

From the beach it was a short stroll, back up to Wainwright's Bar, for celebratory libations.

So the trip was over; eleven days covering 320 kilometres of some of Britain's most beautiful countryside. Was it worthwhile? Yes, yes and yes! An account like this can only scratch the surface in describing the beauty of the surroundings and the camaraderie of fellow walkers. I'd like to say a special thank you to my Canadian friends, Ed and Lesley, with whom I walked most of the way and whose company was an absolute pleasure. For sure I would have got lost far more often without their guidance.

Would I change anything if I did it again? Not really. Having luggage transported ahead to accommodation meant there was nothing to think



The final destination

about each day other than the walk itself. In my case all the arrangements, including payment, were made on-line well in advance. I used a company in the UK called Northwestwalks (nww@northwestwalks.co.uk). Their service was excellent, with very good accommodation selections and my luggage always waiting for me at the end of the day.

My clothing was simple; hiking boots and socks, gaiters to keep out the mud and as protection from stinging nettles, shorts and a combination of a lightweight shirt, a merino thermal top and my Melaleuca rain jacket, depending on the conditions.

Sending luggage ahead meant there was always a change of dry clothes the next day if I needed them.

As with any walk, preparation is essential. A good guide book and maps, a compass and possibly a GPS are required. Signposting is minimal and conditions sometimes can be dangerous. That apart, I would certainly recommend the Coast to Coast route as amongst the most interesting walks I have undertaken.

Next year? Offa's Dyke looks interesting...

Jim Baker



Battling towards The Lion Inn

Bibbulmun NEWS

DEC'12 - MAR'13
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Newsletter for the friends of the Bibbulmun Track

Dunny Donor Appeal

This year we launched the 'Dunny Donor' appeal to raise funds for the upgrade of the Track dunnies to an environmentally sustainable sealed vault design.

After the AGM on October 25, the Foundation's Chairman, Mike Wood, presented Kieran McNamara, Director General of the Department of Environment and Conservation, with a cheque for \$26,500.

We are acutely aware of the fact that people are continuously asked to donate by a huge range of causes and we greatly appreciate the response we received to the appeal.

The following Dunny Donors donated \$500+ and their names will be immortalised with a plaque on the back of a dunny door!

ACTION OUTDOORS Association
ASHBOLT Jenny
AUSWALK
BASSETT Sherrylee & Darryl
BLOMFIELD Ben
BUNT Susan
BUSHWALKERS of Western Australia
BUNBURY Adventure Pursuit Club
BOWMAN Angela & LLOYD Bec
CHOULES Kathryn
COLLEY Wendy
FORSTER David
HARRIS Mary
HARRIS Mary L
HILE Sue
HILSZ Denise & PITMAN Alan
HOLGATE Ros & EVANS Nye
JORDAN Valerie
KILPATRICK Melanie
KNIGHT Caro
LARGE David & SAW Kathy
LOUCAIDES Angela
LOWES CHURCHILL & Associates

ON TRACK Hiking Hire
MAIKLEM Petra
MCALLISTER Julie
RAE Ian & Veronica
RENWICK Bernie & Juliet
ROWLES Helen
PARDOE Libby
PARKER Trish
PASSMORE Heather & Phillip
PERTH Bushwalkers
SCOTCH College
TAYLOR Richard
WALKER Lesley & MCNAUGHT Gwen
WESTERN WALKING Club

Many other people contributed various other amounts to the Dunny appeal and have been recognized in various editions of Bibbulmun News and the 2012 AGM report.

Thank you all for donating to this important cause.

With grateful thanks to our sponsors:

<p>Premier</p> 	<p>Diamond</p>
<p>Silver</p> 	<p>Key Partners</p>
<p>Bronze</p> 	

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OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Friday 9am - 4pm

Editor: Linda Daniels
Sub Editor: Jim Baker



At the AGM on 25 October, the BTF Board was pleased to present a cheque for \$26,500 from the Dunny Donor Appeal to Kieran MacNamara, Director General Department of Environment and Conservation. From L to R: Mark McLaughlin, Bruce Manning, Linda Daniels, Louise Yeaman, Danielle Stone, Jim Sharp, Mike Wood, Leonie Kirke, Patrick Tremlett, Kieran MacNamara.



SCOTCH COLLEGE AND THE BIBBULMUN TRACK

The relationship between Scotch College Perth and the Bibbulmun Track is a long standing one that has been cemented by a recent important event. Earlier this year, ABSA (Australian Boarding School Association) invited boarding schools around Australia to put forward a presentation to nominate for the most innovative programme in a boarding school setting.

Scotch College introduced the compulsory Bibbulmun Track Programme to year-eight boarders twelve years ago, the idea being to create something both bonding and challenging. Two hundred kilometres of the Bibbulmun Track were to be walked in two sections. After that the boys could choose whether or not to continue with the same format until the end of year-twelve, which meant that they could, if they wished, complete the total 965km of the Track.

The first group of six boys completed their walk of the entire Track in 2004, and since the beginning of the programme, approximately 400 boys have completed the year-eight section and 60 boys have completed the entire walk.

The BTF is delighted that Scotch College put forward the Bibbulmun Track Programme for the ABSA nomination, and even more delighted that on October 12th 2012 ABSA announced:

Congratulations to Scotch College, Perth, the 2012 recipient of the ABSA Most Innovative Idea in a Boarding School.

The Bibbulmun Track is an arduous trek that the boys commence in Year 8; many are overwhelmed with the experience as they come to terms with a foreign environment and are forced to rely on themselves and their peers in order to get through each leg of the journey.

However, it is not long until they discover the virtues of such an experience as the group of boys forge friendships and bonds that will last the next five years and beyond. As they grow and mature with each successive section of the track, the boys develop a better sense of mateship and team spirit as they discover the importance of considering others and that life is very much about helping and relying on each other.

The expeditions, from Year 8 to Year 12, form an integral part of each boy's emotional, physical and intellectual development, which makes the journey all the more remarkable for its ability to capture the essence of the adolescent journey. Boys walk approximately 200 kilometres a year in two one-week blocks each year. Each stage gives the opportunity for boys to develop new personal and interpersonal skills.

The Foundation would like to add its congratulations to those of ABSA. What follows is a selection from the material contained in the submission for the nomination:

- The 965km Bibbulmun Track has become a key component of the Scotch College boarding programme. In many respects, the Bibbulmun Track expedition mirrors the personal growth experienced by boys who, over five years, walk through the school. Life is like that walking journey, with ups and downs and highs and

lows, which is why the College has selected the Bibbulmun Track expedition as its hallmark feature of the boarding programme.

- The aims of the expeditions are multi-dimensional. The boys gain real life practical opportunities to implement an array of skills and learning, namely:

Educational—geographical, scientific, linguistic and mathematical concepts are used in preparing for the experience of walking the Track.

Social—expedition members learn to work as a team, communicate with each other, empathise, support and mentor one another and also enforce communal rules and standards that form the unique fabric of each team.

Spiritual/emotional—students develop resilience and discipline over time, learning to commit to a far-off goal and applying to it over a lengthy period of time with the rewards at the end. There is plenty of time for introspection and personal reflection during the many hours of walking.

- The Track engenders a sense of achievement, pride in an accomplishment, much laughter, camaraderie and memories to last a lifetime.

However, its importance and value also lies in the ability to provide young men an opportunity to temporarily disengage with the virtual community with on they have become so dependent. In an age where information is at their fingers tips and conversations constantly happening in different media, the Bibbulmun Track offers an antithesis. It is quiet, slow paced, staggered and drawn out over an extended period of time. There is nothing glamorous or glorious about walking the Bibbulmun Track. There is no fanfare, no crowd cheering walkers on, no fame or adulation.

It is a tough, testing challenge that can be exceptionally arduous at times. Overall, it presents itself as a rite of passage worth enduring

It is evident that after enduring sacrifice on the Track, the boys learn about themselves, their mates and the rocky but exhilarating walk of life.

Reflections from Sam Beard, pupil and end-to-ender, 2007-2011:

For the nine boys who marched into Albany to the sound of Scotland the Brave on Saturday 5th March 2011, the Bibbulmun Track was a lesson in making packs lighter and characters stronger.

For some the journey was an opportunity to improve their fitness and endurance, for others it was an opportunity to enjoy being away from civilization with their mates, but all of us valued the achievement of conquering the Track and the bonds that were made within the close-knit group. Though sometimes extremely challenging, each boy was committed to the Track, and more importantly, to each other. No matter how difficult the cards that the track dealt us were, the 2011 End-to-Enders came to be characterized by a fearless and determined attitude that motivated the group to push on to the next break, the next shelter, the next town and ultimately to the finishing point in Albany.

As the group slowly diminished in numbers from the 28 that began the journey in 2007, the remaining nine boys spent a total of 52 days together on the track in their quest to conquer the 965 kilometres that meandered all the way from Kalamunda to Albany.

Alec Rex maintained that his favourite section was the walk from Walpole to Peaceful Bay, "because of the opportunity to see some of our country's unspoilt coastline", and Tom Shackles appreciated the sense of "personal achievement in completing a journey that is rarely afforded to people my age".

Overall, the boys will continue to hold many fond memories of the experiences whilst out on the Track, which is why I would recommend that the boys in the younger years make every effort to stay involved.



Scotch College has received an Award for its innovative Bibbulmun Track programme. The first group of six boarders completed their end-to-ends in 2004



FROM MY Desk

Welcome to the summer edition of Bibbulmun News.

At the AGM in October we were pleased to welcome Kieran McNamara, Director General of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) for two important events. The first was to sign a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which outlines the relationship between DEC and the Foundation, and the second was to present a cheque for \$26,500 as a result of the Dunny Donor campaign.

There's no doubt that the Bibbulmun Track as it is today would not be the same if it were not for the efforts of both organisations. Yes, the Track would exist, but how many people would know about it—never mind actually go for a walk on it?

Through the Foundation's events program, marketing and provision of information and services, the Track has become a well known and popular recreational resource. The Foundation's Eyes on the Ground maintenance program has also ensured that the Track receives regular care and attention.

In turn, this justifies DEC allocating funds for upgrades and major maintenance. We are very fortunate that around \$1 million was allocated to the upgrade of the Track and facilities over the past three years, ensuring the Track retains its world class status. With government spending now seriously curtailed, there's no knowing when an opportunity like that will arise again. For an overview of what was achieved during the last financial year you can view the AGM report on our website.

There are still some sections of Track requiring attention, and we still need to upgrade some dunnies and the boot cleaning stations...but like all facilities—be it trails, parks or swimming pools—there will always be something to do! This topic, amongst many others, was discussed at our Strategic Planning meeting last week.

Another topic, which generated some lively discussion, was the recent announcement by Tourism Australia of the trails to be promoted as Australia's Great Walks. No, the Bibbulmun Track didn't make the cut. All the Great Walks provide a very upmarket experience with exclusive accommodation, guides, gourmet catering and hot showers each night. What do you think—is this something we could do on a section of the Track? What would you envisage? Let us know your thoughts about providing an upmarket experience.

Another recent occasion was our Volunteer Thank You day in Kalamunda. A highlight this year was the presentation of long-service awards. I was honoured to hand out awards for five, 10 and 15 years of service. We will list the recipients and put photos in the next edition of Bibbulmun News, but I will just say here how wonderful it was to meet so many people who have been involved with the Foundation for years. Thank you all for your commitment.

As Christmas approaches we're looking forward to the holiday and the office will be closed for a few weeks.

I hope you all have some time to relax with friends and family and wish you all the very best for the coming year.

Happy Walking!

Linda Daniels
Executive Director

Thank you
Thank you
Thank you

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

Action Outdoors Association	Christine Kennea
Wendy Abraham	David Large
Gregory Arnold	Robyn Nutt
Isabel Busch	Robert Oxlade
Alex Campbell	Heather & Phillip Passmore
V Clarke	Perth Bushwalkers Club
JA & JTG Darbyshire	Judy Rayner
Dianna Denison	Martin Reeve
Judith Drummond	David Smith
Geoff Gill	Richard Taylor
Heidi Hardistry	Suzanne Watt
Mary Harris	

Opteon (Albany & Great Southern WA) for donating roadside signs to direct participants to Bibbulmun Track events.

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.

Season's Greetings
and best wishes for 2013

The office will close on Tuesday 18th December
and reopen on Wednesday 9th January 2013

Dear Bibbulmun Track Foundation,

Last year I spent five weeks on the Bibbulmun Track, starting in Albany and getting as far north as Mumballup. It was an amazing journey through beautiful countryside, made all the better as I was rediscovering the landscape that I grew up in—I live in Alice Springs but originally hail from near Albany.

The trip was such an inspiration that my planned photo album turned into a much more involved project, resulting in the enclosed book. I'd like to donate this copy to the Foundation as a token of my heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers, BTF staff and DEC workers who put so much effort into making the Bibbulmun Track a world-class track for all its walkers. I hope you enjoy reading about my personal journey along the track you know so well.

Best Regards,

Kate Crossing

(Ed: Kate's photo album is a pleasure to look through and you are welcome to bring it next time you're up in the Bibb Track office.)

