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Seasons Greetings

Bibbulmun NEWS

SUMMER 2008
 ISSUE # 49
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Newsletter for the friends of the Bibbulmun Track

The 10th Anniversary Finale



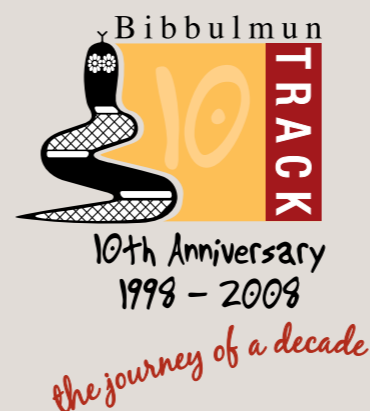
End-to-enders greeted with walking sticks



Peter Hewett and original track conceiver, Geoff Schafer meet for the first time since they made the first end-to-end walk in 1979



The End-to-enders gather at the Northern Terminus in Kalamunda one last time



the journey of a decade

They made it! After almost 60 days, nine community events and endless indescribable experiences, the Bibbulmun Track 10th Anniversary End-to-Enders took their final steps into Kalamunda.

And what a reception they had! Hundreds of well-wishers were waiting at the Northern Terminus to welcome and congratulate the group on their amazing journey and celebrate this milestone event for the Track.

A cacophony of drums provided a resounding beat for the group to march to as they walked the final 100m between Spring Road and the Northern Terminus, and through a special 'guard of honour', aptly substituted by walking poles for the traditional swords, kindly supplied by the sectional walkers and the local Scouts.

Some formalities were required, though, but were dealt with as quickly as possible so our End-to-Enders could rush off that much-anticipated warm shower and catch-up with their friends and family; not to mention watching the Channel Nine News at 6 o'clock!

The Environment Minister, David Templeman MLA, Minister for Sport and Recreation John Kobelke MLA, and the Minister for Corrective Services, Margaret Quirk, MLA also attended and acknowledged the importance of the Track as an iconic tourism and recreation resource for Western Australia, before the revelry continued with some old party favourites provided by the band, One Foot in the Groove.

A special mention must be given to James Trail, CEO and the Shire of Kalamunda who has presented the Foundation with a commemorative bell. This will be kept at the Kalamunda Visitor Centre so that from now on, each person who completes an end-to-end may ring the bell to signify their incredible achievement.

Lead guide of the walk and events manager for the Foundation, Steve Sertis, was overwhelmed by the occasion.

"After 60 days and many community events, you would think that I'd be prepared for the big finale; but it was truly an emotional moment seeing hundreds of people gathered to greet us. We've certainly come a long way these past ten years."



Walk leader Steve Sertis symbolically rings the new Kalamunda end-to-end bell



Bibbulmun Walk 2008

BY STEVE SERTIS - WALK LEADER

How do you summarise a 60-day end-to-end walk on the Bibbulmun Track? It is almost impossible. So instead I have tried to capture the experience with a few salient points. Anyone who has done an end-to-end, or indeed anyone who has even walked a short section of the Bibbulmun Track will relate to most of these....

- The very first steps out from Albany: bagpipes, drums and parade
- A full moon at night
- Waist deep water crossings
- Majestic whales
- Multiple surprise afternoon teas, biscuits and cakes mainly by volunteers
- Breathtaking views
- Gear breakdowns and remote orders for new equipment
- Seven days of walking/wading through water
- Heart warming, sock drying campfires
- A procession of sectional walkers joining and leaving us
- Countless school students and enthusiastic community welcomes
- A second full moon and the halfway party at Donnelly River Village
- Increasing hours of daylight
- Amazing orchids and colourful wildflowers
- No daily newspapers, emails and sometimes no news
- What Olympic Games?
- What election campaigns?
- Morning bird song and wake up calls
- Challenging hills
- Smelly toilets – even smellier walkers
- Icy mornings, frosts, hail and tent collapsing storms
- Penetrating sunshine and dripping forests
- Boots tied together with dental floss
- Our final night
- Fanfare and finale at Kalamunda
- And a full moon once more.



Breathtaking views



Half Way mark



Colin takes it easy!



Splish Splash I was walking the Track!



Clean underwear - hoorah!!



Campfire rituals



Improvised shelter - Giants!



Roo Stew courtesy of Collie Service Clubs



One of many Chinese Laundries



Walkers welcomed in the towns along the way



Last night on the Track - party time at Hewett's



Improvised shoe repair - Dental floss!



One Foot in the Groove got the party rocking at Donnelly River Village!



Genevieve's Last night party



Stocking up on Supplies



Sunshine at last!



Somewhere over the rainbow there's a shelter!



FROM MY Desk



Welcome to the final edition of the Bibbulmun News for 2008.

It has been a very special year for the Track and a very busy one for the Foundation as we coordinated and attended ten regional events during Bibbulmun Walk 2008. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet some of our regional members and volunteers and to thank all those who have been involved over the past decade.

The colourful finale at Kalamunda was a fitting end to the celebrations and more than one of the walkers had a tear in their eye as they walked through the archway of walking sticks to be greeted by the cheering crowd.

The event was made all the more special by the attendance of Geoff Schafer and Peter Hewett, two men who were instrumental in the original Track being built in the 70's. Both men were delighted to see that their vision for a Perth to Albany Track had not only inspired many West Australians to try bushwalking, but was now attracting visitors from around Australia and overseas.

The quality of the Track and the services provided to walkers was recognised at the 2008 WA Tourism Awards on Saturday 29th November, where the Track was awarded the Bronze medal in the Tourism Attractions category.

The judges look at all aspects of an attraction, from the experience, facilities and services provided, to the organisation's marketing, management and environmental policies. On a broader level, the attraction is judged on the economic benefit it brings to a region and the level of staff involvement in the tourism industry.

The category was hotly contested with eight finalists in the running this year. The winner was Willie Creek Pearl Farm in Broome, with the Silver medal going to Sandalford Estate winery. It is testament to the loyal support of our sponsors, members and volunteers that we are able to compete with commercial businesses at this level.

Aside from the 10th Anniversary, we have been involved with the development of the new Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) for bushwalking and with the Bibbulmun Track user survey, both of which have been completed. Many thanks to all the volunteers who contributed a total of 3000 hours over 12 months to conduct the surveys. A further 13,000 hours were given in other areas such as guiding and maintenance and we are very grateful to have such a dedicated group of volunteers.

During 2009 we will be updating our Strategic Plan for the next three to five years, bringing our staff and volunteer training programmes into line with the new AAS and continuing to encourage people to head out into the bush to take some time out. I'm hoping to do a bit more of that myself next year... who knows, I might bump into you out there!

Have a safe and happy festive season and New Year from all of us at the Foundation.

Best Wishes

Linda Daniels
Executive Director

Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes for 2009!

The office will close on December 19
and reopen January 12.

Thank you! Thank you!

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

Jan Gay
Jim and Mavis Freeman

Michael Carter

David Wrigley

Lorraine Price

Also, a VERY BIG THANK YOU to the member, who wishes to remain anonymous, who donated \$2000 to enable us to replace the five Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) which are available for hire. The PLBs were soon due to be replaced to keep up with new technology and we are very grateful for this generous donation.

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 Bibbulmun Track. The National Trust provides this service free of charge so you can be sure that 100% of your donation is used for Track projects.

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.

Thank you! Thank you! 10th Anniversary Thank you! Thank you! Thank you's Thank you!

There is obviously a long list of thank you's for such a massive event as the 10th Anniversary and many people have already been thanked at the community events, at Albany and also at Kalamunda. However, as walk leader, I would like to thank the people who contributed in a different way, but in a way which made Bibbulmun Walk '08 so very special for the walkers.

• **Mary and Stuart Gray:** food drops, walker physiotherapy, transport assistance and logistics and multiple afternoon teas.

• **Russell and Graham** from the Blue Wren for transporting backpacks around the Wilson Inlet.

• **Simon Daniels** for driving the Denmark community bus to transport walkers around Wilson Inlet.

• **Eunice and Taffy** for the unexpected but lovely heart warming tea and cake at the Parry Inlet Caravan Park.

• **DEC Walpole** for the extra canoes at the Irwin Inlet.

• **The various DEC/Work Camp teams** we encountered who cleared the Track after the south coast storms in July.

• **Ailcie McKenney and Delia Burns** for the cake and scones at the Peaceful Bay Hall.

• **Jenny Rutter, Dave Guthrie and Hess Anderson** for providing transport for walkers to stay at the Tingledale Tennis Club when Giants Campsite was demolished by a fallen tree.

• **Sid Sepkus** from DEC Donnelly who gave us a presentation at a campsite.

• **Mark Hudson** for email/office access and storing our town gear at the Pemberton Camp School.

• **An array of volunteers** who helped set up the hall at Donnelly River Village (far too many to list).

• **Andrew Scott** for the surprise cake and goodies at Blackwood campsite and washing our clothes before we got to Balingup.

• **Dave Lathwell** from DEC Blackwood who gave us a campsite presentation.

• **Wendy Pittick** and her crew from Bunbury who gave us a surprise and delicious afternoon tea at Grimwade Campsite.

• **Collie Service Clubs** for the great party in the shearing shed.

• **Bev Gairdner** from DEC Wellington for organising the bus for local walkers to join us into Collie, wine and cheese at Harris Dam campsite and also a surprise morning tea at the Harvey-Quindanning Rd with our food drop.

• **Neil Drew** from DEC Wellington for the campsite presentation.



• **Elisa Skillen** from DEC Perth Hills for the surprise chocolates at Dookanelly campsite and organising the final night dinner/celebration at Hewett's Hill campsite.

• **Terry O'Hara** who left a packet of freddo frogs for us.

• **Neil Wilson and Bob Dainton** from the Boddington Gold Mine who took us into Boddington to vote, shop, put on a free lunch for the walkers and took us on a tour of the gold mine.

• **Gwen and Chris Plunkett** for the surprise chocolate drop north of Donnelly River Village (with **Carol Jowett**), delivering our North Bannister food drop and afternoon tea at Gringer Creek and morning tea at the Perth Hills National Parks Centre, and decorating Hewett's Hill campsite for our last night.

• **Charmaine Harris** for the Brookton Hwy food drop.

• **Mark Whittome** for filming various parts of the walk.

• **The crew at the Perth Hills National Parks Centre** for morning tea, storing walker's daypacks and the use of the showers.

• **Phil** at the Kalamunda Hotel for also storing the walker's day packs.

• **Mountain Designs** for the shirts, hats and daypacks.

• **Sea to Summit** for the pack covers.

• **All the walkers** who made it such a special and memorable walk.

• And finally **Mike Wood** as my co-guide for the entire 60 days.

Whilst on the walk I tried to keep an accurate personal diary with which I have referred to for this list. If I have missed anyone then please accept my apology and know that your contribution made all the walkers feel very special.

Steve Sertis
Walk Leader

Bibbulmun Walk '08



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

City of Albany, Great Southern Development Commission, Shire of Denmark, Shire of Manjimup, Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup, Shire of Collie, Shire of Murray and Shire of Kalamunda.

YOUR LETTERS

Returning recently from overseas and confronting a big stack of mail, the concern about all the bills turned to joy when the packet from the Bibb Track Foundation revealed a beautiful hammock, courtesy of sponsor Paddy Pallin.

Many thanks, indeed, to the Foundation and your sponsor; the prize will be put to good use when the weather warms up!

Sincerely

Barry Tregenza

Hi

Just returning my EPIRB, what an awesome walk, big thanks to the Bibbulmun Track volunteers and for all your hard work. A world class asset to WA.

Johno Tunnell, Wanaka, NZ

Hot-cold, happy-sad, euphoric-frustrated, motivated-tired. Does it matter, just keep putting one foot after the other, up-down, beautiful views, fantastic huge trees, flowers, birds, wild pigs! Sad lonely trees, fire, logging, find your own rhythm, like the first people? Find a natural way for you...to walk, we've been doing it for a long, long time.

It's possibly the best way to reduce our carbon footprint. No cars, buses, electricity, pollution, very little waste... hopefully.

I used public transport to access the Track, so the only real tension was sometimes getting up at 4am, say to get to Balingup. Depending on the reflective marker - it was a great experience walking until dawn broke, feeling the warmth, listening to the birds, watching the light change.

I would like to thank the people who gave me lifts, the Norwegian couple from Donnelly River to Manjimup. The lady recovering from cancer, down to the Brookton Highway Track crossing. Thank you.

The worst equipment is always our ego, creating unnecessary pressure, especially time.

Michael Wynne, End-to-Ender

Our thanks to the Volunteers, DEC and our fellow walkers for making it such a memorable experience. Memories that will stay for ever. We walked the Track in two parts, Kalamunda to Collie in 2005. Injuries prevented us continuing. This year we walked Collie to Albany taking rest days in all the towns. Our regards

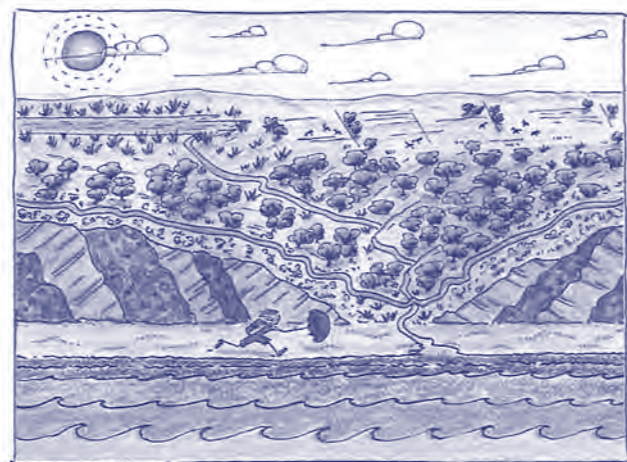
Brian & Shirley Gallagher, Queensland

Congratulations on the 10th Anniversary of the new Bibbulmun Track. Congratulations to all the walkers who have taken part in the Anniversary Walk, to all those who have supported and encouraged them on their walk and a really big "THANK YOU!" to all those volunteers who maintain the Track or help in any other way, i.e. in the office! We appreciate all your efforts and we are sorry that we cannot be with you on Saturday. We will drink your good health here in England on Saturday evening.

