives as much time as they can.

Gwen Plunkett
Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator

REWARD RECIPIENTS:

100 hours plus

Geoff Bell
Trish Bird
Di Challen
Mal Cooper
Michael Duffy
Dene Edmunds
Malcolm Ferrier
Wes Fokkema
Mary Gray
Stuart Gray
John Hardman
Charmaine Harris

Bonnie Hennessey
Tony Jennings
Ce Kealley
Lesley Kerr
Peter Lake
John Murphy
Wendy Nelson
Chris Piggford
Chris Plunkett
Gwen Plunkett
Steve Sertis
Peter Whittle

300 hours plus

Jim Baker
Isabel Busch
Colleen Clayden
Richard Clayden
Peter Dear
Elsie Grygiel
Hans Hoette
Peter Sweetman

500 hours plus

Jim Freeman
Edith Thomas



This was my 'working party' in March. L-R Tereze Watson, Carol Harvey, Elaine Airey, Brian Harvey, John Hurley, Lynn Baldwin, Richard. You see we have the tall & the short, & the fat & the thin" Richard Pen-Dennis



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Yes, THEY DID IT!

In this edition we recognise another 65 end-to-end walkers.

11 CAME FROM OVERSEAS, 12 FROM INTERSTATE AND THE REMAINING 42 FROM WA.

Ages where shown relate to the date of completion of the walk and unless otherwise stated given dates relate to 2007.

As usual, by far the majority headed south. They are mentioned first, followed by those who walked north and finally those who completed the walk in more than one go.

GOING SOUTH

Gary Adams (60) from Parkinson in Queensland walked from 17 September to 12 November.

Gary notes as a highlight the finding of a snake under his shoe! He was pleased to find his blood sugar levels returning to normal, to lose a lot of weight and to feel his best for 15 years. His advice: don't pack soap powder with food and learn how to adjust your backpack!

Tim Allen (68) of East Victoria Park arrived in Albany on 28 November after 67 days. He enjoyed crossing the Irwin Inlet and hearing the Wind Farm from Hidden Valley. His best recollection of wildlife was watching a tiger snake with its dinner still moving around in its stomach! He feels that walkers should consider spending an extra night in Donnelly River Village.

Bassendean residents **Trish Buchanan** (27) and **Clinton Green** (28) arrived in Albany on 25 January this year after a 47 day walk. They liked Conspicuous Cliffs and Frankland campsite but White Horse Hills was special because it was there they became engaged! They would love to repeat the walk soon.

Tony Cole (49) of Gooseberry Hill ended his 45 day walk on 28 December. He has many

interesting things to say – from the good tasting water, sleeping on top of the rock at Woolbales, being 'tackled' by a wallaby that charged out of the undergrowth and being able to communicate on his Next G phone. However he did not enjoy the dunes and is disappointed by the devastation caused by developers between Denmark and Nullaki.

John Craig (66) 'Kiwi' of Wellington, New Zealand joined **Hermann Juetner** (58) of Bremen, Germany and **John Rana** (61) of Waikiki, WA to complete the walk on 4 November in 49 days. John C, a veteran of the Appalachian Trail had a wonderful time and met a lot of very generous people on the way. He says our campsites with water tanks are wonderful and save a lot of time and worry. It was a great experience for Hermann for whom it was his first long walk. He recommends putting extra gas cartridges with food drops as there may be places where you won't be able to get them. It was also John R's first long distance walk. He enjoyed the journey and the rigours of the walk highlighted by the presence of his walking companions.

Alan Cunniffe (58) of Joondalup walked solo from 31 October to 5 December. He was happy to achieve his goals of completing the walk, getting fit and losing 'some weight'. He notes in passing that his hiking boots were so uncomfortable he had to change to runners when 3 days out!

Dick Day (59) of Seven Hills in NSW reached Albany on 2 December. His time was 56 days. His overview is that the Track, signposting and shelters are excellent. However he felt there were a few things that could be improved such as a clear policy on providing toilet paper and warnings about the presence of rats, possums and mosses around the shelters.

(Ed- Although some maintenance volleys and DEC staff occasionally supply toilet paper, the policy is BYO".)

Mardella residents **Kelly** (22) and **Sue** (46) **Deguar** left Kalamunda on 13 October and reached Albany on 5 December, which was Kelly's birthday! For both of them it was a fantastic experience and the people they met were great. Sue finally achieved the end-to-end for which she had yearned over the past 10 years. They found that preparing dehydrated meals and forwarding them to the back packer accommodation they used worked well.

Jean Fitzgerald (55) of Manjimup took two months to reach Albany on 30 November. She was delighted to be able to indulge in her passion for nature and bushwalking. Her favourite section was the coast with its endless drift of wildflowers and the view from the rugged cliffs to the ocean below. Jean's highlights included the amazing sight of two snakes engaging in a courtship ritual.

'I am very happy I did this walk at an early stage of my life. I believe that the things you learn doing a walk like this should be a part of every young person's education.'

- Robert Swanson

Applecross member **Bernard Glasson** (63) walked from 29 July to 26 September. Bernard had company on each section – by my count a total of 13 friends joined him at one time or another which clearly added to his enjoyment. He describes his 'wilderness' walk as a fantastic experience. He provided recommendations on track publications, accommodation and pack contents and urges walkers to take a second set of footwear to double as camp shoes and if needed, waders.

Setting off on 25 November 2007 **Steve Hille** (23) of Heathridge and **Gareth Ljubic** (24) of Mt Lawley arrived in Albany on 18 January this year. They are both lavish in their praise for the excellent facilities and condition of the Track. Food parcels sent to country post offices should, they suggest, be collected by early afternoon on Friday as these offices are closed on Saturdays. Steve's personal reactions ranged from anticipation, disappointment and relief to shock, sweat, blood, pain, despair, amazement, surprise and relief. What about triumph Steve? Gareth just says it was absolutely phenomenal. Their advice to others: Have rest breaks, remove boots and let your feet cool down.

Swiss visitors **Helen** (59) and **Peter** (60) **Kellenberg** of Uerikon in Switzerland reached Albany on 10 November after 41 days on the Track. They found food supplies were good throughout with the potential problem at North Bannister being overcome by arranging for a meal to be prepared before they left home. Helen saw an extensive amount of wildlife: echidnas,

legless and blue tailed lizards, red tailed cockatoos, kangaroos, skinks, blue wrens, parrots, yellow whistlers and of course spiders and snakes. Peter describes section 49 (you'll have to locate it in the guidebook) as a botanical wonderland.

American visitors **Todd Kelley** (42) and **Dawn Schahczinski** (30) from San Diego left Kalamunda on 13 September and reached Albany on 1 November. Dawn had no problem with food supplies but Todd suggests track towns stock tuna in packets not tins. He writes that the South Coast was awesome but cautions against canoeing across the Irwin Inlet on a windy day! He also urges walkers to take care coming down the south side of Mt Cooke. Dawn enjoyed every minute of what was a great trek.

Student **Maxmilian 'Max K' Kipp** (20) of Lennestadt in Germany took 53 days to reach Albany on 10 November. He found it quite hard at first but once he became used to his pack things got easier. He especially enjoyed the challenging sections, the hills and the wonderful south coast. Not sure if he is joking when he says he loves noodles! Max had a great time with a new highlight each day including a meeting with a two-metre tiger snake at Lake Maringup which scared him – shall we say – speechless!

Still out of WA we record that ACT visitors **David Large** (70) of Macarthur and **Kathy Saw** (67) of Farrer set out on 6 September arriving at the southern terminus on 20 October. It was David's second end-to-end – this time as a through walk. Kathy liked many things but mentions the variety and number of wildflowers. In this respect she found the little books sold at the Track office a great help. When she reached Albany she just wanted to turn around and walk some of the way again! She intends to return with others.

Victorian **Gregory Macpherson** (39) from Prahran, Melbourne found this, his second end-to-end, much easier than the first but still one of the best things he has done. Starting on 9 October he arrived in Albany on 4 December. Gregory declares he won't eat pasta for another two years! His advice is to do the walk when the weather is cooler but do it nevertheless.

Malcolm (48) and **Gillian** (47) **Ovans** 'Mogo' of Eneabba took 74 days to reach Albany on 22 November. They enjoyed the changes in vegetation and terrain as well as the history of the various areas all of which encouraged them to seek further information. Wildlife they encountered included a death adder and bright

yellow 10 cm long worms! They recommend starting the day with a good breakfast, eating snacks during the day and having a robust dinner in the evening.

Steve Parish (57) from North Perth left Kalamunda on 3 September and reached Albany on 23 October. He feels it is wise to have more than four food drops to reduce the weight carried. Steve appears to enjoy walking alone as he highlights not seeing another person or hearing a car or plane for 3 days. However he found it hard trying to sleep for 9 to 11 hours when 6 hours was usual. A full record of Steve's adventure can be found on www.westcoastassist.com.au/Bibbulmun_Track_journey.htm.