Dear Gwen and the Team,

Thanks for the recent communications, updates and news, great to be kept in touch with the doings of the association. I have just returned from Peaceful Bay and a wonderful experience with some hikers, three ladies and brother of one of the ladies. Morris was from Victoria and the ladies from Nannup. They were doing 28 days on the Track and heading for Albany, all in great spirits and enjoying the experience.

They have asked me to pass along their thanks to the Foundation and the volunteers who do the work to keep the Bibbulmun Track running and in such tip-top condition. One of the ladies, Ellen, made the comment, "the people who maintain this track don't just like working for the Bibbulmun Track, they love it."

Looking forward to catching up in Denmark next week.

Yours Aye

Paul (Captain Mad-Dog)

Thank you so much for the new website it is fantastic.

So easy to use and it does help plan if you are doing day trips.

I usually get the maps and books out and try and work out where to park, the distances and how to connect the sections we have been doing.

The new website made this so much easier - diversions were there and easy to follow. Brilliant. Thank you. Our day trip on Wednesday from Southampton Bridge south and return was magical. 19.7km of joy.

Best wishes

Jenny Kikeros

(Ed: Many thanks for all the fantastic feedback about the new website! Phase 2 will include a search function for end-to-enders (including search by Track name), and the ability to search for events by type.)

Hi BTF Team,

With regard to the article about walking poles and the environment, on page 23 of the Bibbulmun News issue #60. Rubber covers can be glued on using a strong epoxy or super glue. To stop the tip of the pole cutting through the rubber, glue a small metal washer on the inside of the base of the cover. Make sure the outside diameter of the washer matches the inside diameter of the cover and the inside diameter of the washer matches the diameter of the pole tip. Once it is glued on, it is there permanently. I have done this to my wife's poles and my own. One pair of covers lasted through end-to-end walks on the Cape to Cape, Coastal Plains and Bibbulmun Track, plus regular day and overnight walks—over 1600 km before they wore out. Further reduction of the effect on the environment can be achieved by removing the baskets from the poles to stop them snagging in bushes. Baskets are probably only necessary in snow; the rubber covers help to stop the poles sinking in sand and mud.

I enjoyed reading the latest Bibbulmun News and we look forward to seeing the changes to the Albany section. Congratulations on the new website, it is very informative. Is there a section where walkers can enter tips and hints?

Cheers for Now,

Malcolm (Track name MOGO)

(Ed: We encourage use of Trailtalk.com.au as a forum. That way the conversation can be joined by all track users - and it's a free site. If you go to the Forum page, then Gear you'll find a discussion on Poles. Your tips above would be a great addition to the conversation!)

Your new site is BRILLIANT!! My plan is to walk from my front door (Forrestfield) to my daughter's front door (Frenchman's Bay). Your site is going to be an INVALUABLE resource. I have loved every jaunt on the beloved Bib - and can't wait to do the big "joiny-upped" walk next year.

Mirella Roche-Parker

Hi to All Concerned,

Thank you all very much for a wonderful evening last night, great food and entertainment. The Team Challenge was a fantastic experience, I felt like a recycled teenager so I will highly recommend it to all, one for the bucket list for sure!

Thanks again to Iron man Steve, Superman Jim, Wonder Woman Trish and all the Power Rangers volunteers, it must be your special powers that get you through it year after year. But it's great to see young and old pulling together through this team building challenge.

I will treasure my winning socks as they help me along my way doing the End-to-End. Also remind me NOT to kill anyone on the Track!

Well done to all at the Bibbulmun Track Foundation!

Kind Regards

Maria Team Eclectic 3 + 1

Hi BTF

... congratulations, you now have a very good and very user friendly website.

Now very often used by our members wishing to "experience" the beauty of the SW corner of WA and your excellent Bibbulmun Track. From a bunch of seven ladies who are going to be there for three weeks later this month it appears that especially the track towns offering a couple of days day-walking and the comfort of hotel/cabin accommodation are the main points.

Congrats again

Kind regards

Jack Marcelis Friends of the Heysen Trail

Gwen,

What a lovely surprise to receive an unexpected parcel in the post today.

A Gizmo Headlamp, fantastic. Thank you so much, it will be put to good use. Heads also to Sea to Summit for supplying the prize.

Regards

Susan Hansen

Waugal Abduction?



Please find attached a photo, taken on a recent trip on the Camino Frances in Spain. The most northern part of the Bibbulmun Track is a long way from Kalamunda.

Regards,

Chris Lane - Life Member

2013 'Best of the Bibbulmun' Tours

Tour 1 - Bibbulmun & Beyond 20 - 27 May 2013

Venture beyond the Bibbulmun Track into the Stirling Range National Park near Albany. Experience spectacular 360° views as far as the eye can see from the peak of Bluff Knoll.

Cost: \$2,450 Maximum 15 people.

Registrations open and filling fast.

Tour 2 - Highlights of the Bibbulmun Track September 2013 Dates TBA

Timed to make the most of WA's spectacular wildflower season.

Cost: \$2,450 Maximum 15 people.

Registrations open early next year.

Visit www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au to download the dossier and registration form for Bibbulmun & Beyond or express your interest for the 8-Day Highlights - or call (08) 9481 0551.



Before you go...

ALWAYS CHECK THE LATEST TRACK NEWS & CONDITIONS

For updates, refer to the "Latest Track News" accessible from 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 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
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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Danielle Stone, Trails Coordinator

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

DEC Recreation and Trails Unit

The last three months have really shown how well the partnership between the Bibbulmun Track Foundation and DEC works. This partnership is something of which the Foundation and DEC should both be proud; we are often contacted by agencies from other states and around the world who are enquiring how they might emulate this type of partnership for their trail groups.

The importance of the partnership was demonstrated recently at the Bibbulmun Track Foundation Annual General Meeting. The meeting was attended by DEC Director General, Keiran McNamara who with Mike Wood, Chairman of the Foundation Board, took part in a signing ceremony of the revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Foundation and DEC. The MOU is a guiding document which outlines the partnership agreement, and the roles and responsibilities of each organisation. Keiran McNamara was also presented with a cheque for \$26,500, raised by the Foundation through the Dunny Donor fundraiser. This money will be put towards upgrading some of the old drop toilets next year.

As many of you may be aware, a tree fell on Dookanelly campsite in the June storms and damaged the roof and bunks. Scott Hunter has



been out to the campsite and repaired the roof, gutters and bunks. Scott also replaced the down pipes and filter system for the water tank and gave the surrounding area a good tidy up. (See the photographs above and below).

In other news from the broader Recreation and Trails Unit, the Munda Biddi Trail project is moving

along well and will be set to open in early 2013, so keep an eye out for the date and location coming soon. Our Project Officer Larissa Chalmers has just left us to commence work with the City of Swan as the Marketing Coordinator of Leisure Services. Larissa has been an asset to the unit over the past year and she will be missed. We wish her all the best in this new and exciting role.

On a final note I would like to comment on the weather warming up as we move into summer, and ask walkers to plan their walks carefully and ensure they have adequate water and sun protection. The best times to walk in the warmer weather are early in the morning and late afternoon. Try to avoid walking in the middle of the day and schedule a nice long break in the shade if you are planning a full day's walk.

Summer also means the start of the holiday season, and I would like to wish the Foundation staff and volunteers and the DEC District staff a happy start to summer and thank them for all their hard work over the past year.

Danielle Stone – Trails Coordinator



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please! Do not leave any food anywhere at the Bibbulmun Track campsites.

- Food left behind attracts animals to the site
- The presence of small animals attracts snakes
- Food is not secure from animals even when left in tough plastic containers
- It is inappropriate to feed native animals and it could kill them
- Food left for any length of time may no longer be safe for human consumption

If you are not going to eat it, then please carry your food out with you. This includes food in sealed tins and other containers. Please consider our Maintenance Volunteers as they have enough to carry without the extra burden.

Bibbulmun Team Challenge 2012



Geraldton Grammar take the title for the first time

from terrible blisters, another from a groaning groin and the other—well, she was just trying to hold the others together. At the end of the first day there was only a 25 point difference between each of the places, which was great to see as no-one received any help from their fifth team member (requiring lots of TLC) who was introduced to them early on day one.

The Golden Lions were, incidentally, the only team not to incur any penalty points along the way! Remember, we watch almost everything that teams do!



The team from AngloGold Ashanti work with a smile

The DEctators (Dept of Environment and Conservation)—last year's champions—were second on day one despite their appalling efforts at building a replica of the Sydney Harbour bridge or a spondonical. They slipped to third place on days two and three, but regained their position as second by the end of the heat.

The Eclectic 3 + 1 started off behind the eight ball when we left Perth without one of their team members (that's right, we don't wait for latecomers!). Despite this, they are the ones that knocked the DEctators out of second place for a while and cried "you're not dead yet" while smothering poor Annie. They finished in third place. While the margins were tight over the first two days, the leading teams broke away, with gaps of over 200 points between some teams by the last day.

Warren's Warriors (Dept of Planning) excelled in playing with clay, being gourmet and singing their way, but alas couldn't locate the extra 70 points needed to stay in control. The mantra "slow and steady wins the race" didn't apply and so they came in an admirable fourth, scrambling two eggs and spooning(?) as they went.



Warren's Warriors cook up a storm

SECOND HEAT

Geraldton Grammar School once again won their heat—this seems to be a tradition now.

The blue team with two students (Harry and Grace), a teacher (Damon) and a parent (Sue) worked hard to retain the lead for almost the entire four days even though it was by a very slim margin initially and they had bombed out on one activity with ropes and anything to do with finance. They were chased closely the entire time by the red team (Newmont Boddington Gold) who for a short time took the lead. It was a much cooler week and also very wet on Saturday. Chadoora campsite was a lake after

Dwellingup received over 40mm overnight but most managed to stay dry. The hail on Sunday meant that one activity had to be replaced with another much to the disappointment of all who missed out on the opportunity to affect the scores of another team.

The gold team (Contraflow 1), took a blow to their score when one team member decided to go west as a result of some record snoring, meaning that they only had three team members to complete all the activities at Mt Wells. Somewhat surprisingly though, they managed to stay in front of the green team (Contraflow 2) which meant they won the in-company bet over who should buy lunch after the Challenge was over.



NBG try and work out a way to raise the Titanic after it hit a submerged rock.

The green team (Contraflow 2) did put up a good fight though trying to throw the gold team out of third place by getting on a roll and beating the raging river and saving the egg from breaking while filling the bucket. However their efforts were characterized by Gavin who as lead singer had a song that went on forever (though highly entertaining), Kim who arrived on Thursday morning as the bus was about to pull out and by Mick, when on day three he exclaimed "what scavenger hunt?". A record was broken when the red team (NBG) sunk the ball in the maze in an amazing 25 seconds, although that was balanced somewhat by doing an impression of the Titanic down at the river—though it must be said that unlike the Titanic there was an amazing recovery to finish the race.

The red team (NBG) ended in second place by 145 points followed by the Contraflow 1 (gold) and Contraflow 2 (green) in fourth place.

THE WRAP-UP

Decision making was very important and making those right decisions was paramount, especially when it came to packing. There was a cooking challenge—some of the food was exquisite, some not so. Some challenges brought out the best in some people, others realised that they needed to draw deep for inner strength. The sheer grit and determination shown by all participants to go for gold, plus an overall sense of humour were impressive—everyone rallied together, showing magnificent levels of support and camaraderie.

My thanks go to all the participants for the amazing spirit and effort shown during the Challenge. I know it was way out of the comfort zone for some, especially those who had never donned a backpack before and yet managed to complete the four days and all the challenges as well. You are all inspirational! I was especially impressed how some team members were particular flexible and indeed patient with other members in the lead up to the challenge. It was a fabulous effort.

Finally, thank you to everyone who helped with the event in any way—especially the many volunteers who each received a \$50 voucher thanks to Mountain Designs. The event would not have been such a great success without your help. There are far too many of you to mention here individually, but without your collective effort, events such as this could never take place.

Steve Sertis
Event Manager and Lead Guide

The 2012 Challengers

Thank you to all the teams that made this year's Challenge such a great success!

With your support we raised over \$6,000, which will be used for Track maintenance projects in 2013

NAB, Geraldton Grammar, Dept of Environment and Conservation, Dept of Planning, Contraflow 1 & 2, the Eclectic 3 + 1, Newmont Boddington Gold and Anglo Gold Ashanti

The 2012 Challenge Champions GERALDTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL



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

ADDITIONALLY, EACH OF THE CHAMPIONS RECEIVED:

- a Bibbulmun Trophy
- a Wilderness Equipment back pack thanks to Sea to Summit
- an X-plate thanks to Sea to Summit
- a 2-day B&B accommodation package each for two people each
- Black Diamond Cosmo headlamp thanks to Mountain Designs

RUNNERS UP – ANGLGOLD ASHANTI TEAM MEMBERS RECEIVED:

- a Mountain Designs Chimney Day pack each thanks to Mountain Designs
- an X bowl thanks to Sea to Summit
- a 2-day accommodation package each for 8 people each

IN ADDITION, BOTH THE CHAMPIONS AND THE RUNNERS UP RECEIVED:

- a \$100 voucher from Mountain Designs
- Bibbulmun Track caps donated by Aussie Gold



The Spirit of the Bibbulmun Award was won by the DEctators; Dave, Teagan and Blake. Team member Charmaine was unable to attend.