The Silvertops Barry and Margaret, UK

Dear Gwen
Just thought you might be interested in this picture. I drew it for my Xmas cards last year. - I take a broly with me while hiking the Track and along the south coast when it was windy I used it to great advantage - as in the picture.
Cheers

Mary Clayton



Shortcut on the Bibbulmun Track

You must be very busy getting ready to welcome the end-to-enders in Kalamunda next Saturday. May I ask you to congratulate them for me. I really appreciated walking with them and sharing their experience.

Best regards

Genevieve Grandin, France

Dear editor,

I recently received a voucher to purchase equipment from one of our major sponsors, Mountain Designs, in the prize draw for those who took out Life Membership when renewing their membership.

My original thought was "great, now that will go towards a new lightweight sleeping bag for my sectional walk with the 10th anniversary walkers". I had been training reasonably hard as I knew that the section I was to join (Pemberton to Donnelly River) had a couple of steep climbs and I didn't want to be too slow. Unfortunately I trained too hard while on antibiotics for sinus and throat infections over a two and a half week period and while out on the Bibb Track the weekend before the walk, I had a heart attack on Cardiac Hill - just below Blackwood Campsite. After all the troubles and trauma my poor wife had to go through to get me "rescued" the voucher is to go towards an emergency EPIRB. Firstly, many thanks to Mountain Designs for the generous gift, to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation for their tireless efforts with the Track and to my wife Luci for her courageous effort on that day. I am now fully recovered with no damage except my pride for being so stupid and for the fact that I didn't get to enjoy the walk with the walkers celebrating the 10th Anniversary.

Vince Harding

PUDDLES

I wanted to walk part of the Bib Track

Some experience to gain

So I chose the bit between Walpole and Northcliffe

It's called the Pingrup Plains

I was told to take it careful

As in winter it is inundated

Maybe a few small puddles

I think they were understated

The first puddles were only small ones

Hardly reached up to my knees

But soon I encountered others

That made more parts of me freeze

There were puddles long and slippery

There were puddles dark and dark

There were puddles that were moving

I thought, was that a shark?

There were puddles in the hollows

There were puddles up the hills

There were puddles full of tadpoles

With moss growing round their gills

There were puddles that seemed to haunt you

There were puddles of every sort

There were puddles full of greeblies

Long, fat, slimy, round and short

Some puddles had firm bot toms

Some were soft and gucky

Whenever you could see your boots

They were very mucky

Many and varied were the puddles

In their length and breadth and coldness

Just to venture into them

Took a lot of boldness

The puddles there were awesome

The best I've seen along the Track

And I somehow seem to fancy

That in winter, I won't be going back

Finally I reached the road

Which was the border of the plain

And I wonder if I ever

Will venture there again

But sometime in the future

I may do the Track again

I'll make sure that it is summer

When I cross the Pingrup Plain

Jim "the Mad Axeman" Freeman

13 year old Phillip sets out for Charity

On October 30th an email was received in the Foundation office which began as follows:-

"My name is Phillip Clegg and I have set a task of completing the whole Bibbulmun for Breast Cancer and also trying to end-to-end it before I am 14 years old."

Phillip's auntie passed away from breast cancer. Phillip has since set himself the goal of raising \$10,000 for the Breast Cancer Foundation of WA.

Read what he has to say:

"About two months ago I decided that I wanted to walk the whole Bibbulmun Track for the Breast Cancer Foundation of Western Australia and also try to 'end-to-end' before I was 14. After being generously sponsored by Ranger Outdoors and purchasing all the necessary goods that I needed for this task, I started doing day and weekend walks to knock off as much distance as possible before the school holidays. As the school holidays approached I started to prepare all my food drops and co-ordinate with the friends and family who would be walking with me, as I would be going for 20 days non-stop.

I stepped out of the car at the start point of my three week walk and slid my heavy pack over my shoulders, feeling very excited and scared at the same time. Then once I got into my smooth rhythm with my poles I really started to enjoy the walk.

Throughout the 20 days I covered approximately 400km and saw 16 snakes. My most frightening and memorable experience was between Lake Maringup and Dog Pool when I missed the tail of a Tiger Snake by 2 inches! I don't have a best and most rewarding moment, but one of the most enjoyable sections was from Balingup to Blackwood with a huge and diverse range of things to see. I also appreciated every chance that I had to swim. Furthermore I loved each second at Donnelly River Village with all the tame kangaroos and emus.

I still have about 16 days of walking left until I finish the track. As it will be in December there may be different challenges such as heat and flies, but I am looking forward to it tremendously. I have set a goal for myself to try and raise \$10,000 or more and if you would like to sponsor me for this great cause go to www.breastcancer.org.au/events/supporter-events.aspx scroll down and hit donate!"

Phillip is a brave lad. The Foundation wishes both him, and the friends and family walking with him, a good and safe journey on the remaining sections that they still have to cover.

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Phillip at the Northern Terminus in Kalamunda.

L a t e s t T r a c k N e w s 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 the shortcuts column on our home page www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

DIVERSIONS AND IMPACTS

Prescribed Burns

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) conducts a programme 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 however they may cause some disruption to users. Where prescribed burning operations impact on the Track, temporary diversions will be put in place. Where the Track is diverted, walkers should follow the white Waugal trail markers. Prescribed burning operations are dependant on appropriate weather conditions and as such, dates for operations are not available in advance.

As soon as we know a burn is about to take place, we will post the information on our website.

Perth Hills District

Map 1a - A 8km section of Track between Allen Rd north and south of Helena campsite (includes Helena campsite)

Prescribed burning operations - spring 2008

The following sections of Track may be affected by prescribed burning operations. For your safety, follow onsite signage and directions from DEC staff.

North Bannister Roadhouse

The North Bannister Roadhouse is open for business again after major renovation. Its new name is 'Three Ways' (formerly 'Halfway House').

Meals and snacks are still available but no accommodation, no shower and no laundry facilities at this stage. Check our website for updates.

Parcels can be held for walkers and walkers can arrange to leave their car there for the time of their walk.

Dwellingup District

Map 2a - A 6km section of Track between Dwellingup and Davis Brook
Map 2a - A 4km section from Nanga Rd and just past River Rd

Prescribed burning operations - spring 2008

The following sections of Track may be affected by prescribed burning operations. For your safety, follow onsite signage and directions from DEC staff.

Walkers are cautioned that between the White Horse Hills and Mt Wells campsites, timber harvesting operations will be occurring in State Forest to the east of Bibbulmun Track this Spring. The Track will not be affected, except where the it's aligned along the existing road crossing the South Dandalup River (Hume Tank Rd), for approximately 350m either side of the river. This section of road will be used by trucks removing timber from these harvesting operations. Caution signs will be installed prior to the harvesting operations taking place, and walkers are requested to follow the signs and take extreme care when walking in this area.

Collie District

Map 3a - Bell Rd to Dee Vee Rd

Prescribed burning operations - spring 2008

The Track is currently diverted south from Dee Vee Rd to Treesville Rd. It now follows the Muja powerlines on Map 3a. The diversion is 11km long. Please follow the marked diversion as shown on the map. Download the map.

The following section of Track may also be affected by prescribed burning operations. For your safety, follow onsite signage and directions from DEC staff.

Balingup District

Map 4b - Tuia Rd to Creek Rd

Prescribed burning operations - spring 2008

The following sections of Track may be affected by prescribed burning operations. For your safety, follow onsite signage and directions from DEC staff.

There is currently a burn on Map 4b near Spring Gully Rd south of the Greenbushes Loop. The diversion follows Spring Gully Rd for 1km and does not increase the distance walked.

Upgrade works to Millstream Dam wall

Upgrade works will be occurring to the Millstream dam wall and surrounding area. The section of track passing Millstream Dam may experience a higher than usual level of traffic. Walkers should apply caution when traveling through this section and comply with warning signs and direction from Water Authority Staff.

Pemberton District

Map 5a - Palings Bridge to Lease Rd
Map 5a - Cnr Link Rd and Seven Day Rd to Waistcoat Rd
Map 5a - Carey Rd to Beedelup Rd
Map 5b - Just west of Power Rd and north of Harpin Rd

Big Brook Dam Road Closure

The main access road to Big Brook Dam will be closed to all vehicles from 3 November 2008 for approximately 7 weeks due to road works. Alternate access to Big Brook Dam, as far as Casuarina Corner, is available via the Big Brook Arboretum off Stirling Road.

The road upgrade will see the access to Big Brook Dam widened and sealed to accommodate greater visitor numbers, coaches and long vehicles.

For further information and updates on this project, please contact David Meehan at the DEC Pemberton office.

Cascades Bridge Closure

The remaining walk bridge at the Cascades Recreation site is in an unsafe state and is no longer available for walkers to use. The bridge was used as part of a walk trail to link the other side of the Lefroy Brook and also to link the Bibbulmun Track (not part of the Bibbulmun Track) from the Cascades.

Be advised that vehicle access to the Cascades Recreation site remains unchanged for visitors but walking access across the Lefroy Brook and linking to the Bibbulmun Track is now unavailable.

DEC apologises for any inconvenience.

Prescribed burning operations - spring 2008

The following sections of Track may be affected by prescribed burning operations. For your safety, follow onsite signage and directions from DEC staff.

Northcliffe District

Flooding

Walkers are reminded that in winter and early spring walkers should expect water up to waist deep anywhere south of Gardner River through to Walpole. Currently most of the water has dried though there are still some wet areas as at November 17, 2008.

Prescribed burn

A prescribed burn is planned between the first intersection at Chesapeake Road heading south towards Lake Maringup Campsite, to second intersection of Chesapeake Road. This burn, when in place, will cause the temporary closure of Lake Maringup Campsite. Walkers will be diverted along Chesapeake Rd. A temporary campsite will be available approximately half way between Gardner and Dog Pool Campsites. There will be a clearing for camping and drinking water provided. There will be no toilet facilities, so please bury your waste appropriately. A notice will appear here when the burn is taking place.

Walpole District

Map 7a - Tinglewood Rd to Isle Rd
Map 7a - Walpole to Knoll Drive
Map 7a - Knoll Drive (east) to South Coast Hwy
Map 7a - Spike Rd to Sappers Bridge
Map 7b - Along Parry Beach at seasonal sandbar

Closure of Giants campsite

Due to storm damage, the Giants Campsite has been closed. Walkers are requested not to camp there.

Prescribed burning operations - spring 2008

The following sections of Track may be affected by prescribed burning operations. For your safety, follow onsite signage and directions from DEC staff.

Denmark/Albany District

Machine clearing works, associated with adjacent private property along the Bibbulmun Track, has caused disruption to the Track north (from Eden Rd) and south of the Nullaki Campsite. Two sections of the Track in the above area are now along grader constructed tracks. Walkers are asked to please carefully follow Bibbulmun Track markers and watch for vehicle and machine traffic. We apologise for any inconvenience and visual impacts.

Albany Wind Farm

To facilitate a feasibility study for expansion of the Albany wind farm, Verve Energy has slashed a path that crosses the Track at five places between the wind farm and Mutton Bird Road. Work involving heavy equipment using the path is expected to be completed by mid-December. Walkers should exercise caution and follow signs and instructions from personnel on site.

The Inlets

Parry Inlet (Peaceful Bay/Denmark section)

Situation as at 17 November 08:

The sandbar across the inlet channel is safe to cross but walkers should take care at high tide. Contact the DEC Walpole office for further information.

Wilson Inlet (Denmark section)

Situation as at 17 November 08:

The Wilson Inlet sandbar has started to form. Walkers may still need to consider alternative methods listed on the Denmark 'Track town' webpage.

We recommend that walkers contact the Denmark Shire Ranger for up-to-date information on (08) 9848 0300.

Walkers should note that unless the inlet is drained, parts of the Track along the shores of the Nullaki Peninsula may become inundated during the wetter months. Levels around 600mm deep can be experienced.

If there is any doubt about your ability to cross the bar at Ocean Beach then you are advised to walk between Denmark township and Nullaki or arrange alternative transport to go around to the Nullaki Peninsula. You will find more information about crossing the Wilson Inlet on the Foundation's Denmark 'Track town' webpage.

Visit www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/trip-planner/Track-Towns/Denmark.aspx

Torbay Inlet (Albany section)

Situation as at 17 November 08:

At the moment, the sandbar has reformed and is passable by foot however Water Corporation advise that the water level in the inlet is quite high and that if any more rain falls, it is likely that the sandbar will break and water flow into the sea, making it impassable. Walkers should use extreme caution if they choose to cross. Otherwise please use the diversion marked on the map if you cannot cross.

The green diversion route is marked on Map 8 Dec 2003 (side B) and which goes around Torbay Inlet, following the Lower Denmark Rd. Please contact the Albany DEC district for more information. A very big thank you to all Bibbulmun Track Volunteers and DEC staff for their ongoing work on the Track.

