

Bibbulmun NEWS

APR'13 - JUL'13
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Newsletter for the friends of the Bibbulmun Track

Wandoo Reintegration Facility TO MAINTAIN WELLINGTON SPUR

We are very pleased to announce that the new Bibbulmun Wellington Spur Trail and group campsites will be maintained by residents of the Wandoo Reintegration Facility.

The Wandoo Reintegration Facility, managed by Serco Australia, is a minimum security detention facility aimed at assisting young adults to be reintegrated back into society to play a positive role. This is done, in part, by enabling residents to develop practical skills and to have meaningful experiences.

Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Foundation and Serco, a selected team of residents will receive training and support to conduct maintenance on the 18km trail which links the Bibbulmun Track to the Wellington Dam recreation area.

The trail encompasses two campsite areas, purpose built bridges and goes through mixed jarrah forests, pine plantations, farm land, across old railway formations from the logging industry and ends at the dam. It is an area rich in natural and engineering history and has been developed to meet the needs of school groups.

The Bibbulmun Track's long history of association with prison work crews began in 1994 when the Ministry of Justice (now the Department of Corrective Services) provided workshop facilities and labour to prefabricate shelters, and selected prisoners

worked out on the Track itself. This led to an MOU between the MOJ and CALM (now DEC) in 1998 and the setting up of work camps*.

This relationship continues to the present day and everyone involved in this new partnership is looking forward to an equally successful outcome, given the opportunities it offers for reparation and positive community engagement.

**Details of these events can be found in issue 48 of the Bibbulmun News, which can be downloaded from our website.*



Wandoo Residents and staff on an induction day on the Track.

ADVENTURE RAFFLE

**HOLIDAYS AND HIKING
GEAR - SOMETHING FOR
EVERYONE!**

Our Adventure Raffle is well under way thanks to the enthusiastic response of members who have already sent in their raffle books.

Over \$10,000 worth of magnificent prizes have been generously donated by World Expeditions, Mountain Designs, Sea to Summit and Cape Howe Cottages.

This year, tickets are also available online, so please spread the word and help make this the best raffle yet!

See page 2 for full prize details...

ADVENTURE RAFFLE

OVER \$10,000 WORTH OF PRIZES TO BE WON!

Tickets are \$5 and come in books of 5 (\$25) or can be purchased online.

The Adventure Raffle is the Bibbulmun Track Foundation's major fundraiser for the year. Please help us to make it a success!

For the first time tickets are available online too, so help spread the word and tell your family and friends.

100% OF FUNDS
RAISED GO TOWARDS
MAINTENANCE PROJECTS
ON THE BIBBULMUN TRACK.

1ST PRIZE - WORLD EXPEDITIONS SIX-DAY KAKADU AND BEYOND TOUR FOR TWO PEOPLE - VALUED AT \$4390

World Expeditions is one of the world's leading adventure travel companies and 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 up to \$1000 for airfares donated by the Bibbulmun Track Foundation.



2ND PRIZE - \$3,000 MOUNTAIN DESIGNS GIFT VOUCHER

Mountain Designs has been producing quality and functional goods to the highest standard for over 35 years. Go crazy and stock up on all the latest top quality outdoor, hiking and travel gear including specialised outdoor clothing, tents, backpacks, boots, and much more.



3RD PRIZE - BIBBULMUN SOUTH COAST ESCAPE FOR TWO VALUED AT \$1500

Get away from it all on one of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation's walking break packages. Spend four nights at the luxurious Cape Howe Cottages surrounded by the pure beauty of the most southerly part of Western Australia. Immerse yourself in nature and experience spectacular views of the Great Southern Ocean as you enjoy day walks on the Bibbulmun Track. All meals and transfers to the Track included.



4TH PRIZE - \$1,500 SEA TO SUMMIT GIFT VOUCHER

Have fun choosing whatever you desire from a selection of the latest high quality, high-tech and lightweight gear from Sea to Summit. You'll find Sea to Summit products in most outdoor shops including Mountain Designs.



REMEMBER All sold ticket stubs/unsold tickets need to be returned with the remittance slip to the Foundation by 5th JUNE 2013

If you are having difficulty selling the tickets or prefer to buy online please return them IMMEDIATELY so that we can sell them OR if you can sell more books please let us know - Phone 9481 0551 or email: events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au



FROM MY Desk

Welcome to the winter edition of Bibbulmun News.

This time last year we reported on the widespread bushfires just south of Northcliffe. Having just re-opened the diversion in this area, lightning struck near Balingup and, once again, a large section of Track has been affected resulting in a long diversion.

Such is the nature of the Bibbulmun Track - with 1000 kilometres of track and 49 campsites there is always something that requires fixing, moving, saving or upgrading!

While many of the impacts are caused by Mother Nature, other impacts are the result of human activity such as development, mining and the use of motorised vehicles.

One example featured in this edition of Bibbulmun News (see page 25) is the increasing number of trail bikes in WA. The damage inflicted on the Bibbulmun Track is an ongoing source of frustration to our maintenance volunteers and to walkers - particularly as the bikes aren't required to be registered, so even if the bikes are seen, they cannot be identified.

Please be assured that our Board is acutely aware of the issue and has been involved at many levels in the discussions leading to the development of strategies to manage the recreational use of trail bikes. We will continue to highlight the need for bike registration and rider education in particular and will keep our members informed of any progress.

Our front page article reports on a new relationship between the Foundation and Serco to maintain the new Bibbulmun Wellington Spur Trail. At a meeting at the Wandoo Reintegration Facility I was introduced to a couple of the residents who will be amongst the first group to take part in this project. They were both looking forward to the opportunity, particularly as both had grown up in the suburbs and had never spent any time in the bush. It seems unbelievable that someone in their 20's has never actually been into a natural area, but this reality is increasingly the norm for the younger generation.

Other than gaining practical skills and the confidence to find employment on leaving detention, we hope that the young men will develop an appreciation of the benefits of bushwalking and spending time on the Bibbulmun Track.

Finally, a sincere "Thank you" to everyone who has bought a raffle ticket. Thanks to the support of our sponsors we can assure you that 100% of the funds raised will go towards Track projects.

Have a great time out there!

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.

Alan Thurlow	Jeff Yorke
Amanda Horne Pty Ltd	John McKay
Angela Bowman	Julie Wood
Angela Button	Leanne Schwarzbach
Barry and Margaret Bryan	Lesley Howe
Bernice Colvin	Marcus Harris
Claire Brittain	Margaret Ellis
Craig Dutton	Margaret Halsmith
Graeme and Gabriela	MJ Lindquist
Clarke	Philip Dodd
Ian Murchison	Richard Dewar
Jan and Colin Read	Scotch College
Jane Clifton	

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.

Donations of \$500 or more are recognised with a plaque on the back of a dunny door!



Greetings to you good people at the Bibbulmun Track Foundation. The walk I did, "Highlights of the Bibbulmun Track" in October not only provided me with a wonderful experience and treasured memories, it also gave me the opportunity to take lovely photos which I used for Christmas cards! Thank you to you all for your work, and particularly best wishes to Steve and Jim, the best tour guides in the world!

Warm regards,

Bettina le Gras

Many thanks Steve, for all you've achieved in placing the Bibbulmun Track experience on the absolute top of my walking experience. Hope to be over to the West some time in 2013. Will look you up.

Regards,

Kevin Webb

Hello everybody,

My 7 year old son and I went for a four day walk from Donnelly River Village to Beedelup. We managed to pick the perfect days for the walk, just after the rain, which cooled down the air. That second long day we had my brother as support, so we didn't have to take the heavy backpacks.

Kevin found this Tree face, just after Beavis Campsite. Thought I would show it to you. He thought he should make the same face as the tree.

We also found the tree that looks like a fish leaping out of the woods. That was before Beavis. Hope you enjoy the pictures.

Regards,

Regina



Hello Edith,

Attached is our directional sheet from our walk last year...

We so wish that we can do it all again someday but I promised Sandy that our next 10 week bout of long service would be on a long slow trek overseas sometime, somewhere. Thank you so much for the support and the hard work of the Foundation. Your information and accessibility for walkers is outstanding. The facilities are just incredible and I'm sure an envy of all the other states. An amazing stroll and one we will be talking about for many years to come.

Kind regards,

Peter & Sandy

Hi to all involved in the organising of the Volunteer gathering - you all did very well!

It was lovely to be thought of and receive such a lovely gift and bag of goodies - you put a lot of thought and work into the day and I am sure everyone would have been more than happy and hopefully inspired to carry on being a vullie.

Am hoping I can do more next year as I do miss the people contact and feeling of giving back even in a small way.

Cheers,

Carol

Dear Gwen and Staff,

This is a note of appreciation from myself and Elaine for all your help, support and friendship over the past twelve years since we began our bushwalking on the Bibbulmun Track in 2001.

To yourself, Steve Sertis, Jim Baker and the rest of the office staff and volunteers we want to say thanks for your hard work in maintaining such a high standard in keeping the day to day activities of the Track ticking along year after year.

We have both loved the times when we have been able to visit you in the office to talk face to face and to share our experiences of our walks with you, especially after our non-stop walk when we came in to share Elaine's birthday cake with you all in September 2006. In twelve years we have completed four end-to-ends in 2004, 2006, 2008 and now 2012, one non-stop, one in two halves and the other two in sections. Add to that day walks too numerous to count. Our whole experience has been nothing short of fantastic. Although it has become a little harder as we have grown into our early seventies, with the distances between shelters getting longer and the hills getting higher, we would not have missed any of it for the world.

The condition of the shelters and the Track has been of the highest quality, for which we say thank you for your contribution in effecting the continuing maintenance with the volunteers working alongside DEC. Thank you for this labour of love and for the wonderful world class facility that people like ourselves are able to use and gain such benefits and enjoyment from at any time.

However, now we have finished our latest walk, Elaine has finally worn out her boots, thrown them in the bin and decided to hang up her pack for the last time. She has an ongoing back problem and has retired from any further long distance bush walking, so as a couple our walking partnership has come to an end. It was a particularly emotional moment when we ate our final lunch at the new Sandpatch campsite and lifted our packs to walk into Albany for the last time. However we intend to remain as members of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation in the years ahead, as our interest in the Track will never end. Once bushwalking gets into your blood it stays there forever.

May you all continue your great work for the Foundation as long as you are able. We shall treasure the many memories that we have of all of you who have shared these wonderful years with us, and wish you many blessings in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Garry & Elaine Keymer

To the Bibbulmun Track,

Please find attached the end-to-end statement as we walked.

For me (Marinus van der Zande) being a third time end-to-ender, the destination is not important, but the being there.

For my brother Wim it was the experience of having accomplished something he never in his wildest dreams would have ever been dreaming of doing.

After a hard beginning I promised brother Wim that the lights will be bright and burning before we reached Albany.

Believe in succeeding in this mission, as he is talking about walking back one day.

We had a wonderful time and I am looking forward to walk from Albany to Kalamunda one day soon.

First however, freezing a while in Norway and motor biking through Oz before that.

Have been thanking all the vullies and you people many times before, but you cannot be praised enough.

"I/We will be back"

Best regards,

**Marinus van der Zande/
Wim van der Zande
(Track name "Snoring 60ties")**

Netherlands

Notice Board

IT'S FREE FOR MEMBERS!

If you are looking to buy or sell gear, or seeking walking companions, the notice board is a good advertising medium. It's free for members and costs just five dollars for non-members to post an advertisement which is displayed on our website and in this magazine.

To place an ad you can contact us by email, snail mail, phone or in person. Members can post ads directly on to the website. Just log in using your profile, then go to News and then Notice Board and follow the prompts.