USA resident **Jen Pharr** (24) from Hendersonville in North Carolina who took just 22 days from 27 January this year loved the Track and walking in the heat of summer. Highlights included seeing dolphins in the ocean, the wind farm and the amazing bird life. Jen mentions that both North Bannister and Mumbalup Tavern were closed when she went by. She found Australians to be very hospitable and rates the Track as good as any of the major trails in the Americas and Africa.

Young **Isaac Powell** (18) of Ongerup started on 18 August and finished on 13 October. It was amazing and one of the most satisfying and pleasurable experiences of his life. The highlight was standing in his underwear on a table watching a particularly large dugite drinking from a puddle by the water tank.

Veronica Ritchie (49) of Narrabundah in New South Wales left Kalamunda on 2 October and reached Albany on 23 November. She enthusiastically recommends the Track whether walking it in sections or one go, for stunning scenery, wonderful facilities and interesting people.

'Every day on the Track was pure paradise but I loved the canoe crossing (Irwin Inlet) and the 'showgrounds''
- Diane Tinker

Victorians **David Searl** (59) and **Peter van der Zande** (62) from Lake Gardens and Cohuna respectively took 41 days to reach Albany on 20 October. Both report that it was a fantastic experience. David with a 50 litre pack was forced to pack minimally. He says the Track must be one of the top walks of the world. With Peter he has done the G.O.W. in Victoria and the Kokoda in the past 12 months. However for Peter the highlight was recovering the camera he lost at Noggerup. Andrew from Balingup Hikers Hideaway brought it all the way out to Blackwood. See his letter in Bibbulmun Newsletter issue #46.

Robert Swanson 'Kodiak' (21) of Mt Lawley, completed his 39-day journey on 7 November. Unlike many others Robert openly declares his love for pasta – or is he joking! He never got bored with the simple life. Robert recommends talking to other walkers before buying from a camping shop as by doing so you can save yourself a lot of money, and grief.

David Thomson (54) from Feilding in New Zealand took 52 days to arrive in Albany on 25 November. He came to WA for the specific purpose of walking the Track in spring and found it to be a wonderful experience and delightfully quiet helped by excellent facilities. Food supplies were basic but adequate for a visitor without a support base or car.

Diane Tinker (65) of Kelmscott reached Albany on 2 November. She left Kalamunda 63 days earlier. This was her second end-to-end. The first was completed over 2 years about 8 years ago. It had been her dream to walk the Track in 'one hit'. Diane had shared shelters with a total of only 52 people up to Hidden Valley, when on her last night she had the company of 20 students from Albany Senior High School! She asks whether there is another track in the world that's free and so well maintained.

GOING NORTH

Ross Leighton (67) of Noranda walked south to north in 51 days arriving in Kalamunda on 28 November. On this his third end-to-end the highlights were gales on the south coast, hail at Gardner, 40° at Mt Cooke and minus 3° at Chadoora. He finds it hard to believe that he still has not seen a wild pig on any of his walks though he did see a pair of magnificent eagles just north of Schafer. Ross records that by going north he met more people than he would otherwise have expected – 122 in all.

GOING MORE SLOWLY – OR DIFFERENTLY

Local volunteer **Jim 'Wrong Way Jim' Baker** (62) of Bullcreek completed his 3rd end-to-end on 22 November. This time he covered the distance in 4 sections over a 2½ year period. Jim really enjoyed the people he met – always good humoured, broad minded and cheerful. The Track remains as magical as ever for him.

Martyn Casey of East Fremantle walked with **Ron Harvey** of Albany and **Brian Waldron** (47) of Woolloomooloo in New South Wales. Brian it seems originally started on the 'old track' in 1980 and since moving to the east in 1995 has returned to WA from time to time to do the occasional walk with his mates. In September 2001 they started to look seriously at an end-to-end and completed the final section in October last year. They suggest taking extra food so you can stop over in places you like.

Cathy Day (49) of Mt Lawley, **Anne Holder** (50) and **Rod de Gunst** (50) both of Victoria Park and **Wendy Marmoy** (52) of Yokine completed in December last year the final section of a walk they began in April 1999! Cathy, who has walked elsewhere in the world, says the Track can be classed right up there with the others. Anne on the other hand acknowledges that the Track may not compare scenically with the Overland Track or Nepal or have the history of the Inca Trail but hey – it's in our own backyard. She learnt a lot about the towns and regions through which the Track passes which added to the enjoyment. Among other experiences they walked at night without getting lost and in 40° heat from Peaceful Bay to Boat Harbour. Rod writes that all in all it was a wonderful experience on a wonderful track but nevertheless ends with



'Thank God it's over!' Perhaps that relates to the length of time it took to finish because he has this advice for other walkers – 'Don't take 8 years to complete it'. Wendy felt a sense of accomplishment because 10 or 20 years ago she would never have dreamed she could do it.

Gary 'Garysun' Dennis (52) of Kallaroo having taken from July 1996 to October 2007 to complete his walk is now planning a 'walk thru' in April 2008. He loved the simple life of eating, walking and sleeping whether on his own or in company. At Rame Head he watched the setting sun and rising moon in the evening and then, with a large kangaroo for company, the rising sun and setting moon in the morning!

Brian 'The Walker' Hancock (70) of Salter Point completed the southern half of the old track between 1976 and 1984 and walked the 'new' Track in sections between October 1999 and December 2007. General comment: Good walk. Thank you, DEC. Favourite section: Boat Harbour. Health issues account for the number of short bursts he had to undertake. He records that it was great to finish and urges walkers to buy the best equipment they can afford and join the BTF.

Diana Hill (61) of Rhodes and **Bruce Hartwell** (70) of West Ryde both in New South Wales walked most of the way in September and October 2006 and completed the balance in October last year. Diana ended weary but elated. Wading the channel at Wilson Inlet was the highlight. When comparing walks Diana says the Track is the longest and prettiest whilst Bruce considers it simply the best. For him the highlights were the wild flowers, coastal views and forests.

Owen McGrath (64) 'Owen F' of Kalamunda walked the Track in sections between late April and early December last year. It was hard work but every day was well worth it. Like many before him he found Mt Hallowell one of the hardest and best challenges. His diet which included dry fruit, jelly beans and pitta bread was planned to keep the weight down. His advice is to take 6 to 8 months and get to experience all the seasons.

Chris (49) and **Rosemarie** (49) **McGarrathy** of Orange Grove ended their walk of 6 years 4 months in December. It was very satisfying to share the experience and meet so many interesting people. Chris's personal reaction is that you need to walk at least 8 or 9 days before you fully enjoy walking with a pack whilst Rosemarie's is that it becomes so easy to forget about day-to-day life back home. She still hates snakes but has learnt to deal with that challenge.

Peter Pope (47) of Craigie completed his 10 year 'mostly north/south' sectional walk in October 2007. He enjoyed all 18 or more sections learning something new on each trip. Peter cautions against carrying more than 700 grams of food a day but chocolate must not be left out! Highlights included the sunrises and solitude at Mt Chance, swimming in the rain at Tom Road and morning mist at Blackwood.

Loraine Ronay (56) of Bunbury walked the Track with other members of the Bunbury Adventure Pursuit Club in sections between May 2004 and October 2007. She enjoyed all of it except burnt areas and found it was 'heart medicine' to just look at everything.

Krista Reynen (22) 'Roo' of Roleystone walked the Track with **Gillian** (26) and **Tony** (29) **Slater** of East Huntspill, Somerset in the UK. They started from Kalamunda on 19 July, had a break of about 6 weeks at the end of August and finished in Walpole on 3 November. Krista undertook the walk for her late mum Frieda who had always wanted to walk with her. Her diet seems to have consisted of noodles, chocolate and wine! For Gillian who had never hiked for more than a day in her life this was the grandest adventure she had ever undertaken. Tony highly recommends the Track to people who have poor luck with diets – he literally walked himself thinner! His favourite section was from Mt Chance to Woolbales when they had to slog through 20 kms of swamp.

It was a great experience and real challenge for **Darryl Snooke** (65) of Mundaring who completed his walk in sections between October 1999 and November last year. He is grateful to those who walked with him on various

occasions. The highlights included talking to other walkers along with the fantastic views from Mt Cooke and Mt Wells and from the top of the Gloucester Tree.

Guy Spouge (36) of Ellenbrook walked alone though various friends joined him from time to time. Beginning in 2003/4 when he walked for 21 days during the Bibbulmun Track Challenge and heading mainly south to north he completed the Track in October last year. In the course of walking he has made some amazing friends. It was a great challenge on a great track. In the end it was just fantastic to finish.

Mark Stewart (47) of Bullsbrook walked south to north between August 2005 and September 2007. He says there is a completely different feel going in this direction especially as he shared a lot more shelters with others – mainly north to south walkers. The highlight for Mark was experiencing a thunderstorm at Blackwood then next morning seeing a pine tree that had snapped like a twig.

