

AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD FOR OUR timber trestle bridges

As reported in our front page article of edition 63, the heritage listed Long Gully Bridge (aka Asquith) near Dwellingup requires significant restoration work. It then became apparent that River Road Bridge, another timber trestle bridge on the Track near Pemberton, required assessment.

The Foundation wrote to Engineering Heritage WA seeking assistance from an engineer to assist with preparing a works program for repairs to the timber bridges on a pro-bono basis. We are delighted to say that Ian Maitland, of Maitland Heritage Engineers, responded.

A field trip was arranged and Ian, accompanied by Lloyd Margetts, an experienced bridge engineer and timber bridge expert, travelled to Pemberton to assess River Road Bridge.

Two Foundation volunteers, Roland Stayt and Hedley Amos, provided extra arms and manpower for numbering and measuring the poles and digging numerous holes.

An assessment report will be provided outlining a schedule of works. Importantly, the program will identify works that can be carried out by Foundation volunteers. As current maintenance volunteers Roland and Hedley were able to provide valuable input into this component. The next steps are to review the works program for Long Gully Bridge and to cost the works required on both bridges.

The Foundation is very grateful to both Ian and Lloyd for contributing their time and expertise pro-bono. It is fantastic to have made this important step forward to save these bridges from further decay.



The River Road Bridge assessment team from L to R: BTF volunteer Hedley Amos, timber bridge expert Lloyd Margetts, BTF volunteer Roland Stayt and heritage engineer, Ian Maitland.

BIBBULMUN TRACK MEMBERS CHRISTMAS IN JULY Quiz Night

Gather your friends together and come along to our Members Quiz Night for an evening of fun and festivity. Get into the Christmas spirit and we'll add some sparkle to the proceedings!

Tickets \$15 per person - tables of 8

Lots of prizes, silent auction and games!

BYO Nibbles and snacks - Complimentary Christmas sweet treats

Licensed bar at extremely reasonable prices

When: Saturday 19th July 2014

Where: Doubleview Bowling Club, Shearn Crescent, Doubleview

Time: 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start

Book a table of 8 and ask your friends to join you (they don't need to be BTF members)

OR

Purchase individual tickets and we'll make up tables.

TO BOOK:

phone (08) 9481 0551 or email marketing@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Be quick to book as numbers are limited.

THEY'RE HERE!

We are excited to announce that the eagerly awaited new Bibbulmun Track Guidebooks have arrived.

It has been over 12 years since the Northern Guidebook was published and 10 years since the Southern Guidebook was published so there was a lot of work to do.

A massive WELL DONE to the Foundation's events manager, Steve Sertis (ably assisted by Steve Clark) who updated the walk notes during an end-to-end walk and undertook a complete audit of every campsite along the way. Steve also oversaw the production of the guidebooks and spent several late nights editing.

Sincere thanks to everyone involved - from the Foundation volunteers and DPaW staff who helped with food drops on the end-to-end walk and to those that helped proof the books.

We also acknowledge the excellent work done by authors and contributors of the original Northern and Southern Guidebooks.

To keep the information current we will post updates on our website at www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/shop/guidebook-updates.

You can make a contribution to keep them up to date by sending your comments and feedback to guidebookyoursay@bibbulmuntrack.org.au.

We hope that the new guidebooks greatly enhance your experience on the Track.

NEW BIBBULMUN TRACK GUIDEBOOKS NOW AVAILABLE!

The Bibbulmun Track Guidebooks have been divided into eight sections to match the Track maps with a separate Bibbulmun Track Handbook containing the general Track information, planning, safety, history and management information.

THE GUIDEBOOKS CONTAIN A WEALTH OF INFORMATION INCLUDING:

- Track Town information,
- suggested day and overnight walks,
- Track tips,
- section by section descriptions,
- vehicle access to each section,
- reflections from the campsite registers, and of course,
- new, improved and more detailed Track notes.

Please note that the new Guidebooks do not contain maps, distance tables or terrain profiles. They are designed to be used with the official Bibbulmun Track Maps.

The Waugal trail marker in the photo shows the comparative size of the books which are the same dimensions as the current two Guidebooks but thinner.

RRP \$11.95 each. Members price \$10.75

Purchase the complete set and get the Handbook free (valued at \$11.95).

DID YOU MISS THE MEMBERS' ONLY SPECIAL?

If you're not online - you may have missed our special pre-order offer for members.

Purchase all 8 guidebooks and, not only will you be given your 10% member's discount and the Handbook free (valued at \$11.95), but you will also receive a copy of the Accommodation & Services Guide, 5th edition, (valued at \$14.50) and a set of Bibbulmun Track postcards for free (while stocks last).

\$86 + post and packing. (Total value \$127)

Phone the office before 30 April 2014 to receive this deal.





FROM MY Desk

Thank you
THANK YOU
Thank you

Welcome to the winter edition of Bibbulmun News.

As always, I was interested to read about the latest batch of walkers who've registered their end-to-ends (see page 12).

As you would expect, 19 of the 21 walkers from overseas and interstate completed their end-to-ends in one go – after all, Perth is the most isolated capital city in the world and it's a long way to come for a walk! It is fantastic to read the feedback from these walkers and to know that, for them, the months (years?) of planning and the effort and expense to get here was all worthwhile. As one walker from the USA put it "I came to Australia to hike what I had heard was one of the world's great long-distance back-packing trails. The Bibbulmun Track was everything I had hoped for and more".

Of the 32 West Australians who registered their walks, half had also completed continuous end-to-ends – whilst the other half had completed the length of the Track in sections – some over many, many years. Sectional walkers rarely set out with the intention of completing the Track, but find themselves drawn back again and again – and warn that the Track becomes addictive!

Over the years, the recurring observations made by end-to-enders are often about the uniqueness of the Track in comparison to other long distance walks around the world. The variation in the landscape from forest to ocean, the rare flora and fauna including our magnificent tingle trees and the campsites with their timber shelters. But there's also something less tangible that draws people back to the Track – a camaraderie, a feeling... as one walker puts it 'the Bibb gets in your blood'.

I can't escape the irony that, up until now, I've only had weekend hikes on the Bibbulmun Track and I'm yet to experience a long-distance adventure – it is on my 'bucket list'. Until then, it is the stories and feedback from walkers that keep me inspired to ensure the Bibb Track retains its status as a world-class trail that provides a pathway into our spectacular south west and a respite from our busy lives.

Linda Daniels
Executive Director

Join us on



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

Maria Binks	Marcus Harris
Lynette Boucher	Samantha James
Angela Bowman	Valerie Jordan
Margaret & Barry Bryan	Christine Kennea
Jeanette Bunting	Adam Lohman
Colleen & Richard Clayden	Bob Oxlade
Dot Dixon	Jan and Colin Read
Neil Douglas	Leanne Schwarzbach
Holly & Peter Edwards	Mr Will
	Sally Wright

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.

PEMBERTON DISCOVERY CENTRE HAS EMBRACED THE WALKER FRIENDLY PROGRAM BY PROUDLY DISPLAYING OUR LOGO ON THEIR BUSINESS. TELL US IF YOU HAVE YOU SPOTTED OUR WALKER FRIENDLY LOGO ON OTHER BUSINESSES ALONG THE TRACK.



YOUR LETTERS



Dear Editor,
Reflections

On New Year's Day 2014 I walked into the Giants shelter for some morning reflections. The forest was damp and cool, the froglets were quacking away and the brown land-snails were trailing across the path. Not far from the Treetop Walk a massive red tingle tree had been blown down across the track during wild winds (24/9/13), but DPaW had cleared a way through the giant base of the two trunks. Last year on this day I had chatted to an overnighter from Czechoslovakia, but this time the couple who spent a quiet New Year's Eve there had moved on, so I sat reading the red book, which is always a delight. I was amused by the duo of walkers who chose the names i-pack and i-plod – it sounds like a good division of labour!

A rough count of entries in the Log book indicated that the Giants shelter had been used overnight at least 330 times in 2013, and by walkers from 12 different countries, not including Australia. Those who had already been to Frankland shelter loved its river setting.

Later in the week I walked into the Frankland shelter; but alas the old red book had just been removed and a new one begun, so like others I was disappointed not to have the old stories, history and advice.

Until next year,

Diane Beckingham

Dear Gwen and helpers

Very many thanks for the many goodies received yesterday. A beautiful T-shirt, terrific water bottle I've been hanging out for, books to read and seeds to sow that are going to be planted today!

My badge will be worn with pride!!

Kind regards,

Diane

ED – Diane was a recipient of the 5 year long-service Awards.

Hi there,

We are progressively doing the Bibbulmun Track in sections and hope to be back in April to do another part near Walpole.

I was going through my photos from our last trip in 2012 and came across this one from Grimwade Camp that I thought you may be interested in! Some people get to camp and read a book, do a crossword or relax but my friend Cate decided to bring along some henna (a plant powdered extract used in South East Asia and Africa by women to decorate hands and feet for special occasions).

And guess what she did a henna tattoo of? A Bibbulmun Waigal of course. What better way to relax after a day's walk?

Cheers,

Mary Harris

Hi

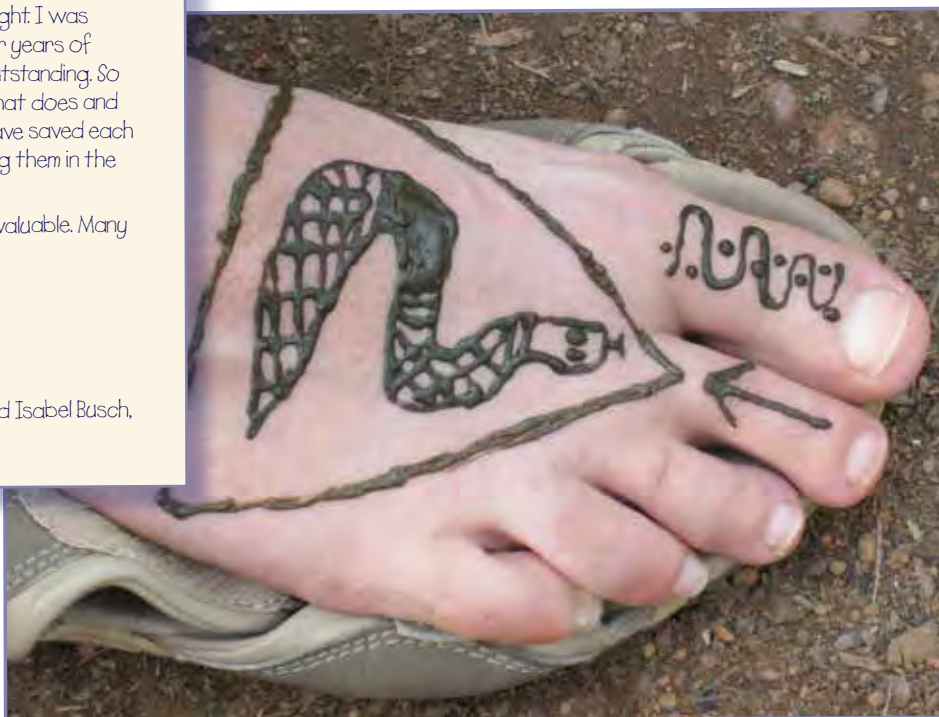
I attended your Getting into Gear meeting last night. I was amazed at what I learnt in two hours. During your years of walking the knowledge you have amassed was outstanding. So generous of you to share your experiences of what does and doesn't work when buying the gear. You would have saved each person in the room hundreds of dollars by pointing them in the right direction.

I am totally new to this and found your meeting invaluable. Many thanks once again and well done.

Best regards

Penny

ED – Two of our fabulous volunteers, Jim Baker and Isabel Busch, were the presenters at this event.



Director General

APPOINTED FOR PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Congratulations to Jim Sharp on his appointment as the inaugural Director General of the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

On announcing the appointment Environment Minister Albert Jacob said that “With more than 40 years’ experience in the government sector, Jim has a broad knowledge and experience of parks policy and management at a State, national and international level. He also brings considerable skills in engaging in partnerships with parks and conservation stakeholders and community interests.”

One such partnership is with the Bibbulmun Track and the Foundation. In 1993 Jim headed the steering committee for the Building a Better Bibbulmun Track Project which resulted in the ‘new’ Bibbulmun Track opening in 1998. He is also one of the founding Board Members of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation and remains on the Board to this day.



COME ‘GLAMPING’ WITH US ON THE **Larapinta Trail**

The Classic Larapinta Trek is one of the seven Great Walks of Australia and you can now experience the rugged beauty of the Trail with a bit of luxury awaiting you at the end of each day.

The trip involves six days of trekking through a diverse landscape that includes shady woodlands, high rocky ridges and river gorges. A support vehicle will transfer us between trailheads, allowing us to select walks that are the perfect balance of spectacular scenery and distance covered.