DEC CONTACTS:

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

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

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

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

Walpole-Frankland District

Covers Pingerup Road to Denmark
Maps 6, 7, 8 or Sections 53 to 58 in the Southern Guidebook
Contact Chris Stewart (08) 9840 0400
or Chris.stewart@dec.wa.gov.au

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

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 TADDY CREEK, ADVENTURE WILD and ADVENTUROUS WOMEN 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 on presentation of card
ADVENTURE WILD	PERTH	Tour operator	www.adventurewild.com.au	
ADVENTUROUS WOMEN	PERTH	Tour operator	(08) 9467 7304	
ESCAPE DAY SPAS	PERTH	Health	(08) 9383 4328	
ON TRACK HIKING HIRE	PERTH	Equipment	0401 625 668	10%
MUNDARING WEIR HOTEL	MUNDARING	Accommodation/ Restaurant-café	(08) 9295 1106	No.
DWELLINGUP ADVENTURES	DWELLINGUP	Tour	(08) 9538 1127	10% on self-guided walk & canoe tour.
DWELLINGUP CHAETS & CARAVAN PARK	DWELLINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9538 1157	No.
TADDY CREEK	DWELLINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9285 1727	On application.
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	Accom - Attraction	(08) 9764 1616	Sun-Thu only, outside school holidays.
TASTE OF BALINGUP	BALINGUP	Food	(08) 9764 1344	5%.
CORD ON BLUE Pty Ltd	NANNUP	Food	(08) 9756 0616	10% off orders over \$150.
DONNELLY RIVER HOLIDAY VILLAGE	DONNELLY RIVER	Accommodation	(08) 9772 1244	No.
SOUTHERN FORESTS WA	MANJIMUP	Information Provider	(08) 9771 7777	
BIG BROOK RETREAT	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 0279	
COMFORT INN KARRI FOREST MOTEL	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 1019	10% (exc 1 night's stays over pub hols).
KARRI GLADE CHAETS	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 1120	
KARRI VALLEY RESORT	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 2020	10% on rack rate. Conditions apply.
OLD PICTURE THEATRE HOLIDAY APARTMENTS	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 1513	Sun-Thu (direct bookings only).
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 & CAR HIRE	PEMBERTON	Tour/Transport prov.	(08) 9776 0484	10% off tours, Track transfers and car hire.
PEMBERTON FARM CHAETS	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 1290	10%.
PEMBERTON VISITOR CENTRE INC	PEMBERTON	Tourist Bureau	(08) 9776 1133	
PUMP HILL FARM COTTAGES	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 1379	
BIBBULMUN BREAK MOTEL	NORTHCLIFFE	Accommodation	(08) 9776 6060	No.
WATERMARK KIENS	NORTHCLIFFE	Accommodation	(08) 9776 7349	
CHE SARA SARA CHAETS	WALPOLE	Accommodation	(08) 9840 8004	
COALMINE BEACH HOLIDAY PARK	WALPOLE	Accommodation	(08) 9840 1026	10%.
STARGAZERS B&B	WALPOLE	Accommodation	(08) 9840 1553	\$5 on accommodation.
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.
BLUE WREN TRAVELLERS REST	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 3300	5%.
OUT OF SIGHT! TOURS	DENMARK	Tour/Transport prov.	(08) 9848 2814	10%.
DENMARK VISITOR CENTRE	DENMARK	Tourist Bureau	(08) 9848 2055	
DENMARK WATERFRONT MOTEL	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 1147	5%.
THE COVE	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 1770	10%.
WINDROSE B&B	DENMARK	Accom/Transport prov.	(08) 9848 3502	10%.
CAPE HOWE COTTAGES	LOWLANDS BEACH	Accommodation	(08) 9845 1295	10% off standard rates. Free Track drop-off.
BAYVIEW BACKPACKERS YHA	ALBANY	Accommodation	(08) 9842 3388	10% off full pricing. Plus free 30min Internet.
ALBANY VISITOR CENTRE	ALBANY	Tourist Bureau	(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	



DEC Recreation and Trails Unit

Stuart Harrison, Recreation and Trails Unit Coordinator

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

For the first time in a number of years, I can announce that the Recreation and Trails Unit has a full contingent of staff. We have been able to recruit some passionate and keen people into the vacancies within the Unit, which is not as easy as it sounds given the current job market and booming resources sector!

Megan Graham has joined the Unit in the position of Trails Coordinator and over the last couple of months has been progressively picking up the ongoing coordination of the Bibbulmun Track and Munda Biddi Trail. Megan and I recently completed a round trip between Albany and Mundaring, meeting with all of the relevant DEC staff to discuss the ongoing maintenance and management of the Track.

Andrew Kemp and Danielle Stone have also joined the Unit as Recreation Officers, picking up where Robyn Weir and Michelle Charles left off in the middle of the year. Andrew and Danielle will be involved in the day-to-day management of the Bibbulmun Track and the Munda Biddi Trail, as well as supporting the Unit's expansion into the coordination and management of other recreational activities across DEC's vast estate.

DEC has allocated \$120,000 to major maintenance works along the Track in this financial year, with District staff already undertaking urgent maintenance works. I'm sure that you will all be pleased to know that some of the 'toilet' problems are being worked on!

The Unit has also been working extensively with the Blackwood District to produce a new set of maps for the Cape to Cape Track. The new maps have now been printed and are available to the public, so if you're looking for some spectacular coastal walking over the summer months, you might want to have a look!

For those of you that may also occasionally hop on a mountain bike, the opening of the next section of Munda Biddi Trail between Collie and Nannup is not far away. Keep a close eye on the Munda Biddi Trail Foundation website for details of the opening and the new map.

The Recreation and Trails Unit's role has also been evolving, with further involvement in the guidance and management for a number of recreational pursuits beyond cycling and walking, including canoeing, rock climbing and four-wheel driving. One of the primary benefits of

the Unit coordinating a more diverse portfolio will be the integration of the many different recreational activity demands on DEC managed lands, thus enabling a more consistent and balanced management approach. Hopefully, this should in turn lead to a reduction in the potential conflict between different activities and user groups whilst recognising the needs of all users.

I also just want to take the chance to remind walkers that the onset of warmer weather will coincide with the start-up of the DEC's prescribed burning program, and it won't be too long before we face the potential prospect of wildfires. Sections of trails that may be affected by prescribed burning are all listed on the DEC website under Current Trail Conditions. For their own safety, walkers should ensure they check the website before setting out on a walk and follow any diversions and staff directions should you encounter any prescribed burning or wildfires.

Wishing you all a safe Christmas and New Year break!

Stuart Harrison
Recreation and Trails Unit Coordinator

8-DAY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BIBBULMUN TRACK TOUR September 2009

This itinerary has been carefully compiled to enable you to experience a cross section of the Bibbulmun Track from the spectacular ocean views and coastal heath-lands in the far south, through the magnificent karri and tingle forest and up to the rolling hills and jarrah forests in the northern section.

Enjoy a range of full and half-day guided walks as we transport you to the Track each day. Experience a number of unique eco-tourism attractions and boutique wineries in the region. Each evening we will return to comfortable accommodation to relax and enjoy a delicious dinner.

On the walks, you need carry only a small daypack. From the rocky escarpments that provide exhilarating views to the tranquility of the tall forests, our itinerary caters for all levels of experience.

Date: Monday 14th - Monday 21st September (note this is our only tour for 2009)

Cost: \$2450 (twin share basis). Includes motel/chalet accommodation, all meals from lunch on day 1 to lunch on day 8, Bibbulmun Track day pack and water bottle, all transport, entrance fees and permits to national parks and attractions including Tree Top Walk and WOW Wilderness Cruise, Bibbulmun Track guide and driver/guide. Only one single supplement available upon application.

Phone 9481 0551 or email events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au for a complete dossier.

Maximum 15 people



Yes, THEY DID IT!

In this edition we
recognise another 63
end-to-end walkers.

9 came from overseas, 5 from interstate
and the remaining 49 from WA



As usual ages where shown relate to the date of completion of the walk and unless so indicated given start and end dates relate to 2008.

Our walkers are separated roughly into international, interstate and finally state walkers.

International – mostly

Germany

Stephan Arnold (25) of Hohenstein-Ernstthal walked south to north between mid April and late June and comments that there were lots of ups and downs in both the Track and his mood but all in all it was a fantastic and unforgettable experience. Highlights included trees falling overnight at Giants, heavy seas at Mazzelotti Beach and crossing the Irwin Inlet. As to food he says 2-minute noodles are useless.

Hermann Jeuttner (59) of Bremen, who had previously completed an end-to-end in 2007, joined his son Christoph Zimmer (19) to reach Albany on 24 October – a 47 day walk. They both enjoyed the wildflowers and wildlife, the night sky and the views especially along the south coast. They relied on food drops for the basics but finding fresh fruit in smaller towns was difficult.

United Kingdom

Andrew Rich (29) of Southampton reached Albany on 3 June after 29 days of walking. He had waited seven years to do the walk. He describes it as an ideal marriage of beautiful scenery and physical challenge which definitely

lived up to expectations. Highlights included sharing his final night dining in the company of bandicoots and having a hot shower in Northcliffe after two days of torrential rain.

London resident **Steve Carpenter** (44) left Kalamunda late in August to reach Albany in mid October. His favourite section was from Kalamunda to Dwellingup despite the absence of stores. He enjoyed the spring flowers, meeting lots of nice people and waking up to find it wasn't raining! Steve recommends that walkers buy good boots and aim to get a size bigger than normal to allow for thicker socks and the fact that feet tend to swell.

'I've been scratched, bruised and exhausted, I've walked 967.2 kilometres, I've lost 6kgs and I feel absolutely marvellous.'

Kate Cornes

New Zealand

George Mate (59) of Westport took 50 days to reach Albany on 9 August. It was a fantastic walk with very good, dry shelters. The hills were short and easy compared to the South Island.

Michael Bartlett (71) of Lower Hutt walked with Western Australians **Trish Bird** (58) of Northam, **Bonnie Hennessey** (68) of Bunbury and **Gunilla Kilgour** (71) of Narrogin. They left Albany on 22 April and reached Kalamunda on 10 June. Michael was very taken with the regeneration of forest areas after timber milling activities and recent controlled burns and wildfires. Second time end-to-ender Trish comments that it is a good time to walk – not too hot and no wading. Walking the Pingerup Plains is up there with the best. Bonnie was pleased to note the improvement in the Track over the past 10 years and says time spent in towns even just overnight is worthwhile. For Gunilla this was the fulfilment of a 10 year old dream – all without blisters or accidents. She says that seeing the sun shining through mist and highlighting hundreds of spider webs was magical.

Netherlands

Antoine Teeuwssen (44) of Nijmegen took 57 days to reach Albany on 25 October. It was a 10-year dream come true. He met up with a number of other walkers some of whom are

mentioned elsewhere. He found the maps very helpful, but says that the signs coming down from Mt Cooke were confusing. Antoine saw about 25 snakes and after Rame Head lots of flies!

Canada

Edmonton resident **Tim 'Fishbomb' Zrobok** (28) went north to south between early August and the end of September. He nominates himself as the best eater on the Track! His highlights were swimming in a turquoise ocean, awesome white sand beaches and seeing a couple of pairs of Baudin's Cockatoos and the sight of rainbows near Albany.

Interstate

New South Wales

Wagga Wagga residents **Ros Crago** (64), **Heather Littlejohn** (48) and **Judith Nisbet** (58) came over especially to walk the Track. They all comment favourably on its condition and compare it favourably with other walks they have done. Heather records that the provision of shelters was something new for her as she had always carried a tent before. Snakes were apparently emerging as Ros and Heather mention their presence in abundance. They went from north to south taking 8 weeks to reach Albany on 7 October.

Rebecca (59) and **Rudy** (60) **Jacobs** who come from Rainbow Flat also walked from north to south. For them it was a great achievement to walk for 65 consecutive days getting fitter all the time having never bush-walked before. They arrived in Albany on 28 October. Their advice is plan ahead, join the BTF and listen to what others have to say.

Western Australia

Our 10th Anniversary Celebration walkers – **Jim Freeman** (72) of Mandurah, **Gabriele Garatti** (62) of Munster, **Colin Gee** (67) of Carine, **Elsie Grygiel** (67) of Noranda, **Alan McGregor** (60) of Marmion, **John Henry Murphy** (72) of York, **Brendan Parker** (63) of Mt Pleasant, **Steve Sertis** (37) of Palmyra and **Mike Wood** (48) of North Beach set off from Albany with much fanfare on 16 July and arrived in similar fashion in Kalamunda on 13 September. **Sandy McGregor** started out on the end-to-end but sadly had to stop half-way due to injury.

They experienced some lousy weather at times but this never quenched the wonderful team spirit that made this a very special journey. Some random comments: a very special trip, amazing, a most satisfying and pleasurable experience, a great deal of fun, the night spent holding down tents at West Cape Howe, a valuable learning experience on how to walk and live in the bush, bonding between the walkers and an amazing journey shared with fantastic people including over 100 sectional walkers and hundreds of school children plus locals in each community.

Julie Bessant (48) of Shoalwater walked south with **Janet Innes** (48) of Bunbury. They reached Albany on 6 October after 50 days on the Track. Julie loved the adversities, challenges and people she met along the way. Her favourite section was the Pingerup Plains through which she walked in water for 6 days. Janet was impressed by their resilience of wading on the Pingerup Plains and enduring the coldest ever September temperature around Woolbales. She felt proud to be part of the Bibbulmun crew.

Dick Blom (75) of Willagee headed north. He started on 29 April, then had to pull out at William Bay early in May but resumed at the end of August to finish on 22 October. He loved this, his first walk on a track and learnt a lot about hiking but would like to see the general stores cater better for people walking the Track. He said the wildflowers were amazing!

Joshua Dibua (18) of Lesmurdie finished his first walk in May but between mid June and mid September completed not only a second end-to-end, this time going north/south but immediately turned around to walk back! Walking both ways took him 93 days. Joshua got back to Kalamunda on 12 September. He says the Track is different each time he walks it and he is certain he will do another end-to-end. Of many highlights he mentions seeing a great white shark eating a whale on Dingo Beach.