Queensland resident **Patsy Sutton** (58) of Hillcrest regards herself as a sectional walker because although going mostly from north to south she completed 2 short sections in the opposite direction to accommodate friends. In the final analysis it was a walk that started on 24 September and ended on 24 November. It was a wonderful experience with lots of time to reflect as the landscape, vegetation and wildlife continually merged.

Martin White (44) of Margaret River started in the south in March reaching Kalamunda in November. He posted food ahead but was able to enjoy a Sunday roast at Northcliffe. Martin finished the walk happier and healthier than he had been for a long time.

Johan Willers (50) who resides in City Beach walked the Track between October 2003 and October 2007 with his twin sons **Jack and Sam** (13). Various others walked sections with them. It was incredibly enjoyable on a fantastic track. Johan enjoyed watching piglets fossicking at a fire break south of Dog Pool. He was able to use his mobile phone to call in help for a fellow walker who had suffered a broken ankle. Jack was amazed how lovely the bush is again once you get out there and can't believe he has done the whole 963 kilometres. He says rope will not keep possums out of packs! Sam had a really enjoyable walk highlighted by meeting people around campfires. Both brothers would like to see a sign at the southern terminus reminding walkers to sign the register.

Finally we mention **David Williams** (64) of Toodyay who completed his second sectional end to end – this time walking south to north – in November last year having commenced in May 2006. He enjoyed seeing things from the opposite direction – even the challenging hills are different – at different times of day and in different light, in different weather and in different seasons. Being one of the first walkers to re-enter areas after a burn back is a truly apocalyptic experience.

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

"Walking with Attitude"



You don't have to miss out on the journey of the decade! Walk the Track from end-to-end, from Albany to Kalamunda, without spending a single night under the stars. The Bibbulmun Track Foundation, with the help of Australia's leading online walk track website walkingwithattitude.com has created an online virtual walking challenge, designed especially for the Bibbulmun Track 10th Anniversary celebrations.

This is how the online Bibbulmun Track walking challenge works:

Starting on the same day as the 'real' walkers (July 16th), your challenge will be to record an average of 10,000 steps (or approximately seven kilometres) per day, for eight weeks. You will pass through the same Bibbulmun Track checkpoints as the 'real' walkers, and you will aim to complete the online challenge in approximately the same time as they complete the actual walk. Spare a thought for the 'real' walkers—they will be covering around 14 to 20 kilometres per day, and by the end of the eight weeks they will have walked almost 1,000 kilometres!

Clip on your pedometer.

Each day, record your daily step count on the walkingwithattitude.com website and view your progress on the virtual Bibbulmun Track challenge map. Each participant will receive

checkpoint newsletters by email, show-casing the Bibbulmun Track – history, sights and trivia.

Don't have a pedometer?

No worries, just enter your daily exercise minutes and the site will convert these into steps for you. For example, a typical 45 min aerobics class equals approximately 5,625 steps. The founders of walkingwithattitude.com, Kate Crosby and Jackie Preston, are offering a special discounted membership to their website as an incentive for everyone to get involved in the BTF 10th Anniversary celebrations.

"We are excited to join forces with the Bibbulmun Track Foundation to help celebrate one of Australia's iconic walking tracks. The internet allows us to reach across Australia and the world, giving everyone the opportunity to share the celebrations and walk the Bibbulmun Track with Attitude." Ready to take up the Bibbulmun Track End to End walking challenge?

To find out more, visit www.walkingwithattitude.com and click on the Bibbulmun Track logo - or call Jackie on (08) 9451 7665.

Register your interest today!

Walk the Bibbulmun Track

by Christine Gallagher



Birds calling the new day has begun, as I crawl out of my green cocoon.

The sun is filtering thru the trees, as their branches wave hello.

Billy boiling as we pack our gear to commence a new day.

Maps checked and campfire clean we leave for our day's destination.

Thru jarrah forest over logs watched by bob tail goannas, kangaroos and emus.

Ferns as tall as we are, over creeks, rivers and dams.

Up steep hills where the challenge is on, sore feet some with blisters swollen with pain we press on, knowing the next hut is our home away from home tonight.

The wonders of the wilderness - ticks, marsh flies, snakes, commando ants to remind us of the elements out there.

When it rains, the magic of glistening trees as the sun filters thru like flickering Christmas lights.

Wild flowers adorn the ground like a magical fairy land against the burnt out Balga black boy bush.

Kookaburras calling out at the end of the day as we arrive at the campsite to rest for another day.

Sun now setting thru the trees as we eat by a warm camp fire, the direction of the smoke telling us what the weather may bring.

As the stars spread a blanket across us, we lay our heads down to sleep zzz. Mopok bird says goodnight.

November 2004

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 BALINGUP ROSE B&B and NUTKIN LODGE 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
ESCAPE DAY SPAS	PERTH	Health	(08) 9383 4328	
ON TRACK HIKING HIRE	PERTH	Equipment	0401 625 668	
MUNDARING WEIR HOTEL	MUNDARING	Accommodation/ Restaurant-café	(08) 9295 1106	No.
DWELLINGUP ADVENTURES	DWELLINGUP	Tour	(08) 9538 1127	10% on self-guided tours.
DWELLINGUP CHAETS & CARAVAN PARK	DWELLINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9538 1157	No.
BANKSIA MOTEL	COLLIE	Accommodation	(08) 9734 5655	
BLUE WREN B&B	COLLIE	Accommodation	(08) 9734 7939	On application.
COLLIE RIVER VALLEY TOURIST PARK	COLLIE	Accommodation	(08) 9734 5088	10%.
COLLIE VISITOR CENTRE	COLLIE	Tourist Bureau	(08) 9734 2051	10% on souvenirs.
WHISPERING PINES B&B	COLLIE	Accommodation	(08) 9734 3883	10%.
GLEN MERVYN FARMSTAY	MUMBALLUP	Accommodation	(08) 9732 2208	To groups of ten or more.
BALINGUP BUDGET ACCOM. - 'THE HIKERS HIDEAWAY'	BALINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9764 1049	Special rate of \$24.
BALINGUP LAVENDER FARM	BALINGUP	Attraction/Café	(08) 9764 1436	10% off essential oil of lavender.
BALINGUP ROSE B&B	BALINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9764 1205	
CHESTNUT BROOK COTTAGE	BALINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9764 1606	10% (direct bookings only).
JALBROOK COTTAGES - KNITWEAR GALLERY	BALINGUP	Accommodation - Attraction	(08) 9764 1616	Sun-Thu only, outside school holidays.
TASTE OF BALINGUP	BALINGUP	Food	(08) 9764 1344	10%.
CORD ON BLUE Pty Ltd	NANNUP	Food	(08) 9756 0616	10% off orders over \$150.
DONNELLY RIVER HOLIDAY VILLAGE	DONNELLY RIVER	Accommodation	1800 819 650 or (08) 9772 1244	No.
SOUTHERN FORESTS WA	MANJIMUP	Information Provider	(08) 9771 7777	
BIG BROOK RETREAT	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 0279	
KARRI GLADE CHAETS	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 1120	
KARRI VALLEY RESORT	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 2020	10% on rack rate. Conditions apply.
PEMBERTON BREAK-AWAY COTTAGES	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 1580	10%. More for stays of four days or more.
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 FARM CHAETS	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 1290	10%.
PEMBERTON TOURIST CENTRE INC	PEMBERTON	Tourist Bureau	1800 671 133 or (08) 9776 1133	
PUMP HILL FARM COTTAGES	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 1379	
BIBBULMUN BREAK MOTEL	NORTHCLIFFE	Accommodation	(08) 9776 6060	No.
WATERMARK KILNS	NORTHCLIFFE	Accommodation	(08) 9776 7349	
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COALMINE BEACH HOLIDAY PARK	WALPOLE	Accommodation	(08) 9840 1026	10%.
STARGAZERS B&B	WALPOLE	Accommodation	(08) 9840 1553	\$5 on accommodation.
TINGLE ALL OVER' YHA	WALPOLE	Accommodation	(08) 9840 1041	No.
WOOZ & SUZ CAFÉ	WALPOLE	Restaurant/Café	(08) 9840 1214	No.
NUTKIN LODGE	PEACEFUL BAY	Accommodation	(08) 9840 8650	
PEACEFUL BAY B&B	PEACEFUL BAY	Accommodation	(08) 9840 8353	Afternoon tea on arrival.
PEACEFUL BAY CHAETS & BACKPACKERS	PEACEFUL BAY	Accommodation	(08) 9840 8169	Accommodation at \$20pp.
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DENMARK WATERFRONT MOTEL	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 1147	5%.
THE COVE	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 1770	10%.
WINDROSE B&B	DENMARK	Accommodation/ Transport prov.	(08) 9848 3502	10%.
CAPE HOWE COTTAGES	LOWLANDS BEACH	Accommodation	(08) 9845 1295	10% off normal tariff.
BAYVIEW BACKPACKERS YHA	ALBANY	Accommodation	(08) 9842 3388	Same as YHA-card holders: \$3.
ALBANY VISITOR CENTRE	ALBANY	Tourist Bureau	1800 644 088 or (08) 9841 1088	No.
FREDERICKSTOWN MOTEL	ALBANY	Accommodation	(08) 9841 1600	
NORMAN HOUSE	ALBANY	Accommodation	(08) 9841 5995	5%.
ORANJE TRACTOR WINE	ALBANY	Winery	(08) 9842 5175	
VANCOUVER GUESTHOUSE	ALBANY	Accommodation	(08) 9842 1071	\$5 per night

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Pemberton

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Pemberton

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Walker Stories...

