



Lake Tilicho. (Photo courtesy Dave Brereton)

We left early and trekked up to and over the Eastern Pass on narrow, icy trails to an altitude of 5350 meters. Once across we descended into the saddle, where the snow was knee-deep, and then up the long, hard ascent to the tall tower of rock marking the top of the Meso Kanto Pass.

The weather by now had deteriorated to blizzard conditions with the high winds blowing the snow horizontally. From the shelter of the rock we peered over the top of the pass. The scree had long vanished and stretching away was a very steep slope of pristine

white snow. I looked at the other members of the group and sensed a clear, unspoken question—"how the hell are we going to get down there?"

The question was quickly answered. A rope appeared, and soon we were descending slowly, hanging on grimly and slamming our boots into the deep snow to gain purchase, until the slope levelled out. Not surprisingly there were no photographs taken of this episode. Hanging on to a rope in a blizzard with your hands freezing inside your gloves does not encourage the use of a camera.

We walked on until dark and camped just above the snow line. Two of our five tents had to be left at the top of the pass, and three bags of personal gear were dropped during the descent. This was when our Sherpas and porters really excelled themselves. Despite the rigours of the day they went back up the pass the next morning and recovered almost all the lost material. The strength, stamina and character of all these guys cannot be over-emphasised—without people like Dorgee and his team treks of this nature would be impossible.

The long descent to the town of Jomson the next day marked the end of the trek itself and a return to a life of soft beds, flush toilets, hot showers and cold beer. Because we had covered the final part of the trek more rapidly than planned we now had time to kill, and so spent a relaxing few days in Jomson and Pokhara, before flying on to Kathmandu and then back to Perth.

The trek was a huge success. The members of the group worked well together and accepted the problems and difficulties with good humour. The walk was physically demanding, as we had been warned, but all the drawbacks were handled efficiently. The whole programme was well thought out and we were very well looked after by all the professionals involved.

All in all it was a privilege to be able to visit a part of the world that few people have seen and to enjoy some of the most fantastic scenery the Himalayas have to offer.

Jim Baker © March 2011

# Bibbulmun NEWS

AUG-NOV 2011  
ISSUE # 57  
RRP \$6.00



Newsletter for the friends of the Bibbulmun Track

## Update on New 'Group' Campsites



Cooking shelter at the new Lyalls Mill campsite near Yabberup

### With grateful thanks to our sponsors:

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<p>Silver</p>  	<p>Gold</p>   <p>Curtin Growth</p>
<p>Bronze</p>      	<p>Key Partners</p>  

### THE BIBBULMUN TRACK FOUNDATION

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Sub Editor: Jim Baker

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### BACKGROUND

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation's Strategic Plan identified the high use of certain sections of the Track by groups as having a potentially negative impact on the environment and on other trail users.

#### As a result the following steps were taken:

- All non-commercial groups, including schools, were actively encouraged to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) form to DEC's Recreation and Trails Unit. The resulting data has allowed us to see which sections of the Track and which campsites are the most popular, how often and at which times of the year they are used.

- Various organisations were encouraged to complete an online survey to find out the length of trail and the type of facilities or support they required for group excursions.

Since its development in 2005/06, the NOI forms have shown that an increasing number of organised groups are using the trail. This increase appears to be in part due to a resurgence of Outdoor Education in schools and the introduction of a new WA Certificate of Education in Outdoor Education. There were approximately 4500 students enrolled in the course in 2008 which increased to 8000 - 9000 in 2009. It is anticipated that the number will increase again in 2011.

Schools delivering the new course are required to develop students' skills in a mode of travel (canoeing, sea kayaking, sailing, bushwalking and mountain biking) or suitable outdoor activity (abseiling, climbing, snorkelling, surfing, body boarding etc) over a period of 6 to 15 weeks within a schools normal school timetable (60 to 120 minute time periods during the week) and also participate in day excursions and expeditions (self sufficient and staying in tents/shelters) moving from one campsite to the next.

As bushwalking is a relatively low risk activity it is a popular choice for overnight expeditions. A section of Bibbulmun Track in the Monadnocks





The new campsites will have two toilets to cater for groups

Conservation Park has been used as the expedition example in the curriculum manual. As it is easier to use the example already mapped out, rather than start from scratch, it is anticipated that a large percentage of the schools that walk on the Bibbulmun Track will use this section, resulting in overuse and resulting degradation of these areas.

In response to high group usage of particular sections of the Track, the Foundation held discussions with DEC to identify:-

- Areas where loops, spur trails or alternative campsites could be put in to meet the needs of groups.
- Other trails which would be suitable to promote to groups in order to spread the load.

The Wellington Dam spur was identified as an ideal project to develop in response to the issues of high group usage due to its proximity to the Perth population base and easy linkage to other recreational activities in the area including mountain biking and canoeing. It is believed that these advantages, along with easy vehicle access at both ends, will make the three-day/two night walk between Collie and the dam a popular option for groups, thus taking pressure off the areas of the Track currently being hardest hit.

It is also envisaged that, due to these identified qualities, the spur trail will quickly become a valuable resource to other visitors to the area as well.

The aim of the project is to build a 16 kilometre spur trail from the Yabberup campsite, just south of Collie, to the Wellington Dam recreation area in the Wellington National Park. The project includes the construction of two campsites built specifically to accommodate tent users, particularly large groups, which will provide an open shelter (no walls) for cooking, a rain water tank, picnic table, hybrid

toilet and tent pads. One shelter will be built as an overnight camp half way between the start and the end of the spur trail. The other will be built as a satellite campsite in the proximity (~250 metres distant) of the existing Yabberup campsite to assist in minimising conflict between groups and individuals using this facility.

#### Progress report from DEC Wellington District.

The construction of the new campsite adjacent to Yabberup, which has been named Lyall's Mill, has now been completed as far as the shelters and toilets are concerned. There are some remaining landscaping works including the installation of the water tank to be carried out, which will be done in August in partnership with DEC staff and DCS crews from Bunbury prison. This collaborative approach will extend to the second campsite, named



New campsites have been designed to cater for outdoor education groups. Key differences include a large cooking shelter instead of a sleeping shelter, a greater number of tent sites, larger water tanks and two toilets.

Arcadia, half way between Yabberup and Wellington Dam, offering a further opportunity for the DCS crews to be part of a project with positive outcomes for the community.

Further work may include the installation of fire pits and limited furniture in the form of tables. The Lyall's Mill site is looking fantastic; we are very happy with the way in which the shelter fits into the natural setting against the backdrop of a new style of retaining wall, a first for the department.

The Arcadia campsite within the National Park is currently under construction. The toilet has been completed and work continues on the shelter. The footings are in place and the retaining wall installation has been carried out. The campsite will be a mirror image of the Lyall's Mill site.

The spur trail is nearing completion, and marking has been started along the alignment, which takes the walker through both jarrah forest and softwood plantations areas.

Two kit bridges have been installed by DEC staff led by Scott Hunter, who will be known to many of you. Scott has been indispensable during this project, including his assistance with the trail clearing work. I would like to use this opportunity to say that without his support the work would not have progressed to its current level, and he should be applauded by all for his efforts.

The project has thrown up many issues during both planning and construction which have resulted in some unforeseen delays. However the two campsites and indeed the whole project will exceed the expectations of the walkers using the facility. The trail will provide exposure to the natural bushland and access to areas that have not been previously utilised for recreation.

It is envisaged that the Lyall's Mill site and the trail will be available for use in September, with the whole facility being available in early December.



## FROM MY Desk

Welcome to the winter edition of Bibbulmun News.

Firstly, many thanks to the 249 people who responded to our members' survey. On the whole the feedback was overwhelmingly positive and we appreciate your support and encouragement. We were also very pleased to receive dozens of constructive suggestions and comments which have been compiled for consideration by the staff and Board. Interestingly, some of the suggestions were to implement services that the Foundation already provides— so we obviously need to improve the visibility of some of the services and information currently available.

Some of the suggestions will be addressed with the release of our new website, which we hope to launch by the end of the year. Development is underway and we are excited about the incorporation of Google maps technology which will provide a much better overview of the Track and assist walkers greatly with trip-planning. Other improvements will include the integration of a volunteer management portal to enable volunteers to submit their maintenance reports and log their volunteer hours electronically. We will be looking for members to test-run the new site for us before it goes live—so if you're interested in providing feedback please let us know.

In preparation for the website we have been sorting and labeling hundreds of photographs. This has been a huge task undertaken by Charmaine Harris, one of our volunteers and a keen photographer herself. As a quadruple end-to-ender Charmaine was able to identify where most of the photographs were taken and sort them accordingly.

The website will also incorporate video clips and filming will take place on the Track over the coming months. Grey Eyed Films are undertaking the work for us and will produce a new promotional video along with 50 short clips covering a range of topics from interpretation to 'Leave No Trace' principles.

Other projects in the pipeline include the development of GPS guides for the Track and revision of our Education manual. We're also collaborating with the Department of Sport and Recreation to conduct a few day walks for members of the Sudanese community. Bushwalking for recreation is a strange concept for the Sudanese who, in their home country, would only have gone bush for hunting and wood gathering.

Since our last edition we have had some welcome rain which is rejuvenating the bush— so if you haven't been out there for a while, I hope you enjoy the revitalisation of both the natural surroundings and of the Track and campsites which have also been revitalized over the past 18 months.

We look forward to hearing your tales.

**Linda Daniels**  
Executive Director

## Notice to members

### 2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members are notified that the 2011 annual general meeting of the Foundation will be—

- on Thursday 20 October 2011 at 5.00 p.m.;
- at Level 1, Mountain Designs Building, 862 Hay Street, Perth.

#### The agenda of the meeting is—

1. Apologies.
2. Confirmation of the minutes of the 2010 annual general meeting.
3. Chairman's annual report.
4. Executive Director's annual report.
5. Treasurer's annual report.
6. General business:
  - Appointment of auditor.

Members intending to attend are asked to notify Gwen by telephone on 9481 0551 or by email to [friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au](mailto:friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au)

**Linda Daniels**  
Executive Director  
Bibbulmun Track Foundation

Thank you!  
Thank you!

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

**Graeme Dundas**  
**Sea Folly Ltd**  
**Brooke Italiano**  
**Maureen and Les Kennedy**  
**Jenny DeJoode**  
**Emily Chetwin**  
**Valerie Preston**  
**Maureen and Gary Foley**  
**Kim Doherty**  
**Helen Drewe**

**Andrew Northover** - a generous donation given in memory of Arthur Wilkinson, past president Royal Agricultural Society, Police & Citizens Youth Committee.

#### 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 can be made out 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.



The Heart Foundation has initiated a calendar of walking events to take place all OVER the state and OVER the month of October.

To find out how you can take part visit [www.walkoveroctober.com.au](http://www.walkoveroctober.com.au).

# YOUR LETTERS

Hello from Norfolk, England.

I visited my brother Jim Baker (aka "Wrong Way Jim") in Perth earlier this year and very much enjoyed reading your newsletter, including the poems. So I thought I would send you one. It was good to see some of the Bibbulmun Track after hearing and reading so much about it.

With best wishes.

**Ann English, Norfolk, UK**

I came to Australia from the UK

To the city of Perth in WA

On a visit to my brother Jim

You may, perhaps, have heard of him

He wrote a book all about the Bibbulmun Track

For a while I lounged by the garden pool

Under the hibiscus in the cool

Watching the honey eater and wagtail birds

Until there came the awaited words

"You must come and look at the Bibbulmun Track"

By Kalamunda there were jarrah and marri trees

The Gloucester Tree, monarch of the karri trees

Was being tackled by climbers of many nations

What? No health and safety regulations?

The Beedleup waterfall had run dry on the Bibbulmun Track

In Dwellingup we spied a peculiar cow

Water in the River Murrumbidgee was very low

There were flocks of colourful western rosellas

28s, blue wrens and other tree dwellers

And many strange grass trees crossing the Bibbulmun Track

I bought a bag of food in Donnelly River Store,

For hungry kangaroos which I had never seen before

The emus began to cause a bit of bother

In all the fuss what had happened to my brother?

Oh no! Come back, Wrong Way Jim on the Bibbulmun Track



Hi,

I have enclosed some end-to-end forms. I always assumed that the Track registers gave a pretty good guide to track usage, so I never got around to completing end-to-end forms. However, I have recently come to understand that end-to-end reports also help. Sorry about the delay.

As I stated on my form, I think the Bibbulmun Track is a credit to all involved. There are tougher and longer tracks in the world but for variety, character, interest, access, safety, comfort and ease of re-supply I think it is hard to beat. Some of the inlet crossings and beach walks can be tricky in certain weather conditions, but this just adds to the experience, as does paddling the Irwin and negotiating the Wilson. Also walking through the towns along the way adds interest. No hitchhiking, camping/shelter permits or food drops needed. My kind of Track!

Thanks very much,

**John Blakiston, March 2011**

Dear Gwen,

To be honest, paying for life membership is a massive amount of money for me, but I just thought that over the years I would be paying my yearly membership anyway and making donations every now and then when I can—and at the end of the day it ends up at the Foundation supporting the Track.

The Track, the dedicated office crew and the people out there have inspired and helped me in so many ways in my life over the last few years—how it influenced my life is hard to put in words, and to not have it in my life seems rather impossible.

Therefore it seems a rather little thing to do my bit of helping the Foundation to continue its important work!

Thank you very much, and a heartfelt greeting,

**Brigita (aka The Wandering Gypsy)**

Dear Steve and Charmaine

I would like to thank both of you for an exceptional experience and introduction to walking on the Bibbulmun Track. You both work very well as a team and this added something extra to the overall atmosphere of the walks. Even when the dynamics of the groups changed in Denmark, you were able to hold the whole group together and enhance the journey.

Steve, your knowledge of the track, its history, the fauna and particularly the flora, is boundless. This adds an extra element that other walkers will never be able to experience, and certainly the whole trip was a memory never to be forgotten, even when the track challenged you to your limits.

Charmaine, you brought an extra ingredient to the journey. Your humour knows no bounds and added to your obvious love of the track and its walkers. This certainly enriched my experience.

Once again, thank you both for a wonderful experience.

Yours sincerely

**Hedley Amos, May 2011**

Ed: Hedley was one of the participants on the Great Southern Expedition in April.