Second time end-to-ender **Craig Brookes** (22) of Esperance walked from north to south between October 2002 and 25 December 2002. Highlights included taking the train ride at Pemberton, fishing with Walpole backpackers and quokka spotting.

Pingelly duo **Martin Clarke** (54) and **Doug Goldsmith** (53) took just under 2 months to reach Albany on 31 May. They walked part of the way with **Kevin Hazelwood** of Tasmania. Both praise our volunteers for building and maintaining the Track and comment that the

shelters were 5 star establishments after a day's walk. Martin is now hooked on doing more treks in the south west. Doug found the going tougher than he thought it would be but in general thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Piet Coetzee (54) and **Johanna Engwerda** (53) of Albany walked the Track in sections over a period of years ending on 29 October 2008. Piet comments that some areas were overcrowded so he recommends taking a tent as the northern section was very busy especially over weekends and holidays. Johanna found the Track was not as isolated or inaccessible as they had thought. They were both surprised how fit they got over time and how 'yes I can' replaced 'no I can't'.

Sectional walker **Malcolm Ferrier** (67) of Booragoon started in October 2004 and finished in August 2008. After vowing in 1999 he would never subject his body to a 20kg load again he found inexplicably that he could do so for several hundred hours. He cautions against walking in wet socks and suggests taking a spare headlamp.

'Good, bad, easy, hard, wet, dry, hot, cold (actually freezing), rainy, sunny, hope, despair, fear, courage, elation, nostalgia. SPECTACULAR!'

Fiona Ronchi

Graeme (60) and son **Michael** (31) **Coote** of Madeley walked the Track in 3 sections. The first half in 2006, Donnelly River Village to Mandalay in 2007 and the final leg into Albany in October 2008. It was a great walk enhanced by back up from their wives and a convivial party with Graeme's brothers on a friend's property near Yourdamung. They recommend walking in sections as this makes you feel the distance isn't nearly as great!

Kate Cornes (57) of Maylands completed her walk in 2 months heading north to south and arriving in Albany on 24 October. She notes that the Track is very well marked and maintained and thanks the 'vollies'. She ached all over for the first few days but it was worthwhile. Kate had to increase her carbohydrate intake for breakfast and lunch. She dried her own dinners and would do the same again.

Halls Head resident **Andrew Craig** (44), doing his third end-to-end, walked the Track in sections between December 2007 and February this year. Like a few others he decries the developments taking place on the Nullaki Peninsula. He always bought food in the towns – for variety, nutrition and limited weight. Andrew spent 3 nights with walkers from Sweden and Scotland who have walked over 40,000 kilometres. He always regrets returning to 'mainstream society'.

Deb Cutting (37) of Inglewood reached Albany on 17 October after 55 days. She is in awe of older people who walk end-to-end and is very grateful we have such an amazing track in WA. She recommends earplugs for a good night's sleep! As regards food stocks; North Bannister posed a problem as it was closed, Peaceful Bay wasn't well stocked but DRV was brilliant.

Gary Dennis (53) of Kallaroo achieved his south to north walk in 47 days. He reached Kalamunda on 27 May. It was a great challenge and he is now ready for bigger walks.

Bob Frost (69) of Claremont walked with **Robin King** (49) of Victoria Park. They left Kalamunda on 21 April and reached Albany on 14 June. Bob was surprised to see so many flowers and bushes in bloom. Fungi were incredible along with red orange purple mushrooms. He had problems with rats and mice and suggests the provision of more plastic boxes for storing food in the shelters. Robin found the going harder than the Cape to Cape Track but was surprised how well he adapted.

Ted Graham (61) of Nedlands and **Ashley Moffat** (53) of Dalkeith completed their walk between 2000 and October 2008. Ted says it is an excellent well maintained track whilst Ashley simply says it was a fantastic walk.

Bill Griffiths (71) of Albany and Arvid Linde of Swanbourne also covered the distance over time, between September 2005 and May 2008. It was an experience that combined both relaxing and learning and a journey they thoroughly enjoyed.

And so to **Tom Hillier** (60) 'Lallah Rookh' of Cooloongup who started from the north at the end of April and finished in mid June. He had previously walked from Kalamunda to Collie. Tom highlights his walk along Mazzelotti Beach into a howling 110 km/h westerly with rain the whole way. The most admired walker he met was end-to-ender Jenny Mack with her 2 little boys Cameron and Lachlan. The least admired were the idiots who complain in the log books about the absence of toilet paper!

Debra (47) and **Peter** (54) **Holst** of Hillarys who walked from north to south on their second end-to-end were surprised how different it was to going south to north as they didn't recognise features until they turned and looked back. It was tough to start with but a breeze by the time they ended. They had a wonderful time sharing experiences with other walkers. They arrived in Albany on 6 June in just under 2 months.



Simon (49) and Diane (43) **House** -'Moving House'- of Kojonup also took just under 2 months walking north to south to arrive in Albany on 20 October. That these were 'some of the 8 best weeks' of their lives is evident from the highlights they recorded - the people they met, walking on Little Quarram Beach in bare feet, camping out, meeting the 10th anniversary group at Mt Wells, wading across the Pingerup Plains and the wildflowers.

Walking the Track has taken **Tony Jennings** (51) of Duncraig the better part of 8 years between September 2000 and July 2008 though he has done some parts many times leading organised walks. His adventure has been very satisfying and has whetted his appetite to achieve an end-to-end in one go. **Evelyn Denise** Lim (57) of Rockingham walked with **Carol Phillips** whose details we do not have. The walk commenced in Albany on 7 July and ended on 6 September. Evelyn says that even though they were often cold wet and tired, having a great attitude really helped. She left home with a head full of plans, projects and ideas but then she hit the Track and for the first time in her life her mind was still.

'Get going early in the morning to see more wildlife.'

Andrew Rich

Dolly (54) and **Geoff** (58) **Meates** of Lesmurdie took exactly 2 months to reach Kalamunda on 18 June. They just loved the stress free walk and the personal sense of achievement. Both had great fun buying food in the towns adding that lots of scroggin (nuts, dried fruit and lollies) should be eaten to repair muscle quickly!

Bunbury resident **Harold Membrey** (56) left Kalamunda on 25 April and arrived in Albany on 17 July. Every metre of the Track was a highlight especially its diverse nature seen from a slow moving perspective.

Fiona Ronchi (26) of Balcatta also headed south to reach Albany on 13 September after 57 days. Her highlight was waiting at the bus stop just before Dookanelly...although it would have been more of a highlight if the bus had arrived!

Damien Shore (26) of Yokine took 56 days to reach Albany on 27 May. He had no food problems though going from Kalamunda to Dwellingup without a re-supply was tough. Damien admits to never knowing the southern coastline and the Pingerup Plains existed before he got there.

Also heading south was **Ian Thompson** (52) of Falcon who reached Albany in just over 8 weeks on 8 June. He found the going frightening to start with but regretted finishing and is now looking for his next challenge. Ian's best equipment list includes ultra light poles, bandanna, comfortable pack, compact gas burner, down sleeping bag, self inflating mattress and especially fixomul which he mentions no less than 3 times!

Lesmurdie residents **Peter** (57) and **Jann** (56) **van der Helder** walked south to north. They left Albany on 20 April and reached Kalamunda on 16 June. Both loved the whole experience and were surprised at the variety of vegetation and land forms along the way. They write: 'What a great way to see the country, get fit and meet lots of wonderful people.' When they returned home they found the radio, TV and general noise very loud after the peace of the Track.

Finally there is **Michael Wynne** (62) of Cottesloe who walked the Track in sections between April 1999 and March 2008. It was a fantastic opportunity for Michael to reflect, and meditate. He used public transport to access the Track even though at times he had to get up as early as 4am but it was a great experience walking until the break of dawn feeling the warmth, listening to the birds and watching the light change.

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



Eyes on the Ground MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME



Back row from left to right: Olivia Hertsted, Charles Crew, Yau Hing Chow, Yau Goh Chow and Oliver Gee.

Front row from left to right: Bev Gardiner, Allan David, Heather Burne and Andrew Waugh.

This is an interesting time of year for maintenance, as many end-to-enders pop in to the office with various reports about the Track. These reports are very much appreciated, as volunteers cannot be out on their sections all the time. If something occurs after a volunteer has paid a visit to his or her section, it's great if walkers can pass on the information to me. Sometimes I may already be aware of the issue, but if not, I send off a report to either the DEC office in the district or to the volunteer, depending on the nature of the report. This continual flow of information is part of the reason why we have such a great walking track.

Many walkers contact me simply to pass on their thanks to the volunteers and to DEC for the fantastic job they do. Walkers from interstate and overseas are often amazed at the commitment of the nearly 300 maintenance volunteers.

Over the last two weeks we had the final Field Days for this year. In Dwellingup, district officer Elisa Skillen gave us a grand tour of the DEC site in Dwellingup, which is much larger than any of us realised. We learnt a lot about the way equipment and personnel are managed, and the difficulties faced by the districts in the fire season, when most of the staff are involved in fire duty. Maintenance issues were discussed over morning tea and lunch, and volunteers met up with teams working on adjoining sections.

At Collie we missed a tour of inspection, but were more than compensated when we saw first-hand the reason why - the duty officer was handling a prescribed burn affecting the Bibbulmun Track. A close study of a huge wall map showed the way a fire is plotted, the possible danger areas and the location of private properties and any recreation facilities which have to be protected - in this case the Bibbulmun Track. We were amazed at the wide range of issues considered when planning a burn and saw files inches thick - one for each planned burn. Another map that looked like a very pretty patchwork quilt, which showed by colour coding the length of time since each section of forest had been burnt, covered another wall.

This was voted the best Field Day ever in Collie, so a huge thank you to Drew Griffiths - District Manager, Leon Price - District Parks and Visitor Services Coordinator, and Phoebe Houghton - National Park Ranger, for a brilliant day.

Thank you too, to all of our volunteers who look after the Track. I really enjoy my role coordinating the maintenance and look forward to the Field Days when I can meet up with everyone.

Gwen Plunkett
Volunteer Coordinator

Office Gossip

A strange calm has descended over the office after the rather frenzied level of activity of the past few months. We have not been idle though, as we catch up on the many tasks that were put aside while we celebrated the 10th Anniversary.

Elsie, Jim Freeman and Steve are back, looking very fit after their end-to-end, and Lesley, Hans, Jim Baker and Alan are back from overseas, so we have a full team once more. We welcome into our midst Colin Gee, who was one of the Anniversary end-to-end walkers.

As this is the peak walking season, many end-to-enders have visited us in the office over the past few weeks. Most of course are local, but many are from interstate and overseas. It's really interesting to hear their stories and to learn how walking in WA varies from walking in other parts of the world. One of the biggest differences for those from Europe and the UK is the distance between the towns, and for some this proves quite a challenge. It's also fun to meet members we have previously known only via email or phone, as we assisted them with trip planning advice or by sending maps and guidebooks.

After twelve months the counting and interviewing stage of the walker survey is complete, the returns are in and the data is being analysed. A huge thank you to the more than fifty volunteers who were involved. Some were

able to do just a couple of surveys while others committed to doing all of the surveys on one site, or a number of surveys on different sites. Some sites were very busy and volunteers barely had time to have a coffee during their four-hour stint, while others spent a number of hours in the freezing conditions of remote sites and saw no one. Without the help of this small army, whether people did one stint or fifty, the survey would not have been possible. In the office I was more than ably assisted by Peter Whittle and Alan, who collated returns as they came in, followed up any surveys that had been missed and tried to fill the gaps.

We are now looking forward to our annual office lunch. This year it will be a picnic in the park, so we hope for fine weather. As different volunteers are in the office on different days it's the only chance we have to all get together.

My sincere thanks to our great team in the office - there are twenty of us in all. We work very hard but still manage time for lots of laughs and the occasional cake.

The office will close on December 19 and reopen January 12. We all wish you a very Happy Festive Season and look forward to catching up with you all again in 2009.

Gwen Plunkett
Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator

Farewell to Founding Board Member

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation regrets the recent resignation of Geoff Klem from the Board.

Geoff was a founding member in 1997 of the Friends of the Bibbulmun Track organisation, later to become the Bibbulmun Track Foundation. He was an active and influential advocate for the Track and the Foundation both within and outside Government, in particular, in his role as the Director of Regional Policy within the Department of Premier and Cabinet in the time of Premier Gallop.

As a specialist in regional development with a planning background, Geoff was (and remains) a great advocate for the Track and a great believer in the economic and social benefits that can and are being generated by the Track. Working in Perth, but being based in the South West, he also had a good feel for the benefits which flow to regional communities along the Track from not only Track walkers but also the efforts of the Foundation's volunteers and supporters generally.

Geoff left the State Government to take up a position as Executive Director of Planning at the City of Bunbury in 2006 and in his new role found it significantly more difficult to attend Board meetings. He has made it clear that he gives up his position on the Board with regret, but also great satisfaction in seeing the Foundation mature from an organisation struggling for resources and attention to one which is now widely recognised as a model for similar organisations and accepted as an important partner in the Bibbulmun Track's future.

Geoff's able replacement on the Board is Dept. of Sport and Recreation Director General Ron Alexander. Thanks for your contribution Geoff and all the best for the future.

Bruce Manning
Foundation Board Member

BIBB TRACK WALKERS PUT SEA TO SUMMIT GEAR TO THE TEST



Sea to Summit selected four gear testers to trial their product over the coming months. The testers and gear selected are outlined below and we look forward to hearing their feedback!

Tony Jennings is testing a selection of Sea to Summit accessories, including the new X Bowl, Alpha Cutlery, Luxury pillow & the new Big River Dry Bag.