If you are not sure about your profile, refer to page 28 of issue #61 of the Newsletter, or give us a call on 9481 0551

Two Weeks IN SUMMER

by John Nuttall

John Nuttall (Barramundi Boy) completed an end-to-end walk in February/March this year, during which time he composed this poem:

'Twas summer time when I took a stroll
To watch the southern breakers roll
I'd heard the Southern Ocean did
So now decided to track the Bibb

The boys at DEC have gone to town
With two new shelters, one pulled down
Mutton Bird so crisp and new
I'll test it out, I'm knackered too

I farmed the cool south ocean breeze
But at West Cape Howe, I near did freeze
The dawn broke clear and prior to seven
I soon discovered I was in heaven

Boat Harbour, such an idyllic spot
And Michael turned up on the dot
A chat, a chat, my kingdom for a chat
Two like minds on the Bibbulmun Track

At Conspicuous Beach I bade the ocean goodbye
But not without a tear in my eye
And I'll return there in another time
Even if it's only in my Dreamtime

Then into the forest of giant Tingle land
And if not impressed, I should stay in Queensland
Through the Valley of Giants and Treetop Walk
What a spectacle, I shall talk

On to Mandalay, the jewel in the crown
Overlooking Chatham, the isle of renown
So bye, Southern Ocean, I'll let you roll
And visit again when I take a stroll

Barramundi Boy
(Schafer Campsite) 26/2/13

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

recreationandtrails@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 Rebecca Hamilton on (08) 9290 6135 or rebecca.hamilton@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



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.



Danielle Stone, Trails Coordinator

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



DEC Recreation & TRAILS UNIT

Autumn is finally here after a long hot summer, with Perth sweltering through its hottest summer on record. The maximum temperature rose above 37 degrees for 21 days, beating the previous record of 19 days in the summer of 1971-72. These extremely hot conditions made it a difficult fire season for all DEC districts through which the Bibbulmun Track passes.

Around 4pm on Tuesday 12 February an intense thunderstorm passed through the area around Balingup and Greenbushes starting numerous fires in the region. The bushfire unfortunately led to the loss of Southampton Bridge, damage to Blackwood campsite toilet and water tank, the closure of a large portion of Track between Balingup and Donnelly River Village and sadly the loss of the Southampton Homestead. (See the article on page 8)

A big thanks goes to all DEC, DFES and volunteer fire fighters involved in this fire incident. They did an extraordinary job in some very tough circumstances. Blackwood Campsite might not be there now if it had not been for their hard work and determination.

The Track is still closed between Balingup and Karri Gully. Blackwood District is working towards setting up a diversion as quickly as possible, but this is proving difficult, as there are only two bridges that cross the Blackwood River and large areas of the fire damaged forest will have to be harvested. These issues are limiting the available options; however we are hopeful a diversion will be ready shortly.

Our long standing construction supervisor Scott Hunter has resigned after 17 years with the Department. You would have seen Scott's name in many of these articles and many of you have probably met him out on the Track. You may have been part of a volunteer working group assisting Scott with bridge or shelter upgrades, or you might have bumped into him on one of his numerous end-to-end walks. Scott was a wonderful asset to the unit, and we will greatly miss his workmanship, attention to detail and sense of humour. I wonder if anyone else will be able to build a kit bridge in six hours!

Following the departure of Larissa Chalmers from the unit in November, Blake Edwick joined the team as a project officer. He is currently working on the Bibbulmun Track counter program which aims to gain a better understanding of how many people are currently using the Track. A total of nine counters will be installed along the Track adding



After 17 years, construction supervisor Scott Hunter has resigned from the DEC. His work and supervision of volunteer projects on the Bibbulmun Track will be greatly missed.

to other counters already in place. Thank you to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation for its support of this program, and to the volunteers who will be collecting the data from the counters. Blake is in the process of training these volunteers, thanks again for your time.

In other news from the broader Recreation and Trails Unit, the Munda Biddi Trail project will be complete in early April. The Munda Biddi Trail Foundation has planned an event called the Munda Biddi Epic 1000 which will take off from Albany on the 8th April. For this event 26 lucky riders will become the first people to ride the Munda Biddi Trail from end-to-end.

As I have said before, managing the Track really is a team effort, and the Track is a world class icon due to the ongoing support of the Foundation, volunteers and the DEC staff. As we move into the cooler months, it's a perfect time to be out on the Track. So have fun out there!

Danielle Stone – Trails Coordinator



New counters have been installed to provide data on the number of walkers using the Track.



Bibbulmun Track SUFFERS FROM BUSHFIRES

In mid-February fires started by lightning ripped through the shires of Nannup, Donnybrook-Balingup, Bridgetown-Greenbushes and Manjimup, burning through Southampton, Greenbushes, the western part of Bridgetown, Hester Brook, Wandillup and Maranup. At the peak of the conflagration nine separate fires were burning.

More than 200 fire-fighters battled tirelessly to bring them under control, assisted by six water bombers and two helicopters. Residents were forced to flee their homes as the ferocious blaze spread through more than 3000ha of bushland.

The impact upon the Bibbulmun Track was considerable, with approximately 11km of the Track being affected directly by the fire, from Spring Gully Road to a point south of the bridge spanning Southampton Road. At time of writing the Track is closed between Balingup and the Brockman Highway at Karri Gully.

There is some good news in that the shelter at the Blackwood Campsite, one of the most picturesque on the Track, escaped with minor damage to the guttering, however the dunny was destroyed. The gods of fire clearly have very specific targets! The water tank has yet to be inspected to ascertain if the contents are still potable.

The very bad news is that the beautiful and historic Southampton Homestead, built in 1859, was gutted by the fire, and a second property close by was also destroyed. The sympathy of the BTF goes out to all owners of properties that have suffered loss, but especially to Jeff Pow and his family of the Southampton Homestead, great supporters of the Track, who have allowed Bibbulmun Track walkers to trek through their private domain.

The major problem is that Southampton Road Bridge is now sitting in the bottom of the river, and this was the only viable all seasons crossing point of the Blackwood River for a long, long way.



Southampton Road Bridge has been destroyed

At the time of writing this article the Department of Environment and Conservation are planning a diversion. Given the lack of crossings available over the Blackwood River there are very limited options and the diversion will probably be quite long. The main reason being, that most of the fire swept through pine forest. The roots of pine trees continue to burn underground, so while the pine trees may still be standing they could be very unstable, particularly in windy conditions, making it very hazardous for walkers to trek through the forest. It is hoped that the diversion will be in place at the end of April and we stress the importance for walkers not to walk the closed alignment for their own safety.

An alternative to walking the diversion is to arrange transport from Balingup to the point on the Brockman Highway, near Karri Gully, where the Track crosses the road and walk on from there to Donnelly River Village. Unfortunately there is no taxi service in Balingup, so this would probably involve organising a taxi from Bridgetown. Alternatively there is a Transwa coach service that runs from Balingup to Pemberton. Walkers thinking of using this service should check the timetable on the Transwa website at www.transwa.wa.gov.au

These fires were caused by nature, but serve to remind us all of the devastation fire can bring to the bush. Please remember to be cautious when lighting campfires in the campsites where fires are permitted, keep them small and always ensure fires are completely extinguished before you leave the area.

Postscript: The devastation caused by bushfires can be enormous, but it is heartening to see how swiftly

the bush regenerates after a fire. The picture below was taken recently of part of the bush that was subjected to a huge fire to the south of Northcliffe in February 2012 (See Issue # 59 of Bibbulmun News. What was reduced to a desolate landscape has recovered extremely well over twelve months and will soon be looking better than new!



The bush regeneration a year after the fires near Northcliffe.

Walker Story REFLECTIONS FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN CHOOKS!

South Africans Penny Allen and Hilke Kruger journeyed all the way from Johannesburg to walk the Track, after learning about it from a mutual friend, Sue Desmond, who had made an earlier end-to-end trek. Both ladies are experienced walkers, having trekked the 800km Camino de Santiago in Spain and the Grand Traverse, a 14 day very tough route right across the Drakensberg Range of Mountains in their home country. Here is what Penny (aka the Gallivanting Granny) had to say about their experience:

To walk nearly 1000km and to be pretty much away from civilisation and self-sufficient for 50 days appeals to only a few crazies. Well I confess I am crazy. And Hilke must be too. The two of us came all the way from South Africa especially to walk your Bibbulmun Track. And we loved it.

We were so impressed with the Track itself. It was so much prettier than either of us expected. Each section had its own appeal, although I must admit I was very pleased to have a slight change of scenery after 500km of jarrah forest! Photos don't do justice to the magnificence of the karri forest and the sheer size of the tingle trees. I struggled to enjoy the swampy section, but I have to confess to having a very sore back by then and feeling constantly hungry. Days and days of cloud and rain didn't help. However all was forgiven and forgotten on reaching the coast. The delight of sun again and of swimming and the beautiful coastline, tempered the flies, mozzies and aches and pains!

Thank you to all the wonderful people who work so hard to maintain the Track. I loved the simple shelters and feel so privileged to have spent 50 nights dry, safe and comfortable (that is relative of course!) but still open to the elements and not shut indoors. The fact that most of the long drops (as we call them) had toilet paper was an impressive bonus! (Ed note: walkers, don't rely on this. Carry your own!)

Last but not least is mention of all the wonderful people we met or walked with. To the team of five ladies who maintain the section around White Horse Hills and other gents that night; thanks for the warm friendship and generous food contributions! Was I so obviously hungry? To Danny who we lost along the way, we were offered your uncollected food parcel at Peaceful Bay. We gratefully fell on it like starved vagabonds! To Hauke for all the interesting chats. To John, our Mr Australia who made our trail eventful, colourful and unforgettable. And finally

to Jack and Isabel for your incredible, generous hospitality, advice and friendship. (Ed: See the article on trip planning on page 27)

Altogether we regretfully left Australia with wonderful memories and a great sense of achievement.

Thank you!

Penny Allen and Hilke Kruger (the SA Chooks)



Thank You TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS



Bite-Sip-Go!

BTF member and maintenance volunteer Maureen Potter recently received a well deserved Long Service Award, which included a Camelbak water bottle. So impressed was Maureen by this device she has written a poem about it:

Camelbak is something new,
A better bottle just for you,
Improves hydration through and through,
Just: Bite—Sip—Go!

If you're badly dehydrated,
Needing to be rehydrated,
Possibly even constipated,
Then: Bite—Sip—Go!

"Tip and Gulp" is not worthwhile,
The Big Bite Valve is more your style,
Guaranteed to make you smile!
Try: Bite—Sip—Go!

No more plastic bottle tipping,
The modern walker's "Bite and Sipping",
Through that special valve they're gripping!
It's: Bite—Sip—Go!

Once bitten satisfactorily,
It closes automatically,
(Some would say "dramatically"),
They: Bite—Sip—Go!

Any Bibb Track volunteer,
Can stride along without a fear,
Knowing Camelbak is near,
So: Bite—Sip—Go!

An extra twenty four percent,
Will get you up that steep ascent,
This new technique is heaven sent!
Do: Bite—Sip—Go!

However much you gulped before,
This will make it even more,
Racing along that forest floor!
Please: Bite—Sip—Go!

Those you meet will stop and goggle,
As you hammer in that Waugal,
Swing that hoe without a wobble!
Please: Bite—Sip—go!

Slippery slopes or branches low,
No need to interrupt the flow,
Just one bite and on you go!
Let's: Bite—Sip—Go!

Shelters you will clean with pride,
Fallen trees take in your stride,
Leap swollen streams however wide,
When You: Bite—Sip—Go!

Maureen Potter

Long Service Awards

This year our annual Volunteer Thank You Days were even more special than usual, as we honoured nearly 150 volunteers with Long Service Awards.

Since its formation 15 years ago, the Foundation has enjoyed excellent volunteer support, always having around 300 active volunteers. Their roles range from maintaining the Bibbulmun Track and guiding events to administration duties, answering walker enquiries, surveys and community events.

The commitment and enthusiasm of these volunteers, including the Board of Directors, is instrumental to the operation of the Foundation and the maintenance of the Bibbulmun Track.

Each year Foundation volunteers have received awards based on the number of hours contributed in a financial year. These rewards, for over 100, 300 and 500 hours, are generously provided by Foundation sponsor Mountain Designs.

As many volunteers are unable to give more than a few hours each year but have supported the Foundation for many years, it was decided to institute Long Service Awards to acknowledge their commitment and loyalty.

Of the volunteers recognised this year, there were 14 who have been with the Foundation for 15 years—a remarkable effort.

5 year award recipients received a certificate, 5 year volunteer cloth badge, a packet of wildflower seeds and a specially printed water bottle.

10 year recipients received a certificate, 10 year badge, packet of wildflower seeds, water bottle and a bottle of wine.

15 year volunteers were presented with a certificate, 15 year badge, wildflower seeds, water bottle, bottle of wine and a pot of thyme in a handmade jarrah planter box.

Awards were presented at a number of Thank You functions in Perth and in regional areas as many volunteers live throughout the south west.