The diversity of trail stages is impressive, at times the trail descends from the ridgeline into narrow canyons where sheltered pockets of delicate fern and twisted gum trees grow from the dry rivers of sand. On other stages we walk to the impressive Simpsons Gap and Standley Chasm or climb Mt Sonder (1380m) a perfect vantage point from where we can trace the entire West MacDonnell Range.

The itinerary will appeal to active walkers who are prepared to cover between six and sixteen kilometers each day. You will need to carry only a day pack as each night you will be camping in stylish, exclusive and comfortable semi-permanent

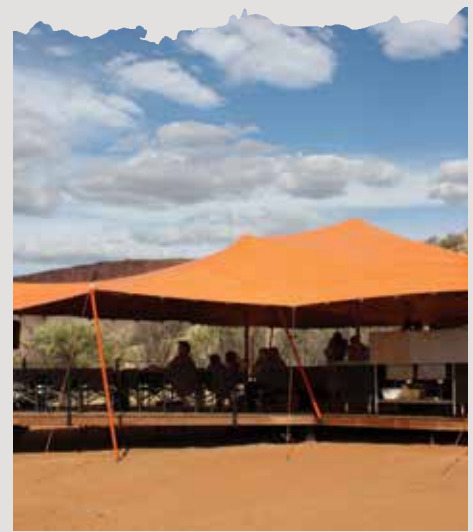
campsites, with heated lounge and dining facilities, hot showers, eco-toilet facilities, solar lighting and other sustainable facilities.

Experienced guides will accompany you on all the walks and this, combined with the exceptional food provided means trekkers can relax and enjoy the thrill of the outback.

Not only will this be a memorable week in the great outdoors, you will also be helping to support the Bibbulmun Track Foundation with a \$100 donation for each booking.

For more information email:
fiona@humacharitychallenge.com.au

Otherwise you can make your booking online by using the REGISTER NOW button found at the bottom of the relevant Charity Challenge page on the website www.humacharitychallenge.com



**huma
charity
challenge**

A DIVISION OF WORLD EXPEDITIONS

B e f o r e Y o u g o

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 DPaW 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 DPaW 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. 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

DPaW 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 dependent on appropriate weather conditions and for this reason dates of burns are not available in advance. For information regarding prescribed burns, please contact DPaW 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 DPaW 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.

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.

DPaW Contacts:

Recreation and Trails Unit

recreationandtrails@dpaw.wa.gov.au

Ph: (08) 9334 0265

DPaW 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@dpaw.wa.gov.au*

Wellington District (Collie)

*Covers Harvey-Quindanning Road to Mumballup
(Donnybrook-Boyup Brook Rd)
Map 3 or Sections 20 to 25 in Northern Guidebook
Contact Nick Evans on (08) 9735 1988 or nick.evans@dpaw.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@dpaw.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@dpaw.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
Chris Goodsell (08) 9840 0400 or
chris.goodsell@dpaw.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@dpaw.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





Kerstin Stender, Trails Coordinator
Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre 6983
Tel: 9334 0265
Email: recreationandtrails@dpaw.wa.gov.au



Department of
Parks and Wildlife



DPaW Recreation AND TRAILS UNIT

It's nearing the end of the hot weather and we have made it through fairly unscathed, with minimal impacts from fires. If you are anything like me you will be looking forward to the cooler months with more appealing conditions to get out into the bush for a hike.

With that in mind the districts have been working hard on many maintenance issues, with toilets pumped out, trees cleared and bridges and culverts repaired. We are also trialling some new taps on the rainwater tanks in the Perth Hills to minimise water loss and maintenance issues.

You may remember the Southampton Bridge was burned down in a large fire last year that also damaged the Blackwood Campsite. We've had some good news, with confirmation that the bridge is to be rebuilt. However the bad news is that it's not due for completion until 2017. As this is still a long wait, the Blackwood District is currently exploring options to open the Track and camp site for next summer, using a seasonal diversion. Hopefully I can tell you more about this in the next Bibbulmun News.

The autumn prescribed burn season is about to commence, so please check the Track conditions

for potential diversions before heading out for your walk. Burns that may impact the Track will be listed shortly and further updates are provided regularly, so it's always good to check each time you're planning a walk.

I'd like to thank Steve Sertis for collecting additional maintenance data during his end-to-end walk last year. Combined with the data collected by Scott Hunter a few years ago, this gives us a good overview of the Track's overall condition and where we need to focus our efforts. We have already commenced developing our capital works program for next financial year.

We installed new pedestrian counters along the Track last year, although hopefully they are hidden well enough for you not to see them. The data from these counters will feed into the user survey, planned for later this year, to give us some up to date estimates on

the level of use of the Track. Any assistance with this would be greatly appreciated. The Bibbulmun Track Foundation will be seeking your assistance with the survey in the near future, so be sure to put your name down. Unfortunately, two counters have already been stolen, impacting on the data collection program.

There have been some more changes within the staff at the Recreation and Trails Unit, with Leanne Robb stepping into Blake Edwick's Recreation Officer position for four days a week while Blake has been temporarily seconded elsewhere. Staff here have also been doing their bit for the future generations, with David and Jane Lindner the proud parents of baby Cara, born in November, and Stuart and Michelle Harrison the proud parents to baby Grace, born just before Christmas. I'm sure both will be introduced to the great outdoors soon, that is if they haven't already!

BE ALERT (BUT NOT ALARMED)

You can now receive park and fire alerts direct to your iPhone via the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) latest app – DPaW Alerts.

Now available in the app store DPaW Alerts allows users to keep up to date with alerts on bushfires, park and road closures as well as active prescribed burns. It also includes alerts from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and the latest DPaW news.

Alerts are also available online at:
<http://parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/alerts>

This app is essential for anyone planning on visiting national parks, particularly during the fire season. The app can be downloaded by searching for DPaW Alerts in the iTunes app store - an android version of the app is being developed.

LEAVE NO TRACE



Be considerate of other walkers

- Treat the shelters as you would your home - use the brush and rake provided to keep them clean and tidy.
- Keep noise levels down at campsites, only use radio with earphones, and be discrete about using mobile and satellite phones.
- Don't light big, smoky fires.
- Avoid blocking the track with tents or yourself during lunch stops or breaks.



Proposed Hunting IN WA'S FORESTS

There is currently a review underway in the West Australian Parliament of the laws that prohibit hunting on public or Crown land in Western Australia.

The Board of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation believes it is something that our membership should be concerned about and to that end we have made a submission to the Upper House Review by the Public Administration Committee opposing any hunting on Crown land, particularly that surrounding the Bibbulmun Track.

So how did this come about? We are all in agreement about the impact of feral animals on the West Australian environment; there is, however, disagreement about how we go about dealing with it. The Hon. Rick Mazza MLC, from the Hunters and Fishers Party now has a seat in the Upper House of the West Australia Parliament and is using his position to push for a review of the laws prohibiting hunting on Crown Land.

Mr Mazza has made no secret of the fact that if elected he would be pursuing this issue; it was, in effect, a primary part of his platform. Mr Mazza has also stated in Parliament he does not intend for recreational hunting to be allowed in National Parks, but rather on other Crown Land such as State Forests. There has been much discussion in Parliament about what constitutes other Crown Land, especially around Conservation Reserves.

There has also been lots of discussion around the fact that other States, namely NSW, allow hunting in National Parks so why doesn't WA? Well, the fact is that NSW does not allow it. There was a trial and some attempt to introduce it, but due to a heavy public backlash, real concerns about how the scheme would operate, and the costs involved the NSW State Government finally abandoned the

plan – even to the extent of disbanding the body funded and proposed to administer it, the Game Council of NSW. There is currently a trial underway in 12 of NSW's 75 National Parks, but it is administered and managed by the NSW Parks and Wildlife Services.

Our belief is that any hunting on Crown Land will be the thin edge of the wedge, and as the Bibbulmun Track traverses State Forest as well as National Parks, the proposal will also affect the Track.

The concerns of the Foundation revolve around several issues, the key one being the safety of the bushwalking public. We have a right to enjoy the use of public spaces without the threat of being shot or intimidated by people with guns.

All of us, at some time, have encountered people using the Track in a manner for which it was not intended, whether using bikes, trail bikes or even off-road 4-wheel drive vehicles. We have encountered vehicle-borne people camped at Bibbulmun Track shelters in flagrant contempt of the rules governing access to the shelters. Sometimes, albeit rarely, those people were armed, had powerful hunting dogs and hefty supplies of alcohol. Probably not a good time or place to advise them about the illegality of their actions! These hunters are aware their behaviour is illegal, so how then do we take comfort from the fact that the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA) informs us that they hope this part of the population will better manage their behaviour once hunting on public land becomes legal? I am sure that as a responsible organisation they are as

concerned as the rest of us about this behaviour, but it still goes on.

Like any other sector of society, I am sure there are good and bad hunters and I understand that professional hunters are appalled by this element of their sport. I also understand that recreational, or amateur hunters, need more land to access so they can undertake their pursuit. But the fact is that we are talking about a sport in which an accident can have dire consequences for others. Getting shot is not like tripping over or twisting an ankle.

Apart from safety, the Board has a range of other concerns outlined in our submission around the areas of environment, trails tourism, the effectiveness of managed culls vs recreational hunting, and scientific evidence that shooters have introduced seed animals, mainly feral pigs, into the South West forests in the first place to facilitate their sport.

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation Board does not believe that recreational hunting is compatible with other forms of recreation, but if it were to be employed by government to reduce the feral animal population then it needs to be done as part of a managed detailed strategy, well-funded and resourced and directed by a government agency with specific outcomes.

Mike Wood
Chairman

NEW IMAGE FOR TEAM CHALLENGE

We are pleased to re-launch the Foundation's major fundraising event, the Bibbulmun Team Challenge, with a fresh new image.

Running successfully since 2002 the event has evolved to become the ultimate bush battle!

Registrations are now open – please spread the word and help us recruit 16 teams for 2014.

The event is aimed at corporate organisations looking for a meaningful team building experience – however, all types of organisations and even groups of friends have benefited from participating in the past.

Check out the new promotional video – you'll find the link and lots more information at www.bibbulmunteamchallenge.org.au

Bibbulmun TEAM challenge

THE ULTIMATE BUSH BATTLE

THE MOST UNIQUE
PHYSICAL
AND MENTAL
TEAM BUILDING
CHALLENGE
IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA!



4 heats

4 teammates

4 challenging
and rewarding
days in the bush!

It's time to disconnect from technology and RECONNECT with each other.

REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

For more information and to register, visit
www.bibbulmunteamchallenge.org.au or contact 08 9481 0551.



100% OF ALL TEAM ENTRY FEES GO TOWARDS MAINTAINING
THE BIBBULMUN TRACK FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.



INTRODUCING THE 2014 | 2015 ENTERTAINMENT BOOK AND THE NEW ENTERTAINMENT DIGITAL MEMBERSHIP!

Celebrating its 20th Anniversary the Entertainment Book is excited to announce that you now have a choice!

The traditional Entertainment Book that comes with the Gold Card and vouchers
-OR-

the new Entertainment Digital Membership that puts the value of the Entertainment Book into your iPhone or Android smartphone!

Whichever you choose, \$13 of your \$65 purchase helps the Bibbulmun Track Foundation, and you receive over \$20,000 worth of valuable offers valid through to 1 June 2015!

You can pre-order now:
<https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/835a11>
Thank you for your support.



Thank You

TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS



Thank You Days

Rewards and awards for 2013 were presented at functions in Kalamunda, Albany and Peaceful Bay.

About 70 volunteers enjoyed morning tea at The Zig Zag Cultural Centre in Kalamunda. Long-time Board member and Director General of DPaW, Jim Sharp, presented the Mountain Designs Rewards to 61 of our wonderful volunteers, while Foundation ED Linda Daniels presented the Long Service Awards for five years (nine volunteers) and ten years (eight volunteers).

The following week Charmaine and I travelled to Peaceful Bay for a very popular pizza lunch thanks to Margot and Paul Harris. There was an unprecedented turn-up of volunteers from the Frankland district to sample Paul's delicious pizzas cooked in his outdoor pizza oven. A very pleasant few hours were spent catching up with

everyone and putting faces to the names of some of our newer volunteers. Awards were distributed. Paul and Margot have set a new benchmark for Volunteer Thank You days!

Bev and Gerry Visser again welcomed us with a lovely afternoon tea in their rear garden which is sheltered from the strong Albany breezes. We shared more good food and laughter and enjoyed catching up with everyone from the Albany district. It's always good to see our country volunteers and acknowledge their commitment to the Track.

As well as giving thanks and acknowledging commitment and enthusiasm, Thank You days allow us to relax with volunteers. It's a time

to share the successes and happy times of the past year, renew friendships and to get to know volunteers who have joined us during the year. While I see our office team each day, Thank You days are often the only chance I have to catch up with others.

Volunteers are vital to the work of the Foundation and without them we would not be able to achieve all we do. A very sincere thank you to all of our 300 volunteers—your contribution, be it large or small, is very much appreciated.