THE JIM FREEMAN AWARD THE 'SPIRIT OF THE BIBBULMUN'

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

We are proud to announce that this year's Spirit of the Bibbulmun Award was awarded to the DEctators (Dept of Environment and Conservation) who also had two team members withdraw days before their heat and found replacements – one the day before the start - Well done!

The DEctators received a Mountain Designs Turnstyle Daypack each.



Thank you to Mountain Designs for providing the venue for the Awards night and donating prizes.

We also appreciate support from the following organisations for donation of prizes and equipment.



Aussie Gold, Jalbrook Cottages (Balingup), Oakfield House B&B (Balingup), The Blue House (Denmark), The Cove (Denmark), Donnelly River Holiday Village, Crystal Springs Chalet (Walpole), Rosella (Denmark), Uhuru Chalets (Torbay)

Volunteer Angela Loucaides walks (figuratively speaking) into a trap of her own making, on the airwaves!

Walker Story - Angela on the Airwaves

Early Saturday morning and I'm listening to James Lush on 720 am. Sidekick Olivia comes on to tell us it's camping week-end. The Bibbulmun Track gets a mention. James thinks there are huts along the Track. "Do you knock on the door?" he wonders. "Do you book?"

I phone Olivia to put them straight.

"Angela here, about the Bibbulmun Track. Sorry, James can't knock on the door or book. They're open fronted shelters and it's first come first served. We suggest you take a tent, 'cos they're campsites as well. Okay?"

"Thanks Angela. After this song we'll put you on air, alright?"

As the song plays, I'm thinking, "On air! What have I done? Can I discuss the Bibbulmun Track without office approval? What if he asks me a curly question? I know—I'll say we have a great website you can look at or go and talk to the people in the office. That'll do!"

Song finishes and James is back.

"Here is Angela Loucaides from the Bibbulmun Track."

Oh no! This is awful!

"Hello James, I just wanted to say..."

And I give my spiel about website and office, thinking "That should do it."

But no!

"Do you see many people when you are walking?"

"Er, no James. Very rarely. I just park and walk on, then walk off."

Arrgh! Now what have I said. This is camping week-end! So now I lose it totally. I tell him I'm just a little volunteer, then I say I'm actually a big one, 'cos I am, sizewise.

Bit of a pause, then he says, "Are the showers good?"

Hoping he's joking, I say: "Tremendous!" Then I try to throw in the bit about the lady who wanted to plug in her hairdryer but I don't think it came across.

Not sure whether James was happy but he did say he would like to walk the Track—one day.

I go out for a walk to cogitate. "Why did I say that? Why didn't I say that? I didn't even say the Bibbulmun Track was the best walking track in the world!"

I'll phone the office on Monday to apologise.

(Ed note: Don't apologise, there is no such thing as bad publicity. Even the PM falls flat on her face occasionally!)



Early WWC walkers



WWC walkers group

Walker Story - Western Walking Club 1937 - 2012

When fifteen women and four men met on the 12th August 1937 little did they realize that 75 years later the Club's 145 members would enjoy the bush just as much as they did.

During the war years while the men were away fighting, six ladies kept up the fortnightly walks around Darlington, Roleystone and most of the other beautiful places we still visit nowadays.

The club now offers two walks each Sunday during winter and early morning summer walks are also very popular.

In the late 1970s, the number of participants on some walks reached over 40, due to the very successful *Life Be In It* advertising campaign, new clubs like the Perth Bushies and BOWA were formed by WWC members, who wanted tougher walks with fewer numbers of walkers.

The WWC was involved with the Bibbulmun Track from the start and still has numerous volunteers contributing many hours.



Our Team Challenge 2012 Sponsors

Next time you're heading down south – please think about staying at one of these accommodation providers. Each of them donated two nights for two people as prizes for the 2012 Bibbulmun Team Challenge.

The Blue House, Denmark

Privately situated amidst native bush this beautiful spacious home is only five minutes from Denmark. The house boasts a huge open plan kitchen, jarrah deck and sleeps up to eight people comfortably.

Ph: 0438 339 071

www.bluehousedenmark.com.au



Crystal Springs Homestead, Walpole

Comfortable and stylish self-contained accommodation set in private grounds of over three acres. Includes attractive lakes and provides a delightful playground for children.

Ph: (08) 9853 1283

www.crystalsprings.com.au



Jalbrook Cottages & Alpacas, Balingup

Four superbly appointed rammed-earth cottages located on a picturesque 10 acre property in Balingup. The cottages are fully self-contained and air-conditioned.

Ph: (08) 9764 1616

www.jalbrook.com.au



Donnelly Village, Donnelly River

Simple cottages set amongst towering karri trees in a heritage village that has a whole swag of its own special charms. Most cottages sleep six or eight, with some accommodating up to 12.

Ph: (08) 9772 1244

www.donnelyriver.com.au



Oakfield Country House, Balingup

Luxury 4-star air-conditioned purpose built bed and breakfast accommodation. Set on five tranquil acres with panoramic views over Balingup and the surrounding hills.

Ph: (08) 9764 1641

www.oakfield.com.au



Rosella's Rest, Denmark

Self-contained holiday home set in karri trees with direct access to Wilson Inlet and the Bibbulmun Track. The split level house comfortably sleeps seven people.

Ph: (08) 9831 1055



The Cove, Denmark

Beautifully crafted self-contained chalets situated on 24 hectares of native karri, tingle and jarrah forest on the edge of Wilson Inlet, only minutes from Denmark town and the beach.

Ph: (08) 9848 1770

www.thecovechalets.com



Uhuru Chalets, Torbay

The Romantic Wagon is a superbly converted WAGR railway wagon and is designed for a couple. Equipped with everything needed for a comfortable stay.

Ph: (08) 9845 1020

www.uhuru.net.au



Yes, THEY DID IT!

Our CONGRATULATIONS to the following 29 walkers on their achievement! Four from overseas, eight from interstate and 17 from WA.



The number of walkers registering their end-to-end journeys along the Bibbulmun Track continues to grow. Walkers are venturing out in all seasons, and the Track is popular from both directions.

Our congratulations go to all end-to-enders on their achievements.

As usual, entries are in chronological order of completion with overseas and interstate visitors mentioned first, followed by walkers from within WA

Katherine Pinch (59) came from the USA for an experience she will savour forever (N-S, 17.04.12 to 19.06.12). She took the time to enjoy her journey, and didn't just concentrate on the destination. The solitude of walking alone was lovely, but she also enjoyed meeting other walkers along the Track. While every section has its memories, Katherine particularly liked the coastal sections. Other highlights included seeing whales close to shore, and crossing the Torbay Inlet with her pack on her head and waves and water up to her chin and mouth. Birds and wildlife were wonderful and Katherine found it helped to take time during the day and evening to just sit quietly and watch. Walking poles were her best equipment and she advises not to hurry, but to enjoy the journey.

Louis Baggetto (23) aka Louis, son of Herman, from the USA, claims his end-to-end (N-S, 18.07.12 to 05.09.12) is one of the biggest accomplishments of his life and he appreciates the efforts of all those who play a part in maintaining

the Track. He found winter was a good time to walk, with less bugs and snakes and the Track was quieter. He says the Bibbulmun is special, he could tell and feel the love and the pride people have in the Track. Louis says he really shouldn't have done it because now all he wants to do is find other long walks, like the Bibbulmun Track, instead of getting a job! Highlights included growing his longest beard, not having a proper shower for 17 days (and not caring about it) and having not one blister. Louis must like hills because his favourite section was from Boarding House to Beavis. He says he ate like a king, probably because he carried more than he needed; in fact his spoon was his best piece of equipment. Four echidnas were seen along with five snakes. He advises that the best sunrise and sunsets are usually found away from the sheltered campsite positions.

Sam (19) and **Ben** (19) **Hurst** came from Alaska, USA, only to both be bitten by the walking bug on their end-to-end (S-N, 08.08.12 to 20.09.12) and they can't wait to tackle more walks. Ben says he learnt a lot about himself and Sam thought the people they met were very friendly. They had no trouble with supplies and managed to develop a gourmet easy-mac recipe for dinner. Ben couldn't decide on a single favourite section, but Sam liked the Pingerup Plains, south coast and Perth hills. A highlight for her was walking with her brother and finally catching up to some walkers, who they'd been following, at Dwellingup. Ben's highlights were the Valley of the Giants, Dog Pool campsite with their first camp-fire, petting

kangaroos at DRV and quadruple-hutting from Beraking to Hewett's Hill. Neither could believe the number of kangaroos they saw. Ben liked all his wet weather gear and Sam's backpack and shoes were her best equipment. Worst for both were their sleeping bags—they never expected Australia would be so cold! Their advice is to watch out for the honkey nuts, stay dry and enjoy it.

Cheryl McKean (48) from Victoria walked with Megan and Ellen Wines (see Issue #59) as part of the Warrnambool Wanderers (N-S, 30.07.11 to 29.09.11). It was her first-ever bush walk and she loved it, despite wandering off-track near Mt Cooke. She says they had plenty of food, including too many muesli bars, and she never wants to see dehydrated food again. Highlights included the mountain climbs, seeing the ocean for the first time and walking into Albany. Cheryl confronted her personal fear of snakes, having seen several among a variety of wildlife. Walking poles and a head-torch were her best equipment. She advises that the Track is a great walk, even for a novice.

Judith Dane (53) and **Peter Thompson** (54), both from NSW, were affected by the winter storms on their end-to-end (N-S, 29.04.12 to 25.06.12), being evacuated from Woolbales to Walpole by DEC. Pete felt more Waugals were needed at some intersections, and Judy was appreciative of volunteers' and DEC efforts. They sent food parcels to Track towns but found supplies were more readily available than they were led to believe. However, screw-thread gas cylinders were not available everywhere. The favourite section for both was from Walpole to Albany with Judy's highlight being a very early morning crossing of the Torbay Inlet in freezing water. Highlights for Pete included the outcomes from the June storms, the uncluttered lifestyle on Track and a significant weight loss. The journey changed his eating habits and he's looking forward to returning to some sections. This was Judy's longest walk so far and she says you never know what you're capable of until you give it a try. Trekking poles were favourites for both, but Pete's boots fell apart after Mt Wells and Judy would have liked a warmer sleeping bag. They encourage walkers to fill in the log books at each campsite—it helps when evacuation is needed.

David Hagger (25) from NSW recommends the Bibbulmun Track to everyone after completing his end-to-end (S-N, 20.05.12 to 10.07.12). It was a beautiful experience and he feels proud, strong and ready for more but he's not eating any more noodles for at least a year! David's favourite sections were between Pemberton and Donnelly

River village, with highlights being Dog Pool and the Pemberton pool. His best equipment was his backpack. David urges others not to keep thinking about it, just go.

Bob Oxlade (77) from Victoria never intended doing an end-to-end when he first started walking the Track, but ended up covering the whole distance (Sectional, 13.09.10 to 25.09.12). Much of the Track was walked solo and his friends joined him on some sections. Bob found it hard to obtain gas supplies immediately before starting his walk after arriving by plane. His favourite section was Walpole to Denmark, but he also enjoyed the karri forests between Balingup and Pemberton. Birds were plentiful. Bob has completed other walks in Australia, NZ and Europe and says the Bibbulmun Track is quite good in comparison. He urges walkers to pack light and advocates the use of a food dehydrator to provide a variety of lightweight foods.

Duncan Cunningham-Reid (54) from Queensland was Duncan on his end-to-end (Sectional N-S, 09.09.11 to 26.09.12). Although he had dried food as a back-up, Duncan found he could source fresh foods very easily. His favourite section was from Dog Pool to Mt Chance, "a bit like Africa". Highlights included smelling, hearing, and then seeing the Southern Ocean for the first time; and walking out of the forest and straight into a medieval festival in Balingup! Duncan enjoyed his time alone and being able to walk through true wilderness which is so rare these days. He has done a lot of walking all over the world but says there can be no comparisons – the Bibbulmun Track is the Bibbulmun Track! No snakes were sighted until the second to last day, when he saw six. Boots were his best equipment, but his tent was a bit too small. He advises keeping your pack light as you really don't need as much as you think.

John Colby (68), from NSW, signed in as John C on his end-to-end (N-S, 16.08.12 to 11.10.12) which he described as a great walk and says it's so good to feel so fit. Food supplies were easy to obtain, except at North Bannister. His favourite sections were the forests from DRV to Beavis and the coast from Long Point to Peaceful Bay, with a highlight being an early morning walk in light rain along the high section near Long Point—it was beautiful! John saw a variety of wildlife and maintains that the snakes got bigger as he headed southwards. He thinks the Bibbulmun Track is a "much better set-up than any of the other long walks I have done". John's Pocket-Rocket fuel stove and his walking poles were among best equipment. His advice is to keep pack-weight down.

Clive Davies (71) came from Victoria for one of his most enjoyable long walks (Sectional, 13.09.11 to 13.10.12) ever, in comparison with walks over five continents. He loved the variations in Track and scenery and appreciated the well kept and convenient shelters with good water. Clive would have liked better supplies at North Bannister, but was okay elsewhere. Walpole to Peaceful Bay was his favourite section with the giant tingle and karri trees being highlights. Snakes, goannas, roos, feral cats and plenty of birds were seen. Trekking poles were a favourite with Duncan, but his socks disintegrated! He advises everyone to walk within their capabilities.