Thank you to Zanthorrea Nursery and Fairbrossen Wines for their generous support of the awards.

15 Year Volunteers

Carol Jowett	Jean Byrne
John Chellew	Bruce Manning
Steve Sertis	Mike Wood
Gwen Plunkett	Jim Sharp
Chris Plunkett	Simon Holthouse
Jan Read	Leonie Kirke
Colin Read	

10 Year Volunteers

Trish Bird	Pippa Moore
Kevin Buckingham	Graham Murdoch
Val Cocker	Sue Palmer
Peter Dear	Geoff Palmer
Phil Dufty	Russel Peterkin
Malcolm Ferrier	Chris Piggford
Jim Freeman	Maureen Potter
Bonnie Hennessey	Maureen Quirke
Tony Jennings	Jennifer Robinson
Lesley Kerr	Guy Spouge
Diana Krakouer	Gerry Visser
Edward Martin	Bev Visser
Richard Moore	

5 Year Volunteers

For a full list of 5 Year volunteer award recipients visit the website. We will also publish a full list of names in our Annual Report.

Thank You Days

Rewards and awards were presented at a series of functions in Kalamunda, Albany, Denmark, Bunbury and Busselton.

The ZigZag Cultural centre was again the venue in Kalamunda, where about 75 volunteers gathered for morning tea. Board member Louise Yeaman presented the Mountain Designs Rewards to 49 of our dedicated volunteers, while Board Chairman Mike Wood presented the five and ten year Long Service Awards. The 15 year Awards were presented by Foundation ED Linda Daniels.

Charmaine and I travelled to William Bay for a delightful afternoon tea at the home of Sue and Barry Goldsmith with volunteers from the Frankland district. It was great fun to sit and chat in their newly renovated cottage with wonderful views over the gardens to the dam and forest beyond.

In Albany we again enjoyed the hospitality of Bev and Gerry Visser with more good food, laughter and catching up with everyone in their lovely garden which is sheltered from the Albany breezes.

A holiday in Busselton provided me with the opportunity to get together with Long Service Award recipients in Busselton where we gathered at the beachside home of Geoff and Sue Palmer for a BBQ. As usual there was lots of chatter around the table as we enjoyed a lovely meal and a balmy Busselton evening.

On the way home we met up with volunteers in Bunbury to present Long Service Awards. The day was cool enough for us to enjoy a yummy morning tea in the garden of Aina and Graeme Hargens. This was the first occasion many of them had met, as they maintain sections in different districts. There was a lot of laughter as they tried to sort out faces, names and sections.

Thank You Days provide an excellent opportunity to show our appreciation to our volunteers. While these days are chosen to acknowledge the efforts of volunteers we recognize on a daily basis the difference that volunteers do make.

Thank you one and all.

Gwen Plunkett
Volunteer Coordinator



Bunbury Volunteer Thank You Day L to R: Ray and Diane Parks, Bep O'Donnell, Libby Pardoe, Ian Pittick, Judy Armstrong, Wendy-Lee Pittick, Aina Hargans, Gwen, Jenny Ashbolt, Peta Maiklem, Graeme Hargans



15 Year Long Service Award recipients at the Volunteer Thank You Day in Kalamunda. L to R: Mike Wood, Chris and Gwen Plunkett, Carol Jowett, Jean Byrne, Jan and Colin Read.

*Maintenance Volunteer Edward Martin's response to his long service award:
Wow thanks Gwen! Is it 10 years? Are you sure? It only feels like a few years...
I really appreciate this care package; I don't expect anything and do enjoy just going about the task quietly. I hope to be helping out for many more years.
I know I don't put the times in as often as I should but at least the Track is nice and the hut kept tidy.
Many thanks to Jim Baker for dropping the gifts off and apologies for not being able to pick it up. Please pass on my appreciation.
I can't believe it's been 10 years? I love the patch; I'll find a special place for this and wear it with pride. Thanks so much.
Edward Martin*



Yes, THEY DID IT!

Our CONGRATULATIONS to the following 45 walkers on their achievement! Six from overseas, 11 from interstate and 28 from WA.



Spring 2012 proved to be a popular time for walkers to complete their journeys along the Bibbulmun. Good weather, great facilities and our spectacular spring wildflowers attracted many to the Track.

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.

Reinhard Altscher (68), from Germany (N-S, 07.10.07 to 14.11.07), has completed many long walks in Spain, Greenland, Norway and Morocco but thinks that the Bibbulmun Track is the best marked and organised trail in the world. The feeling of being in the wilderness was wonderful. He had no problems resupplying along the way and managed the long stretches well. Reinhard's favourite sections included Mt Cooke, the forests south of Pemberton and arriving in Albany. He enjoyed meeting other people and a highlight was a night of music and singing with a group at Waalegh. He reminds other walkers that a good, warm sleeping bag is essential.

Bill Shaw (62) came from the UK and found his end-to-end (Sectional, 15.10.10 to 20.10.12) to be more difficult than the Pennine Way because of the need to carry more equipment and food. He liked the well-marked trail, the excellent shelters and the availability of water. Bill resupplied in the Track towns, but posted a box to North Bannister. The coastal section between Walpole and Albany was his favourite and he felt a great sense of achievement when walking past the Amity in Albany. A highlight

was again meeting The Bibbulbuns (See issue # 56) on his second section, after sharing a couple of weeks with them two years ago on his first Bibbulmun walk. Bill especially liked the variety of parrots he saw. His small radio worked well for him and he reminds everyone to remember their head-set.

Roger Everard (65) from England (Sectional, 15.12.11 to 15.11.12) found the Bibbulmun Track to be very different from other walks he has done. He liked the feeling of remoteness without actually being remote. After walking a section back in 2000, he always had the intention of returning for an end-to-end. Roger thought the shelters and water supply were excellent and enjoyed the fellow walkers he met on Track. Wildlife made many appearances including an echidna near Dwellingup and an eagle very close to him along the south coast. His advice is to be as fit as possible and travel light.

Penny Allen (54) and **Hilke Kruger** (55), both from South Africa, were simply Penny and Hilke on their end-to-end (N-S, 06.10.12 to 26.11.12). They were impressed by the Track's high standard and

condition. Hilke says "I feel greatly privileged and honoured to have experienced the beauty of this stunning, special Track." Penny says the Track has a class of its own and she loved the friendliness and generosity of all the people they met—"Australia rocks!" Pre-packing and posting food drops to each town worked well. Both thought the karri trees were amazing and loved the scenic locations of many of the shelters. Wildflowers, different wildlife, swimming in the sea and in clear pools and the peaceful feeling of vastness and remoteness were all highlights for them. They advise thinking about the weight you carry as the less you carry, the more you enjoy.

Marinus van der Zande (64) from Norway walked with **Wim van der Zande** (62), from the Netherlands as Snoring 60ties (N-S, 07.10.12 to 28.11.12). No details of their journey were provided. (Ed: See the letter on page 4)

Carol Corrigan from Victoria found that spring was an ideal time for an end-to-end (N-S, 02.09.12 to 23.10.12) because the wildflowers were abundant and spectacular. Meeting helpful people in Track towns, especially Collie and Northcliffe, was a highlight. Her walk was a good time for meditation and reflection and it was delightful to go to sleep each night and wake in the morning to the sounds of frogs and birds. Carol has walked extensively overseas, but nowhere else has she experienced free sleeping shelters and a guaranteed daily water supply. This is special and sets the Bibbulmun apart from all other walks. A light, free-standing tent was among her best equipment. Carol suggests posting town-clothes ahead of you to the next town so that you don't have to carry them.

Alexander Dunn (58) from NSW enjoyed every day of his end-to-end (N-S, 27.09.12 to 03.11.12) with its spring flora, forest scenery and spectacular southern coast. He liked the diversity of the forests, the tingle trees, the beaches and the campsites adjacent to rivers or dams. Wildlife included lots of snakes, some beautiful blue wrens and two whales. Alexander found the Bibbulmun Track to be more sedate, flatter and more relaxing than the Appalachian Trail and with better maintained shelters and toilets. Among his best equipment was a big blow-up mattress, used in preference to a foam mat. An old, paint tin billy was also good. He suggests joining the Foundation to take advantage of trip planning—he found the suggested itinerary with times/distances was invaluable.

Craig Dutton (39) came from Queensland for his second end-to-end (N-S, 28.07.12 to 02.11.12). Blackwood campsite was a favourite with him and he saw a multitude of wildlife including snakes, bobtails, echidnas and a variety of birds.

Byron Pershouse (72) returned from Queensland for another end-to-end (N-S, 29.08.12 to 05.11.12) and his satisfaction at having completed this great walk again was indescribable. He walked with Bill Shaw and John and Judy Rayner—all from WA (see below). Byron used both home dehydrated meals and commercial freeze-dried packs. He says the shelters are still the stars of the Track and set it apart from all other great walks. Favourite sections were between Walpole and Peaceful Bay, and he says the Track presents a new challenge each day. He enjoyed the variety of orchids, and was happy that the 'roos were friendly and the snakes were sleepy. Byron's best equipment was a trekking umbrella that enabled him to walk in the rain without sweating inside a rain jacket.

Janet (65) and **Richard** (66) **Michael** from Victoria (N-S, 10.09.12 to 05.11.12) think that, as a free long-distance walking track, the Bibbulmun Track is in a world class of its own. Walpole to Denmark was Richard's favourite section and Janet also enjoyed the walk from Denmark on to Albany. The tingle trees and wildflowers were highlights along with the first view of the southern ocean. Richard was impressed with his 10kg weight loss and Janet described the walk as an experience that will live with her forever. Wildlife included quendas, cockatoos, roos, snakes, whales and dolphins. A mosquito net that covered her whole sleeping bag was Janet's best equipment, and Richard liked his walking poles. They say good planning of food, rest days and daily walking distances is the key to enjoyment.

Charlie Barran (56) from Victoria enjoyed his walk (N-S, 26.09.12 to 07.11.12) which he found easy and relaxing. He thought the Track maintenance, the facilities and especially the toilets were of a very high standard. Weather was also good and he enjoyed meeting fellow walkers. Charlie used one food drop at North Bannister and bought all other supplies in the Track towns, but found stocks of gas canisters to be fairly low. His favourite section was from Northcliffe to Denmark, with highlights being the sunset at William Bay, whales at Sandpatch and the many kangaroos and emus at DRV. Charlie found the Bibbulmun Track to be significantly less challenging than other walks he's done, but that was fine. Best equipment included a down vest and his walking poles.

Dianne Clayton (52) from Queensland and **Roger Turner** (54) from NSW found their end-to-end (N-S, 28.08.12 to 21.11.12) to be an amazing, challenging, wonderful experience. Dianne summed it up as "Yes, it is hard work at times; yes, you will get wet and cold; yes, your feet will hurt and shoulders will get sore; and yes, it will be one of the best things you have ever done!" They loved the free Track facilities that make the Bibbulmun unique and appreciated the services, help and facilities offered to walkers in the towns. Apart from a food parcel sent to North Bannister they bought all supplies in Track towns. A favourite section was too hard to choose, as the forests were impressive, wildflowers beautiful, views inspiring and coastal scenery stunning. A highlight for both was the first glimpse of Mandalay Beach. For Dianne, each day brought a delightful surprise such as spying an orchid or watching a flock of cockatoos. Meeting so many friendly people was a highlight for Roger, as was an impromptu concert with other walkers at a campsite. Both loved their walking poles and Dianne's converter for her gas-stove allowed the use of different types of canisters. They say take the time to enjoy the journey, have a positive attitude and plan well.

"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**

Nick Tyllis (46) and **Rosalie Schultz** from the NT were simply Nick and Rosalie on their journey (Sectional, 08.08.10 to 05.12.12) which was a physical, mental, social and spiritual experience. Nick felt a sense of the effort that goes into maintaining campsites, bridges, walkways and trails. Rosalie feels concern at the future of the Track with the likelihood of a warming and drying environment. Like many others, they dehydrated food and sent parcels to Track towns, then supplemented these with purchases while in town. Nick enjoyed all sections, but a particular highlight was experiencing all four seasons in the first week of summer along the south coast. Rosalie enjoyed the amazing diversity of plants flowering in turn as they walked down the Track. She found it was unique to be alone on a well-developed track while still feeling

safe in the knowledge that there were shelters and water available. They urge others to respect the Track and the efforts of the volunteers. Be mindful of your own rubbish and willing to carry out any rubbish that you might find along the Track.