Gwen Plunkett

Volunteer Coordinator



Mountain Designs Award recipients at the Kalamunda event

Back row L to R: Don Hill, Peter Dear, John Wynn, John Murphy, Charmaine Harris, Chris Plunkett, Lesley Kerr, Isabel Busch, Hans Hoette.

Middle row L to R: Gayle Kealley, Ce Kealley, Trish Bird, Colin Gee, Peter Addenbrooke, Mavis Freeman, Jim Freeman, Edith Thomas, Patrick Tremlett, Merryl Alexander.

Front Row L to R: Kerry Hill, Elsie Grygiel, Alan Barker, Maryanne Addenbrooke, Guy Spouge, Roland Stayt, Tony Jennings.



Long Service Award recipients at the Kalamunda event from L to R: Mavis Freeman, Edith Thomas, John Gledhill, John Murphy, Linda Daniels



Volunteers at the Thank You day in Kalamunda.

New Bibbulmun Track Daypacks

OUR NEW DEUTER FUTURA DAYPACKS HAVE ALL THE UP-TO-THE-MINUTE FEATURES INCLUDING:

- the Aircomfort back ventilation system,
- fully adjustable straps,
- substantial waist belt,
- separate bottom compartment,
- rain cover and
- an abundance of handy pockets

The stylish packs come in two sizes, the 28L (blue) which is ideal for day walks or just getting to work on the bus, and the 32L (cranberry) which is ideal for lengthy day walks.

Purchase online or pop into the office to save on postage!

Futura 28L – Members price \$112.50



Futura 32L – Members price \$144.00



CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU TO ALL THE REWARD RECIPIENTS.

Long Service Awards

Long Service Awards recognise the commitment and loyalty of our long serving volunteers – regardless of how many hours they are able to volunteer annually. The Foundation is fortunate to have many loyal volunteers and we were pleased to acknowledge the following who reached their 5 year and 10 year milestones.

10 Year Awards

Edith Thomas	Peter Sweetman
Ron Thomas	Dave Foster
John Murphy	Linda Daniels
Stuart Breden	Mavis Freeman

5 Year Awards

Paul Harris	Leigh Wallace
Louise Hinkley	Peter Ward
Robin Gill	Angela Hine
John Gledhill	Dianne Tinker
Ken Graham	

Mountain Designs Volunteer Rewards

These awards recognise the number of hours various individuals volunteered over a 12 month period. Collectively, the Foundation's 300 volunteers contributed nearly 22,000 hours.

500 Hours

Jim Baker	James Freeman
Isabel Busch	Charmaine Harris

300 Hours

Peter Addenbrooke
Trish Bird
Peter Dear
Colin Gee

Elsie Grygiel
Chris Plunkett
Peter Whittle

100 Hours

Maryanne Addenbrooke
Merryl Alexander
Greg Arnold
Jenny Arnold
Alan Barker
Jack Busch
Derek Callow
Michael Carter
Sylvia Cheung
Colleen Clayden
Richard Clayden
Mal Cooper
Karen Dowling
Michael Duffy
Teresa Eldridge
John Ellis
Malcolm Ferrier
Mavis Freeman
Ken Graham
Mary Gray
Stuart Gray
Jane Greenwood
Donald Hill
Keith Hill
Kerry Hill

Cameron Hobson
Hans Hoette
Tony Jennings
Ce Kealley
Gayle Kealley
Lesley Kerr
Dora Marinova
John Murphy
Jeff Ovens
Kerry Ovens
Ian Rae
Alison Reid
Robyn Rogers
Steve Sertis
Jane Singleton
Charles Soord
Susan Soord
Guy Spouge
Roland Stayt
Yolanda Strauss
Peter Sweetman
Edith Thomas
Diane Tinker
Brian Traynor
Patrick Tremlett
John Wynn

Yes, THEY DID IT!

Walking the Bibbulmun Track can become an addictive pastime for many people, evidenced again by the number of sectional end-to-ends being registered. For others, the challenge of completing the Track in one go adds to their adventure. Whichever way they've chosen to complete the Track, all 53 end-to-enders are to be congratulated on their achievement. Well done!

As usual, entries are in chronological order of completion with overseas and interstate visitors mentioned first, followed by walkers from within WA. Many of the entries reflect the particularly wet and wild weather experienced in the south west last winter.

John (34) and **Kaori Nicholls**, now from Japan, found the facilities were wonderful on the Track (Sectional, 01.05.06 to 13.05.07) and especially appreciated the water tanks and the shelters at the end of each day. They had no difficulty sourcing supplies in towns, and friends met them in some places too. John's favourite area was around Giants and the south coast, with the sunrises being highlights. He has walked trails in Japan and Borneo, but John says nothing compares to the WA bush, and he never feels more alive than when he's walking through it. They advise taking your time as it's not a race. You see wonderful things if you have time to look around.

Reinhard Altscher (72) came from Germany and says that, this year (N-S, 09.09.13 to 29.10.13) there was a bit too much rain and many storms! He did a lot of wading and walking around fallen trees. His favourite sections were Walpole to Giants, and around Long Point. Reinhard says the Bibbulmun Track is "the best natural track in the world", with its wonderful shelters, availability of water and its good track-marking. He appreciated his warm sleeping bag.

Alan Green (69), from the USA, says "I came to Australia to hike what I had heard was one of the world's great long-distance back-packing trails. The Bibbulmun Track was everything I had hoped for and more". He walked with grandson **Noah Watts** (N-S,

16.09.13 to 31.10.13) and found resupplying was no problem, shops were better stocked than he expected. The rain finally stopped near Pemberton and they enjoyed the karri forests and later the sections beyond Boat Harbour. Alan is profoundly grateful to the people responsible for the Track development, for the advice from other walkers they met along the way, and for the beauty and diversity they discovered. He wishes he'd carried a lighter tarp or bivy bag rather than his tent which he only used a few times for warmth and mozzie protection. He suggests getting Aussie advice on food supplies, walking in bare feet on the long beach walks and avoiding arriving in towns on a Sunday when everything is closed.

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"I came to Australia to hike what I had heard was one of the world's great long-distance back-packing trails. The Bibbulmun Track was everything I had hoped for and more".
Alan Green, USA

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Paul Buck (50), from the UK (N-S, 27.09.13 to 17.11.13) says "at times I loved, loathed, adored, and cursed this Track. It had tested me but I hadn't been found wanting. I am genuinely going to miss it and the people I encountered along the way". Freeze-dried food made up most of Paul's diet, supplemented by

variety in the towns. He especially enjoyed the tingle country, but also liked the wildflowers, coastline, and wildlife. In comparison with other walks, the quality of the Bibbulmun campsites and facilities was better—and free! Paul's best equipment included a Sawyer Squeeze water filter and his SPOT GPS messenger. He advises listening to Bibbulmun Track Foundation advice, testing your kit, slowly building to longer distances each day and planning for variation in your meals.

John Pickering (55) from the UK was *Johnny English* on his walk (N-S, 08.10.13 to 25.11.13), which was a great adventure for him, with more ups than downs. It was a very different walk to anything he had done before, and he made some good friends, got fitter along the way and collected some great memories that he'll have forever. He was pleased to see a wide variety of Australian wildlife. His Pocket-Rocket stove and a self-inflating sleep mat were his best equipment. He advises being prepared to spend considerable time on your own as a solo walker, and not to forget the fly net.

Marisa Ernst (39) from Germany, (N-S, 16.10.13 to 05.12.13) says it wasn't as hard as walking in the Pyrenees and the Alps, but she still thought the Bibbulmun Track was something special. Her favourite sections were the Pingerup Plains (with dry feet) and the coastal sections. Highlights included the first glimpse of the ocean and the first sighting of a snake! She enjoyed swimming in the rivers, lakes and oceans, and the 'roos always put a smile on her face. Her e-book reader and boots were best equipment. She suggests using your tent-inner for fly protection at the campsites.

Yvonne Perett (33) from the USA had an incident-packed end-to-end (N-S, 31.10.13 to 11.12.13). Some clothing disappeared at Possum Springs (possums?); she tripped on numerous logs; and had a near-hypothermic episode after getting drenched and developing temporary numbness in her hands. But otherwise it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and worth flying from the USA just to walk the Bibbulmun Track which she describes as "one of the world's great walks". The forests and rivers south of Dwellingup were her favourite sections, and she also enjoyed seeing the ocean for the first time, the views from Helena and Waalegh campsites, and seeing blue wrens. Yvonne enjoyed her periods of solitude on the Track. She advises carrying a tent as it will save your sanity when the flies attack.

Stefan Walter (29), from Germany, was *Walter* on his end-to-end (N-S, 28.12.13 to 27.01.14). He has walked extensively overseas, but still thought the Bibbulmun Track's landscapes were amazing and he loved the big marris and karris. Favourite sections included the area around



Our CONGRATULATIONS to the following
53 walkers on completing an end-
to-end! 10 from overseas, 11 from
interstate and 32 from WA.



Northcliffe and the coastal sections. Stefan saw a lot of kangaroos, some emus and other crazy birds. His sleeping bag is always his best piece of equipment, and he advises walking with a light pack.

Chellie Hosking (49) from South Australia had an incredible personal journey (N-S, 04.04.11 to 21.05.11) which became a life-changing experience. She says she felt both scared and exhilarated for most of the trip! But now, in times of stress or anxiety, she is able to draw on the inner strength she developed during her first real hike by herself. She was very impressed with the Track and the facilities at each campsite, and found it was an amazing way to experience WA. She didn't want it to finish when she reached Albany! Highlights included sunrises at Schafer, Maringup and Rame Head. Through her walk, Chellie raised \$14,400 for the *Cure for Life Foundation*, in aid of brain cancer research.

Grant Buchan (58), from Tasmania, walked a through end-to-end (N-S, 2.09.13 to 22.10.13) after having to finish at Mumballup on his first attempt. He was glad he'd posted food parcels to himself along the way as he found the food he liked was hard to get in the towns. The tingle forest was Grant's favourite section and a highlight was doing the Tree Top Walk adjacent to the Track. After weeks of walking around, and climbing over, fallen trees, he thought it was great to walk through the tree tops. It gave a whole new perspective to the forest. He advises walkers to be prepared—for a change of plans, deviations, flowing inlets, bad weather, full campsites and rain, rain, rain!

Robert Mair (70), from Victoria, called himself *Ian Mair* on an enjoyable walk that ended too soon (N-S, 09.09.13 to 30.10.13). He described the Bibbulmun Track as world-class, maintained to a high standard and with high quality facilities suited to the uniqueness of the country. All his track meals were pre-packaged and Robert liked his Jet-Boil for quick drinks. Boat Harbour to William Bay was his favourite section, and highlights were seeing so many orchids, the contrast between forest and coastal sections, and feeling so welcome in the Track towns. Robert urges other walkers to do the Track in one go, and to take breaks in each town.

Heather (60) and **Graeme Bird** (63), from Tasmania, were the *Tassie Twitters* on a walk (N-S, 11.09.13 to 07.11.13) that surprised them with its social nature. They met many other walkers, formed friendships, loved reading the journal entries and sometimes even met the people they read about! They also liked the level of community ownership of the Track and the friendliness in the towns. Meals were dehydrated and supplemented by purchases along the way. The tingle forest near Walpole was a favourite section for both and highlights included the wildflower diversity on the

Pingerup Plains and the ruggedness of the south coast. Walking towards Albany in swirling mists with the wind turbines appearing and disappearing was enchanting. Walking sticks and silicon toe guards were among best equipment. They urge prospective walkers to join the BTF, take advantage of the individual planning service provided, prepare for the physical challenge, and just do it!

Steve Willems (35), from NSW, returned for a complete end-to-end (N-S, 16.09.13 to 08.11.13) after injuring himself on an earlier attempt in 2009. Pemberton to Walpole was his favourite section and he thought it was fun wading through the plains. He enjoyed the solitary walking during the day, but shared every campsite, also enjoying the social activities, especially a memorable night at Possum Springs. Toe socks helped to keep him blister-free and his gaiters were universally useful, even as a mat to sit on. He urges others to take their time, stay in the towns, and give careful attention to their feet.

Petita Abblitt (60), from Tasmania, called herself *Free Spirit* on her end-to-end (N-S, 04.10.13 to 20.11.13) and loved the challenge of the long distance. She thought it was wonderful to have such a great walk in Australia. Her favourite section was across the Harris River flats, but she also loved the wildflower diversity and the character of the tingle trees. She saw plenty of kangaroos and enough snakes to keep her attention on foot placement. Walking poles with rubber stoppers were part of her used and proven equipment.