Tales from the Bibbulmun Track

Tribute to Mum

Krista Reynen walked the Track end-to-end as a tribute to her mother.

Hello, my name is Krista Reynen. I walked the Track on behalf of my mum Frieda Reynen, who passed away from breast cancer in 2006. I walked the Track in three sections from July to November 2007. My boyfriend, best friend and I had planned our walk to take 49 days, but unfortunately we had to break it up into sections because of family illness and trips overseas. However, I believe that we would have completed it easily in the original time frame. The past year has been a bit tough, with lots of sad times. I felt that I really wanted to do something as a memorial to my mum, because she was such a great person and achieved so much for our family. Mum had battled breast cancer twice in the past, but sadly it spread to her lungs, bones and brain and she passed away in October 2006. She became a keen bushwalker in her later years, but was never healthy enough to take on the "Big Track". We used to talk about one day starting on the Bibbulmun Track and seeing how far we got; she loved being outside and always wanted to get fitter.

During my time as a girl guide I went on several overnight hikes and really enjoyed them. I started thinking during the past few years that I would love nothing more than to achieve the amazing feat of completing the whole Track.

There seemed like no better time; even though my mum was unable to come, my wonderful boyfriend and best friend from England were traveling with me. (To be fair I convinced them to come with me, they had no idea what they were letting themselves in for!) The walk was everything I expected, at times a real challenge and yet so much fun and very rewarding. It was a reassuring feeling to wake up in the morning and know that all you had to do was walk to the next shelter, cook some basic dinner and relax and enjoy the scenery. Of course some days were much harder than others. It was a relief to get away from the real world, to focus on the little things, and think about all the great things in my life. It will always remain one of the great achievements of my life, and one day I hope to do the end-to-end fundraising for charity. I wish so much that my mum had been well enough to walk with me, it would have been so special to spend so much time with her, and achieve something so wonderful together. Unfortunately she was never healthy enough, but I do think that there were times she was watching me on the Track, hopefully sharing the experience and the laughter. I like to think that she is proud of me. I walked the Track on her behalf, to spend time remembering all the great times we had together.

Thank you mum.

A Snake Tale/Tail

Jean FitzGerald tells of a reptilian encounter while on her end to end walk last year.

It was midmorning, just short of half way between Lake Maringup and Dog Pool. I'd found a perfect place to stop for a rest, overlooking a beautiful rocky outcrop surrounded by peppermint trees in full flower, their delicious perfume filling the air. This spot was cool, mossy and had good open views to the trees. I sat on a raised rock, just right for a seat and ideal to rest my pack on, settled down with my morning snack and enjoyed the beauty and tranquillity. It was a hot a terrible hot Monday in November, max 37C.

Once rested, I packed up and headed towards the next Waugal that pointed into the bush. Then out of the corner of my eye I saw a snake—about six meters away on the warm rocks. Wow, that's a big snake I thought, I'm safe to watch it from here. Suddenly, from behind another, smaller, rock up popped two slender snake heads, spiralling together. When I looked back over the rock the big snake was actually two fat long snake bodies. The darker coloured snake was perfectly twined around its lighter coloured friend. Their heads kept circling each other. After some time they separated and the lighter coloured snake came in my direction towards a large log; then the darker of the two headed my way as well—I was out of there! I estimate they were almost two metres long (maybe a fishing tale?). Both were exceedingly fast over the rocks, and I was exceedingly fast heading out of there.

Had I just witnessed a courtship ritual?

Jean FitzGerald
Manjimup

In a class of their own

In November 2007, the years 2/3 class of Little Grove Primary School did an eight kilometre walk along the Bibbulmun Track, from the Albany Wind Farm back to our school at Little Grove.

In the weeks prior to the walk the class had investigated various aspects of bushcraft, including first-aid, plant identification and information about the animals native to the area.

The big day finally arrived! After a welcome and a preparatory chat by local DEC Ranger Mark Roddy, twenty one students and eight parents, accompanied by hitchhiking flies in their millions set off along The Track.

This was a wonderful, rich experience and now all the students are keen to complete the whole of the Track.

Sarah McNamara



Little Grove students on the Track.



Couple at Gloucester Ridge by Mark Thornley



Merum Vineyard vista by Mark Thornley

TRACK TOWN Pemberton

"MY HOLIDAY DESTINATION"

The towering karri forest, much of which is over 400 years old, remains a treasured draw card for enticing tourists to explore Pemberton and the surrounding area. Some of the tallest trees in the world are to be found here, including the famous Gloucester Tree, which climbs to a majestic 61 meters. The Gloucester Tree was pegged for climbing in 1946 for use as a fire watchtower and remains one of the highest climbable trees in the world.

But Pemberton is not just about climbing trees. The town has established itself over the last 10 years as being at the hub of one of Australia's, and the world's, premier walking regions. The Bibbulmun Track passes through the surrounding karri forest and runs through the town itself.

Not everyone can walk the near 1000kms of the Bibbulmun Track from end-to-end, but there is much pleasure to be had from exploring some of the shorter sections in the vicinity of the town. Most of the trails are well signposted, including the Bibbulmun Track with its trademark "Waugal" triangles.

Pemberton is an all year round holiday and walking destination. In summer bushwalking is pleasant in the shade of the trees, and autumn

brings an explosion of colour in the forest and the local vineyards. Winter is a favourite time for visiting Pemberton, to explore the drives and walks and to be warm and cosy in one of the numerous chalets. Spring heralds the beautiful wildflower season, and the nearby D'Entrecasteaux National Park becomes a dreamland for orchid enthusiasts.

Pemberton is located 335 kilometres south of Perth, a journey of about four hours. The town is equidistant from Margaret River and Walpole, making it an ideal base. TransWA buses stop outside the front of the Visitor Centre, where bookings can be made.

When you reach the friendly town, you will find more than fifty local wineries and cellar doors. Pemberton is renowned for fine dining, gourmet food, as well as simple wholesome café style cuisine.

The best place to start your trip is at the Visitor Centre, which has a good supply of maps and a mass of information about the surrounding area. The staff will advise you of all you need to know to make your stay more pleasurable. The centre will accept food drop-offs for walkers by prior

arrangement and also has a retail section offering an array of jams, chutneys, honey etc. Discounts are available to holders of Bibbulmun Track Foundation membership cards.

Pemberton offers a large variety of activities including fishing, canoeing, horse riding, self-drive and walk tours. Walk trails range from short strolls to all day walks and over night hikes. The town is surrounded by National Parks; whatever your preference, Pemberton has it covered. The town has a wealth of history dating from the early aboriginal peoples through the first settlers, group settlement schemes, and the development of the timber, agriculture and tourist industries. Must-see features are the Brockman Sawpit, Heart Break Trail, and Big Brook Arboretum

For more information, contact

Pemberton Visitor Centre
Brockman Street
PO Box 93 Pemberton WA 6260
Tel: 08 9776 1133
Email: pemtour@karriweb.com.au



Photos by Mark Thornley

19

Courtesy of WA Tourism

VOLUNTEER PROFILE:

Edith Thomas



This is how Edith describes her first experience of 'overnight camping'—a little different to a night or two in a Bibbulmun Track shelter! The year was 1952 and the border separated Hungary, where Edith was born, and Yugoslavia. Her father was heavily involved in the anti-communism movement and was later jailed in Yugoslavia after President Tito formed an alliance with the Russians. Upon his release the family was given twenty-four hours to leave the country.

The following three years were spent in a refugee camp in Austria, where Edith first 'got the bush bug' as she puts it, after attending camps organised by the Red Cross.

In 1960 the family were granted immigrant status in New Zealand and Edith quickly developed an appreciation of the country's natural beauty, although she found leaving her friends yet again very difficult, not to mention having to learn yet another new language.

The travelling continued with a period in Sydney between 1965 and 1973, a return to New Zealand until 1977 and finally back to Australia, this time to Perth, in 1979.

Edith married her husband Alex in New Zealand and they have two sons.