BIBBULMUN TRACK'S

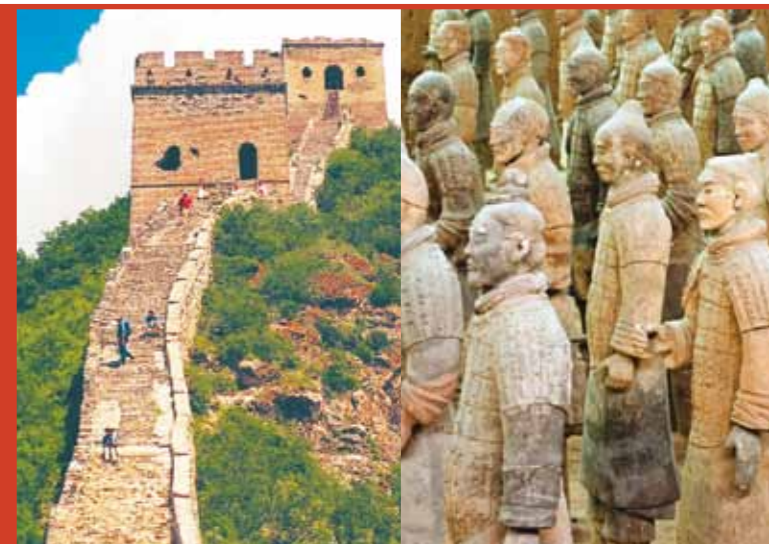
## Great Wall Trek

Take a trek along the Great Wall of China and explore Beijing's cultural sites on this unique adventure supporting the Bibbulmun Track Foundation.

Join World Expeditions and the Bibbulmun Track Foundation on a spectacular and innovative itinerary trekking along remote sections of the Great Wall outside Beijing in Hebei Province. We trek in exclusive locations and explore the Great Wall over seven days through stunning and diverse landscapes. We walk through tall swaying corn cropped fields to distant green river valleys with one of the great wonders of the world as our backdrop.

In Beijing we visit the capital's major historic sites such as the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square and the lakeside Summer Palace. We also indulge in the culinary delight that Chinese cuisine is so famous for. The Beijing food experiences will no doubt compete with the trek itself as one of the highlights of this entirely unique adventure. You then have the option to join an extension down to explore the famous Terracotta Warriors and sacred mount Huashuan. All while helping raise funds for the Bibbulmun Track Foundation!

Departures April, May 2012. For more information call Learna on 9486 9889 or email [learna@worldexpeditions.com.au](mailto:learna@worldexpeditions.com.au)



## Entertainment Book "HEAVIER THAN EVER"



The 2011/12 Entertainment Books have landed in the Bibbulmun Track Foundation Office. A surprising number of people who pick up the book say: "Oh, it's heavier than last year!" Yes that's right, this year the famous book is jam packed and selling fast.

Selling the Entertainment Book is a great fundraiser for the Bibbulmun Track Foundation, and at just \$65 (plus \$8 for regular post or \$10 for registered post which we highly recommend as we cannot replace any books lost in the mail), it's a great way to enjoy great discounts and offers in Perth. Order your copy of the 2011/12 Entertainment book on line at [bibbulmuntrack.org.au](http://bibbulmuntrack.org.au) or phone us on 9481 0551.

Hello,

We have just spent eight days on the Track with our daughter, between Albany and Peaceful Bay. A most enjoyable time; we really appreciate the work of everyone involved in keeping the Track and the shelters maintained.

Thank You,

**W.I. and H.V. Cook**

Clare,

I just wanted to say how lovely it was to meet you today. Thanks for making me feel so welcome when I dropped in. This Challenge\* has really been good for me to help me stay motivated on these cold dark mornings, and I feel a bit more part of the Bibb Track Foundation as well which is great. We have been members a few years and have come to a couple of things, and we love getting out and walking, but we haven't really done much with our membership so this has been a bonus for that reason as well. All in all a lot of fun and keeps me accountable for my health as well - great bonus all round.

Cheers and thanks again.

**Judy** (\*Ed: Judy took part in the "Get on Track" Challenge)

# Before you go...

## ALWAYS CHECK THE LATEST TRACK NEWS & CONDITIONS

For updates, refer to the "Latest Track News" accessible from [www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au).  
Or contact the appropriate DEC District (see contact details below).

Before heading out on to the Bibbulmun Track it is important that you check the current Track conditions and are aware of any changes that may impact on your journey. Refer to the 'Latest Track News' accessible from [www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au) or contact the appropriate DEC District (see contact details below).

There may be maintenance or construction projects near or on the Track that result in temporary diversions or changes. These will not be marked on your maps. Temporary diversions are marked with white Waugal trail markers (black serpent on a white background). If you encounter these when walking, follow the temporary markers, not your map. The Waugal trail markers will revert to the normal black on yellow when the diversion rejoins the main Track again.

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

### Prescribed Burning Operations

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

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

### Groups on the Track

Non-commercial groups of walkers with eight or more members that are staying overnight on the Track are requested to fill out a Notification of Intent (NOI) form and submit it to the DEC Recreation and Trails unit. NOI forms can be obtained from our website or contact the Recreation and Trails unit.

### Car access to the Track

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

### DEC CONTACTS:

#### Recreation and Trails Unit

[tracksandtrails@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:tracksandtrails@dec.wa.gov.au)  
Ph: (08) 9334 0265

### DEC DISTRICT OFFICES

#### Perth Hills District (Mundaring and Dwellingup)

*Kalamunda to the Harvey-Quindanning Road*  
Map 1& 2 or Sections 1 to 20 in the Northern Guidebook  
Contact Elisa Skillen on (08) 9538 1078 or [elisa.skillen@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:elisa.skillen@dec.wa.gov.au)

#### Wellington District (Collie)

*Covers Harvey -Quindanning Road to Mumballup*  
*(Donnybrook-Boyup Brook Rd)*  
Map 3 or Section 20 to 25 in Northern Guidebook  
Contact Nick Evans on (08) 9734 1988 or [nick.evans@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:nick.evans@dec.wa.gov.au)

#### Blackwood District (Balingup)

*Covers Mumballup (Donnybrook-Boyup Brook Rd)*  
*to Willow Springs (Gold Gully Rd)*  
Map 4 or Sections 25 to 30 in the Northern Guidebook  
Contact Andrew Sandri on (08) 9731 6232 or [andrew.sandri@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:andrew.sandri@dec.wa.gov.au)

#### Donnelly District (Pemberton and Northcliffe)

*Covers Willow Springs (Gold Gully Rd) 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 7095 or [john.hanel@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:john.hanel@dec.wa.gov.au)

#### Frankland District (Walpole)

*Covers Pingerup Road to Denmark River mouth*  
Maps 6, 7, 8 or Sections 42 to 53 in the Southern Guidebook  
Contact Howard Manning (08) 9840 0400  
or [howard.manning@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:howard.manning@dec.wa.gov.au)

#### Albany District (Denmark and Albany)

*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](mailto:luke.coney@dec.wa.gov.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



**Stuart Harrison, Coordinator**

Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre 6983 Tel: 9334 0265 Email: [recreationandtrails@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:recreationandtrails@dec.wa.gov.au)

## DEC Recreation and Trails Unit

The beginning of May saw Acting Unit Coordinator Matthew Wardell and me tag each other as we exchanged places. After a quick handover, Matt headed back to Alaska and his yacht, and I returned to my desk after 12 months of travelling around the big, beautiful island that is Australia. Matt and the unit's hard work over the year made my re-entry to full time work as painless as possible. Thanks to Matt and the rest of the team for their efforts over the last 12 months.

In my absence the major maintenance program has been continuing, with walkers enjoying upgrades to many campsites and parts of the Track. As the Hon. Bill Marmion announced at Hewett's Hill in March, another \$380,000 will be spent this year to complete the program, so if your favourite campsite is yet to benefit, the wait will not be much longer. With advances in materials and knowledge the upgraded facilities should hopefully be more robust and easier to maintain. For example, we're using stainless steel for toilet shelter frames on the south coast, more expensive to purchase, but much more suited to the salt air and requiring less maintenance. You'll have to look carefully, but you may also notice some new bridges here and there, for which we are using steel frames under the timber decks to reduce the need for maintenance in the future.

The Perth Hills District has nearly completed the group-use camp site at Mt Cooke, and one or two groups have been invited to give it a 'test run'. The Wellington District is progressing well with work on the spur trail from Yabberup into Wellington National Park, including two new group-use campsites. By the time you read this, DEC officers from both projects and Recreation and Trails Unit will have met to inspect Mt Cooke and finalise a number of details including standardised campsite signage, and we can begin publicising the new facilities and ease some of the pressure on sites currently popular with groups.



Nine sets of steps have been installed between Long Point campsite and Lost Beach track in the Frankland District.



Stainless steel is used for the new toilet frames

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

A GPS does not replace the need to carry a map.

Do not rely on GPS coordinates as the sole method of navigation. Always have an accurate, detailed map at hand and have the proper map reading and navigation skills before setting out on any hike.

# Showcasing the Bibbulmun Track in still photography

Tom Saunders and his partner Sarah Reid walked the Track from Walpole to Denmark in April this year, taking some magnificent photographs along the way.

They gave up almost three weeks of their time, working for the Foundation on a pro-bono agreement, and did a fantastic job.

Tom worked for countless hours, editing and treating the photographs, resulting in many perfect shots.

Tom and Sarah are both fairly new to bush walking but are very passionate about Australian photography, and their love of capturing the land on film comes out in each image. They encountered a lot of rain during the walk and the images of the clouds produced some fantastically emotive pictures.

Luckily they also had some clear weather and were able to make the most of the natural light.

The Foundation thanks Tom and Sarah for their hard work and commitment, from the photography briefing stage through to itinerary planning and the walk itself.

It was a big job, especially for two people relatively new to bush walking. We hope you enjoy the images as much as we have.

To see the full collection of Bibbulmun Track images, go to the photo library section of [bibbulmuntrack.org.au](http://bibbulmuntrack.org.au) for the link or become our friend on Facebook.

To view Tom Saunders' full portfolio, go to <http://tomsaunders.smugmug.com>



Majestic tingle tree near Walpole



Steps at Cosy Corner



The Track following the Southern Ocean



Frankland Shelter



Frankland River



Sign at the southern end of Mazzeletti Beach



Wildflowers abound in Northcliffe

'Whole' – one of the sculptures next to the visitor centre

# TRACK TOWN Northcliffe

## NORTHCLIFFE, A WELCOME BREAK FROM THE TRACK

Northcliffe is at the two-thirds mark of the Bibbulmun Track for walkers coming from Kalamunda. Beyond Northcliffe, as the old sailors' maps used to say, "Here be dragons." South of Northcliffe is the wilderness section of the Track, where walkers may face seven days without a town, without mobile reception and depending on the time of the year, heat, flies, snakes and swamps.

Where else in the temperate world could you do this—walk for seven days and not meet a vehicle or see a building other than the Track shelters? The temperate world remember, not amongst the snowy peaks of somewhere like New Zealand. Sounds enticing, doesn't it?

If that is not special enough, the area around Northcliffe has other distinctions. The soil is extraordinarily variable so in the space of a day's walk you can go from big karri trees to sand heath and back again—with many variations in between. If the whole south west of WA is a world recognised botanical hotspot, then Northcliffe is positively incandescent.

This means that at any time of the year you can find something in flower. In spring the variety is overwhelming. In autumn and winter the range of fungi is fascinating—from strange coralline forms to purple and red toadstools, or old stumps encrusted with great orange brackets. Orchid specialists get very excited, but you have to be particularly observant to see the more elusive ones.

Cheryl at the Northcliffe Visitor Centre always knows where orchids can be found, and her bird photos cover much of our avifauna. In other words, if you want to know what anything is, or what it was that you saw yesterday, ask at the Visitor Centre.

The Centre is also the starting point for Understory. This is a walk in the forest with sculptures at every turn. Take the recorded sound track along with you and the experience is doubly rewarding. Understory is an attraction of national significance. Don't miss it.

And then there's Windy Harbour, just down the Track from Northcliffe. Cliff-top walks from D'Entrecasteaux lighthouse, whale-watching or a spot of fishing from Salmon Beach are other attractive options.

If you want to take a break from the walking on the Bibbulmun Track, there is plenty of accommodation, from chalets to B & B's, a caravan park, and hotel/motel units. What's more, there are other walk and mountain bike trails, and on the March long weekend, the well loved Karri Cup. (Visit [www.karricup.com.au](http://www.karricup.com.au))

Contact Northcliffe Visitor Centre for more information: [nfvvisitorcentre@westnet.com.au](mailto:nfvvisitorcentre@westnet.com.au) (08) 97766203.



'Sundew' by Nat Williamson on the Understory trail.

## Accommodation & Services Guide

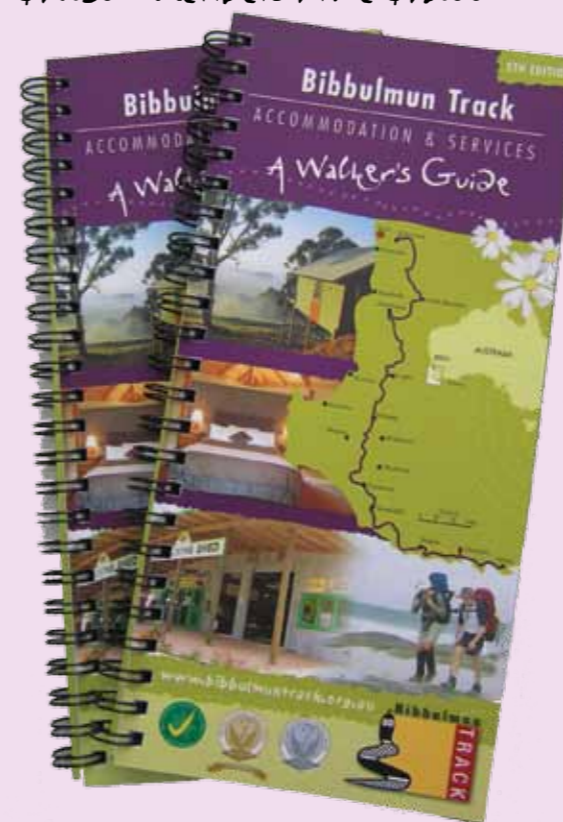
5TH EDITION ACCOMMODATION AND SERVICES WALKER'S GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE.