Anuschka Steiner (15) and **Nadine Haubold** (31) from NSW shared their end-to-end (N-S, 10.10.13 to 25.11.13). Nadine was stunned by the experience and found the connection with the environment to be magical. It was a rewarding experience for Anuschka and she would like to walk some parts again. They were able to resupply with vegetarian foods along the way, but found it difficult at DRV. Denmark to Albany was a favourite section for both. Nadine enjoyed the Mt Cooke summit early on a misty, foggy morning and reaching the southern ocean was a highlight for both. Anuschka's highlights included a swim at Shelley Beach, walking beneath the wind turbines and meeting other people. They enjoyed seeing some wildlife at close quarters, and a quokka visited them at Frankland. Among best equipment was a sleeping bag liner to increase warmth. They advise not carrying too much food, and also writing a diary to jot down thoughts and feelings at the end of a walking day.

Gary Roughley (58), from NSW, had a thoroughly enjoyable walk (N-S, 18.10.13 to 05.12.13). He liked the diversity of the landscapes and ecosystems and made many new track-friends. He found resupplying in towns was no problem so long as you are flexible and use what you can find. Highlights for Gary were the swims in the rivers, dams and ocean. Coastal views were another, and he thought the karri and tingle forests were spectacular. The Bibbulmun Track was totally different to other walks that Gary has completed due to its length, and he was interested to discover how his mind and body would handle it. Boots were best equipment—"If my feet aren't happy, neither am I!" He urges others to just do it!

Paul Burge (43) also from NSW, called himself *Jagy*, and was a little sad at having to miss several campsites on his end-to-end (S-N, 28.11.13 to 18.01.14) due to imminent prescribed burns. He found food supplies were good in the towns. Paul liked all sections of the Track, and particularly enjoyed seeing the granite crevice dragons on Mt Cooke. There were many smiles and laughs along Paul's walk and he is keen to do more walking. He advises others to walk for the love of it, and to take your time.

This was Colin's first major project since retiring and was a complete change in lifestyle for him, as track life is very simple "walk, suffer a little, get to campsite, remove backpack, levitate, eat, sleep, meet nice people".

Colin Pickles (66) from Denmark (WA), aka *The Ancient Mariner*, had to contend with many trees down, lots of rain and several long diversions on his end-to-end (S-N, 25.07.13 to 23.09.13). His favourite section was around the Giants/Frankland area, but he says the countryside generally was looking wonderful with creeks and rivers flowing strongly, and wildflowers and orchids everywhere. This was Colin's first major project since retiring and was a complete change in lifestyle for him, as track life is very simple "walk, suffer a little, get to campsite, remove backpack, levitate, eat, sleep, meet nice people". A variety of wildlife was seen, including whales at West Cape Howe and, a seal in the surf at Mandalay. The Bibbulmun Track compares favourably with walks in NZ as there is no need to book, and the facilities are provided free of charge. He advises taking it easy and having rest days along the way.

Yes, THEY DID IT!

Nick de Garis (66) from Willetton was just *Nick* on his end-to-end (Sectional, 03.09.05 to 27.04.13) which he started with one group, but eventually finished with a nearly totally different group. He found his walk was a time to reflect, think and endure, and he loved seeing God's beauty in nature. His favourite sections included the views from Mt Cooke and the coastal sections. He urges others to keep going and not give up, because the memories will be worth it.

Barbara (60) and **Colin** (64) **Meadows**, also from Willetton, shared their end-to-end with Nick, above (Sectional, 03.09.05 to 27.04.13), and had a wonderful experience. Barbara is appreciative of such a well-maintained asset in WA and they both thought the campsites were brilliant. By walking the Track in short sections, they prepared their own meals and packed as lightly as they could with dried foods. Highlights were having time away from the business of life, meeting new people, and sitting around a campfire chatting. Their advice is to select good equipment, and then get out and do it because it is the most amazing experience!

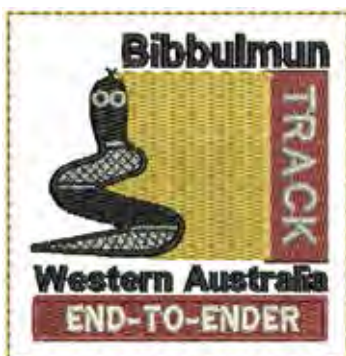
David Anderson (45) from Brunswick, aka *Pack Animal*, continues to register end-to-ends (Sectionals, 01.08.13 to 06.10.13 and 06.09.13 to 02.12.13). He found some areas were very wet after heavy winter rains, although it was drier in the northern end. Best equipment this time included an umbrella.

Jing Xie of South Yunderup has registered an end-to-end (Sectional, 20.05.06 to 08.10.13) but no further details were provided.

Matthew Boyd, from Nedlands, found his end-to-end (S-N, 11.08.13 to 09.10.13) was an amazing experience and was quite emotional at the completion of it. He thought it was a great way to finish his time in WA before moving to Tasmania, and would like to return in the future to walk in the opposite direction.

**Have you got your
End-to-End BADGE?**

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



Fiona Dickson (48) of Bibra Lake, **Sue Lee** (49) of Murdoch and **Marita Johnson** (51) of Winthrop walked together, and enjoyed sharing their end-to-end experience (N-S, 30.08.13 to 20.10.13), despite the challenges of walking through the wettest September on record. They dehydrated their own meals beforehand and this worked well, being cost-efficient and providing variety. The favourite sections for all three were around the Walpole to Denmark area, and they thought the tingle trees were just amazing, and so humbling. Fiona's highlights included the first view of the ocean, and both she and Sue loved the abundance of wildflowers. A highlight for Marita was living to tell the tale of a truly remarkable overnight storm which left fallen trees and debris for them to climb over, crawl under, and bash through for the following few days. All were appreciative of volunteers' efforts. Their personal reactions varied at different times—wonder, frustration, delight, fright, pleasure, surprise, peace. Walking poles, peppermint oil and a Jet Boil stove were among best equipment. They advise preparing well, packing light, taking time to appreciate your surroundings and never doubting your ability to do it.

Chris Lee (54), of Murdoch, shared a lot of his end-to-end (Sectional, 06.11.10 to 20.10.13) with his wife, Sue (see above) and found it to be a very addictive pastime! He says there are so many beautiful sections, but his favourites are between DRV and Pemberton, with highlights being the karri and tingle forests, and seeing whales along the coast. Chris enjoyed the space, the lack of phone coverage and the great sense of achievement on completion. He has completed walks overseas, but maintains that the Bibbulmun Track is fantastically unique. Best equipment was electrolyte tablets to assist with hydration in warmer weather. Chris' advice is to listen and learn from other walkers you meet along the way.

Frank Trybulec (51) of Rockingham thought his end-to-end (Sectional S-N, 29.03.13 to 21.10.13) was an awesome hike, despite having to get up and over and around many fallen trees in the Donnelly/Pemberton region. His favourite section was from Walpole to Northcliffe and a highlight was seeing the new Track half-way sign between Boarding House and Tom Road. Frank didn't see any snakes on his trek, and he regarded this as another highlight because he hates snakes! His trekking poles helped with stability and his advice to others is to only walk to your limitations.

Carly Bell (23) from Lesmurdie and **Hayley McLoughlin** (25) of Vic Park were *Herbivore* and *Carnivore* on their end-to-end (N-S, 04.09.13 to 23.10.13). Carly loved it so much that she turned around and completed the double (S-N, 23.10.13 to 14.12.13) by walking back to Kalamunda! They dehydrated their own meals and used food drops, supplemented by further supplies in the towns. On her return trip, Carly bought supplies in each town, and never thought she could love peanut butter and

crackers so much. Hayley's favourite section was between DRV and Pemberton and Carly liked the southern half with its excitement in the canoe crossing, Tree Top Walk, Gloucester Tree and the awesome coast. Walking in thunder and lightning storms were among Hayley's highlights, and neither will ever forget the Torbay Inlet crossing in waist-deep water with packs held over their heads! Meeting other people, learning from experienced walkers and enjoying the campfires were other highlights. Hayley found the walk was a great opportunity to de-stress and get back to the basics, and Carly maintains her walk was one of the best adventures she's ever done and she will never forget it. Walking poles and Crocs were amongst their best equipment. They advise just doing it, taking your time, researching before you buy equipment, and being aware that the Track becomes addictive!

Tristan Cocker (29), of Girrawheen, called himself *Dropbear* and got far more than he expected out of his walk (N-S, 28.09.13 to 03.11.13). This was his first long walk and he found it was a fantastic experience. He learned a lot about the Track and met some really interesting people. He used his own meals and says that at the end of a hard day, cooking a nice meal is really satisfying, but he still looked forward to fresh food in the Track towns. Reaching the coast was a great reward after walking from the north, and other highlights included seeing many snakes, climbing the Gloucester Tree at Pemberton and reaching the half-way and finish points. He saw a lot of wildlife, possibly because he was up early and out of the campsites, and first along the Track in the mornings. Tristan found his walking poles were very good on the hills, and also discovered that his enamel billy was way too heavy. He advises listening to other walkers about Track conditions and diversions, and says Track kindness pays dividends!

Irene and **Tony D'Arcy** from Aveley signed in as *D'Arcy 1+2* as they completed their end-to-end (N-S, 14.09.13 to 08.11.13). No details of their walk were provided.

Jason Hill (40) from Hilton (S-N, 16.09.13 to 08.11.13) says it's a walk that every person should undertake—it opens your mind, clears your head, brings you back to the basics of living, requires you to be on the ball and tests you physically and mentally. Resupplying in Track towns presented no difficulties for him. Favourite sections included Sandpatch to West Cape Howe and Mts Cuthbert and Vincent, but he loved the whole Track! He admits it wasn't always easy and he needed to push himself sometimes. It was always good to see the campsite at the end of a long day. His advice is to keep others in the loop about your progress and remember to enjoy yourself because it is such an awesome journey.

Ross Simpson (62) from Nedlands was *Rosco* on his trek (Sectional, 16.09.12 to 12.11.13) which he returned to finish after an injury in 2012. He treated it as an adventure, waking up each morning and looking forward to

Our CONGRATULATIONS to the following 53 walkers on their achievement!

the challenges of the day. The wildflowers, changing forests and coastal scenery were fantastic. Ross' favourite sections were Woolbales to Long Point and West Cape Howe to Torbay. Among the multitudes of wildlife he saw, he enjoyed seeing whales breaching at Little Cove, near Long Point campsite. Ross feels walkers are very fortunate to have such a well-developed and well maintained trail with such great facilities—and it's free and you don't have to book! Walking poles and hut booties were among his best equipment. Ross advises wearing gaiters in coastal areas to protect bare legs from the prickly scrub and doing everything possible to reduce your pack weight.

Tom Hilliar (65), of Cooloongup, (Sectional, 07.02.13 to 13.11.13) has experienced the Track over many years and is pleased with its condition although he'd like a few more Waugals in some places. He loves the whole Track and a highlight this time was re-acquainting himself with a goanna he's sure he saw several years ago between Blackwood and Gregory Brook. This creature was extremely inquisitive and showed him the way. He was also lucky enough to see an echidna near Chadoora. His repeated advice to others is simply to get out there—now!

Anne Davis (64), from Lesmurdie, was accompanied by lots of rain on her end-to-end (Sectional, 26.08.13 to 16.11.13), and soggy boots left her with some interesting blisters in the first two weeks, but she soon got into the zone and was walking with ease. She had plenty of wading near Maringup and came close to stepping on a few snakes on cool mornings when they were sluggish. Anne stocked up in towns along the way and always made sure she had a daily chocolate ration. Her favourite section was from Donnelly River to Pemberton and she loved the solitude of walking alone, but also enjoyed the company of other walkers at the campsites. Anne found a SPOT Tracker was a very comforting piece of equipment, as was her warm sleeping bag. She's grateful to volunteers for assistance with planning.

Cliff Osgood (73), of York, signed in as *Cliffy* on his third end-to-end (S-N, 01.10.13 to 19.11.13) which he says still won't be his last. His favourite section was from Albany to Denmark and a highlight was meeting walkers he had met before. He also met the Schafer campsite possum for the third time! Cliff was surprised at how fit he became toward the end of his walk. Best equipment were walking poles and his down jacket. His advice to other walkers is to follow the Waugals and not your memory!

Sophie Arnall (26) and **Neil Birch**, both of Kensington, were known as *Boots* and *Noddy* as they shared "an unreal and unforgettable experience right in our own backyard". (N-S, 19.09.13 to 23.11.13) As inexperienced walkers when setting out, their first few days were a baptism by fire. They agree that the great facilities and the well-marked and maintained trail meant that not only did they successfully complete their end-to-ends, but they're now

both itching to do more. They found Peaceful Bay to Denmark was hardest but also most memorable. Highlights for Sophie included watching two juvenile sea eagles fighting along the south coast, and having friends meet them with fresh food. Neil had a very close encounter with a tiger snake when it fell out of the notice board and almost landed in his lap at Gardner! Both enjoyed a swim at Green's Pool. Sleeping bags were best equipment, and the worst was the 2.2kg of photography gear they lugged end-to-end! They recommend the reef and beef at the Dwellingup pub.