Guy Spouge is testing the new Steripen Journey water purifier. Guy is a life member plus a maintenance volunteer so should get plenty of opportunity to use this to purify his water without chemicals or boiling.

Lesa Kerridge is new to trekking and is delighted to be testing the Wilderness Equipment Breakout

pack. She will be looking for advice on the best ways to pack her gear as she heads off to explore the highlights of Monadnocks and beyond.

Stuart and Mary Gray are planning to walk the 500 kilometres from Donnelly River to Kalamunda. Stuart will be testing the AO-Lite sleeping mat from Pacific Outdoor Equipment. Apparently his previous mat is "starting to show the ravages of time, as is it's owner". Good luck for the hike Stuart.

If you would like to be considered for Gear trials subscribe to Sea to Summit's email newsletter at:

www.seatosummit.com.au

World Challenge Expedition

Jonica Miller, the daughter of one of our volunteers, has the unique opportunity to travel to Vietnam and Cambodia as part of a World Challenge Expedition that is being organised through her school.

World Challenge is an organisation that offers students the opportunity for "education through exploration". The four-week program incorporates their ethos of challenge, environment and participation - focusing on student's personal development and leadership skills. Jonica hopes to use the Bibbulmun Track as a training ground for the trekking phase and will encourage other students to do the same.

The expedition has four phases - acclimatisation (understanding the local culture and environment), trekking (leadership), project (community service) and rest & relaxation (personal time). In the lead up to the expedition, the girls do all their own planning and budgeting for the trip. Once they arrive in Cambodia they are expected to put their planning into practice.

Her goal is to raise \$6,000 by the end of November 2009. The Bibbulmun Track Foundation has offered its support with a \$50 donation. If anyone else would like to help, you can visit her website at www.worldchallenge2009.spaces.live.com

Mountain Designs Bibbulmun Team Challenge 2008



CONGRATULATIONS TO WESTERN POWER, CHALLENGE CHAMPIONS 2008.



The Western Power team take the title for 2008

At the Awards Night on Wednesday 12 November, Western Power, was awarded the title of Challenge Champions for the Mountain Designs Bibbulmun Team Challenge 2008.

During October and November 64 participants in 16 teams competed in this unique team-building event – and raised over \$19,000 for the Track.

With special emphasis on outdoor skills, problem solving, environmental awareness and mental and physical challenges, the participants also walked 15kms each day along the Bibbulmun Track between North Banister and Dwellingup. Each

team also raced carts in Dwellingup and built an outrigger to race on the Murray River as part of the challenge.

Led by the Foundation's Events Manager Steve Sertis, the event involved 35 instructors and volunteers and we thank them for their time and enthusiasm.

FIRST HEAT

Newmont won the first heat for 2008! WestOne Women took the lead early on the first day. NAB came up from behind to secure first place by day two. Aged care had their time in front also. The margins were very tight though with sometimes

only 35 points between teams. Alliances were formed and trading took place, but in the end Newmont flew to the top with NAB in second place followed by WestOne Women and Aged Care (Dept of Health and Aging).



The team from Newmont put their thinking caps on

SECOND HEAT

Congratulations to Geraldton Grammar School (otherwise known as Team Lewis) for winning the second Heat. West 4K (WestOne) were always on their back getting very close, but Geraldton kept pulling away, leaving West 4K in second place. The BankWest Banjos made it their mission for the entire heat to keep third place away from the Pandemics (Dept of Health and Aging).



The Geraldton Grammar team hung on to their lead in the second heat

THIRD HEAT

Western Power won the third heat. OATSIH (Dept of Health and Ageing) were only a smidgen behind and kept Western Power on their toes. PS146 (NAB 2) remained on their trail also and had almost caught them. NAB (3) tried their best to unsettle the other teams using 'out of the square' techniques such as using their whistle to hold the others back. In the end Western Power enhanced their lead, OATSIH were next, trailed by PS146 and NAB in fourth place.

FOURTH HEAT



The team from DEC get the wheels rolling

Congratulations to the team from the Dept of Environment and Conservation (DEC) for winning the last heat for 2008. From early on DEC took a strong lead with the Power Factors,

AngloGold and PSN Water trying desperately to take the lead from them.

THE WRAP-UP

Decision making was obviously very important but making the right decisions was paramount, especially when it came to packing. One team forgot their maps, team members of another team chose not to bring sleeping mats. Nevertheless the sheer grit and determination shown by all participants to go for gold was impressive – everyone rallied together showing magnificent levels of support and camaraderie.

My thanks go to all the participants for the amazing spirit and effort shown during the Challenge. I know it was way out of the comfort zone for some, especially those who had never donned a backpack before and who managed to complete the four days and all the challenges as well! It was a fabulous effort and I hope to see teams from you all in 2009.

Finally, thank you to everyone who helped with the event in any way – especially the many volunteers. The event would not have been such a great success without your help. There are far too many of you to mention here.

Steve Sertis
Event Manager and Lead Guide

THE 2008 CHALLENGE CHAMPIONS WESTERN POWER



The team's name will be inscribed on the perpetual Team Challenge Champions trophy which is kept on display in the Foundation's front office.

Additionally, each of the winners received a:

- Bibbulmun Trophy made and donated by Jim Freeman
- Hand-crafted Bibbulmun walking stick
- 'Mountain Designs' Bibbulmun back pack donated by Mountain Designs
- Two-day B&B accommodation package, each for two people

Runners up - Dept of Environment and Conservation (DEC) received the following:

- A Wilderness Equipment Flash Back Day packs donated by Sea to Summit
- A three-day self-contained accommodation package donated by Donnelly River Holiday Village for eight people.

In 3rd place, Geraldton Grammar School team members received:

- A Drylite towel donated by Sea to Summit
 - A Bibbulmun Track T-shirt
- In 4th place, Newmont team members received:
- A Bibbulmun Track T-shirts

In addition, ALL of the heat winners received a:

- \$100 voucher from Mountain Designs
- Set of cutlery from Sea to Summit
- Bibbulmun Track caps donated by Best on Ground
- Bibbulmun Track water bottles, Waugal trail marker magnets & car stickers

The 2008 Challengers Thank you to all the teams that made this year's Challenge a success! With your support we raised nearly \$19,000.

which will assist the Foundation to continue to support the management of the Bibbulmun Track, ensuring that it remains a long distance walk trail of international significance and quality.

- National Australia Bank (3 teams) • PSN Water • Newmont • AngloGold Ashanti
- WestOne (2 teams) • Dept of Health and Aging (3 teams) • BankWest
- Geraldton Grammar • Dept of Environment and Conservation
- Western Power (2 teams)

THE JIM FREEMAN AWARD - THE 'SPIRIT OF THE BIBBULMUN'

Each year, This award is given to the team that stands out in the areas of participation, environmental awareness, team spirit and consideration of others. During the course of the Challenge, all teams are watched very carefully and this award is given irrespective of scores and team performance in activities.

We are proud to announce that this year's
Spirit of the Bibbulmun Award was awarded to the
Power Factors (Western Power 2) - Well done!



Jim Freeman presents the Spirit of the Bibbulmun award to the Power Factor team member.

Thank you to our sponsors

Thank you to Mountain Designs as the major sponsor of the event and for providing the venue for the Award night and donating prizes.

Thanks also to GOLD sponsor Sea to Summit, new sponsors to the Foundation and the Team Challenge. Sea to Summit has sponsored many of the prizes given to participants and also assisted with the hire equipment used by participants on the Team Challenge.

We also appreciate support from the following sponsor for donation of prizes, equipment or refreshments for the Awards night.

- Moojelap Winery Oakfield House B&B, Balingup
Jalbrook Cottages, Balingup Rose B&B, Balingup
Donnelly River Holiday Village BEST ON GROUND AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS





TRACK TOWN Northcliffe

"NATURALLY"

Located 360 kilometres south of Perth, Northcliffe has a unique distinction of being the only town founded in WA specifically for the First World War Group Settlement Scheme.

Northcliffe is proud to be the home of the Great Karri Challenge - a 100 kilometre mountain bike ride. The long weekend in March brings 300 plus riders and their families, friends and supporters to town. Around 150 volunteers keep events flowing providing food, accommodation and event coordination. There is an old fashioned country, community spirit that is still alive in Northcliffe, which has existed since the early settlement days.

This country hospitality extends to the local retailers who give friendly, personal service to their customers. A town where Track walkers' individual needs are catered for; shops sell produce in small amounts to suit walkers, such as small packets of food including nuts, dried fruit, cereals and much more. All can be purchased by the 100gms.

Accommodation providers offering walkers free eggs for breakfast and free pick up from the Visitor Centre, all part of the old fashioned service and hospitality. There are even old fashioned hamburgers - those ones with egg, bacon, cheese, tomato, lettuce, beetroot, everything to eat in or take away.

Northcliffe has accommodation to suit all tastes and budgets, from luxury chalets situated amongst

towering Karri to home style Bed & Breakfast's where you can rise early and help feed the calves. In town there is a choice of hotel or motel accommodation. Most accommodation providers offer free pick up from the Visitor Centre.

Northcliffe is surrounded by deep loam soils that support magnificent virgin Karri Forests. Growing to 80 metres tall, it occurs either in pure stands or sometimes mixed with Marri or Jarrah. River Banksia, Paperbark and Peppermints grow along the larger creeks. The Karri understorey is dominated by Sheoak, Karri Hazel, Chorilaena, Wattle, Tree Hovea and Bracken.

The South West is home to one of the richest floras in the world. In the spring the unique and diverse native wild flowers are a visitor's delight. The multitudes of colours exhibited range right across the spectrum of nature's unlimited vision. The blue native Wisteria and White Clematis contrast with the ground covering Red Coral Vine. Purple Hovea, Crowea and Karri Hazel also integrate in this mosaic of striking colours. There are over 400 different orchids to be found.

Northcliffe is the gateway to D'Entrecasteaux National Park and Windy Harbour. The road to Windy Harbour takes you past Mt. Chudalup a granite monolith which rises above the surrounding Karri forests and coastal heathland. The 1.5 kilometre steep walk trail leads you through coastal Karri Forest and over moss and lichen covered rock to the summit. The view from the top rewards the visitor with a spectacular

panorama of the surrounding park and coast line. In spring many wildflowers and orchids can be found along the track and also on the summit. The park is a bird watchers paradise.

The light house at Point D'Entrecasteaux offers great views of a long section of coast line. Whales can be sighted on their migratory journey along the coast. Stroll along the cliff top walk which in spring is a profusion of wildflowers and orchids. There are approximately twelve different walking trails in the Northcliffe area offering different forest experiences.

Southern Forest Sculpture Park is a world class cultural viewing experience, giving you the opportunity to see art in a unique forest setting. Forty artists, international, interstate and local contributed to the sculptures exhibited in the park. Choose from five different audio tours to complement your experience.

The Red Tree Gallery holds regular exhibitions for artist, photographers and potters.

The Northcliffe Visitor Centre, Library, Telecentre, The Red Tree Gallery and entrance to the Southern Forest Sculpture Park are all housed in the one building on Muirillup Road Northcliffe.

For more information visit www.northcliffe.org.au

The Northcliffe Visitor Centre is open daily.
Phone: 08 9776 7203 Email: ncfvisitorcentre@westnet.com.au



Dwellingup

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We are right on the Bibbulmun Track. Situated Cnr Ellis & Guppy Street in the centre of Pemberton, the Track passes our front door.

Stay over night and use our hot tub at our four and a half star fully self contained accommodation from \$132.00 for 2 people per night. Walk In Walk Out

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Track near the ocean. Priced to suit lone walkers and groups. Our manager supplies a friendly service and works to ensure your comfort.

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www.valleyofthegiants.com.au/peacefulbaychalets



Outback Tours 'The Kimberley' Western Australia

12 Day Outback Tour - \$2400.00

Travel the famous Gibb River Road, explore Windjana Gorge and Tunnel Creek. Bushwalk into the Mitchell Falls, Mertens Falls and other spectacular gorges. Visit El Questro, The Bungle Bungles and Geikie Gorge. Sleep in comfortable swags under the Southern Cross and enjoy delicious meals from the Camp Oven. Fee includes all your food, camping equipment, park entry fees and camping fees. Adventure Wild will donate \$100 to The Bibbulmun Track Foundation for every 12 Day Tour booked by Friends of the Bibbulmun Track. Tours depart from Broome. Freecall 1-800 359 008



www.adventurewild.com.au

Looking for New Challenges in 2009?

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Adventure Out Australia offers a choice of camping treks in Western Australia's spectacular East Kimberley. Our Treks allow you to experience this region as nature intended, walking and camping through areas that retain a remote ruggedness yet pristine beauty. There is something truly special about this wild assortment of gorges, canyons and towering rocky domes.

We have designed a Trilogy of treks between 50 - 85kms which will take you to the Chamberlain River, Speewah, Dunham River and Lake Argyle, while our Osmand Range trek covers the Bungle Bungle Range.

Travel with an eco certified ecotourism business who subscribes to the policy of protecting the natural environment and indigenous cultural values that make much of the Kimberley a natural icon.

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Getting into Gear -

REFLECTIONS OF AN EPIC JOURNEY

In this article, Mike Wood looks back at the 10th Anniversary Walk, with a special emphasis on the equipment, good and bad, used by the walkers.

The most frequent question that I've been asked recently is "How could you possibly have taken eight weeks off work to walk the Bibbulmun Track?" Well, the answer is that once you make a decision to do these trips and you commit to them, you make it happen. It also helps to have a loving and understanding partner, supportive teenage kids (who didn't even notice that I was gone for the first four weeks) and staff who are far more competent than I am in running my businesses. My own special, well-honed talent, perfected over many years of disappearing into the Himalayas for weeks at a time, is to be able to make myself wholly dispensable.