This handy pocket size booklet includes details of accommodation, restaurants, transport providers, supermarkets, laundries, Internet access and information centres along the Bibbulmun Track.

The guide features town and district maps showing the location of each service provider and includes walker specific information such as which accommodation offers early breakfasts, drying facilities and packed lunches.

The guide is a great help to plan your walk – or put a copy in your glove box to refer to on your next trip down south. Get your copy on [bibbulmuntrack.org.au](http://bibbulmuntrack.org.au) or call us on 9481 0551.

Only \$14.50 Members Price \$13.00



## 2011 MOUNTAIN DESIGNS BIBBULMUN TEAM CHALLENGE

4 PLACES LEFT – HELP SPREAD THE WORD!



On Tuesday June 7th, the Bibbulmun Track Foundation brought a taste of the Mountain Designs Bibbulmun Team Challenge to Central Park Perth. To launch the 2011 Challenge, an entourage of BTF staff and volunteers recreated some of the activities that competitors will experience out in the bush.

Teams of four compete in adventure activities while hiking along 50 kilometres of the Bibbulmun Track over four days. Activities focus on outdoor skills, leadership, problem solving, teamwork, safety and first-aid, environmental awareness and physical challenges.

We have five places left to fill - including four in the final heat which runs from 3rd to 6th November – so there's still plenty of time to recruit a team and get into training. If you can't enter a team yourself – please help spread the word to your friends and family – especially those who work in large companies!

The Challenge is a major fundraiser for the Bibbulmun Track Foundation and this year we've made it easy for teams to fundraise their entry fee by creating a fundraising page at [www.mycase.com.au](http://www.mycase.com.au) To find out more about fundraising the entry fee contact Clare on 9481 0551.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped out at the launch. We look forward to the real Challenge beginning in October.

## 2011 MOUNTAIN DESIGNS BIBBULMUN TEAM CHALLENGE

### A test of brawn and brains in the bush!

WANTED teams of four. Test your 'brawn and brains'

- Physical and mental challenges • Walking 60km and camping out on the Bibbulmun Track
- 4 Heats to choose between October and November 2011



"The four days were the best organised activity-based event I have ever been on"

Rob, PBB Chartered Accountants

Meet the Challenge and the experience will stay with you forever...



CALL NOW for more info: 9481 0551 [events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au](mailto:events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au) [www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au)

# Yes, THEY DID IT!

Our CONGRATULATIONS to the following 60 end-to-enders on their achievement!



The number of walkers registering their end-to-end walks continues to grow rapidly and it's heartening to see a number of sectional end-to-ends being completed after many years of effort. As usual, our latest end-to-enders are listed in order of completion, with overseas and interstate visitors mentioned first.

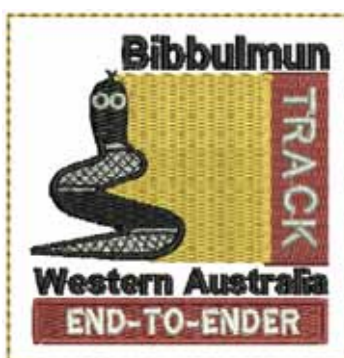
**Joachim Schermam** (25) from Friesland described his end-to-end (N-S, 29.11.10 to 29.01.11) as the greatest experience in his life so far. It was a great accomplishment for him in very hot weather. Maringup was his favourite shelter. By walking alone and being quiet, Joachim managed to see a lot of wildlife including an echidna near Murray campsite. This is the longest walk he has done so far. Best equipment by far was his tent, but he warns against carrying too many spare clothes.

**David Eserin** (68) from the UK walked as 'Davend-to-end' on his end-to-end, (Sectional, 01.02.09 to 26.02.11) which he described as an amazing life-changing experience. He preferred the southern half of the Track, and had no problems with food or supplies. A highlight for him was a changing awareness of the WA environment and people. David has also walked in the UK, but finds it hard to make comparisons with the Bibbulmun Track—he says they're both wonderful, but totally different. He liked his Go-lite pack, and urges good planning and communications.

**Marinus van der Zande** (62) returned from Norway to complete his second end-to-end (Sectional 16.11.10 to 07.03.11). He says he had a fantastic time and will be coming back soon.

Have you got your  
End-to-End BADGE?

FREE when you register!



Another returnee was **Michael Kalt** (43), from Germany, who completed his third end-to-end (S-N, 23.02.11 to 30.03.11). He found it hotter than he expected at this time of year, but it also meant no rain and no freezing weather. While still re-supplying the bulk of his food in the track towns, Michael carried extra supplies for the areas where he knew supplies would be difficult to obtain. His favourite section was Long Point to Mandalay, and highlights included camping at Mandalay Beach, meeting south-bound walkers, the blue skies and bright moon and stars. He didn't share shelters and felt as though the Track was just for him. His 'brave pair of feet' was his best equipment, and an old, heavy backpack his worst.

For **Chris Cadd** (24) and **Becki Gawthorpe** (27) from England, aka 'The Bear and the Bee', their end-to-end (N-S, 14.03.11 to 11.05.11) was a dream fulfilled. The Bibbulmun Track is 'up there' when compared to other walks. They walked amongst the bush, the giants, the fungi, the dunes and the heath – and laughed and smiled and laughed louder on the harder days. Their favourite section was Peaceful Bay to Boat Harbour, and their favourite campsite was Beraking. Special highlights included the views from Boonerring Hill, meeting the Southern Ocean after six weeks of walking, and a sunrise canoe crossing of the Irwin Inlet. They came to see the land, flora and fauna that WA has on offer and were not disappointed. They saw emus, roos, quendas, possums, wedge-tailed eagles, fat bush rats, racehorse goanna, bobtails, snakes and hundreds of bees and mozzies. Thorough preparation meant all their gear was useful, and they highly recommend the use of walking poles. They advise other walkers to "keep pushing on because tomorrow is never as tough as yesterday!"

**Susanne** (39) and **Daniel** (41) **Eisenegger** from Switzerland, (S-N, 16.03.11 to 15.05.11), were very grateful to DEC and all the volunteers who help to maintain the Track and its facilities. Susanne enjoyed walking through God's amazing and stunning creation. Daniel, who lost most of one foot as a child, had no problems with his walk. They both found it very exciting to see the variety of Australian wildlife along the Track, but found it a bit hard carrying food for 12 days between Kalamunda and Dwellingup. This was their first overnight hike, but now they want to do more. Susanne had to buy new boots during their hike and Daniel replaced his backpack. Their tent was their best equipment, as they sometimes erected it inside the shelter, and also found it helpful to 'escape' from other people.

**Christopher Binks** (41) from the NT saw very few other walkers during his end-to-end (N-S, 27.12.10 to 16.02.11) and only shared five campsites along the way. He felt quite remote at times, but enjoyed it all. He re-supplied en-route, except for a food drop at North Bannister. Chris's highlights included walking 135kms in a week with his 10-yr old son, the solitude, the changing scenery and reading other peoples' tales in the journals. He feels it will take a little while for his accomplishment to fully sink in, but wants to build on it in the future. As well as the usual Track fauna, Chris also enjoyed seeing some dolphins. He urges walkers to take their time.

"Keep pushing on because tomorrow is never as tough as yesterday!"

Chris Cadd and Becki Gawthorpe, England

**Colm Gillen** (57) came from Queensland to walk with **Raye McNally** (48) from Carnarvon as 'The Baldies' (S-N, 24.02.11 to 20.04.11) and they were very appreciative of the well maintained Track, which they say rates very highly because of the facilities provided. It was easy to buy supplies in towns and they also posted a 'town box' ahead of them with clean clothes. The transition from ocean vistas to the northern jarrah forests was exciting. The Donnelly and Blackwood areas were their favourite, and highlights were a full moon at Waalegh and waking up to a cacophony of bird calls at Mt Clare. Raye says "it was the best thing I've ever done!" Colm was Raye's best equipment because he was the chief cook and bottle-washer! They used everything they carried and thanked the good advice provided by the BTF Trip-planning service.

**James Orrock** (56) from NSW was known as 'Taxman' on his end-to-end (Sectional, 23.10.09 to 02.05.11). He is very happy to have had the opportunity to experience the south-west of WA in such an 'up close and personal' fashion, and is appreciative of the hard work of DEC and the volunteers. Highlights for Jim were Monadnocks, Rame Head, Torbay and West Cape Howe. He saw a lot of snakes during spring '09 and lots of pepper ticks and bees in autumn '11. It was an awe-inspiring experience and Jim says "the Bibbulmun is the best long-distance walking track in Australia,

bar none!" His Trangia was his best equipment, and his worst were his sock liners. He is grateful for the invaluable planning advice received from the BTF.

**Dory Costello** (57), from NSW, and **Norm Ellis** (63) from Baldivis walked together on their end-to-end (Sectional, 28.03.10 to 23.04.11). They found food drops worked well, but otherwise everything they needed was available in towns. Dory says "Denmark has the best pie shop in WA." Norm's favourite section was Warren to Schafer, and Dory liked the section from Denmark to Albany with its great ocean views. They saw very little wildlife—and no snakes on the whole trip—but liked 'the friendly, furry thing at Torbay campsite'. (Ed note: It's a southern brown bandicoot, known as a quenda). Best equipment included Scarpa boots, Petzl headlamp and walking poles. Dory advises buying quality gear as you won't regret it.

**Janette Petersen** (56), from NSW, has completed her second end-to-end (S-N, 19.03.11 to 14.05.11) and wants to keep coming back to WA to walk the Track. She had 18 campsites to herself and even had a four-day stretch without seeing another person. She particularly liked the section between Peaceful Bay and Giants, enjoying walking along the coast and watching seals frolicking in the ocean. It was a great experience and Janette was happy to lose weight and feel so fit, happy and peaceful by the end. She says the Track is unique in that it's free, has good water supplies and shelters and is so well maintained. Merrell boots served her well, but her raincoat disappointed. Janette says to "live the moment".

**Roger Edwards** (57), from the ACT, and **Alan Gillard** (60), from NSW, both enjoyed the changes of scenery all along the Track (S-N, 26.03.11 to 20.05.11), so much so that Alan wants to come back and do it all over again. Like many walkers, he was apprehensive at the start, but at the end he wanted to keep going. Roger particularly liked the coastline between Albany and Walpole and the majestic tingle trees that he hadn't heard of previously. Highlights for Alan were the wild Southern Ocean, the karri trees and climbing the Gloucester Tree. They saw a lot of wildlife, including a tiger snake that had recently eaten and was lying in the middle of the Track. Roger feels the Bibbulmun is flat compared to walks in the eastern states and Alan thinks it is the best walk he's ever done. Roger maintains the first step of any walk is the hardest, and Alan says don't rush, take your time to enjoy the experience—and take lots of photos.

**Bruce Richardson** (63) from NSW (N-S, 05.05.11 to 11.06.11) thinks the Track is a wonderful asset and appreciates the potential for walkers to be able

to set their own timetable and needs. He classes the Track as unique due to its shelters and the diversity of landscapes that it crosses. He had no trouble re-supplying in towns. He liked the forests around Donnelly River and Pemberton, and especially loved experiencing dawn in the forests and at Mandalay Beach, but he missed the campfires after passing Dog Pool. Bruce shared very few campsites and enjoyed the solitude. He saw many roos and emus, much birdlife, and an echidna, but no snakes. His advice is to ensure you carry adequate wet weather gear.

**Craig Fitzgerald** (41) of Parkwood walked with **Peter Burgess** (see edition #56) on much of his long-completed end-to-end (N-S, 17.07.99 to 25.10.10), and is now glad to be putting something back into the Track by becoming an active volunteer. (Well done Craig and volunteer Peter too). His favourite section was between Pemberton and Walpole with such magnificent trees and coastal views. Craig sensed a great feeling of achievement when he walked into Albany. He remembers seeing an abundance of wildlife, including some whales in the Southern Ocean. His advice for others is to always keep your spare clothes dry.

"The Bibbulmun is the best long-distance walking track in Australia, bar none!"  
James Orrock, NSW

**John Blakiston** (61), of Edgewater, has registered his three end-to-ends (Sectional, 05.07.06 to 01.12.06; N-S, 21.07.08 to 15.09.08; and Sectional, 20.06.10 to 30.09.10) and feels so lucky to have a world-class track in his own backyard. Being able

to re-supply in towns along the way is a major plus. His highlights were being able to wake up every day on Track, and sharing five days walking with his granddaughter. John has hiked sections of the Appalachian Trail, and says the Bibbulmun Track is a bit easier, has better campsite facilities and better access. He urges others to "do it".

**Emily Pinkus** (30), aka 'Simily' from Beaconsfield, loved seeing the changes in scenery along the Track (N-S, 13.10.08 to 11.12.08) and, experiencing the community atmosphere amongst walkers and volunteers. She walked with **Simon Mendelawitz** and says they ate so well that everyone else was jealous. She enjoyed wading through the plains towards Woolbales and other highlights were the first ocean glimpses and the beach at Boat Harbour. She also says they saw an albino kangaroo. Advice for others is to get a good backpack.

It was the experience of a lifetime for **Anna Wolak**, from Noranda, when she walked the Track (Sectional, 24.01.09 to 23.04.09). For her it was an unforgettable journey through an amazing part of WA. Her favourite section was from Balingup to Blackwood. A sleeping mat and pillow were her best equipment. Anna says "just do it."

**Richard Kane** (25), of Wanneroo, was simply 'Richie' during his end-to-end (N-S, 21.06.10 to 04.09.10), which was not as hard as he'd originally envisioned after he'd struggled to climb the hills at Piesse Brook near Kalamunda. His favourite section was DRV to Pemberton and he also liked Dog Pool and Blackwood campsites. Foggy mornings, beautiful birdsong and amazing stars added to his experience. He felt a great sense of peace and satisfaction on reaching Albany.

Over winter, thermals were his best equipment. Richard maintains that the Track is achievable by anyone—the only hardships are mental.