Malcolm Ferrier (72) of Booragoon, and **Ian Sweetman** (63), from Fremantle walked together over several years (Sectional, 18.08.05 to 05.12.13) to complete an end-to-end. For Ian, it was a struggle overall, but he persevered and says the sight of the shelter sign became a favourite view each day. He experienced many highs and lows and, although he became fitter, he says his pack always seemed too heavy! The favourite section for both was from Walpole to Denmark, with Ian's highlights being the spectacular scenery within a diversity of landscapes. Malcolm liked the sense of achievement at the end of each day, and says some of the fiercest weather was the most thrilling and uplifting. Their advice is to ensure good preparation of body, mind and equipment.

Dave Broughton (68), from Kalamunda, walked right to his front door on the completion of his end-to-end (S-N, 29.10.13 to 08.12.13). As the weather was warming up during his walk, Dave left camp very early in the mornings to avoid the heat of the day, and most walking days were over by noon. He met a number of walkers still heading south along the coastal sections, but found the northern parts were much quieter. Dave managed a completely gluten-free diet on his end-to-end by a combination of commercial gluten-free meals and food that he prepared at home and sent ahead to towns. Despite eating reasonably well, he still lost 10kg on his walk. Dave liked the south coastal scenery, the tranquillity of the forests, especially in the early mornings, and the night-time Milky Way. Best equipment was a SPOT GPS which kept family members informed of his whereabouts.

Kirk Lester (54) from Yokine found his end-to-end (Sectional, 01.10.13 to 13.12.13) to be more challenging than expected. His walk was broken due to tendon injuries in his ankle, and the need to replace some of his gear. However, his walk was still a great experience and very cleansing for the body and mind. Kirk's favourite sections were "anything with tall trees". He liked the views and the scenery from the top of Mt Cooke and the coastal views. A Jet-Boil was his best equipment. Kirk advises preparing food drops well, so that you don't end up carrying extra weight.

Donald Paterson (69), of Esperance, found his end-to-end (Sectional, 30.03.13 to 14.12.13) was a wonderful experience as his four children and four grandsons all walked different parts

of the Track with him. He ate a combination of freeze-dried foods with other snacks, not forgetting the liquorice and chocolate bars. Donald's favourite section was between Donnelly River and Pemberton. Other highlights included Mt Cooke and Mt Chance and the Murray and Lake Maringup campsites. A least favourite section was the sand-hills from Mandalay beach! Walking sticks were among best equipment. Donald advises other walkers to take their time and not rush.

Serge Tseu (35), of Mt Hawthorn, was *Panda Bear* on what he calls only his first end-to-end (Sectional, 03.108.13 to 31.12.13) as he says he will definitely do another one in the future. Due to work commitments, this hike was in three sections. He used some food drops and sent parcels to various towns, but plans to resupply in the Track towns on future walks, as it will be easier and still provide a variety of foods. Balingup to Pemberton was Serge's favourite section. A special highlight was reaching the southern ocean for the first time. Another was meeting like-minded walkers, forming strong bonds with them and still keeping in touch after the walk. He advises going through your gear in each town and posting home anything that you no longer need.

Christine Fleay (27), of Bunbury started walking with **Benita Large** (27) from Perth after they finished uni. Their yearly pilgrimages became more and more addictive and eventually led to an end-to-end (Sectional, 19.11.07 to 02.02.14). They refined their food supplies over the years and now dehydrate all sorts of vegetables and lots of spag-bol. They ate so well that they never lost weight on their walks! Their favourite section was through the Pingerup Plains and D'Entrecasteaux National Park where they found the granite hills and flat plains were stunning. Their worst day was also on this section, when they were advised to walk a part of Chesapeake Rd to avoid a long section of waist-high wading. They found it was slow and boring, and even today a bad, slow day is referred to as a "Chesapeake Day"! Highlights were many, but both enjoyed some lazy afternoons at the campsites reading, napping, chatting and trying to hold back from starting dinner too early. Chris loved the quokkas around Pemberton and waxed lyrical to all and sundry about their ecology and conservation, until being almost mugged by them that night in the shelter. Gear was improved over the years with better backpacks. Chris says "Croc's rock"! They advise others to give it a go as you could be surprised at what you can do and how much you will enjoy it.

Compiled by Charmaine Harris

(BTF Volunteer and end-to-ender)


Accommodation, Tours and Services



Please support the Walker Friendly Businesses that support the Track.

- Accomodation - Tourist Bureau - Transport prov - Tour - Track Transfers - Catering - Tour Guides

BUSINESS NAME	TOWN	TYPE OF BUSINESS	PHONE NO.	DISCOUNT OFFERED TO MEMBERS
ALBANY BAYSIDE OCEAN VILLAS	ALBANY		0400 216 971	
ALBANY VISITOR CENTRE	ALBANY		(08) 9841 9290	No.
BAYVIEW BACKPACKERS YHA	ALBANY		(08) 9842 3388	Same as YHA members.
EMU POINT MOTEL	ALBANY		(08) 9844 1001	
CAPE HOWE COTTAGES	ALBANY		(08) 9845 1295	10% - not in conjunction with any other specials.
NORMAN HOUSE	ALBANY		(08) 9841 5995	5% discount
BALINGUP BUDGET ACCOM. - 'THE HIKERS HIDEAWAY'	BALINGUP		(08) 9764 1049	Special rate of \$24.
OAKFIELD COUNTRY HOUSE B&B	BALINGUP		(08) 9764 1641	10% off standard rates (direct bookings only).
SOUTHAMPTON HOMESTEAD	BALINGUP		0412 229 564	
BALINGUP HEIGHTS	BALINGUP		9764 1283	
COLLIE RIVER VALLEY TOURIST PARK	COLLIE		(08) 9734 5088	10%.
COLLIE VISITOR CENTRE	COLLIE		(08) 9734 2051	10% on souvenirs.
THE COLLIEFIELDS	COLLIE		(08) 9734 2052	10%.
WHISPERING PINES B&B	COLLIE		(08) 9734 3883	10%.
CHRISTINA BED & BREAKFAST	DENMARK		0427 482 900	10%.
BLUE HOUSE DENMARK	DENMARK		0438 339 071	10%.
BLUE WREN TRAVELLERS REST	DENMARK		(08) 9848 3300	5%.
OUT OF SIGHT! TOURS	DENMARK		(08) 9848 2814	10%.
DENMARK WATERFRONT MOTEL	DENMARK		(08) 9848 1147	15%.
KARMA CHALETS	DENMARK		(08) 9848 1568	5% - n/a long weekends & school holidays
THE COVE	DENMARK		(08) 9848 1770	10%.
WINDROSE B&B	DENMARK		(08) 9848 3502	10%.
PELICANS AT DENMARK	DENMARK		0413 122 176	
CHE SARA SARA CHALETS	DENMARK		(08) 9840 8004	
FOREST ECHO COTTAGE	DENMARK		0417 962 388	Complimentary bottle of wine on arrival.
WILLIAM BAY COUNTRY COTTAGES	DENMARK		(08) 9840 9221	On application.
AIYANA RETREAT	DENMARK		(08) 9848 3258	10%.
DONNELLY RIVER HOLIDAY VILLAGE	DONNELLY RIVER		(08) 9772 1244	From \$20 pp.
COAL&RIA HOUSE B&B	DONNYBROOK		0415 166 026	
DWELLINGUP ADVENTURES	DWELLINGUP		(08) 9538 1127	10% on self-guided walk & canoe tour.
DWELLINGUP B&B & CHALETS	DWELLINGUP		(08) 9538 1155	10%.
TADDY CREEK	DWELLINGUP		(08) 9285 2736	On application.
KALAMUNDA RAILWAY CARRIAGES ACCOM. & THREE GUMS COTTAGE	KALAMUNDA		(08) 6293 1902	10% on accommodation.
ROYAL GALA TOURS	MULLALYUP		1300 233 556	
GLEN MERVYN LODGE	MUMBALLUP		(08) 9732 2208	10% discount for 6 or more people
MUNDARING WEIR HOTEL	MUNDARING		(08) 9295 1106	
YOHO PIZZA	NANNUP		0403 734 814	10% off orders over \$150.
RIVERWAY CHALETS	NORTHCLIFFE		(08) 9776 7183	10%.
WATERMARK KILNS	NORTHCLIFFE		(08) 9776 7349	On application.
NUTKIN LODGE	PEACEFUL BAY		(08) 9840 8650	10% on atandard rates.
BEST WESTERN PEMBERTON HOTEL	PEMBERTON		(08) 9776 1017	
BIG BROOK COTTAGES	PEMBERTON		(08) 9776 0279	
OLD PICTURE THEATRE HOLIDAY APARTMENTS	PEMBERTON		(08) 9776 1513	
PEMBERTON CAMP SCHOOL	PEMBERTON		(08) 9776 1277	
PEMBERTON DISCOVERY TOURS & CAR HIRE	PEMBERTON		(08) 9776 0484	10% off tours, Track transfers & car hire.
PEMBERTON VISITOR CENTRE INC	PEMBERTON		(08) 9776 1133	
RAINBOW TRAIL CHALETS	PEMBERTON		0438 561 664	Complimentary bottle of Rambouillet wine on arrival.
TREENRIDGE ESTATE	PEMBERTON		(08) 9776 1543	10% discount on wk nights & two day packages
ADVENTUROUS WOMEN	PERTH		www.adventurouswomen.com.au	
INSPIRATION OUTDOORS	PERTH		(08)6219 5164	
COALMINE BEACH HOLIDAY PARK	WALPOLE		(08) 9840 1026	10%.
NATURALLY WALPOLE TOURS	WALPOLE		(08) 9840 1019	On application.
WALPOLE LODGE	WALPOLE		(08) 9840 1244	
BAYSIDE VILLAS	WALPOLE		(08) 9840 1888	10%.



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

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

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Women Only - \$1995pp

Join us on this fully supported trip as we complete the full "end-to-end", walking approximately 20km/day. Cape to Cape is an incredibly scenic but challenging walk, made very achievable on this trip as you will only need to carry a day pack and we return each evening to comfortable accommodation, a hot shower, glass of wine and a great meal!

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www.adventurouswomen.com.au

**Mothers Day
Gift Ideas**

**MUM A KEEN WALKER?
OR WOULD LIKE TO BE?**

A Bibbulmun Track gift voucher can be redeemed for an event, membership or merchandise - and might be all the incentive she needs to get started.

Here are some gift ideas...

- New Guide Books
- Wildflower Book of the Northern Bibbulmun Track and Jarrah forests.
- Bush Books - lots of different ones to choose from .
- Ladies Branded T-shirt (sizes 14 & 16 only) - special members price \$10.00
- New Bibbulmun Track branded top quality Deuter Futura Day packs, 32 and 28 litre.

Buy online, phone 9481 0551 or pop into our Hay Street office (above Mountain Designs).

Small group, guided walking tours on the Bibbulmun

Multiple Bibbulmun Track sections offered. See website for this year's sections



Walk at a relaxed pace with a day pack only. Stay in comfortable off track accommodation each evening. Enjoy all of the sights and smells of the trails with no roughing it.

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Walker Story



Michael and Veronika Schulze from Germany completed an end-to-end walk of the Track in autumn 2013 - plus a bit extra! Read Veronika's account of their walk, plus some of their other experiences and dreams.

In Germany in the late 1990s we read about the Bibbulmun Track in the Australian Geographic. We forgot about it for a while, then in 2010 Michael decided he wanted to walk the Larapinta Trail and thought a section of the Bibbulmun Track would be good training, so in mid-March 2010 we walked from Walpole to Denmark.

Afterwards we walked the Larapinta, which was a wonderful experience, and returned to Germany, where at the end of 2012 Michael stopped working for his old company, with a possible new job in sight for mid-2013.

So what to do in between? Without thinking I said: "Mid-March would be the perfect time to start the Bibbulmun Track in Albany, doing it end-to-end." Michael jumped at the idea, so I quit my job and on March 13 we took a flight to Perth. After a few days on the beach at Bunbury we travelled to Albany and started our walk on March 21st, on a cool and drizzly morning. However during the first month on the Track we had little rain. Only on the last section, from Dwellingup to Kalamunda, were there four consecutive days with downpours. Even then we were lucky; when it came to scrambling up and down the granite surfaces of Mt. Cooke, Mt. Vincent and Mt. Cuthbert it was dry.

We particularly appreciated the short distances between Albany, Sandpatch, Mutton bird and Torbay campsites, which enabled our bodies to adjust gradually to daily walking and the weight of our backpacks. We didn't plan any double-hutting, except during the last few days, when the shelters would be close together. We had plenty of time and we wanted to enjoy the walk. It was nice to arrive early at the shelter, sit back with a cuppa and take in the nature.

Between Albany and Denmark we enjoyed the company of Jean, a 23 year old Frenchman who also

planned to walk to Kalamunda. Between Denmark and Walpole the Track was very busy over the Easter weekend, and we were glad that we had our tent. We often used it inside the shelters, when there was sufficient space, as protection against the mozzies and to give additional warmth on cold nights. We would never walk the Bibbulmun Track without a tent, but next time it will be a very lightweight emergency tent. On this trip Michael carried our 3.5 kg four-season tent which had been perfect on other tracks, but not necessary on the Bibbulmun Track. Better to carry extra food and a tent half the weight!