I also offer the opinion that it's good for my business to go on these long treks to expand my knowledge of suitable gear. I am then much more useful on the shop floor in giving relevant advice to those considering long bushwalks themselves.

When I boarded the plane to Albany my pack weighed 18.7 kg, without any water. "Not bad", I thought. "I'll be able to fine tune it on the way".

I didn't leave much out at the start, particularly as we began walking in wet, windy conditions that didn't look like abating for some time. However, by the time I got to Denmark, several items that I hadn't used, and didn't look like using, got the chop - I was ruthless! From there I reckoned that I'd start each section with around 18 to 20 kg (including two litres of water) and finish the section with around 15 to 17 kg. I'm not a 'weight Nazi', and I don't weigh each item individually, but everything in my pack must have a reason for existing.

I was very surprised at some of the gear that turned up on the walk. Remember, we had ten end-to-enders, of whom Steve Sertis and I were the leaders, and then eight different walkers on each of twelve sections. This meant I saw more than 100 different sets of gear on the walk. It was a great opportunity for me to be able to see lots of different brands of gear in action at first hand--- not from second hand feedback, or from the point of view of suppliers or manufacturers.

Most of the end-to-enders began the walk with excellent gear, although attempts to use ponchos on the windy south coast section were doomed to end in tears. None of the ponchos made it past day four, the wind tore them to shreds! Not only were they inconvenient to put on quickly, walkers had to be incredibly flexible to get them over their bodies and packs without help.

By Denmark everyone had reverted to proper thigh length waterproof jackets. Mountain Designs provided some uniform items for the end-to-enders, and the waterproof jackets, the men's Melaleuca and the women's Acacia, proved to be big hits; waterproof, breathable and comfortable to wear all day.

Packs were another great source of angst for many walkers; mostly because they were poorly adjusted and fitted badly. Some walkers had always used their packs without having them properly fitted, and were amazed at the difference once we helped them. At the start of the walk I had assumed that everyone would be able to fit their own packs, and I was reluctant to step in and offer help in case I offended people.

Wrong! By the start of the second section I interfered without being asked, as it was obvious we could prevent a lot of unnecessary pain and suffering by taking charge and telling people that their packs needed adjusting. Often the length of the harness was wrong, or the weight was not evenly distributed between hips and shoulders, the shoulder straps were not rounded over the shoulders but pinched up, or the buckles dug into their arms.

However the real issue with the packs was the amount of unnecessary "stuff" in them. At the start of every section we checked the packs of the new sectional walkers to help them prioritise their gear. In some cases we could reduce their initial pack weight by seven kg or more just by paring back the 'but it might come in handy' items. The amount of food was a contributor to the excessive weight, not just the weight of some of the individual meals, (including canned food) but because people thought that they would need more food than they did.

This was particularly true in the snacks department, which was a real bonus for Steve and me, as we do like a bit of chocolate now and then! How I lost any weight on this trip is a mystery, as I mopped up all the extra chocolate faster than the cookie monster gulps down cookies.

My dinners consisted mainly of freeze dried meals (I was sponsored by Back Country Cuisine) and even with all the pointed comments from my fellow walkers about my lack of imagination and the possible, I stress possible, over-supply of gas, I have to say I still think that freeze dried food is a great option.

We also had some issues with footwear, although not as many as I anticipated. Most people had appropriate boots, and the blisters we did get sometimes appeared unexpectedly in boots that were well broken in, in one case in a pair that were over 10 years old. However we did have people turning up in steel capped boots, brand new boots and boots that should have been buried because they were dead years ago.

Overall, what surprised me most was the number of people who did not consider it necessary to buy gear that was developed specifically for bushwalking by reputable companies who, for all intents and purposes, have spent considerable time and money developing some excellent gear that makes the life of a bushwalker infinitely more comfortable. I was surprised at the number of people who bought gear made by companies who have blatantly R&D'ed gear (that's Rip off & Duplicate, not Research & Development) designed by good companies, by taking it to China and telling them to "copy this, but make it cheaper".

Gear with inferior stitching, gear made with inferior fabrics and gear made by people who obviously had no understanding of what they were copying and consequently failed in copying the real features of the design in the end. It doesn't mean that you have to buy the most expensive piece of kit, because sometimes that's not the most appropriate for the job, it does mean that you have to look for value for money, and you have to look at the benefits of the features of the gear that you are buying.

The beauty about a long bushwalk is that the inferior gear gets found out. The walker learns the hard way to value good design, robust construction and attention to detail in the same way that we learn to value important qualities in our fellow walkers... steadfastness, enthusiasm, integrity, empathy and compassion. The long distance track forces us to dig deep, exposes our flaws, accentuates our positives and highlights the little things that make the long lasting impressions.

In the end, the most telling aspect of this journey was that over the nearly 1,000 kilometres, despite all the hardships, there was not one disagreement. No voice was raised in anger or frustration and everyone contributed meaningfully to the dynamics of our journey. Everyone made their mark; everyone enhanced the experience through their presence. Ultimately for me the real privilege was to undertake this journey with such a terrific group of people.

Mike Wood
Mountain Designs WA



STERIPEN

Why do we need water purification?

Australia has been relatively free of waterborne contaminants in the past however with the ease by which we can now all move around the world we're much more vulnerable to protozoa, bacteria and viruses than we would have been ten years ago. These microbes can cause unpleasant and debilitating illness when bushwalking or worse still, long term health effects after returning home.

How do we safeguard ourselves?

Using a quick and easy water treatment product along with common sense is necessary to prevent infection from waterborne contaminants. The smaller the product is the easier it is to carry with you. The more effective it is the better protection you have whilst bushwalking. So size, weight, speed of use, and effectiveness are all relevant factors.

Do they work?

All water treatment products work however there are many variables to their effectiveness. For example some may take longer or not work well enough in cold water, some may eliminate protozoa and bacteria but not viruses, and some may even cause health issues if used for too long a period.

What is a Steripen?

The Steripen is a user friendly, extremely effective portable water purification device. It destroys Protozoa (eg Giardia and Cryptosporidium), Bacteria (eg Hepatitis, Bird Flu, Salmonella, E.coli, and influenzas), and Viruses (eg Cholera, Smallpox and Typhoid). It is effective against all pathogens that cause Diarrhoea, Dysentery and Legionnaires Disease.

The Steripen 'Journey' weighs less than 150gm and is very compact at only 18cm long x 4.1cm wide.

How effective is Steripen?

Steripen Journey is over 99.99% effective against viruses, bacteria and protozoa. This effectiveness is irrespective of water temperature.

How does Steripen work?

Steripen uses UV (Ultraviolet) light to purify water. (UV light has been used in municipal water treatment plants for many years) UV light destroys the DNA of microbes in seconds rendering them unable to cause illness.

How easy is Steripen to use?

The Steripen uses three simple steps:

1. Push button to activate
2. Place lamp in water to be purified
3. Stir until indicator shows the cycle is complete
4. Purifies 500ml in just 48 seconds! Or 1lt in 90 seconds!

No pumping, no aftertaste, no timekeeping, no clogging, no lubrication, no replacement filters and no chemical odours.

- Steripen Journey - This model uses 2 x CR123 camera batteries which are available in most major cities around the world. It has a bottle seal for use on Nalgene Bottles and other commercial water bottles. It also seals onto the optional Steripen Pre-Filter for water containing a high degree of solid impurities. Its main advantage over other Steripens is the LCD display which shows dose selection, battery status and countdown time to cycle completion. It also tracks the number of uses.



48 seconds for 500ml or 90 seconds for 1lt

In the Community

PERTH ROYAL SHOW

It was an exciting year for the "The Land Experience" at the Royal Show with a brand new permanent site being used for the first time. There is huge potential to develop the site and it is envisaged that the Bibbulmun Track will be forming an integral part of the exhibit in the future. This is the perfect place to showcase the Bibbulmun Track - the Landcare exhibit has always been an escape from the hustle and bustle of the Show, much like the Track is a complete escape from the hustle and bustle of our hectic lives!

As always we had a really great response from volunteers who were able to enjoy the show for free before or after their roster time.

Thank you...

Michael Allenson
Vere Berger
Colin Blampied
Mylene Bonnin
Percy Boyes
Robin Cilli
Gary Dennis
Jennifer Farmer
Wendy Garrity
Hans Hoette
Jennifer Holycross
Jude Jagger
Eddie Jagger
Lorna Johnson
Nerida Jongen
Debbie Kenrick
Robin King
Dianne Larsen
Ross Leighton
Nick Lethbridge
Debra Lethbridge
Angela Loucaides
Lionel Lovell
Ron Lutz
Jan Lutz
Travis Mark
Lari McDonald
Joy McGilvray
Malcolm McGilvray
Rosemary Mero
Merle Milentis
Kaye Moore
Sandi Nielson
Terry O'Hara
Malcolm Ovens
Gwen Plunkett
Chris Plunkett
Kristine Sheehan
Darryl Snook
Mary Sprunt
Annie Sullivan
Richard Szybrocha
Kylie Taylor
Adrian Taylor
Dianne Tinker
Ilona Vincze
Jan Williams
David Wrigley

WALK THE ZIG ZAG

No sooner than the Show was over Charmaine Harris, Gwen and Carol Jowett were busy giving out information at the annual Walk the Zig Zag event in Kalamunda. People from all over Perth venture into the hills to enjoy the spring flowers and entertainment as they stroll down the Zig Zag Scenic Drive.

HAVE A GO DAY

And once again we attended the annual Have a Go Day. The event grows in size and popularity each year and was very well promoted, attracting lots of interested seniors. It is a great event for our volunteers to use their knowledge and experience to let seniors know about the Bibbulmun Track and the benefits of bushwalking.

A special thank you to Chris Plunkett, Carol Jowett, Gayle Kealley, Malcolm Ovens, Elsie Grygiel and Peter Sweetman.

A big "THANK YOU" to all who helped with the Community Info Programme in 2008 we couldn't have done it without you.

Volunteer Day 5 December

THANK YOU

We couldn't do it without you

The Foundation has over 400 volunteers who contributed in excess of 16,000 hours last year.

Whether maintaining the Track, sitting on the Board, answering enquiries, conducting user surveys or guiding events, each volunteer makes an invaluable contribution to the Foundation and to the Track and we thank each and every one of them.

Our volunteers have been invited to various "Thank you" events throughout December in the city, Perth Hills, Denmark and Albany.

We look forward to giving you an update on these events in our next newsletter.



An early morning breakfast for a Bibbulmun Track maintenance crew.
Photo by Peter Evans



WALKING WITH ATTITUDE

Around 200 people took part in the virtual Bibbulmun Track end-to-end challenge - walking an average of 10,000 steps a day.

"I am on my first challenge, trekking the Bibbulmun Track. So far (day 8) I have reached 10,000 steps every day except one. I am really inspired by the challenge to the point where I took Mum and the kids to venture on the real Bibbulmun, which I'd never done before. We started at the Northern Terminus and walked about 2 km in before turning and walking back. The wildflowers were out, the air was fresh, and the bush was glorious. The kids did so much better than I thought, so I am all keen to make family bushwalking a bigger part of our lives. Feeling very motivated now!"
Nicole, WA

And from the winner of the challenge who received some great prizes...

Wow! How lucky am I! Thankyou!

AND...I reached the end of the Bibbulmun WWA Challenge as we met the real walkers proudly 'cross the line' after 2 months and 965kms...you should have seen the smiles!

Walking with Attitude has been my inspiration and I am proud of the results.

Many thanks
Leigh, Darlington WA

Many thanks to the Walking with Attitude team, Jackie Preston and Kate Crosby, for putting this fantastic challenge together for us. It's a terrific way to stay motivated and get fit. Upcoming challenges will take you through Turkey, France or Las Vegas! Find out more at

www.walkingwithattitude.com

NOTICE BOARD

CAMERA FOUND ON THE TRACK

A Nikon Cool Pics 4100 camera was found between Lowlands Beach and West Cape Howe around 25th July.

Phone: 0448 533 754
Contact: Pete

CAMERA LOST ON THE TRACK

An Olympus waterproof digital camera was lost between Helena and Hewett's Hill campsites around 1st September.

Phone: 0427 510 587
Contact: John

SEEKING ADVICE FROM OTHER WALKING FAMILIES

My husband Gavin and I are planning to walk the Bibbulmun Track end-to-end with two young children, aged 5 and 8. We would like to talk to any families who have completed or attempted an end-to-end with children of similar age.

Phone: 0402 472 844
Email: gav_sue@aapt.net.au
Contact: Sue

WALKING COMPANION WANTED

Any interested male/female to accompany older male to walk Via Francigena (Canterbury to Rome) in May 09 or thereabouts?

Phone: 0415 742 667
Contact: Ron

WOMEN'S BOOTS FOR SALE

Women's Hi Tec Boots, beige leather, size 7 1/2, barely worn. \$100 ono.

Phone: 9453 1836
Contact: Peter

TENT FOR SALE

"Bivy Bag" Bush Tent for one person. Unused. Originally \$399, for sale \$200 ono.

Phone: 9453 1836
Contact: Peter

GEAR FOR SALE

Wanderer 100 sleeping bag. Cost: \$89.95. Sell \$55.00. (Synthetic, 5 to 15 degrees Celsius, 1065 grams) Used for 9 days only.

Phone 08 9271 8625
Contact: Jonathon

WALKING POLES LOST

Lost two green walking poles. Black handles, wrist straps and baskets. Left at Tom Road campsite Friday 26th Sep 08 am.

Phone: 0413 954 756
Contact: Sue (Geelong Bushwalking Club)

FEMALE WALKING COMPANIONS WANTED

Looking for 50 y/o female companions to walk track, during week or weekends. I am not experienced but have done several day walks and one overnighter. I live in Mandurah. I would love to do Kalamunda to Dwellingup, maybe something to plan for at a later date if interested.