Alexander Kruglov (43) from Queensland was AK or Macedonian on his end-to-end (Sectional, 12.11.11 to 01.02.13) which he walked in two sections. He thought it was a great trail, and well marked, but much quieter than he expected, sharing only five shelters out of thirty between Collie and Albany. Alexander particularly liked the section between Northcliffe and Dog Pool and overall thought the Track had fantastic views and some amazing colours. He saw many, many tiger snakes and was very happy to have his gaiters.

Wayne Vernon, of Greenmount, has registered his end-to-end (S-N, 31.03.12 to 05.12.12) but provided no details of his walk.

Dolly (58) and **Geoff** (62) **Meates** of Lesmurdie (N-S, 03.08.12 to 28.09.12) appreciated the campsite upgrades completed since their last end-to-end. Geoff's favourite section was Walpole to Peaceful Bay and Dolly's was arriving in Albany, realising that she had actually made it! They walked with the weather, surviving many hail storms along with the freezing cold, the drenching rain, and the thunder and lightning—but had heaps of fun along the way. Both found the walk was a great way to keep fit, lose weight and clear the head doing something you love. Wildlife included many baby cockatoos, snakes, 'roos and an echidna. They rate the Bibbulmun Track as their best long distance walk in comparison with the Camino, Coast to Coast and Larapinta. They advise having rest days in towns to enjoy the local sights.

Nancy Lindon (59) of City Beach was simply Nancy as she walked with Dolly and Geoff Meates (N-S, 03.08.12 to 28.09.12). She is very happy to have completed another end-to-end and can't wait to get out there yet again. There wasn't a single day when she didn't feel like setting off for another day's walk, despite experiencing rain, hail and shine. Nancy loved the whole trek and her husband joined their group for the last five weeks into Albany. She thanks the BTF, DEC and all volunteers for such a fantastic facility. Good quality walking boots meant Nancy was able to keep walking after an ankle injury at Walpole, but she was disappointed that her raincoat leaked. She advises walkers to travel light.



Canoe crossing at Irwin Inlet. Photo by the Silvertops

Alan Thurlow (57) from Busselton (Sectional, 28.03.08 to 06.11.12) finds the Bibbulmun is a wonderful excuse to get out in the bush away from civilization. He walked sections with various friends and his parents also contributed with transport to and from the Track. Alan enjoyed Tasty Bite food. His favourite section was from Walpole to Denmark and he also enjoyed the views from Mt Chance and the wandoo valleys in the north. The solitude is one of the Track's pleasures and Alan was amazed at how few other walkers he met. He saw huge roos along the south coast. He says the things he forgot were his worst equipment—sharing one sleeping mat between two on one of the sections made for comfortable hips, but very sore shoulders!

Kevin Martin (65) from Gelorup aimed to just relax and enjoy the whole experience of his fourth end-to-end (N-S, 01.09.12 to 17.10.12), and even walked from Perth to Kalamunda beforehand. His wife and a friend helped out with food supplies in towns and he ate a wide range of food, but this still didn't stop him pigging out on huge, fresh meals in each town! Stand-out highlights were seeing the first karris near the Brockman Highway, the first glimpse of the ocean near Mandalay Beach and the stunning coastal scenery along the south coast. The many hills (especially that one near Beavis) and the sometimes ferocious storms with torrential rain and hail will also stick in Kevin's memory—in addition to watching the AFL Grand Final with the locals in the Northcliffe Pub. He has completed other long walks but says, "The Bibbulmun is unique and special because it is so long, so varied, so natural, so free and it is ours." Kevin advises some of the best experience you can get is out there on the Track listening to others and observing what they do.

David Parmenter (47) from Halls Head (Sectional, 27.12.08 to 26.10.12) found sectional hikes suited him best as he was able to start each walk refreshed

and enthusiastic. His favourite campsite was Tom Road and he enjoyed the walks along the Donnelly River in this area. Highlights included the views from Mts Cuthbert, Vincent and Cooke; refreshing dips in ocean or streams on a hot day; wildflowers on the south coast and the canoe crossing. David says some days were both mentally and physically challenging but he discovered places he would otherwise probably never have seen. And he loved the forest birdsong at dawn. His fly net was responsible for keeping him sane. A self-inflating mattress that lost air was swapped for an equally uncomfortable, but much lighter, foam mat. David advises carrying a free-standing tent as the inner can be erected in the shelter as a mozzie net.

Martin Reeve (78) from Bunbury (Sectional, 22.04.05 to 30.10.12) says he travels alone for the intelligent conversation but, nevertheless, says he has met many interesting people. He loves the facilities at the campsites, the water supplies and even the toilets because they mean his knees don't have to

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

squat any more! Martin used freeze-dried food on his trek. He has walked and climbed all over the world and says the Bibbulmun Track is truly unique.

Wendy (62) and **John** (71) **Stenton** from Greenwood (Sectional, 29.04.9 to 31.10.12) were simply Wendy and John during their adventure on the Track. They say their very first day was the hardest and the most exciting. Both appreciate the efforts involved in the development and maintenance of the Track. They dehydrated fruits and vegetables, but will dehydrate whole meals on future walks. Mandalay Beach was a favourite, both for their first views of the ocean, and for the botanical gardens around the coast line to Long Point. Other highlights were the exploding red seed pods from the zamias, the entertaining bird song and managing to survive a scary, savage storm between Tom Road and One Tree Bridge. Wendy and John saw a huge variety of wildlife including eagles, 'roos, goannas, pelicans, pesky flies and mozzies, and became increasingly wary of snakes. They advise others to start small, gain confidence, use Transwa transport and get advice from the BTF

Stephen Murdoch (58) of Padbury says his end-to-end (Sectional, 18.09.99 to 02.11.12) has taken him a long time, but he always enjoyed getting out on the Track when time permitted. Walpole to Denmark was his favourite section with its

amazing variation, and he loved walking in the early mornings. It was always exciting to see the wildlife, even the snakes. Stephen has completed walks overseas, but maintains the Bibbulmun is unique. He's worn the same pair of boots for twelve years and is now considering trading them in!

David Anderson (44) of Brunswick, also known as Pack Animal, continues to register end-to-ends (Sectional, 29.05.12 to 02.11.12 and 26.07.12 to 07.11.12). He reports all good with sunny days and advises that food supplies are not extensive at Dwellingup, Balingup and Donnelly River Village.

Jason Tiley (39) of Ellenbrook (N-S, 16.09.12 to 03.11.12) called himself Turtle on his journey. He delivered food drops before his walk and had no problems with them. His favourite section was from Balingup to Pemberton and he thought Blackwood campsite was "just magic". Jason saw a lot of wildlife including 'roos, wallabies, emus, quendas, quokkas, lizards, possums and a grand total of 60 snakes. A Jetboil stove and a SPOT tracker were best equipment, but his inflatable pillow stopped inflating on the second day.

Bill Shaw (67) from Morley walked with Byron Pershouse (see above) and John and Judy Rayner (N-S, 29.08.12 to 05.11.12). He is appreciative of the BTF, DEC and volunteers' workload and efforts in clearing the Track after it suffered in the winter storms. Bill found that dried food was okay and he enjoyed the walking, getting fitter, and losing 20-plus kg. Other highlights were the varied scenery of the hills, forests and coastline. His old boots gave out at Walpole, and the new ones he acquired became his worst equipment. His advice is to be well prepared so you can enjoy the journey.

Father and son team, **James** (63) and **Ian** (35) **Menzies** from Beckenham signed in as Mad Gecko on their walk (N-S, 06.09.12 to 05.11.12), which James described as a fantastic and unforgettable journey. Food parcels were delivered by family and Ian thought it was well worth purchasing a dehydrator as they ate a wide variety of home-cooked meals. Both enjoyed every section, from the trees to the hills to the sea and every day had its highlights. Special memories include meeting family members along the way, the hospitality shown by townspeople, and Ian finding a cold Guinness in his food parcel at White Horse Hills. There was much excitement reaching the southern terminus accompanied by family for the last few kilometres. They enjoyed seeing wildlife up close and personal. A SPOT GPS Tracker allowed their family and friends to follow their progress down the Track. Worst equipment was Ian's silk liner which split on the first night, and James' fishing line which never caught a fish. They advise good preparation in order to enjoy every step and urge others to just do it.

Elaine Keymer (70) from Albany, half of the **Garry and Elaine K** team, has completed another end-to-end (Sectional, 14.04.10 to 13.11.12). For her, it was an emotional end to twelve years of walking the Track, and she has lots of wonderful memories. She doesn't count sheep now but rattles off the names of all the campsites. Her favourite section was between Monadnocks and Chadoora where it is always hard, but good. Elaine maintains that walking the Bibbulmun Track has been the best experience of her and Garry's lives. Walking poles and a down sleep-liner were Elaine's best equipment. Worst were her old boots which are now in the bin! She says to enjoy every day, because all too soon it is over.

Karen Dowling (53) of Mandurah, aka Track Crakar and her daughter, **Tara**, walked with **Dale Mason** (49) of Beelie, aka Dale Snail, and collectively called themselves the Blister Sister Team (N-S, 29.09.12 to 21.11.12). Karen felt herself lucky to be able to spend seven-and-a-half weeks on the Track with the wildflowers. Despite missing her family, Dale really enjoyed the walk although she found it was both physically and mentally challenging. They carried dehydrated food and topped up with fresh supplies in towns, but Karen discovered that food packed with washing powder ends up tasting like washing powder! She couldn't single out a section as a favourite, but Dale selected Balingup to Pemberton. Highlights were swimming in pools along the way, and seeing the southern ocean. Joey kangaroos were among the wildlife they saw. Dale's sarong was her favourite gear. Karen's best equipment was her feet! Their advice includes posting home items no longer needed and allowing room for fresh fruit and vegies.

Neil Brothers (49) of Kelmscott (Sectional, April 04 to 23.11.12) says he learned so much along the way by talking to other hikers. His favourite section was between Denmark and Walpole, but this can change depending on the time of year. A special memory for him was looking back at Warren campsite as they headed out, to find it beautifully shrouded in mist. Walking keeps Neil aware of his personal fitness level and he's walked some sections many times. Wildlife included an echidna, quokkas, a wedge-tailed eagle and even frogs inside the shelters. A mozzie net was among his best equipment, but he would have liked a warmer sleeping bag. He advises other walkers to get out there, learn as you go and use the Bibbulmun Track website.

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"The Bibbulmun is unique and special because it is so long, so varied, so natural, so free and it is ours." – Kevin Martin

Kirsten Springvloed (34), from St James, called herself Lutra on her Bibbulmun adventure (N-S, 24.09.12 to 23.11.12) where every day was a highlight. She dehydrated food and sent food parcels but discovered she could easily have re-supplied in the towns. Kirsten loved the Blackwood valley and the tingle forests, and was happy with any day that was overcast. Each day she awoke with renewed spirit to keep going and says she's never felt so alert, energised and alive! South coast sunrises were extraordinary and the misty peaceful mornings in the forests were magical, especially when accompanied by the morning chorus of birds. The peace and contentment each evening was astounding and Kirsten liked feeling that she'd earned her food and rest. She never intended to be a solo walker but after a few days found she wouldn't have wanted it any other way. She encourages other women to stop dreaming about it and just start walking, as they'll never regret trying.

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"Each day she awoke with renewed spirit to keep going and says she's never felt so alert, energised and alive!" – Kirsten Springvloed

Cliff Osgood (72) of York was Cliff the Tin Man on his latest end-to-end (S-N, 02.10.12 to 26.11.12), which he found more enjoyable than his previous sectional one. Being better informed about what was available food-wise in towns was an advantage. Denmark to Walpole was his favourite section. After crossing Torbay Inlet in fast-flowing waist-deep water, he felt ready for the rest! Whilst liking the solitude of walking alone, Cliff still enjoyed meeting other like-minded walkers. Animals seen included wild pigs and a huge mob of emus. Walking poles were his best equipment, and his old worn-out sleeping bag was his worst. He advises walkers to have a list of questions ready to ask when you meet a hiker going in the other direction.