After the long Easter weekend the Track became very quiet. At Mt. Clare we were lucky to meet Wrong Way Jim and shared the shelters on the way to Northcliffe with him. Listening in the evening to his stories about the Track and his work as a BTF volunteer was very interesting and amusing.

Having negotiated the diversion we arrived in Balingup, and finally we were convinced that we would make it to Kalamunda, although we were worried about the section between Dwellingup and Kalamunda, where we would need to carry food for twelve days.

Other walkers had told us that the food supplies in Dwellingup were basic, so we sent a large food parcel from Collie to Dwellingup. On the way to Collie we had met walkers iPack and iPlod who confirmed that the caravan park in Dwellingup would hold food parcels. iPack and iPlod were doing a double end-to-end from Kalamunda to Albany and back.

It was their example that formed an idea in our heads; once we reached Kalamunda we would turn around and do another section of the Track from north to south, until the time came for our flight back to Germany.

After Dwellingup we had some very wet days and cold nights but on our last day we had glorious sunshine. It was a

Sunday and we met many day-walkers on the Track, nearly all of whom asked us, "Did you do the Track end-to-end?" We felt like celebrities shaking all the hands and hearing all the congratulations!

After the quietness and beauty on the Track we spent three days in Kalamunda at the beautiful Kalamunda Carriages B&B – and all we did was eat! Then we took the bus to Bridgetown, spent a night there, hitchhiked to Donnelly River Village—and here we were again, back on the Bibbulmun Track! It felt so good... I wore a big grin on my face all the way to Tom Road Campsite.

We were amazed how the landscape changed as we walked in the opposite direction than previously and of course, the season had changed as well. The days were very short and now we found out what it really meant to get wet. At Schafer Campsite, with the rain pelting down on us, the dam in front of the shelter seemed to be boiling— but Northcliffe was only three hours ahead.

The Gardner River was flowing, but fortunately the plains between Northcliffe and the ocean were still relatively dry. I had seen pictures of walkers wading thigh-deep through the water on the Track there, with their backpacks on their heads. It didn't appeal to me, although everyone told us it is great fun...

We made it to Walpole and this time we welcomed the end of our trek. The days were getting shorter and colder and after 1,270km we were both tired. We spent four days in a cosy little cabin on Coalmine Beach, two days in Perth and returned to Germany in mid-June.

When we visited the BTF office in Perth before starting out, we met Colin Gee. He told us: "You will love every day on the Track." At the time I doubted it, but he was right. We'll be back, maybe next time doing an end-to-end-to-end like iPack and iPlod? It's true—the Bibbulmun Track is addictive!



Getting into Gear

THE SEA TO SUMMIT ESCAPIST

New for 2014, the Sea to Summit Escapist Tarps and Inners give lightweight gear junkies a new option for staying warm and dry while out on the Track. It's time to leave the handle on your toothbrush and strip the weight out of your shelter instead.

Made from an ultra-lightweight 15 Denier Nylon, the Medium Escapist Tarp provides a massive 2 x 2.6 square metres of protection in a petite packed size that weighs only 300 grams. The eight tie-out points will each hold the tip of a trekking pole and have cord adjuster and reflective guy lines pre-attached – so the number of ways it can be erected is limited only by your imagination.

The Large Escapist Tarp is 3 x 3m, weighs 440g and can comfortably sleep two when set up as an A-frame. It also makes a good tent awning or sun shelter.

Sometimes persistent insects can ruin a good night's sleep. The Escapist Mesh Inners have no poles and are designed to hang under the Tarps. They can also be pitched without a Tarp by using trekking poles, guy lines and pegs.

The Ultra-Mesh Bug Tent has a 15D Ultra-Sil® Nano tape seamed tub floor with generous splash skirt and has a zippered door. In heavy rain an extra ground sheet is recommended.

The Ultra-Vis Bug Net is constructed of incredibly light 80 hole/cm2 15D mesh. It pegs down and/or tucks under your sleeping mats. A minimalist bug shelter, the inside is accessed by lifting a corner.

With an Escapist Tarp teamed up with a pair of walking poles and the Bug Tent, you've got mosquito, sun and rain protection in a package that weighs less than a kilogram, and takes up less space in your pack than a spare drink bottle.

Escapist Tarp Medium	300g	\$219
Escapist Tarp Large	440g	\$249
Escapist Ultra-Mesh Bug Tent	385g	\$249
Escapist Ultra-Vis Bug Net	140g	\$89
Escapist Groundsheet	165g	\$59



PRIZE WINNERS!

ANNUAL LIFE MEMBERS' PRIZE DRAW

Congratulations to Owen McGrath who received a selection of books from the Department of Parks and Wildlife

Monthly Membership renewal prize draw

NOVEMBER

Winner of an XL X bowl was **Louise Hinkley**

Second Prize went to **Ray Halsall** – who received a selection of Back Country desserts

Winner of a Bibbulmun Track daypack, donated by the BTE, and Ultra mesh stuff bag was **Garry Wood**

Second prize went to **Valerie** and **Len Warren** – they received a Drylite Micro Towel

JANUARY

Winner of a Bibbulmun Track daypack and a GoToob was **Carol Jowett**

Second prize went to **Keith McLoughry** who received a Delta Mug.

FEBRUARY

Winner of a waterproof iPad cover was **Neil Wilson**

Second prize of a Nano Head Net was the **Teakle Family**

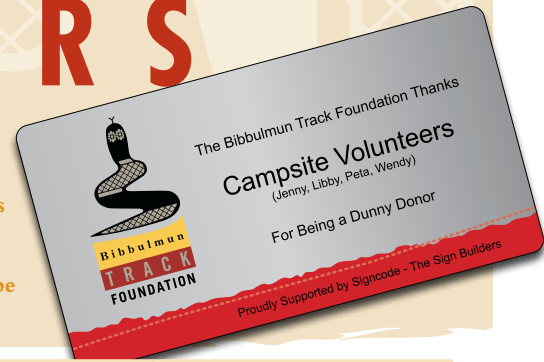
Unless stated otherwise, the prizes mentioned above were generously donated by Foundation sponsor Sea to Summit.



DUNNY DONORS

THANK YOU TO OUR LATEST DUNNY DONORS

Congratulations to the following walkers who are the latest to be immortalised on a Bibbulmun Track dunny door! Your plaques have been made and will be installed over the coming weeks.



Inscription	Dunny
Cee Beemster	Yabberup
Alex Campbell	Mt Chance
Lois Goodram	Canning
Su and Bob McNamara	Torbay
Holly "2th Fairy" and Peter "Cans" Edwards	Maringup
Kevin Hill	Beavis
Phyll and Ted Oxley, East Yorkshire, UK	Murray
Mary Lee and Let Cator, East Yorkshire, UK	Gardner
Aunty Hazel, Draha & the Kukalendi Kids	Dog Pool

Dunny Donors donate \$500 or more to the Track and have raised over \$32,000 to assist in the upgrade of dunnies to an environmentally sustainable design.

THERE ARE A JUST A FEW PLACES REMAINING, SO IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR NAME IMMORTALISED AT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CAMPSITES BE QUICK TO SNAP ONE UP!

Ball Creek

Mt Wells

Mutton Bird

Harris Dam

Sandpatch

FREE Trip PLANNING ADVICE

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

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

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

Have you moved? (ONLINE OR OFF!)

Help us save time and postage and let us know if you have moved house - or changed your email address
Update your profile on our website

Email:

events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

or call: (08) 9481 0551

WEEKLY EQUIPMENT HIRE prices

ITEMS	MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS
Backpack	\$27.00	\$33.00
Sleeping Bag/Liner	\$20.00	\$25.00
Sleeping Mat	\$ 3.00	\$ 5.00
Stove	\$22.00	\$27.00
Tent	\$37.00	\$42.00
Dehydrator	\$35.00	N/A
PLB	\$35.00	\$45.00
PLB e-2-e 2 mths	\$170.00	\$200.00

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

\$150.00 for basic equipment

\$499.00 for PLBs

\$230.00 for Dehydrators

Payment may be made by cash, cheque or credit card
For all enquiries contact the Foundation: Tel: 9481 0551
Email: friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au or download the booking form on our website under Trip Planner / Equipment & Hire.

CHINA'S DONKEY FRIENDS

On Friday 27th September 2013 a workshop was held at the University of Western Australia on Australia, China and the Great Outdoors. Among the participants were students from a number of Chinese universities, plus hiking enthusiasts from one of China's largest hiking clubs, who spent four days walking on the Bibbulmun Track. Dr Gary Sigley of UWA was one of the three workshop co-ordinators who accompanied the hikers on their trek, and he has kindly written this article for the BTF newsletter.



At the southern terminus of the Bibbulmun Track in Albany, ready to start our journey from Albany to Denmark. From left to right: Gary, Maya, Frank, Tina, Duan Lian, Yang Xiao, KK, and Ed. Photo by Ed Jocelyn

According to the Chinese lunar calendar this year is the year of all things equine; horses, mules, and of course, donkeys. In Chinese to be a donkey friend is to be someone who likes to go hiking, so I suppose all of the readers of this publication are in that category, right? The term donkey friend is a play on the Chinese word for travel. Both donkey friend and travel are pronounced in Mandarin as lvyou (in the written form they are expressed with different characters). By extension a donkey friend is someone who likes to go hiking and who, like a pack animal, carries supplies on his or her back. I think we have all met a pack animal or two on the Bibbulmun Track.

If you listen to the news you will know that China has a serious problem with pollution and congestion. Our donkey friends have emerged in great numbers in recent years and are keen to escape from the poor environmental conditions of the city for respite in the countryside. China's rapid development, and in particular the development of a modern transport infrastructure, now makes the return to nature relatively efficient and affordable. The other thing you probably know about China is that it is the

world's most populous nation (although India is set to claim that crown in a few years). Everything in China comes down to scale. So overall even if the actual number of donkey friends is small by comparison to the vast hordes of average Chinese tourists it can still amount to a figure in the millions.

I think we all agree that a return to nature anywhere is a good thing. China, despite its rapid urbanisation, still has vast areas of natural beauty. The problem with the sudden rise of the Chinese hiker, however, is that local governments and communities in the destinations for outdoor activities have little experience or resources to deal with a sudden influx of donkey friends. This, believe it or not, has been facilitated by the popularisation of social media platforms. Facebook and Twitter are blocked in China, but Chinese software companies have developed very effective replacements. Through these platforms information about the latest hot spots for hiking can be shared rapidly. A community that may have once only had a handful of hikers per year can suddenly be swamped by hundreds, if not thousands, of eager hikers. Needless to say the impact in terms

of waste management and trail degradation are significant, and unfortunately due to lack of adequate local knowledge and preparation the donkey friends are regularly in the news once they get lost, injured, or more tragically, killed. This in turn leads local governments to consider recreational hiking as a very dangerous activity and one not to be encouraged.

Bearing these circumstances in mind, I and a number of colleagues convened a workshop in Perth in September last year at the University of Western Australia. The workshop aimed to bring hikers, commercial providers, government departments, and community organisations (such as the Bibbulmun Track Foundation) from both Australia and China together to share experiences in the provision and management of outdoor recreation and hiking in particular. The Chinese delegation consisted of hiking enthusiasts from one of China's largest hiking clubs with over one million members (like I said everything in China comes back to scale). The event, I should add, was generously supported by Osprey (China) and Peak Adventure Travel.

Continue pg 25

Track Town

WALPOLE

MY HOLIDAY DESTINATION

Located an hour and a half's drive from Albany in the east and Pemberton in the west, Walpole is an ideal place to base yourself to explore the region, and for walking on the Bibbulmun Track. The tiny town, which has a population of about 500, is located in a rather picturesque region of Western Australia where the cool waters of the Southern Ocean meet the tall, majestic forests of the southwest.

The town is positioned on the banks of the magnificent Walpole Inlet which flows into the Southern Ocean and is surrounded by Walpole-Nornalup National Park.

Of the many inlets along the south coast of WA, none is more beautiful than the magnificent sheet of water that makes up the Walpole and Nornalup Inlets, the only marine park on the south coast. The daily inlet cruise is a great way to see some of the sights and learn more about the rich history of the area.

Walpole was named after Lieutenant William Walpole, who served with Governor James Stirling on HMS Warspite in 1809. Nyoongar Aboriginal people have long referred to this area as Nor-Nor-Nup, the place of the Norne, or black snake, which explains the derivation of Nornalup, Walpole's sister town.

In 1909, Pierre Bellanger and the Thompson family were the first European people to settle permanently in the Nornalup/Walpole area. Further settlement occurred in the 1930s when the Nornalup Land Settlement Scheme sent unemployed men and their families, hit by the Great Depression, to the area to establish farms. The task of hand clearing the small blocks of karri and tingle forest was daunting to say the least. Many settlers eventually left the area.