Email: crakar@inet.net.au
Contact: Karen

BACK PACK - DEUTER FOR SALE

42ltr Air Comfort Design Back Pack. As new, has had little use and looks as new. Selling because I need a bigger pack. \$158.00 or make a reasonable offer.

Phone: 9448 4020
Email: cgee6@bigpond.com

OSPREY BACKPACK FOR SALE

Osprey Luna 75 backpack (colour: eggplant) new in 2004 and only used 2 or 3 times. Women's size medium. Features: Hydration pocket in convertible top lid/bum-pack, zippered access to main compartment, solo convertible daypack and more. \$200.

Phone: 0404 856 148
Contact: Karen

SEEKING - END-TO-END FEMALE COMPANION

Leaving Albany in March 2009.

Contact: Hilta
Phone: 9841 5396

WANTED - FOOD DEHYDRATOR AND SEALER

I am after a food dehydrator and a vacuum sealer for storage bags. Please contact me if you can help.

Phone: 9592 4243
Email: jbess@bigpond.net.au

BACKPACK FOR SALE

Ladies Osprey, blue, 1.96kg, 62L. Used twice only. Purchased for \$379.95, sell for \$270 - ono.

Ring Helga on 9410 2464
or email helga.carton@bigpond.com

Want To Advertise on our Notice Board?

Free for members - just send us an email with your details, membership number and your text. If you aren't a member please phone or email us to arrange your advert. Cost is \$5 per 3months. All items will be deleted after three months if not renewed.

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



The 7 principles

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

Walker Stories...

Leggin' it in Lippy!



The colour pink is internationally recognised as the symbol of breast cancer awareness and all over the world organisations and individuals have used 'pink' related ways to raise money to fight the disease.

The Laughing Ladies have returned to the Bibbulmun Track. This time we took along two new-comers and we all "Legged it in Lippy!" Imagine meeting us on the Track. Seven windswept, sweaty girls proudly wearing pink lipstick. It was a sight that everyone who saw us will remember.

We walked from Walpole to Denmark, wearing pink lipstick every day, in aid of the fight against breast cancer and also in support of ENCORE, a free after breast cancer gentle exercise programme run by the YWCA. So far we have raised over \$4000.

We had great fun along the way, despite the rigours of the sand dunes, beach walking and the long distances between the shelters.

We met few people, but we did adopt a 78 year-old granny from NSW. Helen D was on her own, and we all admired the spirit of this remarkable woman. Her pack was heavy, so we divided some of her load amongst ourselves to make her walk from Walpole to Peaceful Bay more enjoyable - and probably a lot noisier than she had expected.

We also shared a night with HTG - "Herman the German" who was visiting from Germany for the second year running. This time he had brought "Cowboy" (his son Chris) with him, to share the end-to-end experience.

Once again the Track has provided the Laughing Ladies with an incredible week in their lives that none of us would ever wish to swap. The scenery was stunning, the facilities wonderful (thanks to the Track volunteers) and the weather was perfect. We had heat, rain, drizzle, overcast, wind, sandblasting and even hail, but it all arrived at a

time that was quite convenient for us all.

Our hikes are over for yet another year. Just a few more sections to go and I have completed my sectional end-to-end. Thank you to the staff and volunteers of the Track - there are so many of us who appreciate all that you do.

Deb Badger (On behalf of the other Laughing Ladies - Jenny, Judy, Rosie, Martie and guests Sara and Mary)

For more information about ENCORE visit www.ywcaencore.org.au.



Ross Leighton tells of two interesting encounters on the Track...

SURPRISE VISIT AT BEAVIS

On a recent north to south walk I was preparing for the evening at Beavis campsite with southbound walker David, when a young couple arrived. We were somewhat surprised by their simple light clothing and the fact that they had no backpacks.

Their first words were, "We're lost."

They knew they were on a walk trail because of the Waugal markers; however their intention had been to do the Karri Valley Lake circuit, starting from the Beedelup car park where they had left their vehicle some five to six hours earlier. I told them that I had seen the sign that morning when I left the lake which indicated 18.5km to the Beavis campsite, with the Karri Valley Lake circuit sign beside it. They obviously had not.

It seems their infatuation with each other had overridden any logic or thoughts of safety. It had eventually become apparent to them that something was wrong but, because of the Waugal

markers, they decided that something would eventuate. The idea of turning back at some point, leaving sufficient time to return before dark, did not occur to them. So here they were, two hours before dark, inadequately dressed, with no water and no food.

It was decided that they would need to spend the night and set out for home in the morning. A sleeping mat, clothes and socks, dinner and lots of tea were provided. The fire was stoked up, spare logs sourced and the couple cuddled and bedded down by the fire. David and I heard chatter and giggles for what seemed to be the whole night.

After a hearty porridge breakfast and more tea they set off on the return journey to their car, none the worse for wear and very grateful at finding not only a shelter but also its residents.

BEING IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME

In May 2001 I arrived at the Tom Road shelter to be greeted by a man sitting by the fire, who

called me by name and offered me tea. He introduced himself as 'Sticks', a CALM (now DEC) Ranger from Manjimup. He was doing his monthly firewood run to Beavis, Boarding House and Tom Road and upon reading the log books he had ascertained that I would arrive at Tom Road in the early afternoon and had decided to welcome me during his tea break.

What a man! I was impressed with the friendly, helpful and courteous manner shown, which is reflective of the association on the Track between Rangers and walkers.

On my recent 2007 walk I was near Dog Pool when a fire truck came along. The driver suggested I might like a lift for the last four kilometers to the shelter where the crew would have lunch. Within two minutes of my being in the truck with the crew I recognized the driver as 'Sticks'. He remembered the Tom Road occasion six years earlier and we were both surprised at the coincidence. He is still with DEC Manjimup and was in the area assisting the Pemberton DEC.

Track Trivia

So it's all over. The tenth anniversary walk is done and dusted.

I suggested that we have one every year from now on, but for some reason the idea wasn't well received in the office. There is much written elsewhere in this issue about the walk, so I won't dwell on it, except for one item.

Given my Track name and reputation, I must congratulate the leader of the trusty band of end-to-enders for managing to go the wrong way just ten minutes after leaving Albany. A man after my own heart!

My most recent case of geographical embarrassment on the Track was to leave the Peaceful Bay Caravan Park in what I thought was the direction of Boat Harbour campsite, only to find myself, half an hour later, walking back through the Caravan Park to the shop. An easy error to make. I did, however, manage to cross the Irwin inlet without taking a wrong turn in the canoe.

We still get some interesting queries and suggestions regarding the Track. One gentleman asked me recently why we don't have emergency telephones located every two kilometres along the way. I explained that we only had a limited budget and that we would have to take money away from the cold beer machines on top of the hills project, but he wasn't really satisfied.

Then there was the guy who wanted to take his hair-dryer to Tom Road campsite. After being advised that there was no electricity available, he said he was prepared to carry an extension lead. Further comment would be superfluous.

The serious side of these comments is to emphasise that the Bibbulmun Track offers the chance to enjoy bush walking with minimal impact. We make every effort to limit any interference with the natural surroundings, and the "Leave no Trace" principle is paramount in our philosophy.

We continue to offer a trip planning advice service for members of the Foundation, either in the office or by email. Critically important questions put to me recently have been:

Q: "Exactly how many pairs of underpants do I need to do an end-to-end?"

A: "How acute is your sense of smell?"

Q: "What sort of food can I buy at the campsites?"

A: "Only what other walkers are prepared to sell you."

Q: "Do I need to carry my own food?"

A: "Only if you want to eat."

Moving on, as they say, I had a wander from Dwellingup to Collie recently. Six campsites and every one to myself. I met just one walker in a week. If I'd done it a week later, it's possible there would have been people at every shelter. That is one of the fascinations of the Track; it doesn't matter which section you select to walk, or when, you never know whether to expect solitude or company.

I'm often asked whether the Track will be busy or not. That's rather like asking if it will rain or not; the answer is that it might, so be prepared for it. Carry some form of wet weather clothing. The same applies to the chance of finding a lot of people out there. You might, so be prepared. That is why we suggest that walkers carry tents, in case a shelter is already fully occupied when they arrive.

So come along and walk. It can be a day walk, an overnigher or a longer trek. Just don't ask me for directions, unless you fancy a real adventure! 🌸

**Good Walking,
Wrong Way Jim**

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.

Prize Winning Members

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

Life Member mid-year prize draw

Vince Harding of Bunbury received a voucher for \$299 kindly donated by Gold sponsor Mountain Designs.

UWA seminar new member draw

Bob Jones won a day pack from Mountain Designs.

Have A Go Day new member draw

David Russell of Maddington won a day pack from Mountain Designs.

And congratulations to the winners of the monthly membership renewal prizes...

August

Kathi Storig of Leeming won a Solo Gas Stove kindly donated by Bronze sponsor Paddy Pallin.

Gillian Ovans of Enneaba won 2nd prize - an emergency blanket.

September

Jan & Paul Leppard of Mirrabooka won an "iPod Pocket Trowel" kindly donated by Gold sponsor Sea to Summit.

Robert Attwooll won 2nd prize of a Travel Clothesline also donated by Sea to Summit.

October

Margaret Watson of East Fremantle won the book "Urbanantics, A tale of an urban Naturalist" by John Hunter. Kindly donated by DEC.

Marcella Cranny of Tuart Hill won 2nd prize of a Titanium Spoon kindly donated by Gold sponsor Sea to Summit.

November

Kevin Stubbs of Bull creek won the book "Urbanantics, A tale of an urban Naturalist" by John Hunter.

Michael Upson of Thornlie won 2nd Prize of a Trowel kindly donated by Gold sponsor Sea to Summit.

	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 - Edition 4 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
Bibbulmun News Magazine (latest edition or back issues)		\$6.00
Hand-made, Personalised Bibbulmun Walking Sticks		\$88.00
Walking Sticks Special for members (No additional discount applies)		\$65.00
'Bibbulmun Track on the South Coast' - interactive CD		\$25.00
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
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
*PLB	\$35.00	\$45.00
*PLB end to end hire	\$170.00	\$200.00

*See equipment hire notes
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
*PLB = Personal Locator Beacon

Lost & found

The following story was related to us by Peter White of Dwellingup Adventures, a BTF affiliated organisation. It highlights a number of points that walkers on the Track should consider, even if they are only out for a day walk.

Two walkers were dropped off on a cold, wet day at a point on the Track near Dwellingup, from where they intended to walk to Swamp Oak campsite and then back to town. Their ETA at Dwellingup Adventures was 15.30, so when they had not appeared by 17.00 alarm bells began to sound.

A check of the Swamp Oak campsite showed no entry in the log book and the local police were informed. The DEC ranger and police officers made searches on foot along the Track and by vehicle along nearby roads. A fix on one of the walker's mobile phones showed it to be within two kilometres of Dwellingup - this caused confusion until it was discovered that it had been left at their place of accommodation.

It seemed likely that the walkers had turned south from the shelter rather than north, as they should have done to return to Dwellingup. By now the police helicopter had been employed and the search continued south towards the Murray campsite.

Finally, at about 23.00, the searchers heard a woman shouting and discovered the two walkers, very wet and cold, in the vicinity of Yarragil. They had walked in the wrong direction from Swamp Oak, and had lost their map. Realising their error, they had tried to retrace their steps but got lost in the dark.

In this case there was a happy ending and they were found safe and sound. However their experience does show why walkers should adhere to a number of simple rules when out on the Track.

a). Ensure that someone knows where you are walking and when you expect to return, so that if you are overdue action may be taken. This they had done, which meant a search was mounted relatively quickly.

b). Whenever you visit a campsite, make an entry in the green log book. This at least gives searchers a start point from which they can commence their search.

c). Carry a proper Bibbulmun Track map or guide book and study the section that you intend to walk before setting out. Try to form a mental picture of the terrain and the major landmarks such as roads, bridges and rivers that you should encounter. Don't rely on single sheet photo-copies which are easily lost. (The walkers in this story had a Track map and walk notes - however, they mislaid them.)

d). Turning the wrong way when leaving a campsite is one of the most common mistakes made. Whenever you arrive at a campsite, spend a few moments assessing the way out, before you take your pack off and relax.

e). Carry a whistle. Fortunately the searchers heard shouting, but when the wind is blowing the shrill of a whistle is far more easily heard.

For those who wish to learn more about avoiding "Geographical Embarrassment" as we prefer to call getting lost, the BTF runs an event "Get lost with Steve" which explains the fundamentals of map reading and the use of a compass. Please refer to our "Calendar of Events".

Reflections from the Registers-

Canning

"Rain! Sweet nectar of the Gods! Arrived here on a fairly sticky and overcast day. Heard distant thunder and thought...yeah, right! Ten minutes later the first spatters hit the roof. I was so overjoyed I seriously considered running around outside naked, but abandoned that idea in case a Boy Scout troop turned up - or even worse 30 Girl Guides. So with shorts on I jumped around outside like a little kid, savouring every drop. I could almost hear the collective sigh of relief from the surrounding plants. Now there's that magical Australian bush smell wafting through the air - hard to beat!"

Shaun, 22 January 1999

Schafer

"It's funny how a farm dam, a good one mind you, suddenly becomes, under the gaze of the full moon, a magnificent lake. The old Chinese and Japanese poets would have clapped their hands in satisfaction if they were able to drink tea here - and write their poetry."

Terry Y. 23 December 1999

"Day 38 on the Bibbulmun Track
The day the flies made their attack.
The buzzing clouds, like swarming bees,
They fell upon us from the trees.
On body limbs and round the face
On pack and clothes they danced and raced
At last at night at nightfall they withdrew.
Replaced by mozzies, shoo, shoo, shoo!"