Photo by Pelusey Photography



Photo by Pelusey Photography

**Kezia Dreaver** (26) and **Cerise Dreaver** (22) of Cannington had a fantastic experience (N-S, 04.09.10 to 20.10.10) despite some setbacks with injury, some allergic reactions and not enough warm gear. But both say it was well worth the effort. They dehydrated much of their food and posted it forward. Tom Road to Boarding House was a favourite section and they loved relaxing in the sun on the rocks in the river. Being free from their normal every-day cares and worries was a highlight and they also enjoyed meeting other walkers and seeing the scenery change. Kezia and Cerise were lucky enough to see an echidna on their first day and their scariest wildlife encounter was with a tiger snake that they didn't see until it was reared up and hissing in between them. Their Trangia was their best bit of gear—they even baked muffins in it. They warn others to take plenty of warm gear in springtime.

**Sam Bayford** (22), of Nedlands, and **James Doyle** (21) of North Perth, walked in support of charity 'The Grey Man' (N-S, 20.11.10 to 02.01.11). For James it was a fantastic experience to see the constant changes in the environment. Sam also thought it was worthwhile, even if he didn't feel that way at the start. They would have liked more variety in their food, and Sam got sick of the taste of plain water. He loved the beach walking and the section from Walpole to Albany, whereas James preferred the Mt Cooke and Balingup areas. Their first glimpse of the Southern Ocean was on Christmas Day. The wildlife apparently included James who ate his breakfast so loudly each morning that it doubled as Sam's alarm clock! Backpacks, shoes and walking sticks were their best equipment, but Sam's mozzie repellent didn't work. They advise preparation, patience and "doing it" rather than just thinking about it.

**David Anderson** (42), from Brunswick, has completed another end-to-end (Sectional, 25.11.10 to 11.02.11). He has no favourite section but prefers walking south to north. His pack and camelbak are among his best equipment, and he advises drinking plenty of water, planning carefully for summer walking, and becoming a BTF member.

Another group of Scotch College students has completed an end-to-end (Sectional, 17.02.07 to 05.03.11). This group included **Samuel Beard** (16) of Carnarvon, **Todd Rogers** (16) of Cunderdin, **Tom Shackles** (16) of Port Kennedy, **Harrison Stewart** (17), **Lachlan Brown** (17) of Dandaragan, **Alec Rex** (16) of Wagin, **Mitchell Creagh** (17) of Dandaragan, **Ryan Mackintosh** (16) of Tammin, and **Rohan Stone** (17) of Swanbourne. A highlight for many of them was reaching the Southern Ocean, although Sam liked the wet weather and reaching camp each night, Ryan enjoyed the awesome views and Lachlan even liked Cardiac Hill. Nearly all considered it to be a great experience: Mitchell – will forever remember a good walk with mates; Ryan – the trip of a lifetime, no other track like it; Alec – a great experience; Harrison – too good to compare; Tom – a good time with mates. Plenty of wildlife was seen by the group, including many snakes. Most liked their sleeping bags, but the hootchies were voted the worst equipment. Their advice for intending walkers includes wearing-in boots beforehand, being weight-conscious when packing, and "just do it – it's worth it!"

**Terry O'Hara** (59), from East Fremantle, was the 'Piscator' and loved walking every section (Sectional, 04.11.07 to 18.03.11). He maintains that "you really can't beat the Bibbulmun Track." He dehydrated a lot of his food and enjoyed his carries 'en-track'. Northcliffe to Walpole was the best part for him, especially the Pingerup Plains. Other highlights

were his meetings with nature – flocks of black cockatoos, quendas, massive schools of salmon seen in the surf, emus with chicks and even the many snakes. Terry enjoyed returning to some sections in different seasons as he found the differences were amazing. He says his Leki walking poles saved him many times! He advises others to prepare well, read-up, get out there, and join the Foundation.

**Ron Liebrand** (44), from Beeliar, found his end-to-end (Sectional, Sept 08 to 12.04.11) was logistically easy to organise. He took all his own supplies and appreciated the availability of water at each campsite. His favourite section was around Walpole and he also enjoyed the absence of any man-made noises along much of the Track. Ron feels we are so lucky to be able to access some of the more remote parts of the south-west via the Track. Hiking boots were his best equipment, and thorough preparation is the key to success.

**Phillip Hendry**, of Hovea, and **John Mack**, of Mahogany Creek, completed much of their walk (Sectional, 04.10.97 to 16.04.11) several years ago as part of a walking group from the Bible Society of WA, and in more recent years they teamed together to complete their journeys on the Track.

**Tim Fairhead** (39), of Fremantle (Sectional, 21.11.10 to 18.04.11) thought the southern coastal sections of the Track were superb, closely followed by walking through the karri forests early in the morning. He found most towns had adequate supplies, but he ate a lot less than he originally expected. Tim spent time in some of the smaller Track towns and particularly enjoyed a welcome meal and accommodation at the Mumballup tavern. He maintains that "what goes up must go down—and vice versa!" More wildlife was seen in the southern sections, especially roos. Unused clothes were an unnecessary weight. Tim advises others to pack light, start early and keep grinding away.

**Maureen** (64) and **Les** (67) **Kennedy** of Scarborough were able to fulfil a long-held dream of Maureen's when they completed their end-to-end (Sectional, 19.09.09 to 18.04.11). They felt enriched in their knowledge of the south-west and rewarded by the opportunity to experience the natural environment. They delivered their own food drops prior to their walk, but still enjoyed many 'reef n beef' meals along the way, with the Balingup Tavern being voted the best. The spring wildflowers in the northern sections were spectacular, as were the forests and coastal scenery to the south. Companionship of other walkers was enjoyed at the campsites and they loved the campfires in the northern sections. Initial misgivings about the canoe crossing were unfounded and the crossing proceeded without incident. They enjoyed the birdlife but weren't too keen when a snake joined them in Giants shelter! Walking poles were deemed their best equipment, and they recommend the trip planning sessions provided by the BTF.

**Clifford Johnson** (21) from Woodbridge was 'Cliff J' or 'The Hawk' during his end-to-end (Sectional, 02.05.09 to 27.04.11). He would like to thank all volunteers and other people who are involved in the development and maintenance of the Track. A highlight for Cliff was being able to walk into the night. Headphones were his favourite equipment, and a water-bladder was his worst. He advises carrying as little as possible.

**Wayne** (53) and **Sandra** (49) **Moseley**, from Kardinya, began their end-to-end (Sectional, 19.04.05 to 01.05.11) with just a day walk that led to a mentally and physically challenging experience they were able to share. They ate well and continuously improved their variety of food. Both liked the sections south from Northcliffe and along the coast toward Denmark. Wayne enjoyed the variety of landscapes and the isolation, and Sandra was amazed at the size of the trees and loved seeing the shelters' green roofs at the end of each day. They had some close encounters with wildlife, including a snake that Wayne nearly stepped on. They rate the Track very highly when compared to overseas walks, due to its well-maintained facilities. Sandra listed Wayne as her best equipment as he was very dependable and reliable in all situations. They advise others to stick at it, and Sandra says that when you feel you can't go any further, think of a Nepalese saying "It's only a few more five minutes."

**Henk van Poppel** (63), of Woodbridge, (S-N, 25.03.11 to 19.05.11) found the bush to be much drier than it was in 2008 when he completed his first end-to-end. The south coast and the karri forests were his favourite parts. Henk's wife joined him for the walk from Balingup to Collie. He found it difficult buying supplies at Donnelly and at North Bannister, but he loved every step and fully intends doing it all over again. He liked his backpack and boots and urges others to buy good quality equipment.

**Frank Trybulec** (48), from Rockingham, (Sectional N-S, 16.10.09 to 20.05.11) thought the Track overall was in excellent condition, but found it hard to re-supply in some areas. His favourite section was Pemberton through to Walpole as he loved walking amongst the tall trees. Another highlight was hearing the ocean for the first time, and then actually seeing it for the first time – three days later! Frank enjoyed the birdlife at most campsites, especially Tom Road, and met a very pesky possum at Schafer campsite. A Deuter sleeping bag was his best piece of equipment, and he advises taking regular breaks when climbing steep hills.

**Maureen** (59) and **Gary** (59) **Foley** of Hillarys found their end-to-end (N-S, 12.03.11 to 20.05.11) has given them a kick-start to a new lifestyle. They were able to spend quality time together; attained amazing levels of fitness and both lost more than 10 kgs in weight. They dehydrated meals for food drops and then supplemented these with fresh food purchases in town. They didn't have a favourite section, but loved everything from the tall trees to the tiny fungus to the spectacular ocean views. At Schafer campsite Gary was prodded on the leg by the cheeky resident possum which then showed off its acrobatic skills. Other unusual sightings were a pair of mopokes near Chadoora and a white, domestic chook on the Track near Pemberton. They advise others to be organised and plan, plan, plan.

**Michelle** (51) and **Garry** (55) **Ford** of Bateman called themselves 'The 29ers' as they started their walk on their 29th wedding anniversary (N-S, 03.04.11 to 25.05.11). To them, the Track lives and breathes with changing conditions and landscapes. They pre-delivered food drops to visitor centres and also bought fresh food while in town. They advise having a food drop at North Bannister rather than carrying supplies through to Dwellingup as they

did. Their favourite part was walking amongst the mighty tingles and karri, then the sand dunes and along the coast – all on the same day from Giants to Rame Head. A particular highlight was interacting with the people they met, as well as the unseen, unmet people whose stories they followed in the journals. They finished leaner, fitter and feel very proud of their achievement. The birdsong, a whale, seals and huge kangaroos will not be forgotten. They suggest allowing some flexibility in your walk schedule.

**Vanda** (46) and **David** (46) **Longman** of City Beach shared a great feeling of achievement after their end-to-end (S-N, 09.04.11 to 25.05.11). For David, the Track was the best way to see some of the normally inaccessible south coast, while Vanda liked observing the changing landforms and vegetation. It was good being self-sufficient for an extended period, and having time to think. David felt a good sense of wilderness even though major roads were never far away. Both enjoyed meeting inspiring, interesting people. They bought all supplies in track towns, but found it was a long way between Dwellingup and Kalamunda to carry all food supplies. David had an unwanted weight loss and suffered some sore joints, but otherwise "all good!" He suggests training walks to test equipment and Vanda urges walkers to take their time and enjoy the experience.

**Karen Seton** (53) of Bicton says her end-to-end experience (Sectional, 2006 to 30.05.11) has been a highlight in her life and one she would recommend to all. Her favourite section was between Donnelly River Village and Pemberton, and highlights were too many to mention – she enjoyed it all. On her walks Karen discovered that WA has a plentiful supply of snakes in the south-west. She says she would be lost without her walking sticks, and she encourages everyone else to just "do it."

**Tom Hilliar** (63) from Cooloongup was 'The Wild Blue Yonderer' as he completed his fourth end-to-end (S-N, 27.04.11 to 31.05.11), and says that once he got going, he found it was easy to keep up a good pace. He had prepared food-drops and bought some provisions, like choccy bars, along the way. A highlight for him was walking in heavy rain between Grimwade and Yabberup where he says it seemed like the 'Bibbulmun River'. It was also an experience to find himself on the 900yd mound of the Albany Rifle Range in the dark. He saw several snakes, emus, birds and lots of kangaroos in the south. His headlight and pillow were best equipment and he urges everyone to get out there.

**Alec Todd** (79) from Yanchep started with a 'Walk with the Friends' day walk, gradually building to walks within driving distance, and finally to longer stretches accessed by public transport (Sectional, 20.06.10 to 08.06.11). West Cape Howe to Torbay would have been his favourite section, but it was also the wettest day of his walk! Dawn at Helena and Blackwood campsites was special with the mist-filled valleys and he enjoyed walking into the Albany terminus, even though it didn't signify the end of his journey. Best equipment was his down sleeping bag. Alec advises walkers to take their time.

**Basil McIlhagga** (74) from Darlington still finds walking the Bibbulmun Track to be a wonderful experience, having now completed his fourth end-to-end (Sectional, 23.08.07 to 20.06.11). He now intends starting his fifth end-to-end. Basil makes regular day walks on the Track around Hewett's Hill campsite and the surrounding bush. His favourite part of the Track is between Donnelly and Pemberton.

**Compiled by Charmaine Harris  
BTF Volunteer and end-to-ender**



**Backcountry Cuisine is available at the following stores on, or near, the Track:**

1. Camping World Collie
2. Balingup General Store
3. Manjimup Mitre 10
4. Pemberton Discovery Centre
5. Camping World Albany
6. Getaway Outdoors Midland
7. BCF Midland

**We are liaising with Three-ways roadhouse regarding supplies and hope they will soon improve the range available for walkers.**