Perth is where Edith's serious bushwalking adventures began, once she escaped the chauffeuring duties that her teenagers demand! She joined the Western Walking Club in 1992. (See the article in issue #46, page 24) and has spent four years as President. She especially enjoys leading walks and organising weekend events.

In 2002 Edith joined the Bibbulmun Track Foundation as a volunteer and is an essential member of the team working in the Foundation's office in Hay Street, taking on a multitude of administrative tasks, assisting those who visit the office and acting as stand-in for the office manager when necessary. She is ever cheerful and delights the staff with both her superb home cooking and her forthright use of the English language!

Edith's commitment to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation is clearly demonstrated by the fact that she has given in excess of 500 hours a year of her time over the past four years, and in 2006 was deservedly given a DEC "Volunteer of the Year" award. 🌸

"I was ten years old when Dad was shot on the border. The secret police were on our doorstep looking for him. When he came out of a coma he sent his mates to fetch mum and me. We had to spend two nights in the forest negotiating the minefields and the barbed wire."

2007 Raffle Winner

"THANKYOU!" SAYS BRYCE WALKER, THE WINNER OF OUR 2007 RAFFLE, WRITES ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCES ON HIS TREK IN TASMANIA...

Dear Nerida,

Thank you very much for my prize trip to Cradle Mountain and the Walls of Jerusalem. The trip was very rewarding—but challenging. Day one taught me that I should learn to follow the leader as I managed to walk past the campsite for approximately 30 minutes, which led to me walking back in near darkness. I left my mum waiting with half a tent, so it was lucky I turned up, as that night the temperature got down to minus 5 degrees. For the next five days Ben and Andre, our good humoured guides, made sure that I didn't walk past them again.

The days were long and by the end of the day you knew you had accomplished a feat.

Making it to the peak of Cradle Mountain, tackling huge rocks and incredible angles to receive a spectacular view of the surrounding regions, was certainly memorable. While Mount Jerusalem wasn't as high or quite as difficult it still offered those who took the challenge equally impressive views, and an understanding of the mountainous terrain that is so unique to Tasmania.

How lucky we were to be blessed with six days of beautiful weather—almost unheard of in Tasmania. It made the walk easier and meant we got to experience all the challenges without having the weather interrupting us, although it would have been nice for me to see snow falling for the first time.

This trip has given me the confidence to attempt another trip of this type with a group of mates, which was something that I would have never thought of attempting before. Thank you once again for the pleasure and the privilege.

Yours sincerely,
Bryce Walker

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NOTICE BOARD

IS ANYONE TRAVELLING TO NEPAL?

If you're a Bibbulmun Track walker, you might be planning a trip at higher altitude! We are a group of people helping to develop a self-sustaining orphanage in Kathmandu, which is in need of materials, especially clothes and books. We need travellers to Kathmandu to help us by carrying in a few such items in their luggage, which we can arrange to have collected. In addition, we would like to hear from anyone who is interested in giving some time to doing voluntary work at the orphanage, perhaps for a few days before or after a trek? If you can help, please contact Chris.

Email: chrisjamescyl@bigpond.com.au

HAS ANYONE DONE AN END-TO-END WITH YOUNG KIDS?

My husband Gavin and I plan to walk the Track end-to-end over two years. Our children will be four and seven, turning five and eight during the walk. We would love to talk to any families who have completed or attempted an end-to-end with similarly aged children, especially anyone living locally.

Contact: Sue
Email: gav_sue@aapt.net.au

ACCOMMODATION SOUGHT NEAR TRACK

An American student and avid walker coming to Perth for a postgraduate program at Edith Cowan. I'm looking for an apartment, house, or room near the Bibbulmun Track and within an hour or so of the city centre. Work for stay, barter, or caretaking possibilities especially sought. Excellent skills and references.

Contact: John - Email or call.
Phone: +01 413-825-6795 ext. 307
Email: jonaharalia@gmail.com

BACKPACK FOR SALE

Osprey Talon 44 litre in Spicy Chilli. Immaculate condition. \$160 ono.

Contact: Pieter
Phone: 0412 290 954
Email: pnienaber@chevron.com

ASSORTED GEAR FOR SALE

1) Sigg Fire-jet multi-fuel stove. Original condition with original box and instructions. Uses shellite, petrol or kerosene. \$129 new without MSR fuel bottle. Sell \$90 with 885ml MSR fuel bottle (valued at about \$20).

2) SILVA M2 headlamp - 2.4W halogen (2.5hr) / 3 x led (150hr). 4 x AA batteries. 50m range. Used once - still in original box. New \$112. Sell \$95.

3) Nalgene 750ml Drink bottle. NGen style. Never used. New \$21. Sell \$18. Sell with water bottle holder which mounts onto pack waist harness.

4) Coleman headlamp, old & basic style but works. \$5

5) Mountain Designs Candle Lantern (red). Requires new candle. New \$42 sell \$20

Contact: Steve
Phone: 9481 0551
Email: events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

TENT FOR SALE

Adventure Designs Flashback tent, one man, 1.9 kg. Very good condition, \$50

Contact: Sarah
Phone: 9443 8095
Email: sarcutts@inet.net.au

SCARPA TREK BOOTS (MEN'S) FOR SALE

Size 10, leather boot with Gore-Tex lining, Vibram sole and soft ankle cuff, making a very comfortable and waterproof boot. These are a few years old and have been worn, but have been looked after and are in excellent condition. \$65.00 or make an offer

Contact: Colin
Phone: 9448 4020
Email: cgee5@bigpond.com

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



10th Anniversary
1998 - 2008

the journey of a decade

JOIN IN THE JOURNEY OF A DECADE - a few spaces still available!

It's not too late to join in and become one of the 100+ walkers to take part in the 10th Anniversary walk.

A couple of sections are already full, and we have a waiting list of people wishing to do additional sections - so if you have been thinking about it - now's the time to register!

For more information on availability contact Steve on events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au or (08) 9481 0551.



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

TRACK TRIVIA NOTES

by Jim Baker (Wrong Way Jim)



Done it! Finally, after starting in March 2005, I legged it into Albany on November 23rd 2007 to finish my third end-to-end walk.

There is always a lot of time, when you're walking the Track, to meditate and consider the whys and hows of the universe. In the hotter months my thoughts often dwelt on the habits of flies, especially given that I was accompanied by about a million of them every day.

If an expert on flies reads this I shall be delighted to receive his or her comments.

(Come to that, if anyone reads this I shall be delighted.)

Back to flies.

Experienced walkers will have noticed that, in addition to the swarms of the pesky little buggers that try to get in your eyes, ears and nose, there are at least ten times as many sitting on your backpack, shirt, hat etc.

So question one is do they have a hierarchy? Do the upper class flies just cadge a free ride on us trekkers while the working class flies are sent out to try to drive us mad? If so, why? What is their motive?

Alternatively, is there a shift system, where they all take it in turns to pester us, with some sort of control fly in charge?

"Come in "A" Squadron, damn fine job on the ears. "B" squadron go for the nose. Watch out for his right hand. Damn quick on the swat, this fellow."

Second question is whether it's the same lot of flies that go with you from one camp site to another, or whether they have drop-off points on the way, where one lot gets off and another lot get on.

"Ah, here he comes, lovely and sweaty. Get ready for the change over, chaps—go, go, go!"

Then do they hang about the campsite during the night and hitch a lift back with the next trekker going in the opposite direction? Statistics show that more people walk the Track from north to south than south to north, so if this is the case, we should be gradually building up a concentration of southern based flies.

Where, indeed, would a fly call home?

And that's just the little ones. A whole new world of thought opens up with the biggies—March flies that can bite through ten layers of protective clothing. I read an article recently that said a group had determined, after years of study, that the favourite colour of the March fly is dark blue. Further comment would be superfluous.

With regard to animal life, I was pleased to find that Torbay campsite currently has a resident quenda, known as "Rex". I remember that on my first end-to-end walk in 2001 there was a quenda there called "Bob the Bandicoot" who appeared regularly at about six o'clock every evening to scrounge for food. Great grandad, maybe?

Unfortunately some people do give food to the animals that they encounter on the Track.

Please don't. Their natural diet is very different to ours, and feeding them is likely to do them physical damage.

On the subject of food, I came across this entry in a register recently:

"Just arrived Hewett's Hill, last night of my epic journey. Resolved to celebrate by eating every last bit of my food, so carefully put it all in one bag and sorted my rubbish into another, which I thought I dumped in the litter bin at the Weir. Just opened the remaining bag. Does anyone have a recipe for four empty snap lock bags, two empty tuna sachets, three used tea bags and a banana skin?"

And this one, with which I fully empathise:

"Nerang Campsite. Started yesterday late afternoon at Sullivan's Rock to walk to Dwellingup. Thick fog on top of Mount Cooke, so pitched our tent for the night. This morning still misty, but set off in good spirits. Two and a half hours later we arrived back at Sullivan's Rock. Turned around. It was foggy on the top of Mount Cooke, but kept going. Got lost. Finally arrived here just before dark. At this rate our ETA Dwelling up is sometime in 2012. Happy Walking!"