John David Houldsworth (24) of Shoalwater called himself Striker on his end-to-end (S-N, 02.08.11 to 28.09.11) which he described as a beautiful hike. It was easy to resupply along the way, although he still had to budget food and days to the next supply—but that was half the fun. Albany to Walpole was his favourite section, and highlights included the canoe crossing and sleeping with a snake at Mt Cuthbert. John found the Bibbulmun Track to be well maintained with stunning shelters and thought the southern half was more spectacular than the northern. Shoes and backpack were best equipment and his worst was a cheap water bladder. John's advice for others—"When it's pouring with rain, you're freezing cold, tired, hungry and you still have 15kms left, just think 'Right now, I could be at work!'"

"When it's pouring with rain, you're freezing cold, tired, hungry and you still have 15kms left, just think 'Right now, I could be at work!'"
– John David Houldsworth

George Kammann (75) from Manjimup has completed another end-to-end (N-S, 29.08.11 to 23.11.11) despite experiencing his first-ever ankle and foot troubles. George ate well on Track, and still uses some modified recipes from the Food in a Fuel Stove event. His favourite section was from Northcliffe to Walpole and a highlight was sharing Long Point with three daughters and grandchildren. George enjoys the Track experience and loves playing with photos and movies afterwards. This time he was lucky enough to see a southern carpet python near Murray campsite, and made a movie of it.

Fred Worthington (60) from Canning Vale walked with Brian McAuliffe (see Issue #60) for his first-ever major trek (N-S, 01.03.12 to 10.04.12). He had a varied diet including porridge, nut bars, cheese, pasta, chicken, fruit, but included no alcohol. Fred enjoyed the views from Mt Cooke, Mt Hallowell and the coastal sections. He particularly liked camping out between the shelters and enjoying the early morning walks from 6am when the wildlife seemed to be more active. Feral cats and race-horse goannas were among a variety of wildlife he saw. Fred's boots were his best equipment, but he thought his pack was too heavy at 20-23kgs. His advice is to plan well, and to keep pack-weight below 18kgs.

Hedley Amos (63) of Bull Creek was simply "Hedley" on a through- end-to-end (S-N, 16.03.12 to 05.05.12) after he had to abandon an attempt last year due to illness. He changed some of his equipment and particularly liked his new Osprey pack and his Exped Down mat. A "SPOT" tracking system also worked well. The challenging south coast made him 'earn' every fantastic view and he was very pleased to reach the transition into forest between Rame Head and Giants campsites with its cool shade and multitude of forest scents. He enjoyed the 360 degree views from the top of Mt Chance, but found the sections between Northcliffe and Balingup to be the most spectacular. Forest and birdlife were amazing, as were the changes in terrain. Hedley was surprised at the greenness despite the long dry spell. "Sludge", his walking partner from last year (see Issue #58), accompanied him on his last day into Kalamunda.

John Bates (65) from Darlington was known as "John B" on a great trip (S-N, 05.04.12 to 24.05.12) with beautiful views. He met many interesting people at the campsites and was very appreciative of the upgrades to many of the shelters. John says he couldn't have done it without the re-supply trips by his wife, Penny (solo end-to-end 2009, Issue #51), and is full of gratitude for her support. His favourite section was from Giants to Frankland, and a highlight was a surprise visit from his soldier son who then walked with him from Seven Day Rd to Donnelly River. This was John's longest walk so far, but he says it was easier than the "Coast to Coast Walk" in the UK. His best equipment was a warm sleeping bag, and his worst was a pair of belted trousers. John's advice is to break each day into small sections and don't think how far tomorrow is!



Kangaroo near Boat Harbour

David Anderson (43), aka "Pack Animal" has completed another end-to-end (S-N, 21.04.12 to 27.05.12) but provided no details.

Carole Dorman (68) from Westdale (Sectional, 2004 to 03.06.12) says the Bibbulmun is a great track and must be kept for the future. It has helped her to feel stronger, more competent and very peaceful. Carole's treks took a bit of organising and she even got to like noodles. A favourite section was too hard to pick, as was choosing a single highlight from the many she experienced. Kangaroos, snakes, wild pigs and many birds were seen. Carole has also trekked the Kokoda, which she says is very different, but the Bibbulmun is so accessible, free, comfortable and safe. Her boots were her best equipment and she urges others to plan ahead, train adequately and keep weight to a minimum.

Julie Bessant (52) from Shoalwater chose to move out of her comfort zone to complete a solo end-to-end (N-S, 18.04.12 to 23.06.12) and found it easier than she thought it would be. Dehydrating her own meals worked well. Her favourite section was from Pemberton to Northcliffe where she says the shelters are beautiful, and she especially enjoyed Schafer campsite. Wildlife included kangaroos, quendas, quokkas and ticks, but she didn't see any snakes! An ultra-comfortable 'Thermarest' was best equipment. She advises would-be-walkers not to listen to anything negative, but just to get out there and walk.

Daniel Brockway () from Subiaco found his end-to-end (Sectional, 30.12.06 to 08.07.12) to be a great experience and an amazing way to see the south-west of WA. He lived on salmon and rice most nights but always had a good supply of lollies. Daniel liked the southern sections, particularly between Parry Beach and Boat Harbour. Sharing the adventure with mates was a highlight and he also enjoyed jumping into the water at Dog Pool after a hot day. Blackwood and Waalegh campsites were memorable. It was good only having to worry about one day at a time –

quite a change from a busy, complicated life away from the Track. Whales and wild pigs were among the vast array of wildlife seen. Daniel liked his air mattress, but discovered that gaiters make your legs too sweaty! He's now interested in other long walks around the world.

Julie Sanders (57) from Innaloo is very appreciative that this wonderful activity is right on our doorstep and found her end-to-end (Sectional, 20.07.02 to 16.07.12) to be good for her inner and outer health. She enjoyed the peace and the diversity of nature. Supplies along the way were easy as many people were happy to hold food parcels for pick-ups. The sections from Pemberton to Hidden Valley were her favourites but she especially liked the views at Blackwood campsite. Sunset at any campsite was enjoyed when the last of the sun's rays touched the tops of the trees. Wildlife was seen, including two tiny marsupials squabbling over a tit-bit when they didn't see her watching. Julie's favourite piece of equipment was "Bruce", her walking stick. She advises others contemplating the walk to just do it!

.....
"... the contrast between life on the Track versus 'normal' life is a wonderful experience that all should enjoy." – **Alex Campbell**

Daniel Barton-Harvey (26) of Kensington and **Daniel Telfer** (23) of South Perth called themselves "Dan + Dan" on their end-to-end (N-S, 08.06.12 to 26.07.12). They haven't provided many details of their journey, but Daniel Telfer's favourite section was along the south coast. His best equipment included his bamboo socks and reading material, and his walking mate liked his Trangia. Wildlife seen included the seal colony near Peaceful Bay, bush rats and dunnarts.

Adam Lohman (40), of Rockingham, enjoyed every minute of his end-to-end (N-S, 05.07.12 to 14.08.12) and is now hooked on long-distance trekking. Like many others, he found that North Bannister was the weakest spot for re-supplying. Adam's favourite section was around Rame Head and a highlight was seeing a motorbike frog, two dugites, three tiger snakes and a botanical garden of wildflowers all in one day. Walking poles were his best equipment, but he had to replace his pair of boots. He advises having your feet measured before purchasing boots.

Tom Hillier (64) of Coolesongup was "The Pissant Swamp" as he completed another end-to-end (N-S, 16.08.12 to 12.09.12) during which he overtook many walkers! Tom was caught in a massive low pressure system in the southern sections and experienced heavy rain, 50mm deep hail, wild winds and fast flowing water

on the Pingerup Plains. He remembers trying to sign the register at Mt Chance in 5 degrees at 10am before walking on for another 21kms to complete the day. Food for his trip was self-supplied and dropped along the way. Favourite sections included the tingles and the areas around Dwellingup. Near Kalamunda he met several other walkers and they had fun tallying the number of collective end-to-ends between them. Fixomul was Tom's best equipment! He urges others to "get out there now, if not sooner"!

David Till (54) of Joondalup, aka "Tilly" made a conscious effort to finally get out and walk the Bibb (N-S, 01.09.12 to 13.10.12) after merely thinking about it for many years. He thinks he had forgotten how much he enjoys the bush and hiking. David dehydrated his meals for food drops. Northcliffe to Albany was his favourite section, and the weather was perfect too. His son joined him for a week along this section. Meeting fellow walkers from all over the world was another highlight, and a night near Dwellingup was memorable. David was asleep in his tent, erected on the platform of the Etmilyn Rail Siding, when the Hotham Valley tourist train arrived on a night tour! Clad in his thermals he was the centre of much amusement to the passengers. Pack contents were kept to a minimum, and David used all the gear he carried. He advises becoming a BTF member, attending information evenings, training, and taking a good camera as your pictures will always bring back memories of your hike.

Alex Campbell (48) from Bunbury (Sectional, 16.05.10 to 20.10.12) feels the Bibbulmun is an under-appreciated resource in WA. He says the contrast between life on the Track versus 'normal' life is a wonderful experience that all should enjoy. His favourite section was from DRV to Northcliffe and he relied largely on "Back Country" meals during his hike. A highlight was being joined by family members and friends for several sections. Alex saw 31 snakes, 6 bobtails, a race-horse goanna and countless roos – all in the last eight days! All his gear worked well for him, even though his pillow, mattress and sleeping bag could have been larger. He urges everyone to get outside and go walking.

Frank Trybulec (50), of Rockingham, has completed another end-to-end (Sectional, 31.03.12 to 21.10.12) and says he's still not tired of doing 'this marvellous walk trail'. Collie through to Balingup was his favourite section, although he feels the southern half of the Track is more scenic than the northern half. A stand-out highlight for him was walking through the wildflower season with its wonderful displays. Frank saw roos and emus but, gladly, no snakes. His Trangia stove couldn't be beaten, but his rain coat let in more water than it kept out! Frank advises learning your personal limitations such as the distances you're capable of walking. Know what you can, and can't, do

Virginia DeSantis and Gordon Craig did their end-to-end in 2009. At the same time Virginia's brother Philip Grant and his wife Karen were holidaying in the area. They crossed the Track often, noticing the occasional walker and Track signage, and at one point met up with Virginia and Gordon on the Track itself. Their observations have prompted them to produce an anthropological account of a previously undiscovered species in Western Australia, which they have entitled *The Bibbul Study*. Read on:

Bibbuls A Study by Philip and Karen Grant

Authors' note: Further research is necessary, and we hope to return to the area in the future to complete our observations, however here is what we have learned so far...

- Bibbuls are a relatively new, migratory species. At this early stage their existence is not widely recognised outside their habitat area, the wooded, hilly country or coastal areas in the south-west of Western Australia.
- Upon discovery of the species, Bibbuls were immediately placed on the Endangered Species list, however numbers have been steadily increasing and their survival as a species seems certain. It should however be noted that if the numbers continue to increase at present rates, culling may eventually be considered necessary.
- The reason for the Bibbul migration is unclear at this stage of the research.
- Bibbuls have been known to travel great distances to participate in the migration, only to return to their original home lands on its completion.
- Bibbuls have humanoid form, with a large hump-like protrusion on their backs, which can be used for food storage.
- Members of the species reside throughout Australia, and only appear to develop their characteristic hump in preparation for their migration.
- Bibbuls are best seen early in the morning, in or around their camps, when they appear very docile.
- They can be quite slow moving and are usually seen alone or in pairs, but have been known to join other Bibbuls overnight.
- Despite obvious evidence of their tracks, Bibbuls can be very hard to spot during the daytime.
- They are rarely seen on main roads. When necessary, Bibbuls will cross the roads quickly and disappear back into the bush.
- Their diet varies little. It includes nuts, pasta, chocolates, fruit, water and spirits.



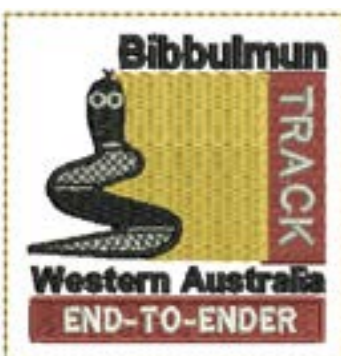
Bibbuls spotted near Blackwood Campsite.