# 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 Rainbow Trail Chalets 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
ADVENTURE WILD	PERTH	Tour operator	www.adventurewild.com.au	
ADVENTUROUS WOMEN	PERTH	Tour operator	(08) 9467 7304	
BUSINESS CLASS TRANSFERS	PERTH	Track transfers	1300 763 005	
ESCAPE DAY SPAS	PERTH	Health	(08) 9383 4328	
ON TRACK HIKING HIRE	PERTH	Equipment	0401 625 668	10%.
GRANDVIEW B&B	KALAMUNDA	Accommodation	(08) 9293 2518	5% on room rate
THE GOODLIFE B&B	KALAMUNDA	Accommodation	(08) 9291 3106	On application
MUNDARING WEIR HOTEL	MUNDARING	Accom/Rest-café	(08) 9295 1106	
DWELLINGUP ADVENTURES	DWELLINGUP	Tour	(08) 9538 1127	10% on self-guided walk & canoe tour.
DWELLINGUP B&B & CHALETS	DWELLINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9538 1155	10%
DWELLINGUP CHALETS & CARAVAN PARK	DWELLINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9538 1157	No.
DWELLINGUP OUTDOOR & LEISURE SUPPLIES	DWELLINGUP	Equipment	(08) 9538 1049	
TADDY CREEK	DWELLINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9285 1727	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 HEIGHTS HILLTOP FOREST COTTAGES	BALINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9764 1283	
BALINGUP LAVENDER FARM	BALINGUP	Attraction/Café	(08) 9764 1436	10% off essential oil of lavender.
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.
OAKFIELD COUNTRY HOUSE B&B	BALINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9764 1641	10% off standard rates (direct bookings only).
SOUTHAMPTON HOMESTEAD	BALINGUP	Accommodation	0412 229 564	
WESTLINGTON BROOK	BALINGUP	Winery/Accom	(08) 9764 1204	10% on accommodation (direct bookings only).
NELSONS OF BRIDGETOWN	BRIDGETOWN	Accom/Rest-café	(08) 9761 1641	
YOHO PIZZA	SOUTH WEST	Catering	(08) 9756 0616	10% off orders over \$150.
NANNUP VISITOR CENTRE	NANNUP	Tourist Bureau	(08) 9756 1211	
DONNELLY RIVER HOLIDAY VILLAGE	DONNELLY RIVER	Accommodation	(08) 9772 1244	From \$20 pp.
SOUTHERN FORESTS WA	MANJIMUP	Information Provider	(08) 9771 7777	
A SPLENDID WREN B&B RETREAT	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 0418	
BIG BROOK RETREAT	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 0279	
DONNELLY LAKES CHALETS	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 2005	
OLD PICTURE THEATRE HOLIDAY APARTMENTS	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 1513	10%.
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	
PEMBERTON DISCOVERY TOURS & CAR HIRE	PEMBERTON	Tour/Transport prov.	(08) 9776 0484	10% off tours, Track transfers and car hire.
PEMBERTON FARM CHALETS	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	
RAINBOW TRAIL CHALETS	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	0438 561 664	Complimentary bottle of Rambouillet wine on arrival.
BIBULMUN BREAK MOTEL & TRANSPORT	NORTHCLIFFE	Accom/Transport prov.	(08) 9776 6060	No.
RIVERWAY CHALETS	NORTHCLIFFE	Accommodation	(08) 9776 7183	10%.
WATERMARK KILNS	NORTHCLIFFE	Accommodation	(08) 9776 7349	On application.
CHE SARA SARA CHALETS	WALPOLE	Accommodation	(08) 9840 8004	
COALMINE BEACH HOLIDAY PARK	WALPOLE	Accommodation	(08) 9840 1026	10%.
NATURALLY WALPOLE TOURS	WALPOLE	Tour/Transport prov.	(08) 9840 1019	On application.
STARGAZERS B&B	WALPOLE	Accommodation	(08) 9840 1553	\$10 on double accommodation (\$5 on single).
WOOZ & SUZ CAFÉ	WALPOLE	Restaurant/Café	(08) 9840 1214	No.
NUTKIN LODGE	PEACEFUL BAY	Accommodation	(08) 9840 8650	10% on standard rates.
PEACEFUL BAY B&B	PEACEFUL BAY	Accommodation	(08) 9840 8353	Afternoon tea on arrival.
PEACEFUL BAY CHALETS & BACKPACKERS	PEACEFUL BAY	Accommodation	(08) 9840 8169	[change] On application.
PENSIONE VERDE ORGANIC ACCOMMODATION	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 1700	
BLUE HOUSE DENMARK	DENMARK	Accommodation	0438 339 071	10%.
BLUE WREN TRAVELLERS REST	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 3300	5%.
OUT OF SIGHT! TOURS	DENMARK	Tour/Transport prov.	(08) 9848 2814	10%.
POPPY'S GUESTHOUSE	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 1617	\$10
DENMARK VISITOR CENTRE	DENMARK	Tourist Bureau	(08) 9848 2055	
DENMARK WATERFRONT MOTEL	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 1147	15%.
KARMA CHALETS	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 1568	5% - outside long weekends and school holidays
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% - not in conjunction with any other specials.
WILLIAM BAY COUNTRY COTTAGES	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9840 9221	On application.
1849 BACKPACKERS	ALBANY	Accommodation	(08) 9842 1554	
ALBANY BAYSIDE OCEAN VILLAS	ALBANY	Accommodation	0400 216 971	
ALBANY VISITOR CENTRE	ALBANY	Tourist Bureau	(08) 9841 9290	No.
BAYVIEW BACKPACKERS YHA	ALBANY	Accommodation	(08) 9842 3388	Same as YHA members.
BEST WESTERN ALBANY MOTEL & APARTMENTS	ALBANY	Accommodation	(08) 9845 7500	
NORMAN HOUSE	ALBANY	Accommodation	(08) 9841 5995	5%.

## Pemberton

### PEMBERTON OLD PICTURE THEATRE APARTMENTS



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 \$150.00 for 2 people per night. Walk In Walk Out

Drop Offs - Pick ups can be arranged

info@oldpicturetheatre.com.au  
www.oldpicturetheatre.com  
(08) 9776 1513



## Kalamunda

### RAILWAY CARRIAGES ACCOMMODATION & THREE GUMS COTTAGE



Located just 30 minutes from Perth City, this unique railway carriage and beautiful cottage accommodation is the perfect place to plan a spring getaway in the hills. With wood fires, private courtyards, outdoor settings and at just 300m from the Northern Terminus of Bibbulmun Track it's the place to stay when enjoying all that the Kalamunda Hills have to offer.



Contact us on  
(08) 6293 1902

or email

bookings@accommodationkalamunda.com.au  
for more details and to book.

## Donnelly River

### DONNELLY RIVER HOLIDAY VILLAGE



A hidden treasure deep in the karri forest, nestled between Bridgetown, Nannup & Manjimup. Step back to the 1950's in this secluded, heritage listed former timber mill town. 35 affordable, self-contained mill cottages, bunk accommodation available for walkers, or free track shelter.

The village's delightful country store, with walker supplies and coffee machine, marks the mid-point on the Bibbulmun Track. Open daily 8.30am-5pm. Lunches, phone, shower, laundry, EFTPOS available.

Other attractions include swimming lake, tennis court, flying fox, games room, BBQ, abundant tame wildlife.

(08) 9772 1244

donnelly@karriweb.com.au  
www.donnellyriver.com.au

## YOUR PATH TO RELAXATION

Walk the Bibbulmun Track the easy way.



### THE PACKAGES

Escape on the Bibbulmun Track to the scenic south-west & enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the natural bush while relaxing in luxurious comfort.

Bibbulmun Walking Breaks are the perfect way to recharge your batteries from the rigours of everyday living.

### WHAT ARE THEY?

Bibbulmun Walking Breaks are pack-free, stress-free walking & accommodation packages that give you the chance to walk independently at your own pace & return to the comforts of hot showers, home-cooking & a soft bed.

All packages are for a minimum of 2 days/2 nights (with an optional third day/night for additional sightseeing). Packages can be added together or extended for holidays of up to three weeks.

The Walking Break packages are based around eight rural towns along the Bibbulmun Track; Kalamunda (Perth Hills), Dwellingup, Collie, Balingup, Pemberton, Northcliffe, Walpole & Denmark. Each location offers its own unique flavor & experience.

To choose your perfect package, visit us online & fill out an enquiry form or simply contact the Foundation.

"We could not have asked for a more comprehensive package. Thank you." Sally from WA



E: tourism@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Ph: 9481 0551

W: bibbulmuntrack.org.au

# Top Tips for Walking with Kids

Bushwalking with kids can be tricky in winter – Bibbulmun Track Foundation volunteer Jim Baker shares some tips on getting the best from day and overnight treks in the Perth Hills area. Read the full article in the current issue of Scoop Traveller Magazine.



- Kids tire quickly and lose their body heat very rapidly. Make very sure that their clothing and gear—especially sleeping bags—are up to scratch.
- Keep their pack weights down to a minimum, even if that means Dad has to suffer the extra few kilos.
- In the winter there will be plenty of fresh water in the rain tanks at the campsites, but still have the capability to carry at least two litres of water per person when you are walking on the Track.
- Kids often don't like water on its own, so take some flavourings in powder form to encourage them to drink.
- Change into your campsite clothing as soon as you arrive at the campsite. This should include thermal underwear, long pants (trackies or equivalent), warm top (fleece), and a beanie.
- Bring plenty of treats (dare I say, bribes) in the form of fast energy food such as chocolate and lollies.
- Bring a small box or plastic container for the kids to collect little treasures along the way. It will keep them amused as they fill their treasure box rather than their backpacks!

For parents who have reservations about getting out there on their own, but still feel a desire to participate, the Foundation runs a great range of fully guided family events. The Foundation staff and volunteers have a wealth of knowledge and are always willing to assist with queries about walking on the Track at any time of the year. 🌀

## TOP TIP

The Day Walk Map Packs include a booklet detailing up to 8 walks in each area.

- For each walk you'll find information about:
- how to access the walk, where to park
  - length and degree of difficulty of walk
  - what you can expect to see along the way
  - detailed walk notes to guide you.
- E.g. 'Cross small creek on timber footbridge'

Perfect for those new to bushwalking or not confident at map reading.  
**RRP \$20**



Planning your walk in advance is crucial to ensuring that you enjoy it, especially when children are involved. Be selective in picking the section of the Track that you are intending to walk, depending on your experience. Some sections are tougher than others—read the guide books carefully, look at the maps and find something that is within your capabilities as a family. If the first introduction your children receive to bushwalking leaves them with acute memories of being cold, wet and tired their interest in the bush may be destroyed forever. So plan the walk in detail, and involve the kids in the discussion. Use the Track notes in the guide books to show them where you are taking them, and what they are likely to see on the way.

## Some suggested day walks:

Asher Road to Hewett's Hill campsite – (3 km return). This is a great starter walk for real youngsters. Taking a picnic lunch in a day pack, leave the car at Asher Road where it intersects the Track, take a short stroll to the Hewett's Hill campsite, and return.

South Ledge picnic site to Hewett's Hill campsite – (8 km return). A slightly longer walk, perhaps for older kids. Park your car at the South Ledge picnic site and walk to Hewett's Hill campsite from the other direction and return.

Feeling braver? Why not take the kids on an overnight adventure and stay at a Bibbulmun Track campsite? Here's a suggested overnighter about an hour's drive from Perth.

Sullivan Rock to Mt. Cooke campsite – (12 km return). Park your car in the picnic area opposite Sullivan Rock. Follow the Waugal trail markers across the Rock to the Bibbulmun Track, turn right and walk to the Mount Cooke campsite (6 km). The next morning, climb to the top of Mount Cooke (the kids will probably get there first), enjoy the view, and backtrack to the car.

Some final tips to make the walk a pleasant one for the whole family

- Take a map or guidebook. The walks mentioned in this article are all on Map 1.
- Always carry a first-aid kit.
- Check the weather forecast and take the appropriate footwear and clothing.
- Wet weather gear is important, and rain jackets should be sitting at the top of your packs, for easy access.



## Congratulations to all GOTC teams – VIRTUAL END-TO-END WALKS COMPLETED!



Judith McDougall logged the most kilometers during the challenge – a staggering 1027.5 kilometers!

Twenty four active teams took to the virtual Bibbulmun Track as they jogged, logged and blogged their way through our very own Diabetes WA 'Get On Track Challenge'. Everyone came out on top, as the motivating team-based Challenge gave participants a means of monitoring their fruit and vegetable intake and showing accountability for their daily physical exercise, all while 'walking' our much loved Bibbulmun Track.

There can however be only one winner and the team to record the most kilometres was – The Laughing Ladies! Together they logged an impressive 2774 kilometres throughout the six week Challenge, that's almost three times the length of the Bibbulmun Track. All the members of the Laughing Ladies team received a prize pack from Diabetes WA.

Our sponsor Sea to Summit kindly donated prizes to the three individuals who logged the most kilometres throughout the six weeks. Congratulations to all the winners.

1st place: Judith McDougall from the Laughing Ladies team won a Wilderness Equipment Outbreak 75L hiking backpack valued at \$230, plus two places on the "Bibbulmun Trek for Beginners" event. Total value \$550.

2nd place: Volker Storig from the Bibb Greenhorns won a Wilderness Equipment Outbreak 75L hiking backpack valued at \$230.

3rd place Kathi Storig from the Bibb Greenhorns won a Delta series kitchen set and 10L kitchen sink worth a total of \$72.

Well done to everyone who was a part of our 'Get On Track Challenge', you have all started off the winter months on a healthy footing by joining us on this free, fun and motivating event. We hope it has inspired everyone to get out on the real Bibbulmun Track and visit the sites that were showcased to you in digital form (trust us; the real thing is even better!).

A big thank you to Diabetes WA for all of their support throughout the Challenge, and to Sea to Summit for their prize donations. Visit them online, [seatosummit.com.au](http://seatosummit.com.au), to view all of their current products to gear up for your next adventure.



Volker and Kathi Storig collect their prizes.

## Dry Up! Dry up!

We're not really telling you to dry up – but we are excited that you can now get drying!

The Foundation has two Ezidri Food Dehydrators available for hire to Foundation Members.

### What is a food dehydrator?

Glad you asked. A food dehydrator is an appliance that removes moisture from food to aid in its preservation, using heat and air flow to reduce the water content. The water content of food is usually very high, typically 80% to 95% for fruits and vegetables and 50% to 75% for meats. Removing moisture restrains bacteria from growing and spoiling food. Further, removing moisture from food dramatically reduces its weight. Thus, food dehydrators are excellent way to prepare foods for bushwalking.

So, no more heavy vegetables or two minute noodles for that matter!

The dehydrators each come with an instruction and recipe book, five trays, one mesh sheet and four solid sheets for liquids.

I have been using one since my first end-to-end in 2001 and I love it. In fact if you have attended a recent Food in a Fuel Stove workshop (see our Calendar of Events) you may have tried some of our recipes using dehydrated foods.

What do I dry? Almost all vegetables and most fruits. I even make my own tomato paste and dry that! Yoghurt? – no problem. If you dry it well enough, your dried produce will last the entire walking season.

For more info call the Foundation or visit [http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/trip-planner/Equipment-\\_-Hire.aspx](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/trip-planner/Equipment-_-Hire.aspx) to download a hire form.

For more information on dehydrators visit Ezidri at [www.ezidridehydrators.com.au](http://www.ezidridehydrators.com.au)

Food dehydrators are available to members only. Hire fee is \$35 per week. The maximum period of hire is two weeks.

So what are you waiting for? Hurry up and dry up!

Steve Sertis  
Events Manager and Lead Guide

**Ed:** If you don't have the time to experiment before your next trip – the range of Backcountry Cuisine meals is a tasty alternative!



## PRIZE WINNING MEMBERS

### April 2011

Janet Zint of Mt Lawley won an X Bowl kindly donated by our Gold Sponsor Sea to Summit

Second prize went to the Moseley Family of Kardinya who received a peg-less clothesline again kindly donated by our Gold Sponsor Sea to Summit.