J.S.Bark 27 October 2006

Bibbulmun Track Membership

the gift that lasts the whole year... or a lifetime!

	Individual	Family	Senior
1 year	\$40	\$65	\$30
3 years	\$105	\$180	\$75
Life Membership	\$600		

How about a Bibbulmun Walking Break getaway for that special someone?

Tailor-made packages or gift vouchers are available.

Looking for Stocking Fillers

10th Anniversary Cloth badges	\$7.50
Waugal Magnets	\$2.20
Water bottles	\$6.60

CAN'T DECIDE?

Christmas Gift Vouchers are available

(can be used on merchandise or an event from the Calendar)

Christmas Gift Ideas.

BIBBULMUN TRACK MERCURY ANDISE

Walk With The Friends

THE LOWDOWN ON THE SHAKE DOWN

Walk With The Friends (WWF) is our programme of social Sunday walks, led by volunteers, which are free for members and, for many years, \$12 for non-members.

We recently reviewed the WWF booking system which involved the use of vouchers in Bibbulmun News. . This arose because many of the walks book out very quickly and we have long waiting lists. Unfortunately, because the event is free, some members don't show up on the day, or cancel at the last minute - which doesn't give us enough time to contact those on the waiting list.

This is frustrating for us, but especially for those on the waiting list who are keen to go and have missed out. There is a limit on numbers in groups to which we must adhere for insurance and Dept of Environment and Conservation licensing issues.

Having considered all our options, it seems the best way to make the system fairer for all members is a twofold process.

1) We will do away with the voucher system. The voucher system was introduced because some members booked several walks in advance and simply did not turn up on the day. With the voucher system, vouchers were not returned to those who didn't show up. This primarily prevented multiple walks being booked out when bookings opened.

2) We will introduce a system whereby a monetary bond is taken when booking a WWF. This bond is fully refundable if you attend the walk. However, if you cancel without sufficient notice or don't show up on the day your bond will be retained.

How much is the bond and how is it paid?

The bond is \$15 per walk. When you make a WWF booking, you will be asked to write your credit card details on the form (if you do not have a credit card, a cheque is fine). Your credit card will not be processed (nor will your cheque be banked) at this stage.

If you attend the walk

We will not process your credit card or cheque and the credit card numbers/cheque will be destroyed. There is no charge for the walk for members.

If you do not attend or cancel your booking

If you simply do not show up on the day of the walk, you will be charged \$15 (the fee a non-member is charged.) If you cancel on or after the Tuesday immediately prior to the walk then you will also be charged the \$15. If you cancel before then with a valid reason (proof may be requested) you will not be charged (for example, cancelling because it is going to rain is not a valid reason).

How many walks can you book at the same time?

Members may book up to two walks at a time. After attending a walk you can make another booking with another booking form. Copied booking forms are fine.

It is important that we place a value on these events and consider the time and effort of our volunteer guides who lead the walks. . It is also important that the booking system is as fair as possible to all members so that the maximum amount of members can enjoy the walks.

We hope you understand the need for this change. If you have any queries I am happy to speak with you. Please call me on 9481 0551 or email me at events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au.

Regards

Steve Sertis
Events Manager

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 \$15 for non-members. Members please read new booking system on page 28.

FREE
for members
conditions apply
see page 28

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

Please also join me as a member, I have included \$30 concession \$30 Senior \$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 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

EVENTS RATING KEY - TO HELP YOU DECIDE IF AN EVENT IS SUITABLE FOR YOU, EACH EVENT HAS A RATING.

Please note that the ratings can be very subjective and are to be used as a guide only. They try to take into account the terrain and distance in relation to other parts of the Track, not in relation to your walking experience and fitness level. We ask you to think about your own level of fitness and previous walking experience, particularly for overnight events where you are expected to carry an overnight pack.

FOR DAY WALKS

BEGINNERS: for those that have not bushwalked before and would like an introduction to the Track. Walks typically have gentler grades and/or short distances. No walk is entirely flat and beginners still need to have a reasonable level of fitness. For example the circuit walk around the city bridges (Narrows Bridge to Causeway around the Swan River) would be classed a beginner's walk as it is mostly flat and 10km in length.

INTERMEDIATE: for those that have done up to 10km on a single day bushwalk with some hills. These walks are typically undulating with a few steep hills. Walkers should have a fairly good level of fitness.

EXPERIENCED: walkers who have bushwalked 15km or more on a single day with challenging terrain. These are usually long day-walks of up to 9 hours with a steady pace and/or several steep hills. Walkers must be fit.

FOR OVERNIGHT WALKS

BEGINNERS: for those that have not bushwalked before, carrying an overnight pack with camping gear*. These walks require a good level of fitness.

INTERMEDIATE: for those that have done up to 10km on an overnight bushwalk with a few hills, carrying an overnight pack with camping gear*. Again a good level of fitness is needed.

EXPERIENCED: walkers who have bushwalked 15km or more on consecutive days in the bush with challenging terrain, carrying an overnight pack with camping gear*. A very good level of fitness is required and walkers may be screened when booking on these events.

* camping gear refers to sleeping bag, sleeping gear, tent, fuel stove, food for two days or more and clothing.

WALK RATINGS: BEGINNERS INTERMEDIATE EXPERIENCED

WALK BOOKINGS	No of Adults	No of Adults
29 March 3.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>	17 May 9.00am
8km return sunset walk from Mundaring Weir Hotel to South Ledge		112km return walk from Kinsella Rd to Canning Campsite
5 April 9.00am	<input type="checkbox"/>	24 May 8.30am
14km return walk from Albany Hwy to Boonering Hill		20.4km return walk from Kalamunda to Hewett's Hill Campsite
19 April 8.30am	<input type="checkbox"/>	
20km return walk from Dale Road to Brookton Campsite		
26 April 9.30am	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7km return from Driver Rd to Dookanelly Campsite (Dwellingup sth)		

Send this back to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation, PO Box 7605, Cloisters Square, 6850 with credit card details or cheque OR fax to 9481 0546. Bookings cannot be made over the phone or by email.

TRAILING AROUND THE WORLD

Trekking the Jatbula Trail Nitmiluk National Park, Northern Territory.

by Pamela and John Paton



We're building on our Bibbulmun Track walking experience all the time!

We completed our end-to-end walk in 2006, which was our first experience of long distance walking. Since then we have walked in South America and New Zealand. Recently we combined a camping trip in the Kimberley and Northern Territories with a trek along the Jatbula Trail in the Nitmiluk National Park.

The Nitmiluk National Park is south of the Kakadu National Park. The Jatbula Trail was a regular route for indigenous people for many thousands of years, and is named after traditional owner Peter Jatbula, once a drover himself, who fought fiercely for the return of the land to his people in the 1970s and '80s.

The walk is challenging, and definitely one for experienced walkers. It is unique in many ways - a one way only trail open only in the dry season from May to October. The Jatbula covers 66 kilometres and is suitable for walkers with a love of the northern Australian landscape. It stretches from Katherine Gorge to Edith Falls and has a mass of typical northern Australian features—waterfalls, aboriginal art and stunning gorge and river scenery.

It is necessary to register for your walk and there is a daily limit of ten walkers on the Trail - all travelling in the one direction. The trail is well marked about every 50 meters with blue triangular signs that hang above ground. With so few walkers it is sometimes difficult to follow boot tracks on the ground. There is plentiful water available along the way and at all the campsites. The trail is well worn, irregular and rocky, with water crossings, bogs and lots of uneven terrain and steep inclines.

Note it is not suitable for children and a reasonable level of fitness is required. We needed to carry all our gear with us, although we didn't take much in the way of clothes because we could wash every day. We carried our smallest, lightest tent and a fuel stove. Good boots and lightweight walking poles are essential.

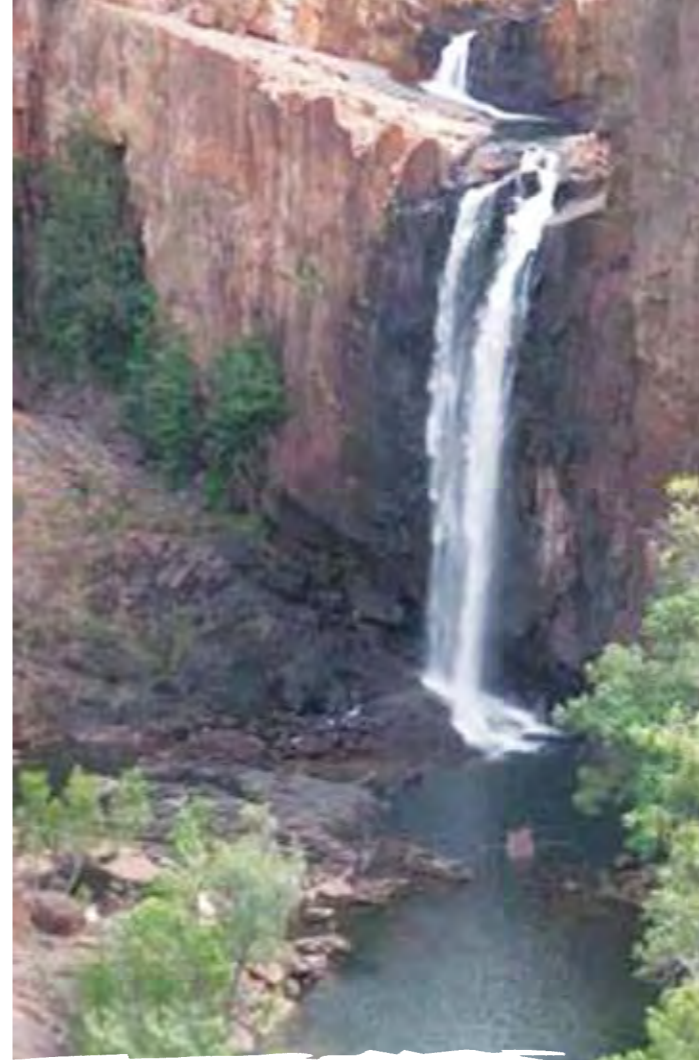
The camp sites are spots cleared for tents, usually with a compostible toilet, a weather proof registration box and an ECD (a solar powered emergency call device). Some sites had metal fireplaces. All the sites were positioned beside remarkable water features— cascades, rivers, billabongs and waterfalls. The walking was warm and we always swam, paddled, larked about and washed at the end of each day.

We were the only walkers on the Trail at that time so it was quiet and peaceful and it felt like being an explorer and seeing the world for the first time. We set off early to beat the heat and covered the approximately 12 km in good time - with plenty of stops along the way. We had time at the end of each day for swimming and washing and for sitting still, chatting, enjoying comfortable silences, observing the birds and other wild life and the amazing trees, grasses and plants. The Trail presented us with many great photo opportunities. Fantastic!

We were thoroughly briefed at the Katherine Gorge Visitor Centre by the National Park Rangers before we left. This is where we completed the registration forms and paid the returnable \$50 deposit to walk and a small, daily camping fee. Like most walkers we took 5 days to walk and the Ranger knew of our intended stops and finish date. We had camped at Katherine Gorge in the days before our walk and left our vehicle and camper trailer at the nearby Ranger's residence. We were picked up at the Edith Falls end and brought back to Katherine Gorge by pre-arranged transport. This can all be organised at the Katherine Gorge Visitor Centre with a local tourist group.

We have no idea what Aussies bring to mind about our homeland if they haven't been "out there" to see, feel, smell and walk in the bush. This is a great walk to get up front and personal with our wonderful country.

Katherine Gorge Visitor Centre 08 9872 2650 or log on at www.visitkatherine.com Nitmiluk National Park office: 09 89 72 1886.



**Bibbulmun Track Foundation
Kokoda Challenge**
Dates: 14 to 24 August 2009

This offering is for an 11 day package to trek the Kokoda Track. The itinerary includes 2 days international travel, 1 day in/around Pt Moresby, 8 days/7 nights trekking, all meals and accommodation on the trip, as well as a porter for each trekker. Numbers are strictly limited to 12 participants as this is a journey that is best experienced in a small and personal group. The group will be guided by expert Australian leaders who have wilderness first aid training, and a wealth of knowledge about the history of Kokoda.

Your package also includes most equipment and relaxation time before and after the trek at the beautiful Loloata Island Resort and a private charter flight over your route through the spectacular and rugged Owen Stanley Range. Contact DCXP by phone or by email kokoda@dcxp.com with any questions or for an information pack. Trek cost: \$6,800 AUD

Duncan Chessell Expeditions
www.dcxp.com ph (08) 8232 4433

Explore Kakadu & Beyond with the Bibbulmun Track Foundation 1 TO 9 AUGUST 2009

As far as World Heritage Areas go, Kakadu National Park is somewhat special in that it qualifies for WHA listing on the basis of both natural and cultural significance. Exploring this part of Australia in our small group with an expert guide ensures a memorable and rewarding experience.

Surrounded by more than 20,000 years of Aboriginal Heritage during our week long adventure we observe Dreamtime Rock Art, walk to remote gorges & waterfalls, and cruise among the abundant wildlife of Yellow Waters. This is followed by three tranquil days afloat on the magnificent Katherine River, gliding over some 20 kilometres of rarely seen crystal clear water.

Throughout the trip there are many opportunities to walk, swim, fish (on the Katherine River), take photos or just relax by a crystal clear rock pool. Kakadu is possibly the most exciting adventure destination in Australia. Combined with the Katherine River and the rich Aboriginal culture this itinerary is beyond comparison.

Price: \$1995.00 (includes \$100 donation to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation)

Places on this exclusive Bibbulmun Track Foundation departure are strictly limited to 16, please contact Nerida at World Expeditions for a copy of the trip details or to reserve your place.

nerida@worldexpeditions.com.au or 08 9486 9899