These are indeed men after my own heart!

So happy walking to one and all; I'll leave you with the words of Soren Kierkegaard, a 19th century Danish philosopher:

"Above all, do not lose your desire to walk; every day I walk myself into a state of well-being and walk away from every illness. I have walked myself into my best thoughts and I know of no thought so burdensome that one cannot walk away from it. Thus if one just keeps on walking, everything will be all right." ⚙️

**Happy Trekking!
Wrong Way Jim.**

Walker Stories -

Bibbulmun Track becomes a family tradition

by Pippa Moore



Pippa, Peta and Anika wading in the water near Woolbales, 2003

Our son, Andrew (19) joined us for two hikes with his uni friend, Paul. We just had to show him the section from Beavis to Boarding House. It was a challenge but they made it. Did they want to join us for the seven days from Walpole to Northcliffe? No? So we did the section from Peaceful Bay to Walpole with them, and the rest of us went on to Northcliffe straight after. Unfortunately Pippa had a week in hospital afterwards due to a stick gouging her leg.

As our children have begun leaving home, hikes have been an excellent way for getting back together again. Some sections of the Track are great for walking together and catching up on the latest news. It's also been fun to introduce friends and visitors to this wonderful activity.

In April 2000, we took a Swedish exchange student, Johan, with us on our hike from Peaceful Bay to Walpole. The girls took their friends for a hike in to our previous camping spot, the Rapids, between One Tree Bridge and Chappel Bridge, which by then had become part of the Bibbulmun Track.

In 2005, I got brave and took five groups of school students on some of the less challenging

sections of the Track in the Donnelly Valley. So now another fifty or so young people know of the joys and the pitfalls of hiking.

Little by little – 22 sections & 1137kms in 8 years

During most of the holidays, in April, July and October we've been on the Bibbulmun Track, in between other activities such as graduations, trips and study. Our last section was from the Harvey –Quindanning Road to Dwellingup in July, 2007 through the lovely Murray Valley—a challenging but enjoyable experience.

Richard, Pippa, Anika and Peta have now walked every section of the Track, some of them several times. Tasha has missed just a few sections.

It has been a great family activity. It's good to know that we all can live simply together—enjoying walking, eating, talking, playing cards and taking in nature in all its forms. We'd like to take this opportunity to say hello to the many people we've met on the way. Good on you, Bibbulmun Track! ⚙️

Richard and I hiked together when we were in our twenties; our honeymoon was spent walking the Overland Track in Tasmania. Then in 1980 we had the first of our five children and hiking wasn't possible for a while, although from 1986 we did go camping every Easter in a special spot beside the Donnelly River.

When our youngest, the twins, reached seven we decided to resume our hiking and planned a trip to the mountains in Tasmania. "We'd better start practising", we thought. Our first hike was a short one on the Cape to Cape Track.

Our first hike on the Bibbulmun Track was from Karri Valley to Seven Day Road. It was to have continued further, but Jo, our then sixteen-year-old, developed a sore hip. We had to camp beside the Track just south of Waistcoat Road. Richard ran the eleven kilometres back to Karri Valley for the car, while I walked with the four girls to Seven Day Road, and then went back for Richard's rucksack.

In October 1999, we succeeded in reaching Beavis and beyond to Boarding House. If we can do that, we thought, we could cope with the Walls of Jerusalem. And we did! We saw in the new millennium at Damascus Gate.



Richard (49), Peta (8), Tasha (10) Joanna (16), and Anika (8) near Karri Valley in July 1999.

Walking Poles - LIFESAVERS OR A THREAT TO THE ENVIRONMENT?

An article in a recent issue of Bibbulmun News discussed the pros and cons of walking/trekking poles with regard to the benefits walkers can obtain from their use.

This initiated a letter to the Foundation from Sabena Lund regarding the potential environmental impact of walking poles, from which I quote:

"Wild, (www.wild.com.au), recently published a letter concerning damage to tracks made by trekking poles, stating that poles tear up the sides of the track, loosen soil and displace plants. I have wondered whether the poles increase the mobility of phytophthora (Dieback fungus) and by puncturing the surface of the soil, create a haven for introduced bacteria and weed seeds."

A very good question and one which also raises issues with regard to the "Leave No Trace" concept.

Phytophthora dieback refers to the deadly introduced plant disease caused by Phytophthora cinnamoni, which can kill many of WA's flora species, including Jarrah, Banksia and Balga.

P. cinnamoni spreads quickly in sloping areas through surface and sub-surface water flow, and more slowly on flat ground, as it is restricted by root to root contact.

However it is human activity which causes the most significant spread of P. cinnamoni. Movement of infested material to uninfested sites is the number one driver of P. cinnamoni. Construction, driving vehicles through affected areas and stock movement can contribute to the spread, as can walking through diseased areas.

Once P. cinnamoni has been introduced to a site you can't take it back. If the conditions are ripe for spread, (e.g. steep slope, moist conditions, host species to pass it on) one small introduction of plant material or dirt on one's boots, can have profound effects on our native forests forever.

So back to walking poles.

It is generally accepted that the proper use of walking poles significantly reduces knee strain, especially on downhill slopes.

According to a 1999 study in the Journal of Sports Medicine, using poles on a 25 degree downhill grade reduces the amount of compressive forces on the knees by 12 -25 percent.

Poles have a myriad of other advantages, such as helping with ascents where the arm muscles can assist in pushing the trekker upwards, and are valuable for maintaining balance, especially when carrying a heavy pack.

So, there is a very positive side.

However, there are various points of contention regarding their use. Poles can become ensnared in heavy brush, and when scrambling over rocks where the hands are required, poles can get in the way. They can become jammed in rock fissures, when care has to be taken to extract them without bending or snapping them.

Overall the advantages of walking poles seem to outweigh the disadvantages, especially for those travelling long distances. More recently, however, questions have arisen regarding the potential damage to the environment that poles may create.

There are two areas of damage to consider; aesthetic and physical. Most poles are equipped with very hard, steel carbide tips, to reduce wear. These can chip and scratch even the hardest of rock surfaces.

In a letter to the USA's Backpacker magazine, a hiker in the Adirondacks recently noted:

"I was upset to see all the rocks had little white marks on them, chipped by hundreds of people. It left a grim taste in my mouth and a grim look for the future."

Another writer in a magazine in Maine said "The scratching is so pronounced that it is easier to follow where the poles have been than the trail markers."

These are essentially aesthetic considerations, in so far as scratches on the rocks do not constitute damage which will have a lasting deleterious effect on the environment. However this contravenes the concept of "Leave No Trace" and one can imagine that on rocky trails of powerful historic significance, such as the Inca Trail, this kind of damage is particularly significant.

In addition, there are a few commentaries regarding the physical effects of poles. Jeff Marion, a research biologist with USGS, has made an informal study of the effects of poles on the Appalachian Trail and concludes that there is real cause for concern in relation to damage of trailside vegetation and the erosion of soil on the edges of the Trail.

However the fact remains that no proper scientific study has been made to determine the environmental impact of trekking poles, and certainly none with respect to their impact on the spread of P. cinnamoni, which is a problem specific to Australia.

And so, as with most things related to our contact with the wilderness, it comes down to commonsense. Walkers will use walking poles. When they do, they should use them responsibly. If you use poles, be sensitive to the potential damage they may cause. Minimise the damage to soil, vegetation and rocks.

Above all, the tips of the poles, like boots, are in direct contact with the ground. In order to minimise the spread of P. cinnamoni, boot cleaning stations are provided along the Track. At these stations, walkers are required to clean their boots into the metal trays provided.

Please, if you are using walking poles, clean the tips of your poles in the same way.

It is a small thing to ask, it will take a matter of seconds, but it may save trees which were there long before the Bibbulmun Track came into being, and if looked after, will be there for many decades to come.

Jim Baker

ED - Current research indicates that among hikers and recreational campers, P. cinnamoni is perhaps more likely to be spread by tent pegs being used in various campgrounds without cleaning them in between rather than hikers via their boots. So remember to clean your tent pegs!

For more information about Dieback go to www.dwg.org.au

STOP Phytophthora Dieback!

Many trees and plants in the forest and heathlands along the South Coast are very sensitive of Phytophthora Dieback. This is an introduced water-mould that lives in soils and invades the roots of plants ultimately killing them. It is devastating the biological heritage of south west Western Australia.

Phytophthora Dieback can be transported in soil, mud and plant material. You can help prevent the further spread of dieback by taking these simple steps:

- Never access the Bibbulmun Track by vehicle, except at locations marked by a red car on the maps.
- Always use boot cleaning stations where provided (and brush the tips of your walking poles and tent pegs too).
- Carry a spray bottle containing 100% Methylated spirits to spray muddy boots and pole tips.
- Stay on the Track.
- Never ride bikes or other vehicles on the Track.