### May 2011

Nicole Bywaters of Jarrahdale's prize was a voucher for two people to join a "Beach & Forest Eco Adventure".

kindly donated by Pemberton Discovery Tours. Second Prize went to Rik Kort of Ashby who won a book – Discovering Karri Forest of WA kindly donated by DEC.

### June 2011

Frances Brewer and Terry Stone of Spearwood won a Black Diamond GIZMO head torch kindly donated by our Gold Sponsor Sea to Summit

Second prize went to Mark Dunkley of Lesmurdie who won a 1 litre Dry Sac kindly donated by our Gold Sponsor Sea to Summit

### July 2011

Basil McIlhagga of Darlington won this month's draw. His prize was a Pocket Shower kindly donated by our Gold Sponsor Sea to Summit.

Second prize went to Peggy Whiting of Redcliffe whose prize was a 1 litre Dry Sac kindly donated by our Gold Sponsor Sea to Summit.

### PRIZE DRAW FOR THOSE WHO RENEWED AS A LIFE MEMBER IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS:

The winner was Graeme Johnstone of Shenton Park. His prize – a \$300 voucher from our Gold Sponsor Mountain Designs.

### ENJOY A DAY AT THE ROYAL SHOW – FOR FREE! Saturday 1st to Saturday 8th October

The Bibbulmun Track has become an integral part of the Landcare Pavilion. It is the perfect place to showcase the Track, being a welcome escape from the hustle and bustle of the Show. Some exciting new exhibits are planned for this year with interactive hands-on displays, demonstrations and talks.

As always we will need some help in manning the display. This involves giving a few hours of your time to talk to people about the Track and your experiences. A free pass allows you to spend the rest of the day enjoying the Show.

# Office Gossip



We've had a few fairly quiet days in the office so we've had the chance to clean out drawers, sort files and even peek under desks to see what's lurking—you'd be surprised at the treasures we have found and the space we have created.

The clean up was just in time for the installation of our new computers. Thanks to Lotterywest we now have up-to-date hardware and software which has made a noticeable difference to the speed and efficiency of accessing documents and our database.

The cooler weather and more recently the rain has got everyone moving again after the long hot summer and we have been restocking the maps and guidebooks on a regular basis.

A few weeks ago we welcomed Katie from the Tourism Council for the site visit for our

accreditation for the Tourism 'tick'. It was gratifying to know that all of our procedures are correct and up-to-date.

As usual we've had absentees from the office over the past few months. Jean spent some time in Italy and UK, Jim B is in UK, Isabel enjoyed the Great Ocean Walk in Victoria, Hans is cycling around Europe, Edith ventured out to the Kennedy Ranges, Alan spent some time in NZ and Elsie had a great time in Canada on the Rocky Mountaineer and cruising up the Inside Passage.

We've welcomed a number of members into the office recently, many coming in to register their end-to-end. It's great to be able to share their pleasure in their achievement and we are always interested in hearing the highs and lows of the journey—be it a seven or eight week adventure or the culmination of many years walking the Track in sections.

Please pop in to say hello if you're in the vicinity—we love to see our members—and while you're here pick up a free copy of the video 'Magic of the long Distance Dream'.

**Gwen Plunkett**  
Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator.



## Foundation brought up to speed thanks to Lotterywest and DonorTech

Over the last couple of years the Foundations computers were slowly grinding to a halt as the increasing number of updates for our operating system used up all the memory.

DonorTech kindly donated Microsoft Office 2010 (valued at \$9,400) to enable us to upgrade our operating system from Microsoft 2003. However, our existing computers did not have the capacity for us to install it.

A huge "Thank you!" to Lotterywest for granting the Foundation \$14,540 to update its computer network. We recently installed new desktop computers, monitors and a colour printer. So it's now all systems go and we are enjoying the speed and efficiency of our new technology.

Thanks also to Board Member Mark McLauchlin, for his advice and Steve Sertis for project managing the smooth transition.

Lotterywest has also granted funds to update our website and develop an online volunteer management system. This project is currently underway and we hope to launch our new website by the end of the year.

## What food should be supplied for walkers in the Track Towns?

Let us know what food you think should be available to walkers in the Track Towns – you could win a prize thanks to Sea to Summit.

Why? We have a list of recommendations we give to suppliers along the Track including Three-ways Roadhouse at North Bannister, the Donnelly River Village store and the Peaceful Bay store.

We wish to:

- Make sure this list truly reflects the foods walkers like to eat.
- Have some feedback and data to present in future discussions with suppliers.

The more responses we get, the more representative the information – so please take five minutes and provide your input.

The survey is open until November 30, 2011. The final list of food recommendations and the survey prize winner will be published online, in Bibbulmun Bytes (email newsletter) and in the Bibbulmun News.

**The survey can only be completed online. Follow the link under 'Quicklinks' on our home page [www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au)**

**Thank you – and good luck in the draw!**



Photo by Pelusey Photography

# Walker Story ...

## The Bibbulman Blue Striped Tiger



*"Tiger, tiger, burning bright, in the forests of the night"...*

Michelle Sullivan and husband Garry recently completed an end-to-end. During their many experiences along the way, they had the great fortune to spot a hitherto unknown species in the bush. The beast acted in such a human fashion they christened it the Bibbulman Blue Striped Tiger. Michelle tells their amazing story:

Our first sighting of the Blue Striped Tiger was at the Canning shelter. We were bedded down when another shelter resident spotted a quenda by the water tank. We arose to take a look and there he was—a ghostly blue and white striped vision lurking on the edge of the campsite—and gone, like a wraith of the night.

After that we saw him several times, fleetingly at first, but he grew bolder as he followed us from shelter to shelter. Selfishly, we considered him a special friend, so we didn't mention him in the registers as we recorded our journey. We would glimpse him in the mornings and hear his song

"Blue skies, nothing but blue skies do I see" as he gambolled along behind us, but generally he seemed to prefer the darkness.

He must have overtaken us, because when we arrived at the Beedelup shelter we found, spread out, his magnificent coat, together with, we assume, those of his cubs. (See the picture below).

This shedding of his coat is strange. Maybe he now wears a winter coat; perhaps the date—the first of May—is significant. Is this shelter his southern boundary? Does another Tiger roam the Track on the southern coast, dressed in even more exotic finery? Time will tell.

There is so much we do not know about this exotic creature, but we feel very privileged to have spent time in his company. Let us hope we meet him again on the Track. He made our journey even more pleasurable and we thank him warmly. 🌸

**Editor's note:** For some reason, I think this tiger eats salami. Take a look at Track Trivia, page 27.

# Walker Story ...

900 KILOMETRES IN NINE WEEKS — BUT NOT THE END-TO-END JUST YET!



The Underwood family at the start of their journey in Kalamunda

The Underwood family, having made the decision to move from Fremantle to Denmark, figured that the most interesting way to do so was to walk there, down the Bibbulmun Track! With three children of four, eight and 11 years of age, this was a mammoth undertaking.

"It was pretty challenging in the beginning," Jim Underwood said. "But we loved it so much, when we arrived in Denmark we were grieving to be off the Track—it was like losing an old friend."

These are Jim's words:

As I write this story, sitting at the Rame Head shelter on the Bibbulmun Track, I am watching the waves roll in and the clouds roll over this majestic coastline and contemplating our epic adventure—a family of five walking from Kalamunda to Denmark. The seed of this adventure was a romantic and initially fleeting idea. Since we were moving to Denmark, we thought, wouldn't it be nice to walk there. Then, as we got serious about it, the beneficial and logistical ramifications began to sink

plus all the extras (e.g. toiletries, diaries, camera etc.), and if the young guy could walk a lot, then it might be possible!

We bought an extra large dehydrator, and Katie set about drying 53 meals for all of us (our growing lads eat as much as most adults). We bought as much organic bulk food as possible and began to stockpile nuts, dried fruit and other energy rich food for the trail mix. Once dinners were vacuum packed, and we had an idea of breakfast and lunches, we guessed I could carry a maximum of five days worth of food, which turned out to be pretty accurate.

So, a few days before we left, we realised we needed help—three drop-offs in the first 16 days between Kalamunda and Dwellingup, one between Dwellingup and Collie, and one between Northcliffe and Walpole. There was plethora of willing supporters, and drop-off points seemed to synchronise miraculously with the availability of people, even at such short notice. This gave us our first glimpse of the magic that is 'the Track'.

We set foot on the Track on a warm day on November the 1st 2010. There was a feeling that summer was coming early, but we were not to know it was to be the hottest spring on record, with the first heat wave ever recorded in November in Perth. This initial stage was the most trying, as we tried to find a rhythm amongst all of us. The effects of the drought were all too obvious but despite the dryness, the beauty of some of the bush in the Darling Scarp was wonderful to experience.

Once we hit the Karri forest greenery, the elements eased off, and we started to hit our straps. The middle lad was getting used to his pack; the young one would walk solid sections while his elder brothers and parents told him stories. Our fitness was continuing to improve, and although I was still going through half a jar of tiger balm a week, I was beginning to be able to carry my pack and the little fella with less strain and more enjoyment.

By the time we hit the D' Entrecasteaux section south of Northcliffe, we were doing 20 kms in a day without major drama, and we began to think we had it sussed. However, thinking we had it sussed was not a good idea! The weather changed when we hit the coast and the soft sand. The hardest leg of our trip was the section between Mandalay Beach and Mt Clare. At points along this section, it would take us ten minutes to walk a hundred metres, and with no shade to protect us from the elements, we realised we were pushing the boundaries between character building and child abuse! However, after a few days rest over Christmas, and the inspiring energy of the tingle forest and Frankland River, we found a new rhythm and strength to move through the sand. Thus we were able to revel in the magnificence of the raw, powerful coastline between Walpole and Denmark over the last few days.



We walked into Denmark, our new home, full of emotion on Monday the 3rd of Jan 2011, nine weeks to the day after we left. We had never understood people who said that they were sad when they came to the end of the Bibbulmun adventure... now we know. We are all missing the Track like a dear old friend, and the nomadic existence brought something that will be with all of us forever. I have never experienced the landscapes, the trees, the birds, the flowers, the fungi and the dynamic flow of Mother Nature at such a level of depth and intensity before. Having camped in this part of southwest WA so much, I thought I knew it—I didn't. When you 'walk' it, the country seems to open itself up to you, it appreciates you, and it looks after you. Time and time again, we were pushed to the limit, but once that point was reached, there was always a reprieve. What a deep gift the Bibbulmun Track is for us, all



The Underwoods arrive in Denmark after nine weeks on the Track

the other wonderful people that walk it, and the earth herself.

I hear many of you are thinking; "why didn't they just walk the last few days into Albany?" For us, it was never about the end-to-end per se, it was about moving to our new home at a pace that humans have moved for millennia. Our intent was to experience, or 'taste' the changing vegetation and climate, and introduce ourselves fully to the earth of the south coast region. It was about living the journey—we wanted to engage fully in the process of 'being', and not getting distracted by 'getting there'. However, now we are so in love with the Track, we will do the last section as soon as we can, so we can 'know' the country east of here in our bodies as well.

So, thank you to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation, volunteers and DEC staff who initiated, designed and who maintain the Track. You have created something that is powerful and unique in this day and age. Thanks also to all the family and friends who helped us on the way. Great respect and gratitude goes out to all the inspiring hikers we met on the track—thanks for looking out for us, sharing experiences and looking after the campsites and country. We feel that we now have a Bibbulmun Track 'family'.

Finally, thanks to the spirit of J.R.R. Tolkien. We looked forward to a reading every night, and it provided hours of entertainment discussing the intricacies of the story every day while walking. Indeed, the Lord of the Rings became entwined in our own adventure, and this synchronicity came to the final fruition when we finished the last page on the day we arrived in Denmark.

There certainly is magic in the Bibbulmun Track. 🌸

Yours with gratitude, the "Free Fivers". (Katie Bewley, Jim, Fynn, Luka and Xavier Underwood).

## Eyes on the Ground MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

The long dry summer has made maintenance trips less than inviting, but our wonderful army of volunteers still managed to fit in some visits to keep the Track in good shape.

The recent rains, while freshening everything up and seemingly bringing the vegetation back to life, can also pose problems for volunteers as this is when the leaks show up in the shelters and when they find out if the water bars are working properly. At least the damp soil makes any repair or installation work much easier.

In May I was invited to make a presentation at a workshop in Denmark for those wanting to set up 'Friends of' groups. It was really interesting to hear the various speakers and I think the participants enjoyed hearing about the Foundation's maintenance program.

The next day I met with volunteers from the Albany and Frankland districts for a day of socialising and learning. It was a glorious day to be out and I enjoyed catching up with those who were able to come along, especially new volunteers that I hadn't met before.

Volunteers have been really pleased to see many of the problem areas of the Track repaired as it makes their jobs much more enjoyable and satisfying. Good news for Frankland District volunteers is that quite a lot of work will be undertaken in the next twelve months. DEC will be working on the Frankland and Giants campsites as well as 'the stairway to heaven' in the Quarram area; a small kit bridge will be installed over a creek near Long Point and nine sets of steps have already been installed between Long Point campsite and Lost Beach track. The DEC districts have been doing a great job with the heavy clearing that is not possible for volunteers to do.

As usual we have had some volunteers retire, some after many years commitment to the Track. If you'd like a reason to get out on the Track on a regular basis, think about maintenance—it can be a lot of fun.

Thanks to all of our wonderful team of volunteers who really do a great job of keeping the Track and campsites in good order. The Track wouldn't be the same without you.

**Gwen Plunkett**  
Volunteer Coordinator

# NOTICE BOARD

## WALKING POLES FOR SALE

I have a pair of Black Diamond Trail Shock walking poles surplus to needs and they are in excellent condition. Bought \$150 earlier this year, sell for \$110.

Email: Stephen on [alianta.grove@hotmail.com](mailto:alianta.grove@hotmail.com)

## GPS FOR SALE

GARMIN - Model GPSMAP62S Handheld GPS - High Performance, Compass, Barometer and Altimeter. Used twice, box and invoice for Warranty included. \$350.00 firm price.