Lyn (65) and **John** (70) **Chilby** of Greenwood had a few false starts due to early injuries, gear failure and family commitments on their end-to-end (Sectional, 01.09.11 to 03.12.12), but they persevered to finally make it. Getting lost twice on their first day taught them the importance of carrying adequate water supplies. They found the Track exhilarating and, at times quite challenging but the fantastic, breathtaking views and scenery made the hill-climbing and the mud-slogging all worthwhile. They both enjoyed the wildflower displays and meeting and sharing time with fellow walkers. They liked the towns, especially Pemberton, with its welcome hot showers. John and Lyn pass on thanks to all the volunteers for the great job they are doing.

Toby Grieve (31) from Heathridge had a great time on his end-to-end (N-S, 22.10.12 to 11.12.12) but says the trip was a roller-coaster both physically and mentally. And he'll never eat anything dehydrated or freeze-dried, ever, again! The area around Rame Head was his favourite as the views and a lightning storm were amazing. Highlights included walking through the swampy areas between Lake Maringup and Woolbales during storms, and seeing the ocean for the first time. Toby had some interesting interactions with wildlife. At Gringer Creek he awoke at midnight to find a massive huntsman spider on his face. Then at Gardner he woke to discover a tiger snake on the platform, probably searching for the furry critters that were scuttling about during the night. He maintains the Bibbulmun Track has the best facilities of any track in Australia. Toby was happy with all his gear, but particularly liked his Cancer Council insect repellent/sunscreen.

Sergio Gustinetti (32) of West Perth (N-S, 10.12.12 to 21.01.13) spent his Christmas and New Year holiday walking the Bibbulmun which he says is "undoubtedly an Australian gem" with its excellent shelters. Originally from Italy, he now loves WA even more. A friend met him with food drops although he found the local Track town shops were just fine. Sergio's favourite sections were William Bay to Denmark and White Horse Hills to Mt Wells. The Track was not busy and he shared only three campsites along the way. He has walked the Camino in Spain, and says both trails are beautiful, but the Bibb is harder. His light hammock was his best equipment and his worst was a torch that broke on the first night. He warns walkers who plan summer walks to be prepared for isolation and high temperatures.

Matthew Bartlett (40), of Currumbine, was Bartletribe on his first major walk (N-S, 16.12.12 to 23.01.13), which he describes as the hardest thing he has ever done. He learned a lot about himself and renewed his love and appreciation for family and friends. He used the Track towns to re-supply and catch up on things he'd been missing, and he quickly discovered that instant oats for brekky every morning gets really boring! On hot, double-hitting days, Matthew was drinking up to eight litres of water a day. Giants to Rame Head was his favourite section with its variety of scenery, and even though it was all hard work, he met some amazing people while on the Track. Fly net, water bladder and tent inner were his best equipment. In hot weather, Matthew suggests walking in the cool of the mornings and evenings with a midday rest.

Compiled by Charmaine Harris
(BTF Volunteer and end-to-ender)

Have you got your End-to-ender 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 Christina Bed & Breakfast and Balingup Heights 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.
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	
BALINGUP HEIGHTS	BALINGUP	Accommodation	9764 1283	
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 COLLIEFIELDS	COLLIE	Accommodation	(08) 9734 2052	
WHISPERING PINES B&B	COLLIE	Accommodation	(08) 9734 3883	10%.
CHRISTINA BED & BREAKFAST	DENMARK	Accommodation	0427 482 900	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	0410 935 959	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.
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.
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	
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	



PEMBERTON OLD PICTURE THEATRE APARTMENTS

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

Stay overnight at our four star fully self contained accommodation from \$160.00 for 2 people per night.

Walk In Walk Out
Drop Offs - Pick ups can be arranged
info@oldpicturetheatre.com.au
www.oldpicturetheatre.com

(08) 9776 1513



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Be immersed in nature in your private hilltop forest cottage, complete with crackling wood fires.

Set on 46 acres of natural beauty high above magical Balingup. A short stroll to town, pick-ups available.

Breakfast hampers, lunch packs and dinner platters.

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info@balingupheights.com.au
www.balingupheights.com.au



Pemberton Discovery TOURS

Pemberton Discovery Centre is now OPEN!

Walker friendly service including:

- Bibbulmun Track Transfers
- Hiking food including Back Country Cuisine
- Sea to Summit gear including socks, thermals, gaters etc.
- Gas canisters

If they don't have what you need in stock Graeme and Toni or any of their wonderful team will try and get it delivered overnight!

12 Brockman St Pemberton WA 6260
(08) 9776 0484
info@pembertondiscoverytours.com.au
www.discoverpemberton.com.au

Your path to RELAXATION

Walk the Bibbulmun Track the easy way.

Escape on the Bibbulmun Track to the scenic south-west and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the natural bush while relaxing in luxurious comfort. Bibbulmun Walking Breaks are the perfect way to recharge your batteries from the rigours of everyday living.

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


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

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

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

E: tourism@bibbulmuntrack.org.au
Ph: 9481 0551

www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au



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

Walker Story

THERE AND BACK AGAIN — A HIKER'S TALE

Friends Dave Hartley and Stan Barclay (aka the 49ers) completed an end-to-end walk together between October 1st and November 25th 2012. This was Dave's fourth end-to-end and Stan's second. Dave is a very experienced walker; these are some of his reminiscences of the Bibbulmun Track and treks in other parts of the world:

In 1990 I set out on a very different Bibbulmun Track to that of today—no shelters and very few camping spots with any facilities. From memory, not good these days, I found four campsites, possessing just concrete fire ring with a plate and hook, and a toilet. Evidently there were more but I couldn't find them. To prepare for the hike involved writing to all the CALM (now DEC) regional offices asking about the condition of the Track, any prescribed burns planned, was I likely to find water, any diversions and what facilities existed. I included return self-addressed envelopes, and most of the offices replied. No internet and web pages in those days!

Day one was October 14th, a fine day with little cloud. I was carrying a heavy pack and a bit of apprehension. In October of 1990 there were just two people known to CALM that were intending to hike the complete Track. Having just left the Army Reserve I had some bush experience but had never done any long distance hiking. It took me four days to work out that if I did up the waist belt on the pack it would prevent my shoulders from getting sore.

Being fit, healthy but not very wise I was using mainly ex-army equipment which included two Hootchies (basically plastic sheets strung between trees on a string) to sleep under. Water was my main concern and dictated my day's hike. It was a very different climate in 1990 to that of today and we had had reasonable rain in September, so a lot of the creeks had some water in them. Also getting supplies was a bit tricky and I would have to hike off the Track to get food or other supplies. One day I hiked 4km to get a burger and another day 3km to get water.

This is an extract from my diary:

Day 27 27 Nov 90
Distance 17.5K + 3K to get water
Weather: Fine overcast with bright spells
Time: 1640 Location 35B Cnr Chesapeake/ Spring Break
Walking: 0630 to 1200

Had a bad night couldn't sleep and had an upset stomach. Had a full tin of corn beef late so having dinner a bit early today, chicken curry and rice with pineapple to follow. Short of water. The water in the Shannon is very brackish, using it after boiling for 2 minutes for cooking and making tea. Only have ¼ of a canteen of drinking water for breakfast and tomorrow no water where I am camping. I was away early today the walking was good varied with some trees and some open country. On the coastal plain about 10km from the sea can see the hills and dunes around Broke Inlet. Saw a little furry creature today, about as big as a hamster, in the burnt off area. Although the walking was good feel very weak and tired. Looking forward

to seeing everybody tomorrow need the backup for the final push. Specially looking forward to seeing Angie. Looks like might get showers tonight. Flies are bad. Fair day.

I still had two days hiking before finishing at Walpole but was meeting my wife Angie, Stan and my children at the highway the next day. The Location 35B refers to the section of the track marking system used in 1990 which normally consisted of a short wooden pole (one metre or so high) cut off at an angle with a number attached.

In 1998 I was very fortunate to be a member of the team opening the new Southern section of the Bibbulmun Track. That was a completely different experience, with shelters and water tanks and CALM bringing in supplies every four days. There were organised BBQs and events all the way along the 960km. My equipment was also somewhat better than that of the 1990 hike and I was a more experienced hiker.

Since those early days it has been a pleasure hiking with two very close friends, Stan Barclay who was there for me in 1990 and Pam Bradley, who I met on the 1998 hike. We have hiked together and separately in Australia, South Africa and the UK. As a team we took out the old farts state champions one year in rogaining (see the WA Rogaining Association website). We have been up to our waists in mud on the South Coast Track in Tassie, Stan and I climbed Table Mountain, and I suffered altitude sickness when climbing with Pam in the Drakensberg (South Africa). Last year we all did the Coast to Coast Walk in the UK.

Pam completed an end-to-end on the Bibbulmun Track a couple of years ago with some South African friends and we have all completed the Track over a number of years in sections. Pam joined Stan and I for a week on our end-to-end in November 2012. The weather for this walk was outstanding with almost perfect hiking conditions for the whole eight weeks, unlike the UK Coast to Coast Walk, which had rain nearly every day, mist on the hills and snow in the Lake District, in springtime. The upside was there was a village at the end of every day's hike with radiators in the B&Bs or hotels rooms to dry the wet gear, a comfortable bed and a full cooked breakfast the next morning. Also our heavy gear was transported ahead of us, meaning we carried only daypacks.

As those who hike the Track know, you soon fall into the days routine—hiking, getting in, setting up, a cuppa, food, rest, read or sleep, entry in the log, chat, plan the next day, set the fire, food again and so on. For Stan and me it was very much the same routine, except Stan wrote a daily verse of his poem (Ed: see Bush Poets Corner on the website) and I carved my Waugal (my third), which is now proudly displayed in my games room. My equipment and experience as a hiker are now much better but age is starting to catch up—although in reading the shelter log and book entries I find inspiration when looking at the age of some other hikers.

I dedicate this article to fellow hikers, the Bibbulmun Track Foundation, DEC, the volunteers and the sponsors who do such a great job.

Dave Hartley

Bibbulmun Track Water Bottle

Nalgene N-Gen Tritan Bottle 750ml

The bottle has a 53mm opening – perfect for easy filling and drinking.. The cap features a molded in loop, providing a convenient spot to clip or a nice finger loop for simple, comfortable carrying. Graduations are molded right into the bottle. The cap also has a soft touch material for easy gripping.

- Extremely durable
- Resistant to staining
- Resistant to retaining odors
- Recommended for "extreme" adventures
- Dishwasher Safe (top rack only)
- Withstands temperatures from -40F to 212F
- BPA Free

Only \$12.95 for members
(\$14.40 non-members)



Eyes ON THE GROUND

Over the past few weeks I have made contact with all of our maintenance volunteers to thank them for their help and to find out if there are any outstanding issues on their sections. With about 140 teams and more than 250 volunteers this is a huge job but it's great to be able to keep in regular contact with everyone.

Over the past few weeks I have farewelled a number of volunteers who are no longer able to assist and have welcomed many who are keen to take over. We had a wonderful response to the call for volunteers in the Pemberton area and most of those sections now have a new team allocated.

Being a maintenance volunteer is not only a great way of giving something back to the Track, but also an excuse to get out and walk regularly as well as fostering a sense of ownership and pride. The fact that that many of our longest serving volunteers are maintenance volunteers shows that the rewards are there. We still have a few sections around Pemberton, Walpole and Albany that need some care, so if you would like to help, please let me know.

Occasionally volunteers take a friend with them and I recently had this message from an overseas student who accompanied one of our volunteers on a maintenance visit.

Having been in and around various trail users groups before, usually Nordic skiing types mind you, I was very happy to volunteer time on the Bibbulmun Track. I feel it is a sign of a well-functioning civil society to have open, accessible and cared for public facilities permitting access into wild places. These are the places which make one aware of the fragility of one's life, the life of plants and animals all around us, the necessity for fresh water and the care of the soils which support all of us. By entering into the wild realm, via such facilities as the Bibbulmun Track, we enter into conversation again with ourselves to remember not to live by fear.

Cole Hendrigan



Thank you sincerely to all of our maintenance volunteers – your efforts go a long way towards making walking the Track such a wonderful experience.

Gwen Plunkett

Volunteer Coordinator



You can't hold back a dedicated maintenance volunteer! – Sue and Geoff Palmer had this obstacle to remove to reach their section around Tom Road campsite.