For more information about Dieback go to www.dwg.org.au

EQUIP FIRST AID KITS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE SERIOUS ABOUT THEIR LEISURE TIME



WITH EIGHT YEARS OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH BEHIND THE EQUIP RANGE, WE GUARANTEE YOUR TOTAL SATISFACTION.

Equip First Aid products make life safer and easier with their use of modern medical information, state of the art materials and custom kit designs. They provide you with everything you need to deal with a vast range of outdoor injuries and illness with easy to use guidelines and components.



For more information visit www.equip.com.au or call (08) 9331 6033

Guides Needed for Group Activities

Do you have the skills and experience to be a guide for corporate groups on the Bibbulmun Track?

The Foundation is looking for people who have:

the skills and experience to facilitate team building activities

enthusiasm and an outgoing personality

a sound knowledge of the Bibbulmun Track

If you think you fit this description and you are available to assist with programmes on weekdays, please contact Steve for application details on events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au or 9481 0551.

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.

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 August 2008

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 August 2008

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
Bibbulmun Track Accommodation & Services Guide Places to stay, attractions, transport and tour ideas!		\$12.00
Bibbulmun Track Poster (Full colour 594 x 825mm) Features Shelters, National Parks & Track Photos ADD \$7pp within Australia		\$12.00
Polo shirt bottle green (with logo and 'Western Australia' on front) No. of shirts per size: S M L XL XXL		\$27.95
Polo shirt white (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 TITIAN (RED) No. of shirts per size: S M L XL XXL		
BARK (BROWN) No. of shirts per size: S M L XL XXL		
CORNFLOWER (BLUE) 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
'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		\$85.00
Special for members \$70.00 (No additional discount applies)		\$70.00
'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 each
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
EPIRB end to end hire	\$135.00	\$150.00
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 PHOTOCOPY OF THIS FORM IS ACCEPTABLE

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
_____ . _____ . _____ . _____ 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
15 June 10.30am	24 August 8.30am
7.5km return walk from Mundaring Weir to Ball Creek Campsite	20km return walk from Dale Rd to Brookton Campsite
22 June 9am	
17km return walk from Brookton Hwy to Canning Campsite	
6 July 8.30am	
20km walk from Kalamunda to Hewett's Hill Campsite	
3 August 9am	
16km return from North Bannister to Serpentine 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

WA ON SHOW

The Bibbulmun Track, Munda Biddi Trail and the Kep Track joined forces at "WA on Show", held over the long weekend at the Exhibition Centre. It was the first time that the three trails have worked together to promote trails under the banner of the newly created trailswa.com.au website.

The collaboration proved very successful and hopefully will be the first of many such events. Each trail has its own unique character, with all three offering opportunities for outdoor activities. The newly opened Kep Track (75km) caters for walkers, cyclists and horse riders and complements the Munda Biddi cycling trail and the Bibbulmun Track (strictly walkers only) to ensure that all interests are catered for. The stand was in a great location and volunteers were kept very busy answering questions and giving advice. Another benefit was that the roster was easy to fill!

A huge thank you to the Bibbulmun Track team of Vere Berger, Hans Hoette, Mary Sprunt, Karen Rotherham, Graham Murdoch, Sandi Neilsen, Ralph Ditton and Linda Daniels, for making the occasion such a success.



10th Anniversary Mugs NOW AVAILABLE

Order your special limited edition Bibbulmun Track 10th Anniversary coffee mug now. Only a small amount of these mugs have been made and many have sold already. The mugs are 300ml and have the special 10th Anniversary logo printed on them.



Reflections from the Registers-

INTERNATIONAL WALKERS

NULLAKI

"Watching the sun through the canopy of the trees, following kangaroos and finding the right path has been a transforming experience which brings you to another reality."

Silvia (Bulgaria)

TORBAY

"Yesterday I read the register and a little boy had written 'Me and daddy saw three kangaroos and a German!'"

Reinhart (Germany)

ALBANY

"Pemberton to Albany. Now I know what the real Oz is."

Jean-Marie van den Meersschant (Belgium)

WHITE HORSE HILLS

"The Flies are completely out of control here. Far worse than at any of the other camps. I mean, it's 6.30pm and there are still bloody millions of them. Don't they have any respect for human rights?!"

Iain Brodie (Scotland)

BEEDELUP

"The Pommy Bastards are more than a little sad. Tomorrow is our last day on the Bibbulmun Track. We were to have been end-to-enders but climate and jet-lag combined to curtail stamina and speed in the early days from Kalamunda. We find we have not enough time left in Oz to complete the walk. We have thoroughly enjoyed our almost five weeks doing our impression of snails (homes on our backs) and we'd like to thank each and everyone involved with the Track-DEC, builders, maintainers, Waugal putter-uppers, and Mayga and Warren for their great support work."

Bill and Audrey (UK)

CANNING

"Arrived after a day of 31 kms. Started on Saturday at Kalamunda, so will arrive Dwellingup Saturday or Sunday. My feet hurt and my backpack has 30kgs. My girl is waiting for me in Austria and I go home one month after arriving Albany when I arrive."

Harald Frys (Austria)

CANNING

"I am from Hong Kong. It is an extremely wonderful experience for me. I enjoy the starry nights! It is good outside classroom learning to feel the power of nature, feeling myself very small and insecure, but this is an important life lesson. Thank you!"

Suzuya (Hong Kong)

BOAT HARBOUR

"The stiffness has set in-just watched the sun sink into the sea-Australia must be at an angle! Seen today brown snakes, kestrel, eagle, emus. On to Denmark. DEC, well done, amazing Track!"

Anthony Quinn (Ireland)

BOAT HARBOUR

"Canoes were fun (great ideal) Interesting landscapes; saw three emus in the Showgrounds. Missed our daily dugite but not our friends the flies, mozzies and March flies. (Get used to it!) In the evening we had a visit from a quenda and in the morning we were watched by a kangaroo from the top of the hill. Heading to William Bay!"

Jeep & Dick (Holland)

Be one of the 100+ walkers to take part in the Journey of a Decade...

IF YOU'RE QUICK, THERE ARE STILL A FEW PLACES LEFT ON SOME SECTIONS. REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE OR FROM THE OFFICE. REGISTRATIONS ARE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS, SUBJECT TO THE APPLICANT'S EXPERIENCE AND FITNESS.

There are a total of 12 sections to choose from with varying degrees of difficulty, length of walk and nights spent on the track.

The sections and associated costs are shown in the table below. If you can't take the time off to join in the actual walk - sign up for our 'Virtual end-to-end'! See page 15 for details.

	SECTION	DATES	DAYS	RATING*	DISTANCE	COST
1	Albany to Denmark	16 July - 20 July	5	Intermediate	85km	\$250
2	Denmark to Peaceful Bay	22 July - 24 July	4	Experienced	65km	\$130
3	Peaceful Bay to Walpole	25 July - 28 July	4	Intermediate	63km	\$190
4	Walpole to Northcliffe	30 July - 5 August	8	Experienced	138km	\$310
5	Northcliffe to Pemberton	7 August - 9 August	3	Intermediate - Experienced	55km	\$130
6	Pemberton to Donnelly River Village	11 August - 15 August	5	Experienced	100km	\$250
7	Donnelly River Village to Balingup	17 Aug - 19 Aug	3	Intermediate	56km	\$130
8	Balingup to Collie	20 Aug - 23 Aug	4	Intermediate	82km	\$190
9	Collie to Dwellingup	25 Aug - 31 Aug	7	Experienced	122km	\$290
10	Dwellingup to North Bannister	2 Sept - 5 Sept	4	Intermediate	67km	\$190
11	North Bannister to Brookton Hwy	6 Sept - 9 Sept	4	Intermediate	66km	\$190
12	Brookton Hwy to Kalamunda	9 Sept - 13 Sept	5	Intermediate - Experienced	70km	\$250

*Ratings are only a guide. A good to excellent level of fitness is required for all sections.

FULL DETAILS, INCLUSIONS AND EXCLUSIONS ARE OUTLINED ON THE REGISTRATION FORM. THANK YOU TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORT AND RECREATION FOR SUPPORTING THE WALK:



Bibbulmun Track School Challenge 2008

During Term 2, schools in the south west will be taking part in the Bibbulmun Track School Challenge. The Challenge offers upper primary school children the opportunity to trek the Bibbulmun Track - virtually! It is a school-based nutrition and physical activity program aimed at reducing the incidence of obesity and Type 2 Diabetes. Such a program is of particular importance in view of the statistics on childhood overweight and obesity. The proportion of overweight children in WA has tripled in the last 20 years with one in three girls, and one in four boys, now overweight. There has also been a rise in the number of children diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes, once known as mature age onset diabetes.