Phone: Mark on 0893442174 - 0417183108  
or Email: [nannig1@bigpond.com](mailto:nannig1@bigpond.com)

## WALKING COMPANION WANTED (KALAMUNDA TO PEMBERTON)

Starting Kalamunda about Wed 21 Sept '11 and getting to Pemberton around 25 days including rests. The best time: the wet's (almost) finished and the heat hasn't started. I'm otherwise based in Sydney. I've done ETE in 2005 in 40 days & 2010 in 49 days. I've got an EPIRB, reasonable gear & am old enough to remember when the Nullabor was nearly all dirt. You've got: self knowledge, and worn-in boots. Don't worry about whether you'll need a sense of humour, believe me it'll come after the first week with the flora/ fauna & people you'll meet on the Track.

Phone: Colin on 0431 044 436  
or Email: [descartesinoz@gmail.com](mailto:descartesinoz@gmail.com)

## HOUSE MATES REQUIRED

Looking for people to share a villa in Amalfi, Italy, with a few others, from 3 to 24 September 2011 (or part thereof). Check [www.summerinitaly.com/go.asp?d=0136](http://www.summerinitaly.com/go.asp?d=0136) for details of villa. Bookings would need to be a minimum of one week, Saturday to Saturday, at a cost of \$100 per person per night. The villa is an ideal base for the Amalfi coast and has a great bus and ferry service to all points of interest, including Positano, Sorrento, Isle of Capri, Naples, Pompeii, etc. There are also lots of walking trails in the area.

Phone: Jane Greenwood on 9342 8559  
or Email: [greenwood@internode.on.net](mailto:greenwood@internode.on.net)

## WALKING COMPANION WANTED

Do you want to walk out on the Track and prefer to go with another person? I am looking for others to go out on the Track with. I am a 51yo, fit, experienced Bibb Track walker and do not mind if you have a little walking experience, or maybe you already are an experienced walker. For more information please contact me.

Phone: Julie Bessant on 0407536948  
or Email: [jbess@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jbess@bigpond.net.au)

## WALKING BOOTS FOR SALE

Ladies Zamberlan Gortex Trail/Running Shoe. Size 8. Worn approx. 6 times (day wear) Too big for me. RRP \$160 Sell \$100 ONO

Phone: Sally Wise on 0438904809  
or 0438935470 or Email: [swc8@bigpond.com](mailto:swc8@bigpond.com)

## GUIDES NEEDED FOR GROUP ACTIVITIES

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

The Foundation is looking for people who have:

- the skills and experience to facilitate team building activities
- enthusiasm and an outgoing personality
- a sound knowledge of the Bibbulmun Track

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

## 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 are not a member please phone or email us to arrange your advert. Cost is \$5 per 3 months. All items will be deleted after three months if not renewed.

Phone: 9481 0551  
Email: [friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au](mailto:friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au)

# Getting into Gear - Bushwalking Packs



An ill-fitting pack can make your trekking life hell. Anyone who has had the misfortune to carry the wrong pack for an extended period of time will tell you that the resulting pain is up there with the agony caused by boots that give you blisters. A pack that continually rubs you on the same spot, causing blistering or wear marks, will detract from your wilderness experience and might become the only thing you think of on your journey—so

it's important to get your pack choice right.

There is a lot of talk about weight when it comes to packs - actually, there's a lot of talk about weight with any piece of outdoor gear. Weight is an important factor in the choice of a pack, but not the only one. Comfort has to be the main factor—if the pack is too heavy it will be uncomfortable, but discomfort will also result from the harness system not being up to carrying whatever weight you put in to your pack.

As with choosing a pair of boots, I would advocate trying on a number of packs from different manufacturers to find the one that fits you best. One brand of pack may not suit your back shape, much as a brand of boot may not suit your foot. The things that I look for include the type of fabric the pack is constructed from, the amount of air movement between the harness, the rear of the pack and my back, the waterproofing and the comfort of the harness when the pack is loaded.

Packs constructed from nylon tend to be light in weight. Most mountaineering packs are made from nylon and have design features such as ice axe loops and daisy chain and gear loops on the harness for racking climbing equipment—features that are unnecessary for bushwalking and add weight for no gain for the walker. Bushwalking packs have other requirements, for example the ability to carry water bladders is a recent addition.

Canvas is a traditional Australian and New Zealand fabric that some bushwalkers will swear by. It is not used by other overseas manufacturers, but it has a place

in our environment. It is tough, hardwearing and can be made highly water resistant, but it is heavy in comparison to nylon or synthetic fibres.

Consider also the waterproofing of both the fabric and the design. A good rain cover will prevent most water getting in, and "drysacks" inside the bag will keep the gear dry. However a pack made from good waterproof fabric will be your first line of defence. The quality of the waterproofing on the fabric is important, if it is cheap then it will delaminate and peel away, leaving a porous fabric in place.

Importantly, consider the harness. Does it allow the pack to "breathe" when it is being carried? Good airflow will reduce the uncomfortable wetness on your back. Make sure the pack sits properly on your hips and that the lumbar pad fits firmly against your sacrum (the large triangular bone at the base of your spine). There should be a balance of weight spread between the waist belt and the shoulder straps. Check the padding in the harness; do you need that much foam padding? Some pack manufacturers are now reducing weight by reducing foam padding, cutting out sections to make the harness fold better, to make it sit better and conform to the human shape.

Lastly, consider the brand. Some brands have a reputation of standing by their product, of researching and developing their product and not just copying their competitors. Brands such as Mountain Designs (bias alert, I used to own the Mountain Designs stores!), Wilderness Equipment, Deuter, Osprey, Tatonka, Macpac and One Planet all do their own development and research. Several of these brands are Australian or New Zealand owned and as good as any global brand. They have strong bases in Australia and they support their product with gusto. As an ex-retailer there were definitely brands and suppliers I preferred to deal with and stock as they supported and stood by their product and their reputation—which gave me confidence to stock them.

In the end, get as much advice as you can, speak to knowledgeable sales people in specialist stores, read the surveys, and try and support local brands. Most importantly, buy a pack that suits your shape and your back.

Mike Wood  
Chairman, Bibbulmun Track Foundation  
Director, Peregrine Travel Centre Perth

## WE Freycinet - the bushwalking pack

Dual-compartment bushwalking pack for use where huge capacity is not needed. The narrower upper profile is particularly suited to women. Synchro-FORM harness not only carries monster loads, but provides excellent ventilation and warm-weather performance.

- ▶ Large bottom compartment with drop-down divider
- ▶ Top pocket converts to bumbag
- ▶ Available in four back lengths, 70l, 75l and 80l
- ▶ In Marine/Charcoal/Black or Charcoal/Charcoal/Black

Please visit

[www.wildequipment.com.au](http://www.wildequipment.com.au)

for more information and other WE products

WILDERNESS EQUIPMENT



## Proposed landfill site near North Bannister

There is a proposal to build a new tip (landfill facility) west-north-west of North Bannister on private land bordered by the Bibbulmun Track, about one kilometre east of Boonerring Hill. The proposal has yet to be finally approved, but it seems likely that it will be. The tip is expected to have a life-time of 17 years from commencement of use.

The Foundation is concerned that walkers in the vicinity of the tip will be able to smell it and hear the noise associated with it. Additionally, the view from the summit of Boonerring Hill, a short side trip from the Track, will be affected. The Foundation recently conveyed these concerns at a meeting with one of the owners of Perthwaste Pty Ltd, which is proposing the tip, and two of its advisers.

Perthwaste says it has spent some time finding a good site for a tip (it seems that no new tips on the coastal plain are allowed) and has researched the site closely. It says the tip is designed and will be run to modern standards that are higher than those applying to the kinds of tip with which most of us are familiar. The company is keen to ensure that the effects of the tip on Track users are nil or low. At low elevations it seems the tip will be screened by trees, but there is little that can be done about the view from Boonerring Hill.

Why choose this particular location? Apparently at the old farm and Blue Gum plantation there is land to a depth of 16 metres before water is reached; most places on the Swan Coastal Plain have only a two metre depth and accordingly new land fill sites are not being approved.

The owners have been keen to engage and have expressed their willingness to work with the BTF and DEC to minimise noise, odour and visual impacts.

Perthwaste has undertaken at all times to maintain screening in the form of trees to ensure the landfill is not visible from the Track. However, it is acknowledged that from the summit of Boonerring Hill the landfill will be visible. It was also agreed that Perthwaste and the Foundation would have bi-annual meetings to discuss any noise and odour impacts experienced by walkers and to work cooperatively on a solution if required.

Mike Wood & Patrick Tremlett.  
Representing the BTF Board

# WALK with the friends

A SERIES OF SOCIAL WALKS WITH FOUNDATION VOLUNTEERS.



A PHOTOCOPY OF THIS FORM IS ACCEPTABLE

## BOOKINGS WITH THIS FORM ESSENTIAL (PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU SIGN THE EVENT CONDITIONS BELOW)

### PERSONAL DETAILS

Name:  Membership No:   
 Address:  Postcode:   
 Home Phone:  Work Phone:  Mobile:   
 Email for confirmation to be sent:

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

FREE for members – conditions apply\*  
\$15 for non-members.

\*A \$15 bond is required for each WWF booking. This is fully refundable if you attend the walk. Members who do not show on the day, or cancel after the Tuesday immediately prior to the walk, will be charged the \$15. This is to reduce the incidence of members not turning up simply because the event is free, whilst others miss out on the opportunity. **Up to two walks can be booked at a time.**

Please complete and sign payment details below and sign the Event Conditions.

### PAYMENT DETAILS:

(\$15 payment or bond pp/per walk)

Please also join me as a member, I have included

- \$30 concession  \$30 Senior  
 \$40 individual  \$60 Senior plus (couple)  
 \$65 family  \$600 Life Member

Cheque enclosed to the value of \$

(Please make cheques payable to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation.)

or debit my  Visa  Mastercard

Expiry Date:  /

Card name:  Signature:

### EVENT CONDITIONS

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

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

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

### NO REFUNDS OR EXCHANGES

(Except where an event has been altered or cancelled.)

Signature:

In making a booking I acknowledge that I, and any other persons that I am booking for, understand and agree to the above conditions & I have included full payment 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 will be refunded in full.

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

## WALK RATINGS: BEGINNERS INTERMEDIATE EXPERIENCED

### WALK BOOKINGS

No. of Adults

4 September 9.00am	<input type="checkbox"/>
15km return walk from Brookton Hwy to Plunket Rd	
11 September 9.00am	<input type="checkbox"/>
16km return walk from North Bannister to the Serpentine River via the Gringer Creek Campsite	
18 September 8.30am	<input type="checkbox"/>
22km return walk from Hills Forest Centre to Helena Campsite	
9 October 9.00am	<input type="checkbox"/>
15km return walk from Sullivan Rock to Monadnocks Campsite	
27 November 4.00pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
8km return sunset walk from Mundaring Weir Hotel to South Ledge	

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

The Bibbulmun Track Guide Training Program is sponsored by Western Power.



## TRACK TRIVIA

HI FELLOW WALKERS!

I've had little chance to get out on the Track since the last edition of Bibbulmun News, when my walk from Pemberton to Walpole was through tinder-dry bush. Thankfully as I begin to write this article at the end of May we are finally getting some rain, and I'm looking forward to the spring, when I intend to walk the first and last of parts of the Track—Kalamunda to Gringer Creek in September and Walpole to Albany in November. That will more than complete a sectional end-to-end, my fourth end-to-end in all.

Many people ask me why I keep walking on the Bibbulmun Track. "Why not go and walk somewhere new?" they say.

Well, I do explore other trails, but there is something intangible, mystical perhaps about the Bibbulmun Track that always draws me back, and judging by the number of people who return to the Track year after year, often from overseas, I am far from alone in feeling this way.

Despite much research I still have a lot of unanswered questions relating to the Track and I'll take this opportunity to pose some of them to the readership of the Newsletter. If anyone knows any of the answers, please email me at jim\_baker@bigpond.com

First of all, what does "scroggin" stand for? I know the American version, "gorp" is "good old raisins and peanuts", but what is "scroggin"?

Then to names. Many of the features in the Perth Hills relate to members of the Swan River Colony and are easily identified, but who were Messrs. Vincent and Cuthbert of mountain fame? Who was the Chinaman of the gully between the Helena and Waalegh campsites, and while we're on foreign names, why is Abyssinia Rock so called?

Whose dog was so famous that it had both a pool and a road named after it, and who was Tom of Tom Road? Was Moons Crossing where a Mr. Moon drove his cattle over the river?

Then finally some of the wonderful Aboriginal names— I know Dwellingup means "place of nearby water" and I'm told Mumballup is the "place of evil spirits", but please can someone explain "Channybearup"?

From bears to tigers. I have been asked a number of times, usually by Europeans or Americans, if there are any big, fierce animals in the bush. Understandable when you consider that American trekkers on the Appalachian Trail have black bears to contend with, there are still wolves in parts of Europe and large bearded men with automatic rifles in certain other countries.

I have always assured walkers here that the Australian bush is free from such problems (with the exception of our own Mad Axeman)—but now I find that we have tigers out there, blue and white striped ones at that! For more details, see "Walker Story—the Bibbulmun Tiger of the Bibbulmun Track" on page 21.

Last, but not least, news has reached me that the ultimate trekking food has been discovered in Collie.

I quote: "The biggest salami in the southern hemisphere is currently available for about \$5 in Woolworths at Collie. It's guaranteed to last a hungry hiker all the way to Pemberton even after substantial lengths are cut off to share with other famished hikers. Cheap at half the price!"

These are the words of Jim Orrock of NSW (The Taxman), who completed an end-to-end in May this year, and for whom I had the pleasure of conducting trip planning advice sessions by email. Jim is associated with the world of taxation, so his word has to be believed. He is also a strict believer in wearing striped thermals. Strangely though, I have a feeling he is somehow mixed up with the tiger story... 🐯

Happy Walking!  
Wrong Way Jim.

## Father's Day Sunday September 4th

What do you get for the man who has everything?

- A fantastic read, 'The Bibbulmun Track, its history, its beauty, it's walkers'. BT member and volunteer, Jim Baker, takes his readers on a personal and wonderfully descriptive journey through his end-to-end walk on the Bibbulmun Track. **\$27.50** (personalised copies signed on request)



- A chance to spend some quality time with the kids on a **Walking with Dad event!**
- A way to give something back to the Bibbulmun Track with a **Life Membership!** (yearly and 3 yearly available too!)



- A **Spring Package - Day Walk Map Pack, Bibbulmun Track cap and Wildflower Guide - Special price for Members \$40** (normally \$51.95 members price - Note: email or phone orders only.)