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Entertainment books will be out soon for 2013/2014, pre-register to ensure you get one hot off the press. Special bonus offers available now if you pre-order. Selling Entertainment books is a great fundraiser for the Foundation, so if you know anyone that might want one, please send them our way.

Email events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au, call 9481 0551 or order online at www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au



PRIZE WINNERS!

LIFE MEMBER PRIZE DRAWS

Congratulations to Life Member Sig Slepecki who won a Bibbulmun Track day pack and water bottle in our annual Life Member's draw

Cathy Day won the prize draw for members who renew as Life Members. Her prize is a \$300 gift voucher from Diamond Sponsor, Mountain Designs – congratulations!

Monthly Membership renewal prize draw

NOVEMBER

Serena Davie won an XBowl

2nd prize went to Dot Dixon who received a Mesh stuff sack

DECEMBER

Dean Craddock won a microfiber pocket towel

2nd Prize went to Bill Gates who received an Ultra Sil dry sack

JANUARY

Maggie Taylor won a Bibbulmun Track day pack.

2nd Prize went to Jenny Thomson who won an Ultra Sil dry sack

FEBRUARY

Pamela Chitty won a microfiber pocket towel

2nd Prize – went to Pauline Kelly who won a head net.

Photo Caption Competition

Congratulations to Elsie Grygiel who came up with the winning caption for this photo of the Newmont Boddington Gold team in the 2012 Bibbulmun Team Challenge.

“Got that sinking feeling...?”



Unless stated otherwise, 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!



Office GOSSIP

It's again business as usual in the office after we all enjoyed a break for the festive season. We thought the really hot spell might mean things would be quiet but this was not the case and we have been kept busy.

One of the main tasks throughout the day is answering enquiries from members and walkers. This might be from phone calls, people calling into the office or emails. We always try to deal with queries as quickly as possible and receive many compliments for the speed of email replies. Every now and then we receive a query which causes us amusement, wonder or concern. Recently we received an email which gave us cause for much laughter. It was a reply to an email in which I had given a detailed answer to a variety of questions. This was not at all unusual until I discovered to my amazement that the initial email and my reply were dated August 2000! Not surprisingly the sender admitted to being a bit of a hoarder.

Lately we were kept busy answering queries about the fires around Balingup and for a while it appeared that at least three of the campsites and many kilometres of Track were in danger of being lost due to the fires that were caused by lightning strikes. Thanks to the efforts of DEC staff and other firefighters the fires were contained with far less damage than at first feared. See story on page 8 for more details on the fire.

An enjoyable activity is a trip planning advice session with one of our members. It's a great way to gather up all the info needed for an extended walk or an end-to-end and it's very interesting to meet members from all over the world. Very often members from interstate and overseas will call into the office to meet the volunteer with whom they have been corresponding for some time as they plan their walk.

Also fun is the arrival of end-to-enders feeling very pleased with their achievement. It's great to be able to hear all about their walk and hear the highs and lows. For me it's an opportunity to chat with them to see if they encountered any major problems which might need attention.

If you're in the city, please do pop in to say hello- you can always be sure of a warm welcome.

Gwen Plunkett

Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator

Freeze Dri
BACK COUNTRY Cuisine
fast nourishing food for adventurers

Combining quick-to-hydrate Freeze Dri ingredients with tasty sauces, Back Country Cuisine meets the high energy needs of the lightweight adventurer.

“Great for racing and adventure trips. Lightweight, quick to use, provides nutritious energy and tastes good too! Thanks, Back Country.”

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Beginners	
Intermediate	
Experienced	

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.

Dwellingup Damsels

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

Planning night: Thursday 30th May, 6.30pm.
Date: Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th June.

Cost: \$185 members, \$205 non-members. Includes return transport from Murdoch Park'n'Ride rail terminal, experienced guides, comprehensive planning night, trip preparation manual, map and equipment hire. BYO food.

Balingup Weekend Explorer

One of our popular events – this is the next level up from our Bibbulmun for Beginners walk. It is set in the beautiful Blackwood district. Experienced guides will instruct you and offer support in overnight trekking. Spend Friday night in Balingup before two full days of walking with packs, camping out on Saturday night. Freshen up on Sunday afternoon with a hot shower in Balingup before being transported to Perth.

Planning night: Thursday 30th May, 6.30pm.
Date: Friday 7th (4pm) to Sunday 9th June.
Cost: \$240 members, \$260 non-members.

Includes comprehensive planning night, trip preparation manual, map, experienced guides, return transport from Murdoch Park'n'Ride rail terminal and bus transfer to start of walk, plus accommodation on Friday night, showers on Sunday and equipment hire. Dinner in Balingup on Friday night and trekking food not included.

PUB, PUMPS & PIPES

Did you know that we have the longest fresh water pipeline in the world? On today's walk (approx 6.5km) we explore the history and controversy surrounding the construction of the Mundaring Weir, pump stations pipeline which transports water a massive 560km. With our National Trust guide, we follow the O'Connor Trail, the Bibbulmun Track and the Weir Walk. Visit the No1 Pump Station and the remains of the No2 Pump Station. Our tour of one of Australia's most significant industrial heritage sites ends at the historic Mundaring Weir Hotel. This event is part of the WA heritage Festival. Find out more at <http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wa>

Date: Sunday 28th April, 9.30am – approx 2.30pm.

Cost: \$35 members, \$45 non-members. Includes National Trust guide, Bibbulmun Track guide, entry and tour of No1 Pump Station and morning tea. BYO lunch.

UNZIPPED!

Looking to get into overnight trekking? This is an innovative 15km circuit walk which will teach you all you need to know for overnight bushwalking. Experience breathtaking views while walking to a Bibbulmun Track campsite. There, experienced guides will unzip all their secrets and show you the equipment they use for overnight trekking and answer all your queries. Own transport required (1½hrs from Perth). A good level of fitness and experience in bushwalking is required.

Date: Sunday 5th May, 9am – approx 4pm.
Cost: \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

School Holiday Events

DR DOLITTLE GOES BUSH

A 4km return stroll for children (5yrs to 12yrs) to a typical campsite to see and learn about our native animals from the Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre. Return before dusk following the reflective Waugal trail markers. Bring a picnic supper. 1hr from Perth. Location given after booking. Not suitable for pushchairs. Max 2 kids per adult. Great activity for the school holidays.

Date: Saturday 27th April, 3.30pm to approx 6pm.

Cost: Family member kids: \$27.

Non-member kids: \$32.

Adults: members \$5, \$10 non-members (max 2 adults per child).

CHILDREN'S CAMP KITCHEN

More school holiday fun! In a beautiful bush setting children will learn camp cooking through hands-on experience! Just bring refreshments and snacks and enjoy this 4km return walk to a Track campsite. Max two kids per adult. 1hr from Perth. Choose from two sessions.

Date/Sessions: Wednesday 1st May, (A) 9.30am – 12.30pm OR (B) 12.30pm – 3.30pm.

Cost: Kids: \$28 family members, \$33 non-members. Ages 6 and up.

Adults Free.

Includes ingredients for cooking and experienced guides. Max 2 adults per child.



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



Track Town ALBANY

The Southern Terminus of the Bibbulmun Track is located in the city of Albany, set on the rugged south coast of WA. Albany is a haven for walkers and especially for end-to-enders on the Track. For those finishing their epic near 1000km walk, Albany offers comfortable accommodation ranging from backpackers to luxury hotels and a host of pubs and restaurants where walkers can indulge in the food and drink they have been imagining while striding through the bush. For those just beginning their journey there are camp shops that will supply those last minute items of equipment and supermarkets and shops where food and supplies can be purchased.

It is well worthwhile spending some time in the town itself, relaxing either after your walk or before you begin, absorbing the atmosphere of this historic settlement. Albany was the first place in WA to be settled by the Europeans, in 1826, three years before the establishment of the Swan Colony. Much of the legacy of these settlers still remains in the form of about fifty colonial buildings, now doing duty as museums, galleries and restaurants. The self-guided Amity Trail in Albany enables you, in just thirty minutes, to take in the convict prison, whaling ships, taverns and National Trust residences, covering two centuries of history.

The Bibbulmun Track passes close by the replica of the brig Amity, which brought a British Army expedition from Sydney, arriving on Christmas Day in 1826, when a military base was founded on the site. Some 60 people made the trip from Sydney in the tiny ship with sheep, pigs, cattle, plants, seeds and stores. The Amity was built in Canada in 1816. It arrived in Sydney in 1824 and was used in the colonial service. In 1831 it was sold back into private ownership and operated in Tasmania until in June 1845 it was wrecked in the Bass Strait on an uncharted sandbank. In 1975 craftsmen using timber from local forests began building the Amity replica, which was finished and officially opened to the public in 1977.

Albany also boasts some of the finest foods and premium wines in the area and if your stay falls over the weekend, you can sample some of the freshest produce at the weekly Farmers and Boatshed Markets. Fine selection of seasonal fresh fruit and vegetables,

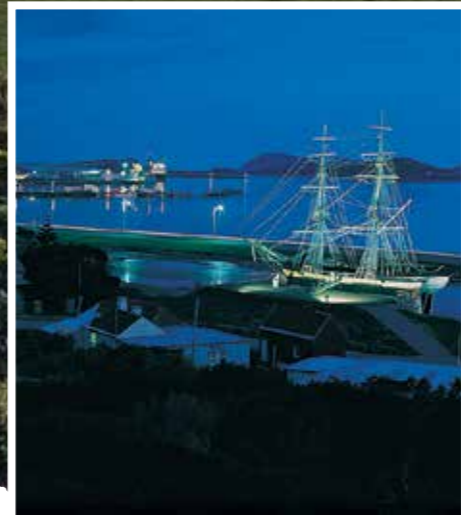
fish, meats, dairy products and seafood is available and this is where you will find the locals on a Saturday and Sunday morning. Albany prides itself on back to basics where you can buy your produce directly from the farmers themselves.

Looking slightly further afield, Albany is a gateway for wildflower areas including the Stirling Range National Park. The Stirling Ranges is one of the most important areas in the world for flora with 87 plant species that occur here not found anywhere else on earth.

Porongurup Ranges are also in this region and are one of the earth's oldest mountain ranges, dating back to more than 1,000 million years old. There are over 700 species of flowering plants and 78 species of birds. The wildflower season runs predominately from August to November.

Closer to town there are several walks with breathtaking views of Albany and the coastline, or you can take a drive up to Albany Wind Farm and feel dwarfed by the towering turbines as you take in sweeping ocean views.

Albany's prime industry from colonisation up until the late 1970's was whaling, and even after all those years of being hunted whales still use the Albany waters as a refuge before heading on the long trip down to Antarctica. From June through to October is the peak whale watching season when you are able to watch the humpback and the endangered southern right whales from the cliff tops. One of the most scenic coastal landscapes for whale spotting or just taking in the fresh sea air is Torndirrup National Park.



Albany has a little bit of something for everyone, whether you are a history enthusiast, adventure seeker, food and wine lover or simply looking for a relaxing place to put your feet up after a hard days trek.

FACT FILE:
Albany Visitor Information Centre
Old Railway Station, 55 Proudlove Parade
Albany WA 6330

Open every day of the year
(closed Christmas Day) from 9.00am to 5.00pm
Phone: (08) 9841 9290
Email: info@amazingalbany.com
www.amazingalbany.com.au

'End-to-Enders' AT THE PERTH FESTIVAL

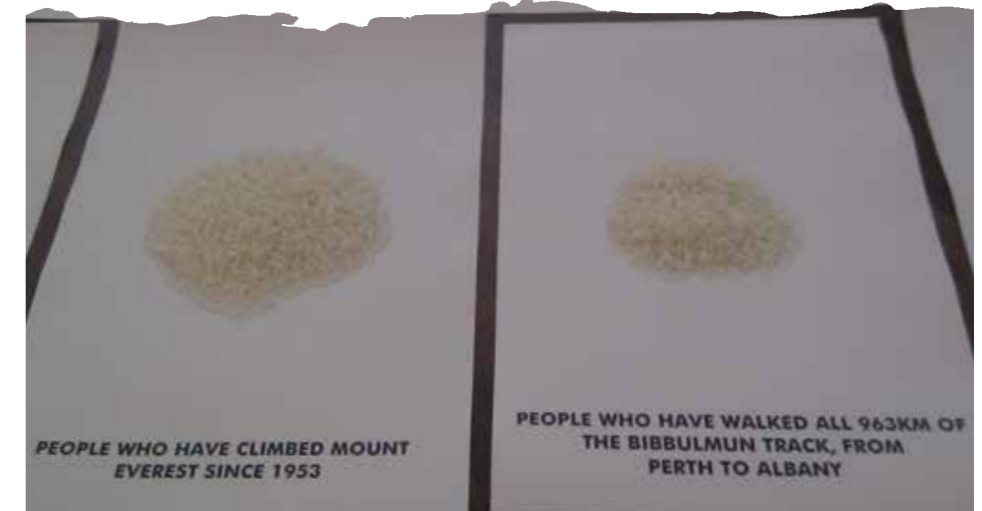
Bibbulmun Track end-to-enders were represented at this year's Perth Festival in a live art performance entitled *Of All The People In The World*.