Today Walpole exists as a service town for the surrounding rural areas where fishing, dairy and beef are its main industries. It has also benefited from the international attention it has received regarding the alluring forests that surround it and world-class attractions such as the Tree Top Walk.

WALPOLE-NORNALUP VISITOR CENTRE

Pioneer Park, South Coast Highway

PO Box 196 WALPOLE WA 6398

Phone: (08) 9840 1111

Email: info@walpole.com.au

Web: www.walpole.com.au



The Frankland River.



Walk under majestic Tingle trees.

TAKE A BIBBULMUN WALKING BREAK IN WALPOLE

The Bibbulmun Track passes through Walpole and what better way to enjoy this section of the Track.

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 luxuries of hot showers, home-cooking and a comfortable bed.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Accommodation in specially selected B&Bs, self-contained cottages or motels.

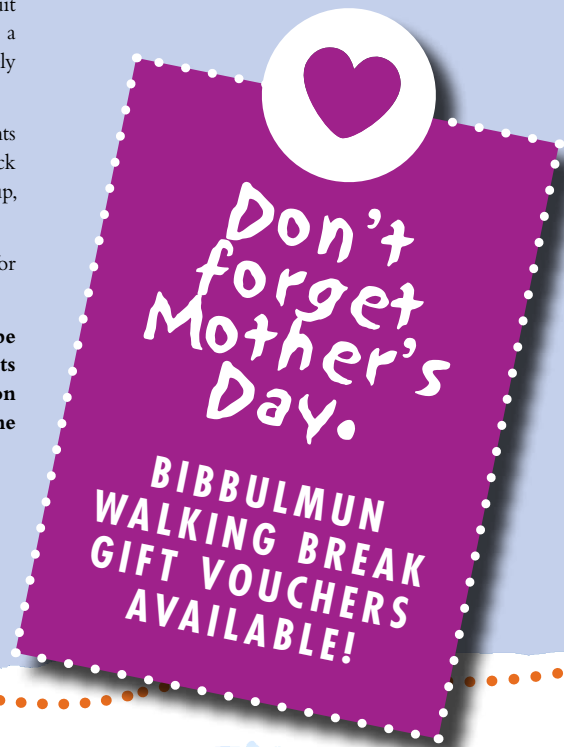
- Some or all meals (depending on availability) - breakfast, packed lunch and/or dinner (home-cooked, gourmet platters etc.).
- Vehicle drop-offs or pick-ups to the Bibbulmun Track by local transport operators.
- Day walk map pack offering choice of walks and interpretative information.
- Forest Discovery Wheel.
- Town notes and walking and safety tips.

A Day Walk Map Pack specific to the area will help you choose either one-way or return walks to suit your mood and pace, from an easy stroll of just a couple of hours to a full day's hike of approximately five hours.

Breaks are for a minimum of two days / two nights and available in eight locations along the Track - Darling Range, Dwellingup, Collie, Balingup, Pemberton, Northcliffe, Walpole and Denmark.

Packages can be added together or extended for holidays of up to three weeks.

To book, simply choose your location, the type of accommodation, your meal requirements and complete the online enquiry form on our website for a tailor-made quote or phone Christine on (08) 9321 0649.



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The Knoll.

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Coalmine Beach Holiday & Caravan Park	9840 1026	www.coalminebeach.com.au
Naturally Walpole Track & Trail Transfers	9840 1019	www.naturallywalpole.com.au
Walpole Lodge	9840 1244	www.walpolelodge.com.au
Bayside Villages	9840 1888	www.baysidevillas.com.au

NOTICE BOARD

WANTED: CAR POOLING TO DWELLINGUP

Anyone interested in car-pooling in the weekend of 31 May 2104 (Sat) finishing on the Monday 2 June 2014? My wife and I are considering a start/finish Dwellingup/Driver Road a walking distance of approximately 48km. I have a RAV4 that will sit four adults and their back packs. Please call to discuss if interested.

Contact Derek: 0432188710

WANTED: WALKERS WANTED

Walkers welcome to join our party of 3 ladies walking Donnelly to Pemberton starting Wed 30 July back in Perth Wed 6 August. We have room for 4 more walkers with packs in our transport. Share costs.

Contact Karen Treble: 0409 173 667 or email karen.treble@csiro.au

WANTED: WALKING COMPANIONS

For weekend overnight hike from Perth Hills Centre to Waalegh Campsite 1 normally hike from Perth Hills Discovery Centre to Helena Campsite (10km) or Waalegh Campsite (20km) on a good Saturday, stay overnight and walk back on Sunday to the car at Perth Hills Discovery Centre. Sometimes, I stay overnight at the Perth Hills campground on Friday and start early on Saturday. If you want to join, drop me a line.

Contact Serge: 0430 954 252 or email sergetseu@gmail.com

WANTED: ADVICE NEEDED FOR VIA FRANCIGENIA

I am interested in talking to anyone that has completed any section of the Via Francigena which goes from Canterbury to Rome.

Contact Ron: 0415 742 667 or email ronberto@hotmail.com

WANTED: SLEEPING BAG

I am after a lightweight down sleeping bag rated to -5deg. If you have one to sell please contact me.

Contact Anne: 0428 710 552 or email hillurup@bigpond.com

FOR SALE: ASSORTED GEAR

Mens hiking boots size UK10 US11 Euro 44.5.\$30
Backpacks (2) Caribee suitcase style with detachable daypacks (\$60 each) Backpacks (2) Caribee Redwing 40 o/night packs \$60 each. Self inflatable sleeping mat (Kathmandu) \$30 as new. Assorted mens hiking pants, gaiters, pots and pans. Beechboro area.

Contact Elaine: 9377 6186 or email johnelaineellard@hotmail.com

FOR SALE: SLEEPING BAGS

Sleeping bags (2) 80/20 feather down. Too heavy for hiking but great for camping \$30 each. Beechboro area.

Contact Elaine: 9377 6186 or email johnelaineellard@hotmail.com

FOR SALE: RUCKSACK

Rucksack Wilderness Equipment. Canvas 75L vgc \$85 ono (Subiaco area)

Contact Milton Whitbread: 0487 250 346

WANT TO ADVERTISE ON OUR NOTICE BOARD?

If you are a member just send us an email with your details, membership number and your text. If you are not a member please phone or email us to arrange your advert. Cost is \$5 per 3 months. All items will be deleted (from the website) after 3 months if not renewed.

Phone: (08) 9481 0551 or email: friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au



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EYES ON THE GROUND



Maintenance volunteer, John Murphy, showed us just how versatile a one-man maintenance team can be with his loaded backpack of various tools and implements.

Our maintenance volunteers have continued with their hard work over the long, dry summer months with some sections of the Track still being cleared after last winter's storms brought down many trees and a lot of debris. Clearing has been quite a task, but this should now make it easier for the influx of walkers in the approaching cooler season.

Many maintenance reports have still been coming in despite the hot weather and the new system of requesting assistance from DPaW seems to be working well. Maintenance volunteers and walkers alike have been pleased to see some problems attended to and fixed very quickly, although major issues may take longer as there are sometimes other aspects that need to be considered. From time to time we also receive reports of Track problems from walkers on various sections. These are welcomed, as our volunteers can't always be out there, and some problems may occur only days after one of their scheduled three-monthly visits.

I'm sure most volunteers will be pleased when (if?) some cooler weather arrives soon for the annual work needed on water bars. My own section has some 50-odd water bars patiently waiting for some cool-weather attention before the winter rains arrive!

Gwen and I have been continuing to contact all Team Leaders to see how they are faring with their

reporting and time-sheet obligations, and to follow up any problems they may be having with their section allocation. We still have a few unallocated sections, most of them in the southern areas and some requiring 4WD access. We keep a list of prospective maintenance volunteers waiting for a preferred section, and are always ready to add potential volunteers to this list. Please contact us if you're considering becoming a volunteer.

An enjoyable and successful Hills District Field Day was held late last year in the hills beyond Kalamunda, when pruning and a general tidy-up was undertaken along several kilometres of the Track. One of our volunteers, John Murphy, showed us just how versatile a one-man maintenance team can be with his loaded backpack of various tools and implements. He is well prepared for all maintenance tasks, as the picture clearly shows!

Dates for the 2014 Field Days are still being finalised.

Gwen and husband Chris are currently enjoying some trail walking of a very different nature along the snow-covered trails of Whistler, Canada. Dog-sledding along some trails has also been on their agenda. Just this week they encountered a different hazard on one of their walks—having to make way for a snow plough as it approached them. This made serious inroads into their squirrel-watching activities!

Thank you to all our maintenance volunteers for their continuing work and we look forward to being in contact with all of you over the coming months.

Charmaine Harris



The Eyes on the Ground maintenance program is generously sponsored by Newmont Boddington Gold.

CHINA'S DONKEY FRIENDS (Continued from page 21)

After the workshop we travelled with the Chinese delegation to Albany and hiked for four days from Albany to Denmark on the Bibbulmun Track (special thanks are due here to the Great Southern Development Commission and Out of Sight Tours). At this stage China does not have an officially designated, branded or managed long (or short) distance hiking trail. So for our visitors the Bibbulmun Track was quite a unique experience. Our Chinese donkey friends were very impressed by the infrastructure (many photos were taken and later put up on their club noticeboard) along the Track. We also had the good fortune to meet a number of end-to-end hikers just about to complete their trek. The idea of hiking for eight weeks straight was rather novel but much approved. We also bumped

into a group of volunteers doing shelter and track maintenance work. Of course we also enjoyed beautiful country with wild flowers still in bloom and spotted an abundance of wildlife, including many birds, snakes and a number of kangaroos. All of these encounters were extremely valuable and gave our friends from China insights into how things work along the Track. Upon returning to Perth we paid a visit to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation office, where and Gwen provided us with a brief overview of how it all works (many thanks Gwen). KK, one of the more experienced Chinese hikers, told me that he had learnt more about the possibilities for well managed outdoor recreation in seven days than he had in seven years.

We hope that through this experience our Chinese colleagues can turn what they have learnt into practical improvement in the way hiking is practiced and managed in China. To this end we also intend to hold the next workshop, (henceforth to be a forum) this year in Southwest China, one of China's most popular regions for hiking. For me this is also about friendship between hikers in Australia and China and creating meaningful exchanges with likeminded individuals from other cultures united in a passion for the environment. As the Chinese saying goes "every thousand mile journey begins with a single step" and I'm pleased to report that we have taken that step with great confidence and a broad grin.

Dr Gary Sigley, Asian Studies UWA



TRACK TRIVIA

HI FELLOW WALKERS!

Not much walking recently, I'm afraid; it has been too hot for this deteriorating body to be tramping through the forest. However I'm setting off shortly to walk between Collie and Dwellingup, followed possibly by a walk in the Perth Hills, before returning to the UK to savour the South Downs Way. That is assuming that the recent deluge that has been the UK weather hasn't washed the trail into the English Channel.

THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT

On a different subject, I was asked by an end-to-ender if I ever hear voices in the bush, when there is no-one around. At the risk of appearing a trifle deranged (something my wife has suspected about me for years) I had to admit that on many occasions I have stopped walking and listened, convinced that someone nearby was talking, only to experience the fabulous silence of the bush

More recently I have been told a story by an end-to-ender who was at a shelter with three friends, all of them girls in their twenties, when they heard a flute being played nearby. This was at midnight, and understandably they didn't seek the source of the music—perhaps the ghost of a musician who had found an end-to-end too difficult. When the music began again in the light of the morning they timidly investigated and found a German hiker who had got lost about 20m from the shelter and had played his flute to help himself get to sleep on the forest floor.

Has anyone else had a similar experience, or does anyone have any tales of strange happenings out on the Track? Odd noises, weird sights, inexplicable incidents? If you have, email me on jim_baker @bigpond.com and I'll put something together for the next edition.

As examples, here are three things that have happened to me that I found strange. The first was on a beautiful spring night at the Helena shelter. I was alone, it was pitch black and I was watching a display of shooting stars when two very bright lights, which I took to be meteorites, raced overhead and disappeared behind the trees at the back of the shelter. This was in complete silence. I was thinking how unusual it must be to see two really bright shooting stars so close together when the lights reappeared above the trees and rocketed back the way they had come, still in total silence. UFOs?

THEN THERE WAS THE MAN WHO NEVER WAS:

This was a far more mundane experience but still odd. I was on a solo trek from Pemberton to Northcliff and walking between Mount Chance and Woolbales. As most of you know, it's a remote area and I hadn't seen anyone since leaving the Gardner shelter, three days earlier. I spotted someone coming towards me down the Track and as he got closer I realised it was a huge man—I'm 1.8m but this guy



Mt Wells Campsite

dwarfed me. He was about 50 years old, at least 120kg and had long hair and a thick black beard. He was wearing jeans and a camouflage top and carrying a large sack (not a backpack, an old style hessian type sack) on his back, attached to a piece of rope slung over his shoulder. When he was about 10m from me he bellowed out, "Are you alone?"