- **Father's Day Gift Vouchers** available for any amount can be redeemed on merchandise or an event from the Calendar. (Note: email or phone orders only)

Or choose from a great range of merchandise. To order phone: 9481 0551, email: friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au order online at [www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au) or pop into the office, above Mountain Designs, Hay Street, Perth.

### FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING ON WA'S TRAILS AT TRAILTALK



- Join in discussions
- Share your stories and photos
- Ask for, or give advice
- Find upcoming events

It's free to join – and easy to use.

[www.trailtalk.com.au](http://www.trailtalk.com.au)

# Upcoming Events



## BALINGUP WEEKEND EXPLORER

One of our most popular events, this is the next level up from our Bibbulmun Trek for Beginners. It is set in the beautiful yet challenging Blackwood area. Experienced guides will instruct and support you in overnight trekking based on a typical distance walked during a day on the Bibbulmun Track.

**Dates:** Friday 23rd September 2011, 4pm  
**Cost:** Members \$240, Non-members \$260

## RAMBLE AND PADDLE

A fantastic walking and paddling weekend escape in Dwellingup. Stay two nights in Dwellingup, walk 13km on the Bibbulmun Track with only a day pack, be fascinated by a tour of the historic Marrinup P.O.W. camp by a local expert, perhaps visit some local attractions and then paddle down the tranquil Murray River.

**Dates:** Friday, 26th August 2011, 4:30pm  
**Cost:** Members \$275, Non-members \$295

## DWELLINGUP DAMSELS

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

**Dates:** Saturday 27th August 2011, 9am  
**Cost:** Members \$185, Non-members \$205

## CHILDREN'S CAMP KITCHEN

A 4km return walk to a typical Track campsite during the school holidays. In a beautiful bush setting, 1 hour from Perth, children will learn camp cooking through hands-on experience! Max two kids per adult. Ages 6 to 12yrs.

**Date:** Tuesday 4th October 2011  
**Choose from two sessions:**  
**Session A - 9.30am - 12.30pm**  
**Session B - 12.30pm to 3.30pm**  
**Cost:** Members kids \$28, Non-members kids \$33, Adults Free



The Bibbulmun Track Volunteer Guide Training Program is sponsored by Western Power.



BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL ON ALL OUR EVENTS

Book online at [www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au)

Email: [events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au](mailto:events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au) for a booking form or fax/post form from the events calendar brochure.

beginners intermediate experienced

## WILDFLOWER DAY WALK

Don't just gawk at them! Come and learn about the many wildflowers in bloom on a guided walk (8km with some steep hills) near Kalamunda this spring. Our guides will assist you to identify the flora along the way. A copy of 'Wildflowers of the Northern Bibbulmun Track and Jarrah Forests' is included. A good level of fitness is required.

**Dates:** Sunday 21st August 2011, 9:30am  
**Cost:** Members \$50, Non-members \$60

## STAR TREK

Come along for an adult's night walk along the Bibbulmun Track. Learn how to develop your night vision, navigate the Bibbulmun Track in the dark and see the stars from a large rocky outcrop without the pollution of our city lights.

**Dates:** Saturday 1st October 2011, 5:30pm  
**Cost:** Members \$20, Non-members \$30

## BIBBULMUN BIRDS

Encounter the birds of the jarrah forest on a 12km walk in the hills with Sue Abbotts, amateur ornithologist and experienced bushwalker from Birds Australia. Includes 'Common Birds of the South West Forests' Bush Book. Don't forget your binoculars!

**Dates:** Sunday 2nd October 2011, 8am  
**Cost:** Members \$25, Non-members \$35

## BIBBULMUN TREK FOR BEGINNERS

Never done any overnight bushwalking before? If you don't want to walk all day or tackle any unexpected 'cardiac hills' with an overnight pack, this weekend is for you. We only walk around 8km each day encountering only minor hills and camp at a Bibbulmun Track campsite. Gain confidence and learn all the tricks of the trade from your guides who are experienced end-to-enders.

**Dates:** Saturday 20th August 2011, 9am  
**Cost:** Members: \$140, Non-members: \$160

# Reflections from the Registers - How the BGA!Z+GKZ-BGt!Gct!ONZ



Frankland River by Tom Saunders

## William Bay 26/03/06

Feeling fantastic. Just took a cup of coffee to the lookout and sat on the rock in the sun with the most wonderful view out to sea. Highly recommended!

## Cay and Scott

## West Cape Howe 25/12/02

It was a little difficult today because of the too many flies!! We were glad to come on. We met Tom on the way, it was surprising to meet someone on the way on Christmas Day! We met also a snake behind the camping site. Just a word to say that we couldn't do two steps a day, so congratulations to those who do it!! Perhaps with more experience we can do it more than once a day, maybe...

## Pierre and Chantal (Belgium).

Ed: I would like to think they mean two shelters a day...

## Nullaki 05/05/07

Watching the sun through the canopies of the Australian trees, following the kangaroo tracks and finding the right path has been a transforming experience and one which brings you to another reality.

## Silvia Loveza (Bulgaria)

## Boarding House 08/11/07

I don't want to play tomorrow. I have asked my Mum to call the Friends of the Bibbulmun Track and tell them I am sick. I am expecting a magic carpet to arrive soon and whisk me back to a land of clean sheets and pillows, soft beds and ginormous meals. However if this fails I will probably hike the "Hills of Death" to Beavis, where I have heard one can view the skeletal remains of hikers who never made it to the top.

## Greg

## Boarding House 09/11/07

A great walk in—a few pimples to navigate tomorrow, but what could be better than this? What we are finding so interesting is that there is so much history out here. Railway tracks long gone, the ghostly remains of wooden bridges that once traversed the rivers. Hardwood from this part of the south west graced the streets of London and Paris. How is it that this rich and vibrant history has largely not been captured?

## Paul & Tris (end-to-end)

## Waaleigh 06/09/2000

Saw the best sunset ever last night—what a campsite! Yesterday I stood face to face with a kangaroo at a distance of about two meters, one of the best experiences of my life so far. Will go north to Ball Creek today, thanks for a wonderful night.

## Joe

## Giants 28/08/04

Whoa, fall on assault from the car people at the Tree Top Walk today!

"You've come from where?"  
"You walked here from Perth?"  
"How many kilometers?"  
"On your own?"  
"You've been walking for eight weeks?"

Yes, yes, yes, yes and yes!  
They crack me up!

## Fat Chick goes AWOL

## Giants 11/01/06

Well, it was nice to mingle in the tingle but now it's time to be beside the seaside—south coast here we come!

## Mikki & Adam (Cairns Qld)

## Canning 07/09/07

So, after wifey missing the Track between Beraking and Mt Dale, we're a little behind. Oh, apologies for the messy handwriting but I am not taking my gloves off—nor my three pairs of trousers! Anyway, that provoked the best argument so far but half way through it Mother Nature intervened by sending torrential rain and by the time it finished we were in love again. Which is just as well since I think I'm going to need to borrow some body warmth tonight! Another fabulous shelter!

## Glen & Pamela Boardman

## Frankland 05/06/2003

I'm sitting by the river watching the sunset and it's total peace. Last night may be my last on the Track and signalled an end to an intense five and a half year association with it, starting as a volunteer in 1997 and taking over from Jesse Brampton as the EO of the "Friends", now the BTF, in 1998. It's very gratifying to see the results of those hard working years in the pages of the registers. Thank you so much to everyone who supported me and played their part—I will never forget this place.

## Becky

## 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.

## Have you moved? (online or off!)

Help us save time and postage and let us know if you have moved house - or changed your email address

### Email:

[events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au](mailto:events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au)  
or call: (08) 9481 0551

## WEEKLY EQUIPMENT HIRE 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
Dehydrator	\$35.00	N/A
PLB	\$35.00	\$45.00
PLB e-2-e 2 mths	\$170.00	\$200.00

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

\$150.00 for basic equipment  
\$499.00 for PLBs  
\$230.00 for Dehydrators

Payment may be made by cash, cheque or credit card  
For all enquiries contact the Foundation:  
Tel: 9481 0551  
Email: [friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au](mailto:friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au)

NAR, PHU AND TILICHO TREK

by Jim Baker



Phu village from the camp site.

In October/November 2009 Jim Baker and eight others tackled the "Nar, Phu and Tilicho" trek, organised by Peregrine Adventure Travel and led by Mike Wood, chairman of the BTF and owner of Peregrine Adventures in Perth.

Phu, Nar and Tilicho are in the Annapurna region of Nepal. Phu and Nar are remote villages, and Tilicho is the highest glacial lake in the world. Reaching them involves some strenuous walking up to an altitude of 5300 meters.



The group in Bhulebhule

The group assembled in Kathmandu and was transported by bus to Bhulebhule on the Annapurna circuit. The bus driver was a hero, driving over virtually impassable roads and negotiating with teenage wannabe terrorists who tried to hold us to ransom. The first three days saw us on the Annapurna Circuit, staying in lodges and climbing steadily as we acclimatised slowly to avoid the possibility of altitude sickness. Not easy walking by any means with some tough climbs.

Our Sirdar for the trek was a wonderful character called Dorgee. The Sirdar is a Sherpa who takes responsibility for obtaining the porters and other means of transport, dealing with the local people along the way, buying food, organising accommodation and dealing with all the logistics of the walk. Dorgee is a remarkable man, immensely fit and strong, with boundless energy and a great sense of humour. Not only did he ensure the smooth running of the whole trek, he found time to entertain us in the evenings with stories about Yetis

and also explained a great deal about the history and the politics of Nepal.

Dorgee's chief henchmen were two Sherpas, Kazi and Bikazi and the cook, Lakba. All of these guys worked tirelessly and did everything in their power to look after us. That, plus the highly professional leadership of our group provided by Mike Wood meant that the walk ran as smoothly as possible, although as is often the case on a trek of this nature, the unexpected did occur, as you will see.

The Annapurna Circuit was overcrowded, with people and horses everywhere, and it was with a sense of relief we turned off the beaten track on day four. By now we had climbed to about 2800 meters in three days and the day's walk would take us up another 500 meters or so. The itinerary for the trek had been thought out carefully, with contingency days built in, which enabled Dorgee and Mike to adopt a day by day policy with regard to the distances walked and the altitude gained.



Sirdar Dorgee and Mike Wood checking the weather forecast



The beauty of the Annapurna and its wildlife is staggering

The villages of Phu and Nar are situated in beautiful valleys to the north of the Annapurna circuit, close to the Tibetan border. The area has been open to foreign trekkers only since 2002 and has been visited by few westerners. Our route took us through some bleakly beautiful countryside, with the mighty snow covered peaks of the Annapurna standing like sentinels all around.

Many of the buildings we saw appeared long deserted and the disused terraces of fields were arid and grey. It was windy and dusty. The weather so far had been pleasantly warm, but now, although the sky was still blue, there was a razor edge on the wind, and the nights were becoming cold. Lodges had become a thing of the past and tents were our accommodation.

On November 3rd we walked into Phu, and the first sight the village made me stop, close my eyes and look again. Remember, we were now almost 4000 meters high, and people have been living here for thousands of years. Up until a few years ago, this has been one of the most isolated communities in the world, and people here live under some of the harshest conditions on Earth. The people in this region are ethnically more Tibetan than Nepalese;



The local kids are still a bit wary of trekkers!



The locked room at the fort



Inside the monastery

their dialect is related to Tibetan and they have had far more contact with nearby Tibet over the centuries than with the Nepalese.

The village is built like a vertical jigsaw puzzle and dominated by the fort, which looms heavily above. One man's roof is another's front yard, and the villagers live in harmony in what to the western mind is a bizarre setting. The village is set on a hill and is itself dominated by the monastery, set high above and behind the fort.

We took a rest day at Phu and visited the monastery and the fort. It was sad to see that the fort is in a state of disrepair, but there are few people left now who remember the history of the area, and survival in the harsh conditions takes precedence over heritage. A locked room contains statues of unknown antiquity and significance, visible through a narrow slit in the wall.

From Phu, we moved back down the valley towards the village of Nar, dropping from 3980 meters to 3560 meters, and then into Nar itself the following day, at 4130 meters. It was at this time we began to understand Dorgee's terminology.

After dinner each day Dorgee would explain the format for the day to come...how far, how high, the weather, what to wear etc. However we soon got to understand that his interpretation of time and altitude didn't quite match ours. For example, "we'll be there in two hours" usually meant "for the quick guys, allow four". "Tomorrow will be a little bit up and down" meant "get ready for a semi-vertical slog" and "a bit up" translated as "if you think yesterday was tough..."

The village of Nar is less isolated than Phu and has mod-cons—electricity, irrigation and some modern buildings. The villagers are more used to trekkers and the modern world is slowly closing in.



Nar Village

From Nar we climbed to 4650 meters and camped overnight, and then took on the Kangla Pass, at 5300 meters, the highest point so far on the trek. The climb to the top was not too difficult—frozen snow on a zigzag trail that eventually brought us to the prayer banners at the top of the pass. The descent was hair-raising; almost two kilometres of scree running down a precipitous slope to the village of Ngawal.

The mood of the group was buoyant at dinner—we thought we'd completed the toughest day that we could expect. Little did we know...

The next two days were short and easy, taking us firstly to Braga, where we had the luxury of a hot shower, and then on to the lodge at Khangsar, at 3750 meters. From here, our itinerary allowed for two days to reach Lake Tilicho, and then a further two days to cross the high Eastern and the Meso Kanto Passes. The weather, however, was beginning to deteriorate and snow was forecast at higher altitude. The choice was either to return the way we had come, or to press on rapidly and get across the Meso Kanto Pass in two days rather than four.

The following day we set off early to reach Lake Tilicho at 4990 meters—a gain in altitude of 1240 in the day. Comfortable walking took us to Tilicho Base Camp for lunch, and then we tackled tougher sections of track through the scree. The horses could go no further, and our baggage was now being carried by Dorgee, the Sherpas and a selection of porters who could handle heavy loads at high altitude. Shortly before dark we reached the frozen snow covered plateau and then the lake itself. The scenery along the way was spectacular, and the lake quite surreal—the pictures speak for themselves.

We camped in the snow beyond the lake. The cold was intense, the wind strong, there were flurries of snow and the following morning we woke to find light snow falling steadily.

*Continued overleaf...*



On the way to Lake Tilicho