On entering the room, you are handed a grain of rice, representing yourself, and you are invited to compare that grain to the millions that are not. Over a period of days a group of performers carefully weighed out quantities of rice representing a host of human statistics. Some piles were as small as a single grain - representing

Julia Gillard, for example, or Michael Jackson. And some were considerably larger, representing statistics like the population of Australia, the number of people that are born every day in the world, the number of obese people in Australia and the number of people killed in Kangaroo attacks since records began!

These statistics were arranged in labelled piles, creating an ever changing, hauntingly beautiful, landscape of rice.

At the Festival one of the statistics used was the number of people who have walked the Bibbulmun Track end-to-end. The pile next to it represents the number of people to have summited Mount Everest, and the vast pile in whose shadow the Track walkers lie, is the population of the entire world in the year 1770. 608 million grains of rice in that one!



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NOTICE BOARD

WANTED: END-TO-END WALKER WANTED FOR JULY WALK

I am a very experienced, 62yo long distance hiker and would like to find a companion for a winter, medium paced end to end trip.

Contact: Cathryn
Phone: 0430 116 505
Email: cathryns@hotmail.com

WANTED: WALKING COMPANION

Are you a mature aged person who would like to walk the BT sedately? No double hutting, no rushing and no world records. If so, I am leaving Albany early April. If you are interested, call or text me.

Contact: Ann
Phone: 0402 845 166

WANTED: WALKING COMPANION

Walking companion wanted to finish sections on the BT if interested please contact me.

Contact: Maria
Phone: (08) 9414 7064
Email: mariabinks@yahoo.com.au

FOR SALE: LADIES HIKING BOOTS

Ladies ankle length Scarpa Asolo hiking boots: Size 39. Colour - tan. Hardly used, excellent condition. \$100. (Hammersley).

Contact: Lyndall
Phone: (08) 9448 7701
Email: lyndallp@iinet.net.au

FOR SALE: SCARPA HIKING BOOTS

Size 43 Scarpa ZG65GXT mid height hiking boots. Colour - antracite/smoke. Used for less than 100Km so as new condition. Paid nearly \$300, sell for \$130.

Contact: Stephen C
Phone: 0438 782 881
Email: aliantha.grove@hotmail.com

WANTED: WALKING COMPANION

Anyone want to do some overnights? I am always looking for someone to join me.

Contact: Karen Dowling
Phone: 0414 751 179
Email: crakar@iinet.net.au

WANTED: WALKING COMPANION

Seeking walking companion to walk the Camino Trail this year 2013. Dates flexible - between end of May to end of August.

Contact: Gabrielle Caratti
Phone: (08) 9481 1596 or 0457 050 855

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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

Trail Bike conflicts

AN ACTION PLAN ...

The use of the Bibbulmun Track and other trails designated for walkers or bicycle riders by trail bikes is a constant problem and a source of frustration – both for the volunteers and organisations that maintain the trails, and for trail users.

The Foundation knows from its maintenance volunteers of the damage trail bikes cause to the Bibbulmun Track. We also receive emails and letters from walkers upset by the damage and frustrated by the inability to identify the riders due to lack of number plates and the use of full faced helmets which not only provide the riders with anonymity but, combined with the noise, are quite intimidating.

Trail bikes are the largest category of motorcycle sales in Australia and a growing number of West Australians have taken up recreational off road riding as a pastime.

At the same time, the number and area of places where people can use trail bikes legitimately has shrunk. In 1978 there were eight designated Off Road Vehicle areas in the Perth metropolitan region. In 2013 there are four, and two of these are significantly smaller than they were.

To look into the problems the Recreational Trail Bike Riders' Association was formed. Extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders found that the main community concerns were:

1. Noise
2. Trail conflicts and trail damage
3. Environmental impacts
4. Nuisance, anti-social "hoon" behaviour

One idea that received almost universal agreement is that in order to reduce the amount of undesirable trail bike use there has to be more provision made for managed use of trail bikes. As a result work began on strategies to address the community's concerns which involved extensive consultation and international and Australian research.

The result is a State Trail Bike Strategy which has 98 recommendations formulated around six Key Focus Areas:-

1. **Insurance, Liability and Risk Management** - In order for facilities to be provided by land managers, the issues of insurance, liability and risk management must be addressed.

2. **Trails Planning** - Designated trails and venues must be planned, developed and maintained to attract trail bike riders and to ensure minimal environment and community impact.

3. **Managing for Sustainability** - In order to develop sustainability, the issues of governance, land and trail management, noise regulation and evaluation need to be addressed.

4. **Changing Behaviours** - Programs are proposed using community based social marketing techniques, education, self-regulation and finally enforcement.

5. **Registration and Licensing** - Trail bike riding must be better managed which requires increased regulation with registration, licensing and enforcement.

6. **Funding Models** - To ensure implementation, sustainability and management a recurrent funding stream is required.

The Government has indicated broad support for the Strategy – but it remains unfunded at this stage.

With the election of a new Government and several new Ministers, including a new Minister for Local Government and a new Minister for the Environment, the BTF Board will endeavour to bring this issue back on to the agenda. We will advocate for various tactics to address the negative impacts of trail bikes on other recreational activities and the environment – including the implementation of the State Trail Bike Strategy.

For more information go to the State Trail Bike Strategy website: <http://tbma.com.au/stbs>

Traxpedition

by Michelle Martion

Michelle Martion had her first experience of walking on the Track and sent us this poem describing the experience.

On our first Traxpedition my husband and I embark,

Off from the Calamunnda Camel Farm car park.

To be most heartily welcomed by our volunteer guide,

On the Bibbulmun Track for the first time we stride.

We are amazed by the fauna and flora of all kinds,

As we follow the Waugals where it turns and it winds.

WA's red tail cockatoo says a brief hello,

With excitement and learning our faces glow.

We reach the campsite within plenty of time,

To talk and relax and to look back on the climb.

After a welcome break it's time to head back,

Back to our cars and to the end of the Track.

I can honestly say there was nothing not to like,

On this wonderful journey that was our first BT hike,

Our next Traxpedition is already planned,

We'll be end-to-enders in no time—won't that be grand!

Thanks for reading my funny little rhyme,

But to the volunteer guides who give up their time,

Without your passion and love of the Track,

We wouldn't be saying "we will be back".

Michelle Martion



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9 June 10.30am	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.5km return walk from Mundaring Weir to Ball Creek Campsite		
16 June 9am	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17km return walk from Brookton Hwy to Canning Campsite		
7 July 8.30am	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20km walk from Kalamunda to Hewett's Hill Campsite (Fit and experienced walkers only!)		
4 August 8.30am	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20km return walk from Dale Rd to Brookton Campsite (Fit and experienced walkers only!)		

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!

No walking to report in this issue, I'm afraid. The shoulder injury I described in the previous newsletter and now the very hot weather have kept me off the Track for several weeks. However I am planning to stroll from Walpole to Pemberton in April and my Offa's Dyke walk in the UK is booked for May.

In our newsletter issue #61, on page five, you may have seen the curious picture of the Waugal marker on a trail in Spain, with life member Chris Lane suggesting that it marked the most northerly point of the Bibbulmun Track. This has brought an immediate challenge as follows:

Dear Editor,
 Your correspondent, Chris Lane, is incorrect in saying that the most northerly section of the Bibbulmun Track is in Spain. It's here in Leicestershire. A track spur leads up our garden, past the Scots Pines and on to the shelter at the top. This being the UK with its inclement weather, the shelter is equipped with windows, doors, electricity, stove, fridge, etc. Barry Bryan (The Silvertops)

Barry and his wife Margaret have walked the whole Track many times, and are very familiar with all its aspects, especially the orchids, and have produced a vast number of beautiful photographs of the flora and fauna. So, readers, over to you. Anyone know of a section of the Track, with Waugal markers, further north than latitude 57.75 degrees?

Nearer home, I have just read an interesting article about ticks, in the summer edition of the Bushland News, the quarterly newsletter of DEC's Urban Nature programme. The article puts up a spirited defence for the rights of ticks to co-exist with walkers. Anyone who has suffered the intense irritation of tick bites may take some comfort from the final paragraph, which reads:

"So, the next time you are scratching those irritating tick bites, take some solace from the knowledge that ticks are contributing to the biodiversity of the wonderful environment we all share".

And so back to trees (See Track Trivia Issue #61).

BTF member Duncan Cunningham-Reid recently completed an end-to-end walk on the Track and sent in this picture. The amazing hollow tree is located close to Sappers Bridge.

Instead of walking I have spent quite a lot of time recently giving trip planning advice to folks who are planning walks on the Track in the future. The Foundation is always willing to offer assistance to walkers and we have several ways of doing so. There are three practical in-house workshops, Food in a Fuel Stove, Getting into Gear and the End-to-End Workshop.



Track markers, just visible under the l/s of the window



Barry's Shelter (Warmish)



Barry's Shelter (Coldish).

Food in a Fuel Stove offers the participants the opportunity to prepare healthy food on a portable stove and includes information on how to prepare their own dehydrated food. Getting into Gear provides information on all the clothing and other equipment needed to undertake a long walk on the Track, and the End-to-End Workshop explains all the steps necessary in planning your walk before you set foot on the Track. In addition, two outdoor workshops, Get Lost with Steve and Get Found with Steve teach the elements of map and compass reading and how to navigate long distances by day and by night. Details of all these workshops can be found in our Calendar of Events or on the BTF website.

In addition, the BTF offers its members a free trip planning advice service, either face to face in the office (by appointment) or by email. This enables would be end-to-enders, or those wishing to make a long trip on the Track, the chance to sit down with one of our experienced end-to-end walkers to discuss all aspects of the journey. Many Australians who live out-of-state and also walkers from overseas have taken advantage of this service, which is performed by any one of seven of the volunteers, who between them have worked with walkers from at least a dozen countries. Most of them are already experienced walkers but sometimes the questions they ask, and the equipment they envisage carrying can be surprising, for example:

- "What do I do if I see a crocodile?"
- "Can I take my hairdryer?"
- "Is the voltage the same in all the shelters?"
- "Can I swim on the Track?" (Ed: Ever been in the Pingerup Plains in winter?)
- "Why don't you have a directory of all the shops and restaurants along the Track as well as the ones in the towns?"
- Colin Gee reckons one guy asked him if he should take his golf clubs; Colin still wonders if he was joking or not.
- Then we've had the weird gear merchants with packs weighing up to 30kg, including a girl with a box of marine

distress flares. "My boyfriend said I should let one off if I got into trouble." In a forest!

One of the great pleasures of trip planning is meeting up with the walkers again, either on the Track during their walk or after they have completed it. Gayle recalls meeting up with a young guy in Dwellingup. She had advised him to use walking poles and when she met him he was striding along with great confidence and agreed it was the best advice he had received.



Isabel recently advised two ladies from South Africa, one of whom afterwards wrote;

“Hi dear friends, dear Isabel and Jack,

I had such a good time and enjoyed walking the Bibbulmun Track so much. In spirit I am still on the track and in my mind I am still very much processing and sorting all the wonderful, exciting adventures on the Track. I enjoyed every minute of it and I will treasure every minute I was on the Track still for a very long time. Most of all thank you again to both of you and to your wonderful family for your assistance and your generosity which made the Bibbulmun Track and the wonderful time we spent in Australia such a memorable one. You are very special people”

I received this email a little while ago:

“Hi Jim,

Thank you very much, your information has been extremely useful for my planning session this weekend...a lot of food to pack! I think I have it almost sorted now, just a few more supplies to get to round out the meals, and then doing the drops themselves. I will definitely not be hiding food bundles in the bush; I don't want them to get stolen or charcoaled!! Good advice. Great summary on the inlets, thanks, I feel a bit better about them now! I've also double checked your gear list against mine, seems almost the same (even for a girl!)