- Bibbuls store food and water in their humps and have been known to survive on this for up to two weeks.
 - They walk upright on hind legs, however many appear to have developed a long rigid claw on one or both arms, which they use to assist them when travelling.
 - Bibbuls avoid areas of water unless it is absolutely necessary to cross them in order to complete their migration.
 - They appear to follow a set migration track with little or no regard given to avoiding obstacles such as hills, rocks and water crossings.
 - Instinct appears to be a major factor in a successful Bibbul migration. Little is known about the methods of communication used within the species, or how a Bibbul is able to travel long distances to find the migratory path when never having been to the area previously. Equally puzzling is their ability to obtain food and other necessities when out in the bush.
 - Curiously, they have been known to migrate in both a north-west or south-east direction.
 - Although Bibbuls seem to be self-conscious of their personal toileting habits, they appear to bathe infrequently. They are by nature a clean species, so this is put down to the lack of washing opportunities on their migratory route.
- The migratory pattern is followed during most seasons, regardless of weather conditions.
 - Bibbuls travel by day, and often use communal dens or lairs prepared by previous Bibbuls.
 - Communal dens usually provide some sort of shelter, however not all Bibbuls use these shelters. It is unclear at this point whether these Bibbuls are wary of confined spaces, or whether it is simply a Bibbul pecking order that determines sleeping areas.
 - While the authors have spotted Bibbuls emerging from their dens early in the morning, and have also seen them at play in the evening, they have not actually spotted any Bibbuls on the Bibbul track. Not wanting to be referred to as Bibbul Bashers, further research appears necessary to ascertain that the Bibbul migration is a real event.
 - The Bibbul track appears to follow uninhabited coastal and bushland areas, but does sometimes cross busy roads. While there are signs erected to warn motorists of the dangers, no instructions have been given to motorists of what to do if they hit a Bibbul or see one injured. During the study no Bibbul carcasses were found, indicating they may cross carefully, however a hotline has been set up to report any incidents.

For further information, phone WIRES on 1800BIBBUL.

Have you got your End-to-End BADGE?

FREE when you register your first end-to-end!



Accommodation, Tours and Services

The following businesses support the Track as Affiliated members. Please take a look and remember them when you next book a tour or accommodation. The Foundation is happy to welcome Colliemeads Hotel 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
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.
EMU POINT MOTEL	ALBANY	Accommodation	(08) 9844 1001	
CAPE HOWE COTTAGES	ALBANY	Accommodation	(08) 9845 1295	10% - not in conjunction with any other specials.
NORMAN HOUSE	ALBANY	Accommodation	(08) 9841 5995	5% discount
BALINGUP BUDGET ACCOM. - 'THE HIKERS HIDEAWAY'	BALINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9764 1049	Special rate of \$24.
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	
KIRUP LODGE	DONNYBROOK	Accommodation	0422 976 690	
NELSONS OF BRIDGETOWN	BRIDGETOWN	Accom/Rest-café	(08) 9761 1641	
COLLIE RIVER VALLEY TOURIST PARK	COLLIE	Accommodation	(08) 9734 5088	10%.
COLLIE VISITOR CENTRE	COLLIE	Tourist Bureau	(08) 9734 2051	10% on souvenirs.
THE COLLIEMEADS	COLLIE	Accommodation	(08) 9734 2052	
WHISPERING PINES B&B	COLLIE	Accommodation	(08) 9734 3883	10%.
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%.
DENMARK WATERFRONT MOTEL	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 1147	15%.
KARMA CHALETs	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 1568	5% - n/a long weekends and school holidays
THE COVE	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 1770	10%.
WINDROSE B&B	DENMARK	Accom/Transport prov.	(08) 9848 3502	10%.
PELICANS AT DENMARK	DENMARK	Accommodation	0413 122 176	
CHE SARA SARA CHALETs	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9840 8004	
FOREST ECHO COTTAGE	DENMARK	Accommodation	tba	Complimentary bottle of wine on arrival.
WILLIAM BAY COUNTRY COTTAGES	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9840 9221	On application.
DONNELLY RIVER HOLIDAY VILLAGE	DONNELLY RIVER	Accommodation	(08) 9772 1244	From \$20 pp.
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.
TADDY CREEK	DWELLINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9285 2736	On application.
GOODLIFE B&B	KALAMUNDA	Accommodation	(08)291 3106	On application.
KALAMUNDA RAILWAY CARRIAGES ACCOM. & THREE GUMS COTTAGE	KALAMUNDA	Accommodation /Track transfers	(08) 6293 1902	10% on accommodation.
ROYAL GALA TOURS	MULLALYUP	Tours	1300 233 556	
GLEN MERVYN LODGE	MUMBALLUP	Accommodation	(08) 9732 2208	10% discount for 6 or more people
MUNDARING WEIR HOTEL	MUNDARING	Accom/Rest-café	(08) 9295 1106	
NANNUP VISITOR CENTRE	NANNUP	Tourist Bureau	(08) 9756 1211	
YOHO PIZZA	Nannup	Catering	0403 734 814	10% off orders over \$150.
BIBULMUN BREAK MOTEL & TRANSPORT	NORTHCLIFFE	Accom/Transport prov.	(08) 9776 6060	No.
CANTERBURY COTTAGE	NORTHCLIFFE	Accommodation	(08) 9775 1055	
RIVERWAY CHALETs	NORTHCLIFFE	Accommodation	(08) 9776 7183	10%.
WATERMARK KILNS	NORTHCLIFFE	Accommodation	(08) 9776 7349	On application.
NUTKIN LODGE	PEACEFUL BAY	Accommodation	(08) 9840 8650	10% on standard rates.
PEACEFUL BAY CHALETs & BACKPACKERS	PEACEFUL BAY	Accommodation	(08) 9840 8169	On application.
BEST WESTERN PEMBERTON HOTEL	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 1017	
BIG BROOK COTTAGES	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 0279	
OLD PICTURE THEATRE HOLIDAY APARTMENTS	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 1513	
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 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.
ADVENTURE WILD	PERTH	Tour operator	www.adventurewild.com.au	
ADVENTUROUS WOMEN	PERTH	Tour operator	www.adventurouswomen.com.au	
INSPIRATION OUTDOORS	PERTH	Tour operator	(08)6219 5164	
ESCAPE DAY SPAS	BUSSELTON	Health	(08) 9383 4328	
COALMINE BEACH HOLIDAY PARK	WALPOLE	Accommodation	(08) 9840 1026	10%.
NATURALLY WALPOLE TOURS	WALPOLE	Tour/Transport prov.	(08) 9840 1019	On application.
WALPOLE LODGE	WALPOLE	Accommodation	(08) 9840 1244	



Day Tours and Extended Tours

Bunbury Margaret River Tour – Delight your senses on the Taste of Margaret River region - every Tuesday & Saturday Cost \$85

'Bunbury AM & PM Tours' Day & half day tours, all the attraction in and around Bunbury on Wednesday Cost \$55 half day & \$95 full day

'A Little Bit of Country History' explores Collie, Boyup Brook & the Preston Valley every Thursday, Cost \$85

The 'Bunbury Hinterland' - discovers Greenbushes, Bridgetown & Balingup, Gnomesville in the Ferguson valley each Friday. Cost \$80

All Tours depart from Bunbury Visitor Centre at 8.00 am. Bookings recommended. Minimum numbers apply.

Phone 1300 233 556

Web; www.royalgalatours.com.au



Forest Echo Cottage



On your own or as a couple, Forest Echo Cottage offers an unobtrusive quietly gracious experience in 48 y.o. Karri Forest.

A 5 minute walk takes you to the Bibbulmun Track along Wilson Inlet and a 3 minute drive will have you at Ocean Beach, Denmark Village or at any one of the many wineries, galleries and boutique businesses of Denmark.

Built with stabilised earth brick, this self-contained cottage promotes recycled fixtures and fittings and is cleaned with environmentally friendly products.

Complimentary bottle of wine upon check in!

20 Bracknell Crescent, Denmark, WA
Phone: 0417 962 388 / 0414 234 141
Email: forest.echo.denmark@gmail.com

Adventurous WOMEN

Cape to Cape Track Walk

April 14-21 2013

Women Only

\$1945pp

Call us on 1300 388 419 or visit our website for more information.

The Cape to Cape track is approximately a 135km walk from Cape Naturaliste to Cape Leeuwin. It follows the coast for most of the way, sometimes along the beach, sometimes along cliff-tops, often on sandy tracks, but nearly always with a view of the wonderful coastline.

www.adventurouswomen.com.au

Christmas Gift Ideas

Keep cool this Summer

- Bibbulmun caps and hats
- Bibbulmun Track Nalgene water bottle
- Ladies white summer T-shirt with Bibb Track logo.
- Bibbulmun Track daypack



Heading South for the Holidays

- New Map 8 showing new campsites near Albany
- Cape to Cape Maps and Guide Books
- Excellent holiday reading - "The Bibbulmun Track. Its history, its beauty, its walkers" - the perfect Christmas gift. \$27.50 (part proceeds to the Foundation).



Impossible to Buy for

- Bibbulmun Track Gift Voucher (any amount) Can be used for merchandise, an event from our Calendar of Events, or a Bibbulmun Walking Break. Give the gift that lasts the whole year (or three!)
- A Bibbulmun Track Membership Individual - 1 year \$40 or 3 years \$105 Senior - 1 year \$30 or 3 years \$75



A Bibbulmun Track Foundation Membership Lasts All Year!



Trish Bird



Bev Visser



Val Cocker



Chris Plunkett

Congratulations to Trish Bird, Bev Visser, Val Cocker and Chris Plunkett, who each received DEC Outstanding Service Awards in recognition of their many hours of hard work and commitment to the Bibbulmun Track.

Trish Bird

Trish has been a volunteer since March 2001, contributing more than 2000 hours of her time to the Foundation. Originally she maintained a section of the Track south of Balingup, travelling back and forth from Perth. Currently Trish maintains two

sections close to Dwellingup, including Mt Wells Campsite. These sections are often badly affected by winter storms, but Trish always keeps them extremely well maintained.

Trish is also one of our most experienced volunteer guides leading both day and overnight walks, and more recently she has been guiding one of the heats of the Bibbulmun Team Challenge. In addition, Trish has completed a three day training course to become an Honorary CALM Officer.

Before moving to the country to live, Trish also gave many hours of help on a weekly basis in the Foundation office, providing expert advice to walkers.

Bev Visser

Bev is a member of the BTF and has been a volunteer since 2001 completing hundreds of hours of voluntary work and giving years of commitment to the Foundation. Initially Bev and husband Gerry maintained a section of the Track close to Denmark that was very overgrown when they took it on. They cleared it and kept it well maintained. They now look after a high-use section closer to Albany that requires constant attention.

Bev is also the Foundation's Regional Coordinator in Albany, where she has arranged regular meetings for Albany volunteers with DEC staff. Bev and Gerry also host the annual Albany Volunteer Thank You days that allow us to thank everyone and gives volunteers a chance to get to know one another.

For the past four years Bev has greeted groups of Scotch College students as they completed their end-to-end walks and presented certificates recognizing their achievement.

Val Cocker

Val has been a member and volunteer since 1999 and deserves to be recognized for the hundreds of hours she has given to the Foundation and the Track. Initially Val and her team maintained two sections of the Bibbulmun Track just north of Collie, but now with a smaller team Val has the

responsibility for just one section, which is always kept in good repair, as is the trail marking, despite the fact that this section can be affected by winter storm damage.

For many years Val has been the Foundation's Regional Coordinator in Collie and has a very long association with the Bibbulmun Track. Before the Foundation was established she assisted CALM (now DEC) in planning the new alignment of the Track in the Collie area in the 1990s.

Chris Plunkett

Chris joined the Foundation when it began as the Friends of the Bibbulmun Track in 1997 and with wife Gwen and a couple of friends he became a maintenance volunteer in 1998, looking after a much-used section of the Bibbulmun Track near Kalamunda.

Family commitments and work eventually forced Chris to give up this work, but he still supports Gwen in her capacity of BTF Volunteer Coordinator. They visit many sections of the Track annually, checking out problem areas and recently completed work.

Chris also accompanies Gwen on annual field trips, and assists at many Foundation displays at community events such as the Royal Show and Walk the ZigZag.

In addition, Chris has sold raffle tickets on many occasions, helping the Foundation to raise funds, and interviewed walkers during the Walker Surveys which provide statistics to help both the Foundation and DEC with the ongoing management of Track.

During the 2008 10th Anniversary celebrations Chris assisted in various ways and for many years was a volunteer during the annual Bibbulmun Team Challenge.

Over those years Chris has contributed over 2000 hours of voluntary service to the BTF

BODDINGTON GOLD

EYES ON THE GROUND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Each year, the Foundation conducts a number of Field Days to give maintenance volunteers an opportunity to meet BTF and DEC staff members, discuss maintenance issues and techniques, and get to know other volunteers in their area. Here, Gwen gives us an overview of the latest Field trip.

It was very enjoyable and worthwhile catching up with those volunteers who were able to attend the Field Days this year. In between Field Days we took the opportunity to walk various sections where upgrades and capital works had been undertaken over the past year.



Volunteers clearing debris near Karri Gully

There were eight participants at the Albany Field Day on Saturday September 8th. We enjoyed morning tea at the Wind Farm before heading out to the new Sandpatch Campsite, pruning as we went. This is a great campsite, complete with whale watching platforms. The only downside was the large number of hungry ticks! The following day, Frankland volunteers had morning tea at the Tree Top Walk then headed north along the Track, clearing a considerable amount of debris and cutting back sword grass for three kilometres.



Charmaine Brown pruning the Track near the Tree Top Walk

On Monday we checked the signage at Muttonbird car park before heading out to the new Muttonbird Campsite for lunch, taking lots of photographs on the way. A number of colourful orchids were spotted just north of the campsite.