Students 'trek' the Bibbulmun Track by moving from one campsite to the next on a map of the Track. For every 15 minutes of physical activity the team can move one hut. This activity teaches students the importance of physical activity. As the class travels from Perth to Albany they undertake healthy lifestyle lessons on diabetes, healthy eating and physical activity.

A prize is presented to the winning school at the end of the term. Furthermore, the Foundation is giving a full-colour poster, a certificate and special acknowledgement to those schools which enrol.

Narelle Norrish, Community Dietitian at Bunbury Community Health Service says 'evidence shows that regular physical activity as well as reducing total fat intake and eating more fruits and vegetables can reduce a persons

risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes. By instilling these messages during childhood we hope to change some behaviours and reduce the children's risk of developing diabetes as adults.'

For more information about the Bibbulmun Track School Challenge, please contact Narelle Norrish, Community Dietitian at Bunbury Community Health Service on 9795 2823.

NOTE TO SCHOOL TEACHERS!

Students (and anyone else who is interested!) will be able to follow the progress of the walkers online - and those schools located in or near a 'Track town' are encouraged to join the walkers as they arrive and take part in the community celebrations.

For more information call Linda on 9481 0551 or email friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

TRAILING AROUND THE WORLD

Tramping the Tongariro Northern Circuit, New Zealand



Heading into the "moonscape" of old lava flows

Sally Woodhead and her partner Adrian Simmonson tramped the Northern Circuit between December 26th and December 30th 2007

The Tongariro National Park is the oldest National Park in New Zealand, located close to the centre of the North Island, to the south-west of Lake Taupo. If you are lucky enough to be blessed with a clear sky on your arrival at the Park, you will have a wonderful view of its three famous volcanoes; Mount Ruapehu, Mount Ngauruhoe and Mount Tongariro.

The Tongariro Northern Circuit is an amazing hike (or "tramp" as New Zealanders call it). It is labeled one of New Zealand's Great Walks, and includes the famous Tongariro Crossing, which is regarded as possibly the best one-day walk in the whole country.

The Circuit begins at the foot of Mount Ruapehu, an active volcano which erupted as recently as September 2007. It then makes a loop around the beautifully symmetrical Mount Ngauruhoe (Mount Doom in the film version of Tolkien's Lord of the Rings), crosses Mount Tongariro and returns to the foot of Mount Ruapehu.

In December last year we flew from Perth to Auckland, from where we took the Overlander Train to the National Park township, a journey of five hours. The township is the gateway to the Tongariro National Park, located about nine kilometers from the Park itself. From there we were taken by shuttle van to Whakapapa Village, the hub from which all outdoor activities in the Park commence.

We stayed in the village for two nights to recover from our eighteen hour journey from Perth. The Whakapapa Visitor Centre is the point at which registration and payment for the walk is made, and your itinerary can be noted for safety purposes.

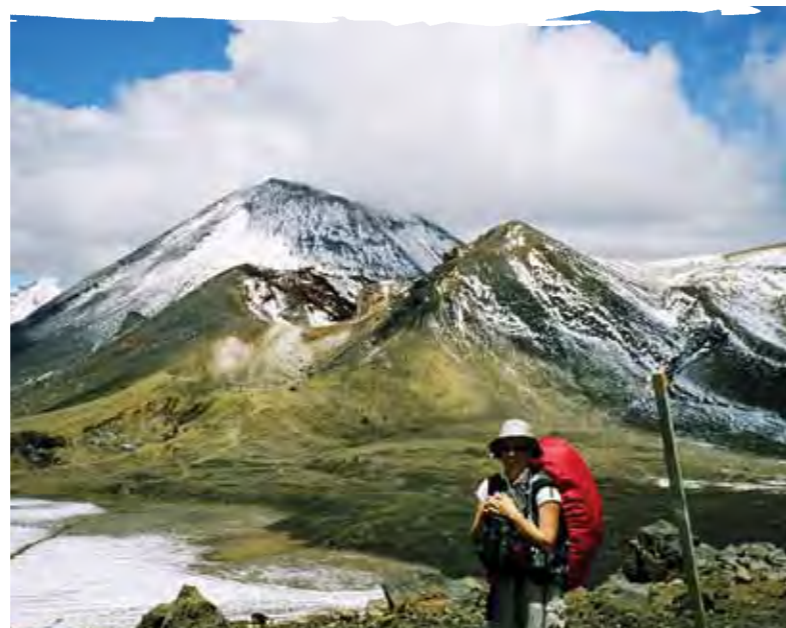
The track is served by four huts: Mangatepopo, Ketetahi, Oturere and Waihothonu. A small fee is payable for either hut bookings or camping. However if you elect to use your tent and camp (our preference) you may still use the huts for cooking, drying off and getting warm, but not for sleeping. And so, suitably refreshed, we set off:-

Day 1.

Whakapapa Village to Mangatepopo Hut: 8.5km.

We started on a very well maintained trail, which deteriorated into a series of narrow creeks with plenty of mud and water. The sun was shining in the early morning and promised a lovely day, but it didn't last and we ended up in rain and hail. However at the end of the day we had a warm toasty hut in which to dry off.

The weather forecast had been for hail and snow in the high ground, and it was correct. That night our tent was frozen over and there was snow on the ground just 200meters above us.



Sally looking back over the Tongariro Crossing

Day 2.

Mangatepopo Hut to Ketetahi Hut: 13 km.

This part of the tramp includes the Tongariro Crossing, the highest point of which is 1886m. After a snowy night we were lucky enough to be able to see snow covered mountains on a clear, sunny day. The weather was perfect for the crossing and for viewing the amazing coloured lakes. The air was full of the smell of sulphur, which was puffing out from the sides of the craters.

It was a very tough, rewarding day. Walkers should be aware that that the crossing can be precarious and can only be completed if the weather permits.

There is an option on this section to summit Mt Ngauruhoe—an additional three hour walk, which we were unable to do because of the fresh snow fall. With crampons and an ice axe it would have been feasible.

The views from the Ketetahi Hut are magnificent, overlooking Lake Rotoaira and, in the distance, Lake Taupo.

Day 3.

Ketetahi Hut – Oturere Hut - 8.5km.

After a very windy, wet night we arose on a wet morning. From the Ketetahi Hut the first section involved backtracking along the previous day's route around the Blue Lake, and then heading into what can only be described as "moonscape". Luckily for us the weather on the previous day had been clear, so we did not miss out on the views when backtracking, which were obscured by clouds and mist. However, despite being wet and freezing, nothing could dampen our spirits as we walked over old lava flows and the only desert in New Zealand! The rain persisted all the way to the Oturere Hut and did not clear until late afternoon. We were then blessed with a beautiful view of melting snow on Mt Ngauruhoe, a huge waterfall and valleys filled with lava rocks.

Day 4.

Oturere Hut – Waihothonu Hut: 7.5km.

We awoke to a beautiful day with bright morning sunshine and clear views of the summits of Mt Ngauruhoe and Mt Ruapehu. This part of the trek goes over more of the unusual desert landscape. We crossed a few small streams, all the time enjoying magical mountain views. We then headed into a dark green, mossy forest, crossed a river by a footbridge and had a hard climb up and out of the valley. The Waihothonu Hut is not far from the valley crossing, and made for a peaceful lunch stop.

We decided that we had had enough of the hut camp sites and continued after lunch to pitch our tent in the wild. The regulations require that tents are pitched at least 500m from the track, and we found a wonderful secluded spot by the river.

What a contrast in weather this hike has been. Day four was like a hot summer day, after we had been through hail and snow. What a place!

Day 5.

In the wild near Waihothonu Hut to Whakapapa Village: 15km.

We rose early to try to beat the heat on another sunny day. This final day goes through similar terrain to day one; exposed moorlands with lots of ups and downs. The dry weather made it easier to handle the creeks, mud and slush, but was a very hot, exposed hike. All day we had the most magnificent views of Mt Ruapehu and Mt Ngauruhoe.

The track circles up towards Lower Tama Lake and then offers the options of heading directly to Whakapapa Village or diverting for an hour or so to the Upper Tama Lake. We opted to go straight ahead, as the thought of a cold beer and a scrumptious lunch at the bar of the Chateau Hotel was calling!

The final section of the track brings you to the top of the Taranaki Falls,



Emerald Lakes on the Tongariro Crossing


where there is a choice of taking the high or the low track to the Village. To take in the full view of the Falls it is better to take the low track, so we walked the final two kilometers along a beautiful shady track alongside the river.

To sum up this 'tramp':- If you are prepared to do it, you may be rewarded by seeing some of the most amazing, spectacular and wonderful scenery in the world in the space of just a few days—but be warned, the weather is fickle!

We hope that you are lucky enough to have the weather gods on your side, but if they are not, there is always the chance you will see nothing at all!

Sally and Adrian.

To find out more about the Northern Circuit visit:
www.doc.govt.nz/templates/trackandwalk.aspx?id=36003



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