Cheers,

Anna”

There have been many such instances and it is always a very good feeling to think you have helped others to experience the joys of our very special Track.

Happy Walking!

Wrong Way Jim

Get online – and access your profile page!

Benefits of logging in to your profile page include:

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How to log in:

If we already have your email address:

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Simply:

1. Click 'Login' at the top right corner of the website. (In the black bar)
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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.

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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

Boat Harbour

Am I the first (surely not?) person to fall out of a canoe on the Irwin Inlet? Funny, but almighty cold, especially the wringing out of my socks. But then we spent an hour watching whales at Point Irwin, there were heaps! A wonderful day with spectacular weather. A question though, what was worse, falling out of a canoe or spilling my port at dinner? Answer—the port!

Anon 23/07/10

Be aware there is a bull ant nest in the corner. We have attempted to exterminate.

DEC 13/01/11

(Ed: Daleks also be aware)

What an amazing day! Warm and beautiful; the showgrounds were amazing—spectacular—a different world. So many kangaroos that stood high watching our every move. The beach walk sped by too quickly, as did the cliff top walks as we were too busy taking pictures and going ahh! ooh! wow! A week to go, time please slow down.

The Bear and the Bee 04/05/11

William Bay

Never seen a sunset and a sunrise that were so spectacular in less than ten hours before! What a way to bring in the New Year. Well that's day seven down, many miles to go to Perth!

B Berger & J Sweeney,
Canton Ohio USA.
02/01/2000

It is with regret that I report my two loyal Sherpas, Mark and Brett, have deserted me. Weakening over the last few days they today gave in to the temptation of passage to Perth offered by a fair maiden with a car. I may have been able to bear this except that I just discovered they took all the chocolate! Alas I now face the steep climb of Hallowell and the onward journey to Denmark alone.

David (Solo Man) 07/01/2000

Last day of Walpole to Denmark walk, which may be summarised as: mozzies, endless dunes, eternal heathland, snakes under every bush, sun, wind, rain, sore feet, aching muscles and too many dried noodles—fantastic! I wish I could go on to Albany. This Track is a unique and beautiful journey that has allowed me to explore and appreciate some of the southwest of WA. No doubt I will be back for more. Thanks to everyone who makes this Track possible.

Jane Smith, Oregon USA.
20/03/2000

Came from Norway just to walk for 10 minutes on your beautiful track. It has been a good experience.

Tor Anda 10/12/2000

(Ed: From Norway for a 10 minute walk? That's dedication for you)

German poet Rilke said “Every moment is a beginning.” Perhaps instead of end-to-end walkers should call it beginning-to-beginning. I watched the sun disappear into the sea last night and ate a hearty dinner—the end of a memorable walk on the Bibbulmun Track. So what if there are steep hills and a few dunes which your calves and thighs will remember for a few days—in a few weeks time all you will remember will be the waves, the emus, the kangaroos, the fabulous scenery and the glorious sunsets. Special thanks to CALM, to the volunteers and all the people who left toilet paper in the dunnies!

Daniel 05/01/01

Just walked in from William Bay Road to check out the campsite and the register—and to sit on the rocks and watch the sunset. It's cold and raining in Perth but here it's magic.

Annie Keating
(Track Coordinator) 30/05/01

Chadoora

Arrived at 4.00pm from White Horse, third night out without a soul around. Saw emus and 'roos and also came across an orphan owl. I reasoned that it had no chance of survival in the bush as it was just a fledgling, so I'm taking it to Dwellingup CALM office for adoption. It is taking fluids and seems perky and really cute. All grey, huge eyes and the last traces of baby down remaining. So tomorrow an early start to Dwellingup to get the grey ball some professional care. How lucky it was to get picked up by a vegetarian!

Robert 07/12/05

Hi,
My name is Daisy I'm 8 and I'm travelling with my Cossins. My Cossins only had carats for their snack. I enjoy exploring and pokin sticks in the fire. I recon the toilet is way better than Monadnocks. You should always bring marshmallows to toast. When you are walking hear always think I can do it never say I can't do it because then you'll never make it.

Bye-bye! Daisy 28/08/06



FREE Trip PLANNING ADVICE

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

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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.

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Email: friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au or download the booking form on our website under Trip Planner / Equipment & Hire.

MOUNT KILIMANJARO
TANZANIA

In August 2012, BTF members Claire Brittain and John McKay scaled the 5895m of the Uhuru peak of Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro. Their motive? To raise \$6000 for the BTF Dunny Donor campaign. This is their story, as recounted by Claire.

Mount Kilimanjaro or "I'm not dead yet" (with apologies to Monty Python)

To climb to the Roof of Africa was never going to be a stroll in the park. We went into training with the realization that it isn't easy to train for high altitude trekking at sea level, but we used the Kokoda Track in Kings Park for some hill training, joined a gym, walked locally on the two hills in our suburb and went bush walking with Perth Bushwalkers on the Bibbulmun Track.

The first point on our trek was the lodge in Moshe, the main town on the Serengeti at the base of Kilimanjaro, where we were briefed by our guides. At dawn the next morning we could see the top of the mountain and after some African organisation we arrived at the gate to the National Park at 1970m, where we registered.

The first part of the walk in the rain forest was quite hot but easy going; the main difficulty was that the guides made us go slower than our natural walking pace. The forest was attractive with lots of parasitic

of every nationality, some going up, some down. The food was reasonable but I found I wasn't hungry.

The following morning we left Mandara Camp and came out of the forest into an area of low scrub and bushes, with wild flowers blooming and gorgeous scenery. It was quite hot and sunny. The paths were generally well kept and the slow walking pace meant



Amongst the Scecerria

that we had plenty of time to admire the surroundings, but as the day went on the walking became more difficult. The afternoon was quite strenuous as we were beginning to feel the effect of the altitude, even though the path didn't appear too steep. Our next stop at Horombo was at 3720m, so we had climbed 1,000m in a day. Sleep was a bit fitful!

Day three was an acclimatisation day, staying at Horombo, hiking out to a lateral peak and returning for the night and so the next morning we set out for Zebra Rocks and beyond. The day started sunny, then became misty and although the guides said it wouldn't rain, they were wrong! We got very wet as we walked past rocks somewhat like Wave Rock, up to a rise to 4290m and then back down through a meadow of everlasting which would have been stunning on a fine day. My boots were saturated, so when Mohamed, one of our guides came for our usual briefing after dinner he took them to the kitchen and made sure they were dry by morning.

plants, including begonia, the perfume of which was exquisite, and we had the pleasure of seeing a mongoose and some blue monkeys.

We had opted to climb the route which offered huts—the Marangu Route, and our first overnight stop was a collection of huts making up Mandara Camp, at 2715m. The huts are very basic but afford some protection from the cold and rain. We could congregate in the cosy dining hut and talk to walkers

We had two guides, a cook, a waiter and four porters. That may seem a bit over the top but it does provide a means of employment for the local people. Our guides Mohamed and Silam were Muslim and because it was Ramadan they were walking each day without eating or drinking. Needless to say they looked forward to sundown.

And so **Summit Day** arrived, and a long day it turned out to be! The vegetation became sparse as we climbed, although there were beautiful stands of scecerria, which are tall cactus like plants. We found the walking comfortable apart from one steep section that had us panting for breath. We had morning tea at a

high spot with beautiful views, continued up and saw alpine chats, the most common bird in the area and some four-striped grass rats. By this time the terrain was barren, typical of country above the snow line. We continued on up to Kibo Hut, puffing all the way! Mohamed was pleased with our progress and told us we were walking strongly and should make the top. Then we met a couple of people coming down who hadn't made it—disconcerting!

Kibo Hut, at 4700m, is at the foot of the summit climb. It had taken us about six hours to get there and we were told to have a sleep. We prepared the gear we would need for the ascent, had dinner at 5pm and went to bed. My ear plugs and eye pads worked a treat, and we were woken up at 11.30pm to get dressed and have a snack prior to starting for the summit.

The guides told us to put on all the clothing we had. I had two thermal tops, a T-shirt, a polar fleece, a down jacket and Gortex jacket. On the bottom a thermal, polar fleece track pants and waterproof pants, plus two pairs of socks.



Sunrise from the Summit

Claire John and the Guides



Added to that lot were inner and outer gloves, a beanie and a balaclava. I tried to tell Mohamed I'd be too hot but he wouldn't agree!

The walk started at about midnight. It was pitch black and the stars were stunning. We started very slowly on a fairly rocky track, somewhat like a creek bed. It didn't seem long before I was gasping for breath and I had to keep stopping. I was really worried that the guides would tell me I couldn't continue, however they were encouraging and Silam took my backpack. I don't know if it was psychological, as it wasn't heavy, but after that I settled into more of a rhythm. Then

mountain. I made the mistake of looking up and saw the lights of climbers hundreds of metres vertically above. Then I then looked down and it became obvious we had come up quite a long way ourselves, which made me feel a little better.

We kept toiling away with encouragement from the guides. Thoughts ran through my head... "I can't do it They'll send me down"—"I don't want to do this"—"Why am I doing this?"—"Why am I paying to do this?" **Then** I thought—"Oh my god, the dunny!" In my wisdom prior to leaving Perth I'd conned friends and family into sponsoring us to raise money for a dunny on the Bibbulmun Track.

I put my head down and kept going. The final part of the climb was over large stones and boulders, which was difficult in a different way. This was where the training on the Kokoda Track was invaluable for leg strength. We finally made it to Gillman's Point (5681m), the first main point towards the summit on the crater rim. As soon as I made it there I knew I'd make the top. Although we were still climbing it was now on a much easier solid path, and we reached Stella Point (5756m) just as dawn was breaking.

There was the fantastic sight of a brilliant pink line along the top of the clouds, which were below us. We watched the sun rise and then continued on to Uhuru Peak, the absolute summit. The glaciers at the top were beautiful and we were lucky not to have too much wind with the temperature around minus 15 degrees Centigrade. Our extremities were freezing as was the water in our backpacks. There were great celebrations with everyone hugging and kissing and wanting to get photos to prove that they had made it.

The guides start you down quickly, and after a snack in the shelter of a large rock we started the descent, peeling off layers of clothing as the sun got higher.



Made it! The Summit

we reached the scree and I felt as though I was taking one step up and two back. It was very difficult and we just slogged on, stopping frequently to catch our breath. Everyone on the mountain was wearing a head torch and it was like a string of glow worms along the

When we got to the scree we couldn't believe that the descent was almost vertical. This is what we had been climbing up in the dark? Mohamed took my arm and told me to lean back, take big steps and go with him. It didn't take long to get down, sliding most of the time. When we got to Kibo Hut we had been gone for nine and a half hours. I fell into a deep sleep.

After lunch we packed up and began the walk down. I didn't think I could walk any further, but we walked downhill for four hours to Horombo Hut, where we had dinner and went to bed. I slept well that night!

Our final day dawned fine, and we started our trek back to the gate, walking slowly to savour the most attractive part of the mountain and take more photos. In the rain forest we were lucky enough to see black colobus monkeys, which have beautiful bushy white tails. We signed out at the gate and met our guides at the lodge to present gifts to them and to the porters. They presented us with the certificates that are issued by the National Park, proving that we had achieved our goal.

Although we've done lots of walking at high altitude, climbing Mt Kilimanjaro was the most difficult thing we've ever done. We raised over \$6000 for a dunny at the Frankland Campsite, which our friends maintain, and look forward to getting our sponsors together for a weekend of walking and celebration.

I would like to encourage other BTF members to do something similar to our trek if they are looking to embark on a challenge.

Claire Brittain

DODDY'S DUNNY

Claire Brittain and John McKay raised \$6000 to upgrade the Dunny at Frankland Campsite.

They did this in memory of their friend Sandra Taylor (nee Dodd) who loved walking and the Bibbulmun Track.

They were generously supported by family and friends including:

- The Taylor Family
- Perth Bushwalkers
- Janet and Gary Tilsley
- Pat and John Garland
- Philip and Patrick Dodd

Thank you for supporting our Dunny Donor Campaign



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IMAGE: Andrew Bain

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