Tuesday was a day for beach walking, firstly to Peaceful Bay, where we were drenched by a heavy downpour as we walked north checking signage. Then it was on to William Bay to meet up with Sue and Barry to check out the access from the Track on to Mazolletti Beach. We found it to be a three metre drop down, not too difficult heading north but a tough clamber up for south bound walkers. The alternative is to walk further along the beach and exit at Greens Pool.

On our way to the Donnelly/Blackwood Field Day we visited the temporary campsite at the Boorara Tree, which is an excellent location, and then went on to the Cascades to check on the Track signage. The walk around the Cascades (not part of the Bibbulmun Track) is excellent and well worth doing if time permits.

The Donnelly/Blackwood Field Day was based at Karri Gully and, as expected, we found that section overgrown with lots of storm damage. We hadn't gone more than 50 metres before we met the first major obstacle – a tangle of fallen trees and this set the pattern for the day. We managed to clear almost all the Track as far as Gregory Brook Campsite, but further work is still needed at the northern entry to the campsite.

During the Perth Hills Field Day we installed about twenty long earthen waterbars across wide sections of Track. The day nearly ended in disaster when, as we neared the cars at South Ledge, we heard an ominous crack, followed by a tremendous thump as a tree hit the ground close by. Some of the group had walked in that direction, so



Installing water bars in the Perth Hills.

Charmaine dashed off to check and found two rather thankful volunteers working just a few metres from a very large fallen tree.

Finally we headed for Collie and were most impressed by the new bridge and creek landscaping DEC installed recently near the power lines just off Mungilup Road. We then set to work clearing the Track north from there for a few kilometres before a late lunch at Minningup Pool.

It was wonderful to get out and about to meet our volunteers and to see first hand the work that they do and the many improvements made to the Track and infrastructure by DEC over the past year. I'm now back at my desk – but already looking forward to next year's trip!



Volunteers working near Sandpatch Campsite

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY 5 DECEMBER THANK YOU WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU

The Foundation has over 300 volunteers who contributed more than 18,500 hours during the year.

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

Special mention must be made for Jim Baker, Alan Barker, Isabel Busch, Jim Freeman and Charmaine Harris who all volunteered in excess of 500 hours and to Trish Bird, Bev Visser, Val Cocker and Chris Plunkett who received Outstanding Service Awards from DEC. See more on this page.

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

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

PRIZE WINNERS!

2012 mid-year prize draw for members who renew as a Life Member went to Mark Davidson of Doubleview.

He received a \$300 voucher from our gold sponsor Mountain Designs

Monthly Membership Renewal Prize Draw

JULY

WINNER: Susan Hansen won a gizmo headlamp kindly donated by our silver level sponsor Sea to Summit

2ND PRIZE: went to Basil McIlhagga who won a Travel Clothesline also donated by Sea to Summit

AUGUST

WINNER: Linda Watson won a Pacific Outdoor Equipment Self inflating Mat

2ND PRIZE: Bob Chee received a cutlery set donated by Sea to Summit

SEPTEMBER

WINNER: Kaye Heelan won a T-shirt kindly donated by Mountain Designs

2ND PRIZE: Lesley McDonald received a Bush Book kindly donated by DEC

OCTOBER

WINNER: Wendy & Mic Payne won an 8 litre Dry Sack donated by Sea to Summit

2ND PRIZE: Judith Webster won a travel clothesline also donated by Sea to Summit

PHOTO CAPTION COMPETITION

Congratulations to Keith Hunt for coming up with the winning caption from Edition 60.

"Well... you told me to collect some firewood for tonight didn't you?"



Unless stated otherwise, all the prizes mentioned above were generously donated by Foundation sponsor Sea to Summit. We love their gear and are sure all our prize winners will be very happy!



We are now much more familiar with the new website and it has been great to receive so many compliments from members about the new look and of course the new content.

Many of you have become very proficient at adding your photo, updating address details and renewing your membership or in some cases becoming a member, ordering merchandise and booking events. As a result we have been busy adding to our procedures.

For those members who don't wish to use the new website at all, or for anything other than information, we still have all the other options available - post, phone, direct credit etc, or you are always welcome to call into the office to say hello while we update your membership, register your end-to-end or provide some merchandise.

We recently welcomed Samantha (Sam) to our midst to work with Jean on Tourism activities. Since arriving Sam has been busy with bookings for our very popular Bibbulmun Walking Breaks.

The office has been a hive of activity over the past few weeks as we prepared for the Team Challenge, the AGM, the Tourism Awards and the Volunteer Thank You Days which are coming up in November. We have to do lists for everything and for a while it all seemed a bit chaotic, but it didn't take long for order to be restored and for everything to come together, thanks to our wonderful team of Office Volunteers.

Once these activities are over we will start looking ahead to our Christmas Break. This year we'll close at 4.00pm Tuesday December 18th and reopen on Wednesday January 9th.

If you wish to make any purchases for Christmas gifts, please be sure to do so in good time for us to post them to you

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Gwen Plunkett
Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator

A chance greeting...

A group of end-to-enders was surprised and delighted to be greeted by Gwen Plunkett from the BTF office as they walked into Albany in early November!

Gwen was in Albany for a family holiday and spotted the group as she was entering the Museum. Being Gwen, she naturally had to find out who they were and the group organiser, Byron Pershouse, recognised her and insisted that a photo was in order as "it's not everyone who gets greeted by Gwen!"

The pleasure was all Gwen's - while she gets to meet many walkers before and after their journey - it's extra special to bump into them at the finish line!



On finishing their end-to-end journey in Albany a group of walkers was surprised to be greeted by Gwen from the BTF! From L to R: Bill Shaw, WA; Tracey Chappell, QLD; Judy Rayner, QLD; Gwen; John Rayner, QLD; Ben Tierney, NSW; Byron Pershouse, QLD.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bookings are essential on all our events.

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

Beginners

Intermediate

Experienced

Dandy Dwellingup Dames

This ladies-only weekend is a great way to get away from it all.

Meet us down in Dwellingup on Friday afternoon (5pm) at our accommodation set by the banks of the Murray River. After breakfast on Saturday we spend the day walking on the Track (7km) and then come back to wonderful neck and shoulder massage.

Relax in the afternoon with views over the Murray River at our accommodation for the night and enjoy a delicious catered three course meal. The next day we walk a different section of the Track (9km). After freshening up, we pack our bags and return to Perth but not before enjoying a cuppa in Dwellingup.

Includes two nights shared accommodation, two packed lunches, two continental breakfast, BBQ dinner and restaurant dinner, massage, foot balm, guided walks, Track transfers within Dwellingup. Own transport to Dwellingup.

Dates: Friday 17 May 2013 at 4:00pm to Sunday 19 May 2013 at 4:00pm

Cost: Members \$385, Non-members \$400

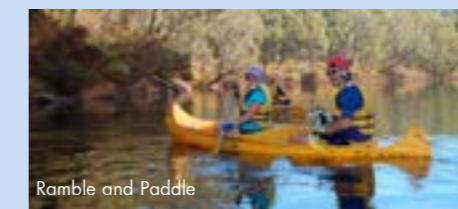
Food in a Fuel Stove

Join lead guide and End-to-Enders, Steve Sertis, for a fun and interactive evening learning exciting recipes and innovative ideas for preparing healthy food on a portable stove. Learn how Steve dehydrates some of his own food - and get to try it!

Includes ingredients, menu, fuel stoves and recipes. You will be cooking and tasting!

Date: Tuesday 19 March 2013 at 6:00pm to 8:30pm

Cost: Members \$60, Non-members \$70



Ramble and Paddle

Ramble and Paddle

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

Be quick, this one fills up fast!

"I had no idea how much fun and value for money this weekend was until I did it!"

Includes two nights basic accommodation in with late check out, return transport from Murdoch Park'n'Ride rail terminal, all transfers, two continental breakfasts (other meals not included, our Friday night briefing is at the local pub where we can have dinner), guided POW tour, experienced guides, canoe equipment and instruction.

Dates: Friday 17 May 2013 at 4:30pm to Sunday 19 May 2013 at 6:00pm

Cost: Members \$275, Non-members \$295



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

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British International School go for Gold on the Bibbulmun Track

Track Town - Balingup Base Yourself in the Heart of the South West

The Bibbulmun Track has long been an ideal venue for local students to satisfy assessment requirements of outdoor education related activities, including the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Recently, a group of students from the British International School in Jakarta, Indonesia, flew to Perth to do just that. A chance remark about the Bibbulmun Track from a former teacher had led to a Google search, which was followed by contacting Steve Sertis, and preparations began for their four-day expedition along the Track to complete requirements for their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.



The students enjoy dinner at Waalegh Campsite.

kangaroos in the bush. It was only a very short walk for both groups on the first afternoon, but the following two days were long, hot and challenging with many hills. Lots of rest stops were made to admire and photograph the huge variety of wildflowers on display along the Track. The second morning saw the meeting of the two groups as they passed between Waalegh and Beraking, with members warning each other of the hills and challenges yet to come. A lot of information about the Australian bush was gained, litres of water were drunk, a few blisters were formed and aching legs and backs were evident. However even when they were tired there was also lots of encouragement, camaraderie and much laughter—some of the latter about the food choices as well as the student antics.



A long challenging walk on day two.

On arrival, the students were whisked from the airport to local supermarkets to complete their food purchases, before setting foot on the Bibbulmun Track, all within three hours. They walked in two groups. One, with six Year 12 students, a teacher and BTF guide Charmaine walked south from the Perth Hills National Park, camping at the Ball Creek, Waalegh and Mt Dale campsites. The other group had twelve Year 13 students, two teachers and BTF guide Patrick. They walked north from



The two groups cross paths on the Track.

Brookton Highway, camping at Brookton, Beraking and Helena campsites.

The students were impressed by the clear skies and fresh air and excited by their first sighting of



Achievement!

There were many smiles when we saw the buses at the end of the trek, but all were very proud of their achievements.

Mikaela, a Year 12 student, summed up the experience "The whole trip was fantastic. Our guide was extremely experienced, knowledgeable about the Bibbulmun Track and its plants and flowers and very friendly. The second and third days when we hiked 18 and 20 km were pretty challenging, but this brought the best out of our group. We worked really well together, helping and supporting each other, cracking jokes and keeping each other in good spirits. Our meals were actually pretty good and tasty, though it did help that we had lots of sweets with us (probably too many!). The nicest feeling regarding the trip—the bath/shower at the end! We all enjoyed the trip tremendously. Our teachers were so impressed with the organization and friendliness of Steve, Charmaine and Patrick that they are thinking of bringing our next Gold group back here in two years time."

Staff from the school echoed these sentiments and added that the organization and friendliness from the Bibbulmun Track Foundation was top class and the guides were experienced and knowledgeable, resulting in the trip leaders peace of mind knowing that the students were in such good hands.

The students' Bibbulmun Track adventure was completed with a few hours of sightseeing before they flew home.



The historic town of Balingup is situated at the northern entrance to the picturesque Blackwood River Valley in the south west of Western Australia. A premier tourist town, Balingup is well known for its art and crafts, galleries, wineries, festivals and events and is surrounded by wonderful scenery—forests, winding rivers, rolling hills, vineyards and lush orchards.

A leisurely three hour (240km) drive from Perth, Balingup offers some of the finest accommodation in Western Australia and has become known as an alternative destination from which to explore Australia's southwest.



The Bibbulmun Track passes through the town alongside the gentle Balingup Brook, and meanders to the south through the beautiful Balingup Golden Valley Tree Park.

To spend time in Balingup is to enjoy the experience of the ever-changing seasons. The winter valley mists, spring blossoms, glowing sunsets and the russet tinting of the autumn leaves are all part of the magical Balingup experience.

With a small but vibrant community, Balingup is acknowledged as a leader in staging festivals and events. The major events are the Balingup Small Farm Field Day (April), the Balingup Medieval Carnivale (August) and the Jalbrook Concert (November). In addition to these events you will find there is always something happening and plenty of things to do.

The town itself contains numerous unique specialty shops and galleries, and is home to a craft centre with the largest range of arts and crafts in Western Australia. There are a number of cafés providing morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea, with a restaurant and tavern providing evening meals. Accommodation options include a full range of styles and prices, and are ideal for either family holidays or couples seeking a romantic getaway.

Balingup awaits you any time of year—the hardest thing you will need to do is leave.

The visitor centre, which is open every day with the assistance of volunteers, many of whom are not tourism operators themselves, typifies the independent can do attitude of our wonderful friendly community.



FACT FILE:

Balingup and Districts Tourism Association Inc
South Western Highway (main street of Balingup)
Balingup, Western Australia, 6253
Opening hours: 7 days a week 10am – 4pm
phone: (08) 9764 1818
email: balinguptourism@westnet.com.au

NOTICE BOARD

FOR SALE: WOMEN'S RAICHLER HIKING BOOTS

Comfortable Hiking Boots in Size 38.5 (EUR), 5.5 (UK) or 7 (USA)

Only worn on one trip, very good condition. Sell \$150.

-VIBRAM Sole - Dark Blue - Gore Tex

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions...

Contact: Brigita Ferencak 0427151842
Email: brigidoferen@gmx.de

WANTED: WALKING COMPANION

Camino de Santiago Walk Trail. Looking for keen female walker to share accommodation (guesthouses and small hotels) late May early June 2013 - 13 nights from St. Jean - Burgos. Australian female in mid 60's. Arranging for luggage to be moved each day, ie carrying a daypack only.

Contact: Elizabeth Shepherd.
Email: elizsh@yahoo.com

FOR SALE: OSPREY ARIEL 65 BACK PACK

As new Osprey Ariel 65 Woman's Back Pack (blue) for sale. Excellent condition, only used once. Day pack detaches. \$300 new, sell for \$180.

Contact: Linda 0409 687 926

FOR SALE: CANON POWERSHOT G11 DIGITAL CAMERA

Hi there, I have a Canon G11 camera for sale. Have been used minimally in two years since I bought it. It comes with the rechargeable battery, battery charger, paper manual, CD-ROM, neck strap, USB cord and the AV cable. Working in perfect condition. Please email or message. It is a great camera!

You can pick up from Ozzy Park. If not too far, I can meet you somewhere near Perth metro. I'm happy to post it via AAE for \$12.00 over night. See website for details.

Contact: Serge 0430954252
Email: sergetseu@gmail.com

WANTED: WALKING COMPANIONS

Hi I have just moved to Bridgetown and am looking for Bibbulmun Track walkers of any level in this surrounding area. Maybe you want to come down this way and walk in this area? I have done 2 x E2E one of which was solo. I don't mind if you are a beginner and want to have a go. I am in my early 50's and love bushwalking. Gender not important. I want to do overnights, day walks, weekends or during the week. I can be a bit flexible.

Contact: Julie 0407 536 948
Email: jpbess@bigpond.net.au

WANTED: WALKING COMPANION

Williams.Pippa@Kingsley.Meath.org.au

Mature lady seeks experienced walker for company Northcliffe to Walpole around April 2013.

Contact: Pippa (08) 9309 7174

WANTED: OVER 55s PEEL BUSHWALKING CLUB

The Y.A.H.O.O. Over 55s Bushwalking Club walks every Thursday in the Peel Region. April to October 12 km to 20+ km bushwalks - Estuary & beach walks 10-12 km November to March. Enquiries welcome.

Contact: Preston 9537 8209 or Ian 9582 3703
Email: psuijden@bigpond.net.au

FOR SALE: BACKPACK

Mountain Designs Backpack. Very good condition. Large in size. Dark Green and black. Bought for \$400 (still have original price tag). Used only once for overseas holiday. \$100 ono. If no answer please leave a message and I will call you back asap.

Contact: Michelle. 9291 8039 or 043 304 1170

Want To Advertise on our Notice Board?

Log onto your profile at bibbulmuntrack.org.au and then go to the notice board page under News. If you haven't logged on before see how to on page 28. You can always ring us on 9481 0551

GETTING INTO GEAR — KEEPING YOUR COOL.



IF YOU WANT TO GO WALKING IN THE HOTTER SUMMER MONTHS THEN YOU'RE CRAZY—JUST KIDDING! IT IS POSSIBLE BUT SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS HAVE TO BE TAKEN. FIRSTLY, BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME YOU HAVE TO DRESS APPROPRIATELY. NO SINGLETS, THONGS—AND NO STUBBIES!

With fabrics available that are light, wick moisture away from your body and dry incredibly quickly, with names like Coolmax, Power Dry, Repel Vapour, Omni Dry and Nanodry there's no need to head into the heat relying on a cotton T-shirt. All of these fabrics wick moisture away from your skin faster than cotton, dry quicker than cotton, are harder wearing than cotton and quite often, lighter than cotton.

Another fabric making a big comeback is Merino wool, and the very fine merino microns of companies like Icebreaker are changing the way people think about wool. (*Ed Note: The fineness of the wool fibre is defined in microns. The number of microns, i.e. the measurement of the wool fibre in thousandths of a millimetre, is used to indicate quality. Fine wool is between 17 and 23 microns. When wool is perceived as itchy, the reason is that there are coarse fibres in the wool, which do not yield to the skin but rather stick in. The finer the fibres, the softer the feel of the textiles. Coarse fibres in excess of 28 microns may itch.*)

There are many brands available these days including house brands for companies like Mountain Designs and other retail outlets. They make lightweight summer ranges that wick moisture away quickly like the synthetic fabrics, but wool has another big advantage; it can hold 30% percent of its own weight in water before it feels wet. In previous years I just couldn't wear wool, it was just too itchy on my skin, but I've worn Merino garments on every trip now and I'm yet to start scratching! In fact, I was given a test T-shirt by Icebreaker for the 10th Anniversary End to End on the Bibbulmun in 2008 and I'm still

wearing the same shirt on all my adventures—it has yet to wear out.

Long sleeve shirts that are UV Resistant with an SPF 30 factor are now readily available; brands like Columbia make them specifically for hot conditions. Some models even have air vents in the back and under the armpits. Convertible Long Pants are now made with zip off legs, so if it gets too hot for long pants just zip off the legs and cool down. Both pants and shorts are made in fabrics designed to handle the hot weather and the range of clothing made especially for women is huge. Compared to ten or fifteen years ago when everything was unisex the range has come a long way.

Don't forget your shoes though; why have great hot weather clothing and continue to use the clunky, thick, heavy leather boots designed for cold conditions? I use shoes now, rather than boots, and look for the styles that ventilate. Merrell, Teva, Columbia, Vasque and Marmot have all made shoes that support your feet like a boot but weigh 30% to 50% less, and that allow the heat and moisture to escape. This not only helps to prevent hot and sweaty feet but it also reduces blisters. Don't forget to get good socks; why spend a fortune on a good pair of shoes to be let down by cotton socks? While a lot of people swear by synthetic made from fabrics like Coolmax I still prefer wool; thin wool socks seem to dry quicker, smell less (big advantage at camp!) and dissipate the heat better.

If you are prone to developing blisters, buy some Fixomul, which is available by the metre from any

chemist. It sticks extremely well to your skin, allows it to breathe, stops blistering and is also great for burns.

Remember to take enough water, during the summer months one litre is just not enough, you need three to four litres a day. A lot of people are now using the bladders that slip into your daypack, most now come with sleeves and hose holes incorporated. Camelbak is by far the most popular brand, not only because of its extensive range but because the bite valve mouth piece works very effectively. Another brand called Source is also popular and pack brands like Deuter are incorporating them into some of their models.

So by all means, keep walking through the summer, make your choice of where you walk carefully taking into account the difficulty of the terrain, the amount of shade available and the distance between campsites. It's best to walk in the cooler morning or evening—but for me, this is diving and snorkeling time!

Safe travels.

Mike Wood
BTF Chairman





INNOVATIVE CAP
MAXIMIZES UV EXPOSURE FOR FAST, EFFECTIVE MICROBIOLOGICAL PURIFICATION

CLEAR LCD READ-OUTS
MAKE WATER TREATMENT SIMPLE AND INTUITIVE

SHOCK-RESISTANT DESIGN
ENHANCES DURABILITY

INSULATED BULB
RETAINS EFFICIENCY EVEN WITH EXPOSURE TO COLD WATER TEMPERATURES

CAMELBAK®

ALL CLEAR™

MICROBIOLOGICAL UV WATER PURIFIER

TAKE IT.
Portable purification system is built into your water bottle. Energy efficient design lasts 10,000 cycles.

TRUST IT.
Impact- and weather-resistant cap insulates UV bulb for effective purification every time. LCD screen verifies success.

DRINK IT.
Fill from taps, streams, spigots and more. Reduces:
- Bacteria: 99.9999%
- Virus: 99.99%
- Protozoa: 99.9%
Hydrate safely every time.



Reliable Purification, Whatever the Destination

Stockist information: Distributor Australia: Sea to Summit Pty. Ltd. enquiries@seatosummit.com.au Ph: 1800 787 677

The perfect holiday for those who love walking, but not camping!

4-Day South Coast Escape

This self-drive, 4 night/3 day itinerary enables you to complete the 45.6km section of the Bibbulmun Track from Sandpatch to Eden Road between Albany and Denmark – and enjoy exceptional award winning accommodation and meals each evening.

The entire package is arranged for you and includes all meals, car shuffle transfers (from cottages to the Track) a Southern Guide Book and Map 8 (Denmark/Albany).

From \$597
per person for 2 people or
From \$450
per person for 4 people

Optional Extra

Extend the package, stay another night and walk a 4th day to complete a 58.9km section of the Track.

From \$141 extra
per person for 2 people or
From \$105 extra
per person for 4 people

Call Samantha at the Foundation on (08) 9321 0649

Social Sunday Walks

A SERIES OF SOCIAL WALKS WITH FOUNDATION VOLUNTEERS.



A PHOTOCOPY OF THIS FORM IS ACCEPTABLE

BOOK WITH THIS FORM OR ON OUR WEBSITE
(PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU SIGN THE EVENT CONDITIONS BELOW)

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Membership No:

Address: Postcode:

Home Phone: Work Phone: Mobile:

Email:

Tick here if you wish to car pool. Your first name, phone & suburb will be given out to others wishing to car pool. I can offer a lift I would like to go with someone else if an offer is made

FREE for members – bond required (\$15)
\$15 for non- members

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

PAYMENT/BOND DETAILS:

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. 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.

POSTAL BOOKINGS CLOSE AT 12 NOON ON EACH THURSDAY PRIOR TO AN EVENT
ONLINE BOOKINGS CLOSE THE DAY PRIOR

WALK RATINGS: BEGINNERS INTERMEDIATE EXPERIENCED

WALK BOOKINGS - Only 2 can be booked at a time

No. of Adults

No. of Adults

24 March 3.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
5km return sunset walk from Camel Farm to Hewett's Hill	
7 April 9am	<input type="checkbox"/>
14km return walk from Albany Hwy to Boonering Hill	
14 April 9.30am	<input type="checkbox"/>
13km return from River Rd to the Murray River via Swamp Oak Campsite return (Dwellingup Sth)	
5 May 8.30am	<input type="checkbox"/>
19km return walk from Dale Road to Beraking Campsite. (Fit and experienced walkers only!)	

19 May 8.30am	<input type="checkbox"/>
20.4km return walk from Kalamunda to Hewett's Hill Campsite. (Fit and experienced walkers only!)	
26 May 9am	<input type="checkbox"/>
12km return walk from Kinsella Rd to Canning Campsite	

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!

Having returned from my UK trip and walk across the top of England, I've had a little time to reflect about the differences between bush walking here and the very different pub to pub walks that Europe offers.

There is something mystical on the Bibbulmun Track about being out in the bush for days on end with nothing but rain water to drink, bare boards to sleep on and kangaroos to talk to. In Europe you can quaff beer and wine, take hot showers, eat hearty food and enjoy a comfortable bed at the end of the day. Pay your money and take your choice—both have their positives and negatives!

But I'm back, and in the office I have joined the trusty band of vollies faced with a brave new world of technological innovation—the new BTF website. This has meant wading through the piles of hair pulled out during the frightening change over period and also coming to grips with a scary new language: dashboards, functionality, wormholes, event horizons, etc.

For sure the new system will offer everyone a much improved and streamlined system for control of membership, event bookings and the ordering of merchandise, as well as other administrative procedures within the office, all to the advantage of BTF members, others involved with the Track and most importantly those who walk it.

The system is working well in the office and I'm pleased to be the first to inform you that plans are in place to extend it along the Track itself. With the assistance of DEC, the BTF has evolved a new science, the Nail In The Wall Information Technology. This scheme, popularly known as the NITWIT development, requires trained operatives of DEC to hammer an especially developed titanium/iridium nail into the wall of each shelter. These nails support a USB hub, into which technologically orientated walkers can plug their laptop computers.

Various companies have been approached with regard to developing software limiting the extent of problems such as possum hacking, on-line quenda theft, emu phishing, etc.

You may ask how a signal will be received to enable you to surf the web—fear not! The new dunnies, for which many of our generous members and others have made donations, support a state of the art technology known as the dunny dongle, cunningly hidden in the toilet roll holder. Wi-fi reaches the bush!

If my batteries go flat? No worries at all. We have found a company that will install exercise bikes behind the campsite dunnies, with power cables linked to the NITWIT system. All you will need to do is hook up, race around to the back of the loo, pedal like hell, run back and switch on. Couldn't be simpler. And it's all added exercise for those looking to lose weight.

And so to the real world.

As Robbie Burns once said, "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft a-gley." (Which roughly translates to "often go wrong"). How true I found this to be. I am a great advocate of careful planning when undertaking a

walk on the Track, be it an end-to-end or just a stroll of a few days. My plan was to take the bus to Pemberton, walk to Walpole and return to Perth by bus via Albany. So I organised my itinerary, dehydrated my food, and left Perth well prepared for an eight day walk.

The result was what I think must be the shortest overnight walk in Bibbulmun Track history. I got off the bus in Pemberton and walked from the visitor centre to the Gloucester Motel. This constitutes about 900 metres of the Track. I checked in and decided to take a shower, during the course of which I slipped, took the whole weight of my body on my outstretched right arm and listened to some interesting crunching noises from my shoulder joint. The outcome was some intense pain, a sleepless night and the discovery that the following morning the pain was persisting and I couldn't lift my right arm above shoulder level. All things considered, my condition didn't seem appropriate for an eight day bush walk. Fortunately I had the guide book and map, so I was able to retrace my steps to the bus stop, where I caught the bus back to Perth.

For anyone wishing to try this walk, please note the following:

- The terrain is not difficult, walking poles are not really needed except perhaps for the steps up from the motel room.
- It is not necessary to carry more than two litres of water between start and finish points
- Little wild life was observed and wildflowers were not abundant.
- Signage is adequate on the telegraph poles.
- Carrying a tent is not really required. However in the case of making a decision to camp half-way, a good spot would be in front of the police station.
- Carrying a twenty kilo pack with food sufficient for eight days is overkill.
- The cost of the trip is a little steep. Even with a concession card, taking into account bus fares, motel charge, food and drink, it comes to about \$80 a kilometer.

Thankfully the injury was not too serious, although it will keep me off the Track for a few weeks. Maybe I'll have a go at the same section in November. Clearly the moral of this story is "don't take a shower the night before you start".

As expected, there was little sympathy to be found from my co-workers at the BTF office, together with suggestions that consumption of amber fluids may have led to my downfall. Not the case, I'm afraid—that may at least have lessened the pain!



Karri Marri Tree

Speaking of the office, I recently created some furore there amongst the ladies. Having thoroughly enjoyed the Coast to Coast Walk in June (see page 30) I have decided to have a go at the Offa's Dyke Trail next year. Now those historians amongst you will know that Offa's Dyke was a major earthwork built around 475 AD by Offa, King of Mercia. It stretches the length of the English-Welsh border, about 180 miles. It was constructed to keep the Welsh out of England in much the same way that Hadrian built his wall to keep the Scottish out and the Emperor Nasi Goreng built the Great Wall of China to keep the rabbits out of China. The trail follows the original earthwork and passes through some wonderful scenery.

Unfortunately my announcement that "I was going to have a go at the Offa's Dyke" led to first a stunned silence and then a barrage of abuse. It wasn't until I realised that "the Offa's Dyke", if enunciated rapidly can be misinterpreted. I leave the rest to your vivid imaginations. All is now well.

Finally to trees. The picture of the Ent of Blackwood Campsite in the last edition of the Newsletter, and subsequently on Facebook aroused some interest, which prompted me to look for some more interesting trees along the Track. How many of you have spotted this oddity? The Karri/Marri Tree.

So if anyone has any interesting pictures of trees along the Track, I'd like to know and I may feature them in future editions of the Newsletter.

Email me on jim_baker@bigpond.com

Happy walking!
Wrong Way Jim

Get online – and access your profile page!

Benefits of logging in to your profile page include:

- No need to re-enter all your details each time you book an event or buy merchandise.
- See your history of events and merchandise purchases.
- Renew your membership or update your contact details easily online.
- Volunteers can submit time sheets and maintenance reports online.
- End-to-enders can enter the details of their walk and upload a photo for the Rogues Gallery.

How to log in:

If we already have your email address:

Your profile page has already been created.

Simply:

1. Click 'Login' at the top right corner of the website. (In the black bar)
2. Click the Forgotten your password? Link.
3. A page will come up requesting your email address. Enter your email address and click submit.
4. Login to your email and open the email from the Bibbulmun Track Foundation. Click on the link to generate a password as instructed. (If this link is not working then open a new web tab, then copy and paste the link into the browser bar and press 'Enter' key)
5. You will then receive a new email from the Bibbulmun Track Foundation providing you with a password.
6. Use this password to Login to the Bibbulmun Track website. (Be very careful if you copy and paste the password that you don't have an extra space at either end.)
7. Once logged in. Click on 'My Account' in the black bar at the top. You will see a tab called Change email/password where you can change the automated password to something that you will remember.

If we don't have your email address:

If you haven't received an email from us lately, it means we either don't have your address on record, or we may have an out of date address.

In this case email us with your name, address and membership number (if you are a member) and we will activate your profile and give you further instructions.

You can still phone, email or pop into the office.

If you're not keen on using the website for bookings or submitting forms you are of course still welcome to phone us or pop into the office.

Reflections from the Registers-

White Horse Hills

The wonderful thing about heavy rain all day is that can't feel your feet after a while. Please, anyone finding my washed away toenails somewhere in the Bibbulmun River, leave them at the high water mark. But how wonderful was the light in the rain—out of pain comes euphoria.

Anon

15/07/08

This is my 6th Bibb walk and a bit sick of all the hills nice hat and no snakes which is a fantastic accident only stepped in the creek and soaked my shoe sooo cold and sore feet and legs but very enjoyable hang food on hooks because of possums fun fun in the morning it started to rain hail and there was thunder and lightning enjoy we could not leave until midday and Dad attempted to make a dam LOL.

Tess

16/07/08

Man v Possum! Fortunately fellow walkers warned us of the possums and we slept with our food bags under our heads—which meant they came for our heads, but they gave up after a while and I caught some zizz in these wonderful surroundings. Beware the cuddly possums!

Rowan

03/04/10

Nice day, sunny, no wind, no rain. Another great day in Paradise! You all take care, now.

Harry and Margie
(on the way south.)

03/05/10

Waaalegh

Another unbelievably beautiful spot, so near Perth. Thanks to all who conceived the idea, brought it to fruition and continue to maintain it for us all—the Bibbulmun Track!

Maureen

8/06/08

I would like to nominate the Waaalegh dunny as the toilet in the world with the most magnificent view, the second being the loo on the top of Mount Sinai in Egypt.

Marian

30/05/10

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. Update your profile on our website (see page 28 if you are not sure how) or

Email:

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

Adventure Raffle



Barramundi Falls, Kakadu

The 2013 Adventure Raffle will be our major fundraiser for the year and we already have some great prizes lined up including a six-day Kakadu and Beyond tour for two people donated by World Expeditions!

Kakadu is possibly the most exciting adventure destination in Australia. Combined with the Katherine River and the rich Aboriginal culture this itinerary is beyond comparison. Surrounded by more than 20,000 years of Aboriginal Heritage you'll observe Dreamtime Rock Art, swim in remote gorges, and cruise among the abundant wildlife of Yellow Waters. This is followed by canoeing on the magnificent Katherine River.

The prize includes \$1000 for airfares, for a total prize value of \$4,990

Tickets will be on sale from March 2013 and we will be posting a book to all our members.

If you DO NOT wish to receive a book of tickets – please let us know by phoning 9481 0551 or emailing friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au. For those of you that have provided your current email address, you will also have the option to buy online tickets. To update or check that your email address is correct log onto your profile on our website (see page 28 if you are not sure how).

100% of funds raised will go towards maintaining the Track and campsites.

Photo Caption Competition



Come up with a caption for this photo of the Newmont Boddington Gold team in this year's Bibbulmun Team Challenge. The winner will receive a prize from Sea to Summit.

Entries can be submitted by fax, email or post.



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

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 or download the booking form on our website under Trip Planner / Equipment & Hire.

TRAILING AROUND THE WORLD

THE COAST TO COAST WALK NORTHERN ENGLAND



Climbing from Rosthwaite, with Thirlmere below

In 2005 Jim Baker set out to complete the Coast to Coast Walk across the north of England, only to be thwarted by some of the worst weather in 30 years. This year he was determined to succeed, and managed the 192 mile (320km) hike in eleven days, walking in early June.

The concept of a walk across the top of England was the brainchild of the late Alfred Wainwright, possibly England's best known writer of walking guides. Wainwright was a complex personality who would disappear for days on end, re-emerge to write up his notes of his walks, eat a meal with his long suffering wife and then vanish again into the mists atop the fells. He was disdainful of signposting and when he produced his book on the Coast to Coast Walk in the early 1970s he made it clear that this was not a track, picked out by signposts, but rather a suggestion of ways in which walkers could traverse the country. The walk makes use of a series of some marked trails and some less obvious ones. Which way you elect to go is up you, but don't expect to find Waugals along the way!

The walk starts from St Bees on the Cumbrian coast with the first four days in the Lake District, arguably the most beautiful part of the British Isles, but also fickle where weather is concerned. Day one was seductively easy, around the headland to Ennerdale to the great hospitality of Yew Craggs B&B.

From Ennerdale the weather went foul and the walk

up to Rosthwaite was hard, with heavy rain, fog and cold winds. First stop, for a very welcome hot coffee, was the Black Sail Youth Hostel, generally considered as the most remote of its kind in Britain.

Then it was up into the clouds, clambering over steep, slippery rocks and crossing streams on stepping stones. Not a place to walk alone, with no signage other than cairns, which are difficult to spot. There was much discussion about the route to follow to the highest point, the aptly named Grey Knotts.



Just below Grey Knotts in the fog

Beyond Rosthwaite the conditions eased somewhat, although the climb to Patterdale was tough, covering some beautiful countryside.

In Patterdale the White Lion pub proved to be a great place to recharge the batteries, ready for the

hard slog to Shap next day. From Patterdale the trail leads across the moors to Shap via the highest point of the trek, Kidsty Pike, at 784 meters. First port of call was Angle Tarn, not difficult walking but finding the way through a mishmash of unmarked tracks was less than simple. Out came the compass. Oh for some Waugals!

On Kidsty Pike the weather deteriorated into a white fog, which became steadily thicker until keeping sight of the guy in front became difficult. The descent involved a great deal of scrabbling over rocks and high steps. After a long trek the ruins of Shap Abbey were a welcome sight, as was the sight of the Kings Arms pub in Shap itself.

Now we were out of the Lake District, and the guidebook said the signage would be more consistent. Not too difficult, one imagined. On to Kirkby Stephen, a flat walk across the moors and through pasture land. The English summer day started with a temperature of four degrees, which eventually rose to a scintillating eight degrees. Couple this with a high wind across flat moorland –thank goodness for my windproof jacket! The signage through all this was indeed consistent, in that there wasn't any.

The route then crossed the border from Cumbria into Yorkshire and the Pennine Hills, the watershed between the east and west of England. Watersheds mean bogs, treacherous bright green areas of plant life that will swallow you without trace. Wainwright offers various routes, but urges walkers to visit the Nine Standards Rigg, a curious set of cairns set high on Hartley Fell. Their origin is obscure, but the varied construction and the intricacy of the stone work are fascinating.

The three different routes for this part of the trek are designated red, green and blue. This is their meeting point, politely described in the guidebook as mire. It is here that the watershed occurs; from now on rivers run to the east, towards the North Sea, rather than west into the Irish Sea.

Keld was my first experience of staying on a working farm, where the owners breed pedigree sheep, lovely people and great food. Next morning dawned dry and cold, with a brisk wind. The walk to Richmond, the largest town en route, was across moors and pastures, long but relatively comfortable. Accommodation in Richmond was at the Pottergate guesthouse, but sadly Dumbledore wasn't in residence. A quick dinner of soup and toasties at the local pub hit the spot.

Richmond to Ingleby Cross was perhaps the least



Quintessential England - Shap Abbey

interesting day of the walk, with lots of fields full of wet grass and stinging nettles. The highlight was the White Lion at Danby Wiske, roughly the halfway point, a lovely pub that opened just as I arrived, the landlord explaining that "we keep an eye out for walkers." Good English ale made up for the drab morning.

The accommodation in Ingleby Cross was one of the highlights of the walk, Park House B&B, set in the glorious countryside of Arncliffe Woods with great hosts, Beverly and Mike. Breakfast the next morning was shared between an American, a Canadian, a Swiss, an Australian (me) and three Poms; a truly international gathering, all walking the Coast to Coast route.

From Ingleby Cross the route follows the Cleveland Way. This made life easier as the Way is very clearly signposted, and remarkably contains long stretches of paving. The effort involved in the construction of this track, high in the moors, is hard to imagine.

After a very comfortable overnight stay in a remote farmhouse we set out for Glaisdale in a drizzle. Conditions gradually worsened until we were walking in heavy rain, driven into our faces by a strong wind. So much for walking west to east to keep the wind on your back, the vagaries of the English weather will prevail! Respite halfway along was gained at The Lion, a huge inn with two roaring log fires, filled with wet, steaming walkers of all nationalities.

Suitably refreshed we pressed on, the weather improved and we reached our destination in the late afternoon, the Arncliffe arms in Glaisdale, after walking across the wonderfully named Great Fryup Moor.



Jim with companions Ed and Lesley on Scarthforth Moor

A good night's rest was had by all and then our final day dawned. Unsurprisingly it was raining. We had seen a lot of mud, but the final day presented us with a mud extravaganza. We slid out of Glaisdale, and eventually slithered and slogged our way to a twenty meter waterfall known as Falling Fosse, where an enterprising soul has set up a stall selling hot drinks and snacks, with tables sheltered by huge umbrellas.

Fortified by mugs of steaming hot coffee we climbed the river bank, another long stretch of slippery mud, with the end of the journey in sight. However the final few miles were no stroll in the park, with two bogs to cross and a long walk around the headland. The first bog was treacherous, the

second we had been advised would be worse, so we took a route around it.

The walk along the cliff tops, although blustery, was dry underfoot and the small town of Robin Hood's Bay soon appeared, way below.

A surprising round of applause greeted us as we walked past the Bay Hotel, where several walkers that we had encountered in various places along the way were enjoying some al- fresco refreshment. The Bay Hotel is home to Wainwright's Bar, named after the great man himself. Here, walkers who have completed the route are invited to sign a special visitors' book.



The mud slide leaving Glaisdale