Being a man of great courage I shouted back as we passed (I had speeded up considerably and given him a wide berth), "No, my two mates are just behind me" and rushed on. After a minute or so I stopped and looked back—it's flat, open country and you can see for miles—and there was no-one to be seen. And no, I hadn't been drinking!

AND THEN THERE WAS THE NIGHT IN THE STORM AT MT. WELLS ...

It had been a hard slog and the sight of the fire tower, silhouetted black against a fast darkening sky, was a welcoming one. The wind was picking up and a splatter of heavy raindrops rattled on the tin roof of the old towermen's hut as I pushed the door open.

The interior was dark and cold and I shivered as I eased my pack to the wooden floor. As I took my torch from my pocket there was a rustling sound from the smaller room opposite and I jumped as a voice spoke from the darkness.

"Hello." The voice was low and cultured. "I'm sorry; I hope I didn't startle you."

"That's OK, I should apologise to you. I'm sorry if I woke you."

"I was awake." It was the voice of an elderly man. "You get comfortable. Perhaps we can talk later?"

I sorted my gear, changed my clothes, and brewed tea on my small stove as the rain drummed on the roof. I called out to offer him tea, which was politely refused, then made soup with cheese and biscuits followed by a chunk of chocolate.

Finally I brewed strong coffee, pulled my sleeping bag up around my shoulders and relaxed. There was no sound other than the rain and wind and I thought my fellow trekker was asleep until the soft voice spoke again from the dark.

"You're English?"

"Yes, but Australia's my home now."

"London. I was from London. Would you like to talk for a while?"

"Sure."

We talked; or rather he talked to me, telling me of his hard life in England as a boy on the streets of London, of his running away to sea and his eventual arrival in Australia. His words made no sense—he talked of horse drawn cabs, ancient steam ships and his harsh times working on the construction of the Goldfields pipeline. I realised I was listening to a fantasy, but he seemed harmless and eventually I fell into a deep sleep.

When I woke in the morning the rain was still lashing down and the wind was rattling the shutters of the old hut.

Eventually I unzipped my sleeping bag and made my way to the room opposite. There was no-one there. Dust lay thick across the whole of the wooden floor, undisturbed for many days.

Meanwhile, Happy walking!

Wrong Way Jim

LAST YEAR BTF BOARD MEMBER MARK MCLAUCHLIN SUBMITTED AN ARTICLE ON TRAILTALK.COM.AU REGARDING TICKS ON THE BIBBULMUN TRACK. I FIGURED THE NEWSLETTER WAS A GOOD MEDIUM IN WHICH TO FOLLOW UP AND POSSIBLY GET SOME FEEDBACK FROM READERS, SO IF ANYONE HAS ANY COMMENTS REGARDING THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE, PLEASE LET US KNOW:

JIM BAKER



Adult Kangaroo Tick

TICKS

THE BUSHWALKERS BANE

I have been walking on the Bibbulmun Track over the last 15 years; I've done four end-to-ends and walked many sections at least half-a-dozen times. I've walked in all weathers, in winter, spring, summer and autumn and during that time only three ticks have loved me enough to become attached. I have met other walkers who have had the same experience, but I have encountered many, many more whose lives have been made a misery by ticks.

In the same vein, some people (myself included) are never bothered by mosquitoes in campsites where others are being "eaten alive". Why this happens, nobody knows.

SO WHAT ARE THESE LITTLE BLOOD-SUCKERS THAT CAUSE SO MUCH MISERY?

Ticks are parasites that feed on the animal and human blood; they occur in humid, moist bushy areas. Australia has about 75 species of indigenous ticks; the introduction of foreign species over the years has increased this to a total of well over 100 different forms of the little beauties.

All ticks develop in the same way, from eggs to larvae to nymphs to adults, and between each stage ticks must have a blood meal, which is why they love to feast on walkers—or other warm blooded animals.

The adult female tick lays thousands of eggs which hatch into larvae; these minuscule, six-legged beasts appear in swarms during the hot months of the year in the southwest. They are commonly known as pepper ticks and get their name from their appearance; a sprinkling of pepper. After a Dracula style supper a larva becomes a nymph, still with six legs, the program is repeated and the nymph graduates to an adult, the transformation being celebrated by the award of two further legs. Adult females then require three further gory feasts before they can lay their eggs to start the cycle again.

Ticks, like many insects, occur in humid, moist bushy areas. Eggs are typically laid in leaf matter or mulch. Small ticks are not very mobile but rely on passing animals to both feed on and transport them, finding their hosts by detecting breath and body odours, or by sensing body heat, moisture and vibrations.

They lie cunningly in wait in a position known charmingly as questing. When questing, ticks hold onto leaves and grass by their third and fourth pair of legs. They hold the first pair of legs outstretched, waiting to climb on to the host. When a host brushes the spot where a tick is waiting, it quickly climbs aboard and searches for uncovered skin.

Bigger ticks, such as the adult kangaroo tick, common in Western Australia, are often more forthright and will march determinedly across the forest floor or the wooden floor of a Track shelter to attach themselves to unwary hikers.

Having selected a suitable feeding spot, the tick grasps the skin and cuts into the surface.

Ticks have very sharp mouthparts, perfect for drilling through skin into blood capillaries lying just under the surface. They inject a fluid to prevent coagulation and then happily begin to suck your blood. In addition they inject a toxin, which can cause different reactions in their human victims, ranging from local irritation or a mild allergic reaction to severe anaphylactic shock in a few susceptible people.

SO WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM?

Well, I don't think we can cull them, and prevention is better than cure, so try and stop them getting on board. Easier said than done, but there are a few things you can do if you know you are going to be walking in tick friendly territory. Wear long sleeved shirts, long pants tucked into socks and a wide brimmed hat. Ticks are more easily detected on light coloured clothing. Spray clothes and hats with an insect repellent and wear a repellent that contains DEET or Picaridin.

However the chances are still that they will get you, so at the end of the day have a tick check, especially behind the ears, on the back of the head, groin, armpits and the backs of knees. This can make an interesting finale to the day depending upon how well you know other walkers in the shelter.

AND IF YOU FIND ONE (OR 20)?

You need to get rid of them! Very small ticks can be picked off with your fingernails; big ticks are problematic, especially if they have been feeding for a few hours before being discovered, and have their head burrowed into your flesh.

Everyone seems to have their own theory about tick removal, but a few things appear to be agreed by most walkers. Anything that traumatises the tick (although I must confess I find the concept of a traumatic tick difficult to visualise) will cause it to release more toxin into your bloodstream. Hence setting fire to it, stubbing a cigarette out on it or dousing it with kerosene are not recommended removal procedures.

Physical removal with some form of implement seems to be the most popular method, but this needs to be done with care. Gripping the tick with fine nosed tweezers and gently twisting it out is said to work in most cases, but it is imperative that the tweezers are applied behind the head of the beastie, as close to the skin as possible, before closing them. If the body is gripped and squeezed more toxins will be released into the bloodstream and the probability is that the tick will break up and the mouthparts will be left attached.

In recent years a number of gadgets for tick removal have come on the market and are available in most camping stores. A De-ticker works much the same as a pair of tweezers except the tool itself regulates the pressure you need to apply to the tick. You push the end of the device in, place it over the tick as close to the skin as possible then let the de-ticker retract, gently rotate anti-clockwise and off comes the complete tick.

AND THE AFTER EFFECTS?

Diabolical itching, followed by hardening of the skin around the point where the tick was attached. There are a myriad of treatments to alleviate the discomfort; I'll just throw in one that a very experienced walker and BTF volunteer swears by, which is to take a small soluble aspirin tablet, wet it very slightly, place it directly on the affected spot and tape it down.

But please, don't blame me if it doesn't work for you!

EVENT FOCUS...



THERE'S A COMMON THEME TO OUR FOCUSED EVENTS – CHEERS!

Joining us on an event is a great way to meet new friends who share the same love of bush walking. Events do fill up fast, but we still have places available on upcoming walks in May and June.

FOCUS DAY WALK

Pub, Pumps and Pipes -
Sunday 8th June

Combine a short day walk with a unique perspective into the history of Mundaring Weir.

Did you know that we have the longest fresh water pipeline in the world?

This fascinating tour of one of Australia's most significant industrial heritage sites explores the history and controversy surrounding the construction of the Mundaring Weir, the pump stations and the pipeline which transports water a massive 560km and new initiatives designed to tackle today's water supply issues.

The walk finishes at the historic Mundaring Weir Hotel. **Members special price \$35.00 normally \$45.**

Places still available on these other day walks – check out our website for details and to book.

Blackwood Day Walk -
Saturday 3rd May

Over the Hill -
Thursday 22nd May

FOCUS OVERNIGHT ADVENTURE

NEW M2M Pub Plod -
Saturday 31st May – Monday 2nd June

Try this new event, trekking for 3 days from Mt Dale to Mundaring and finishing with lunch at the pub!

Explore the Bibbulmun Track's scenic rim with the Darkin and Helena River Valleys as the backdrop, staying at the most picturesque campsites of the northern section of the Track.

With two days around 12km and another only 18km long, this 3-day trek is an excellent way to spend the WA Day long-weekend, and again, finishing at the Mundaring Weir Hotel for lunch on the Monday is a bonus!

Places still available on these overnight walks – check out website for details and to book.

Balingup Weekend Explorer -
Friday 2nd(4pm) – Sunday 4th May

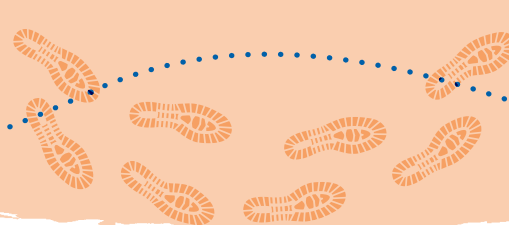
Bibbulmun Trek for Beginners -
Saturday 3rd –
Sunday 4th May

Ramble and Paddle -
Friday 23rd (4.30pm) – Sunday 25th May

Get Found with Steve -
Friday 13th (4pm) – Sunday 15th June

WE APPRECIATE YOUR FEEDBACK

To continually improve your experiences with us we would love to get your feedback on our events. By completing an evaluation survey you are automatically entered into the draw to win a Sea to Summit prize at the end of each Events Calendar.



Social Sunday Walks

Free for members. \$15 non-members. See booking conditions online.

WALK RATINGS: BEGINNERS INTERMEDIATE EXPERIENCED

WALK BOOKINGS - Only 2 can be booked at a time

No. of Adults

No. of Adults

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

3 August 8.30am	<input type="checkbox"/>
20km return walk from Dale Rd to Brookton Campsite (Fit and experienced walkers only!)	
17 August 9am	<input type="checkbox"/>
15km return from Mt Cooke Pines to Nerang Campsite	

Book online, or contact the BTF office for a booking form. Bookings cannot be made over the phone.

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



Reflections

FROM THE REGISTERS

Dwellingup VIC

Was planning on heading off south again today but decided to see what a rest day felt like. It's a beautiful day here in Dwellingup so I'll just eat, drink and rest then put the monster on my back tomorrow and head south, forever south!

Ralph 14/06/06

First shower in nine days—sooo good! Now off to the Community Hotel for their biggest and best roast dinner and a couple of beers. Then sleep in a proper bed! Tomorrow we go our separate ways after a truly wonderful walk, however I'll be back!

Peter Roper 18/10/06

Rame Head

Crashing seas, waving foaming white milk, endless thundering surf and fresh, fresh air! These are the sights and sounds I have awoken to each morning on the Track. Back home, friends who don't understand (and probably never will) will ask me "why do you walk the Bibbulmun Track?" I just shake my head and smile!

Di Bryans 30/04/06

Torbay



Ed: A bit of artwork from the Torbay register in 2001. Artist unknown

This is what walking the Track is all about—solitude. peace, magnificent views. Today I'm walking from Shelley Beach Road to Cosy Corner, for a beginner not too strenuous. That's three day-walks completed, now for some overnights. I just love it!

Kay Commens, senior citizen
22/04/01

Rule one of walking the Bibbulmun Track:
Never walk with someone fitter or crazier than yourself! Words from the Book of Wisdom by Barry the Wise.

Anon April 2001

This hiking is sure worth travelling all the way from Tokyo for. Fresh air and quiet nature give me peace of mind. I hope the rain holds up and we have a nice sunny day tomorrow. Thanks to Emma and Mark who brought me here to show me the beauty of Aussie nature.

Kumiko 23/04/01

My name is Jasmine and I am 10 years old. I didn't want to come here but my mum made me. So I can't really write anything because there is nothing good about it. I would rather be playing with my Playstation. The grown-ups are enjoying it and I can't wait to go home.

Jasmine 08/08/04 (Ed: There's always one...)

Schafer

The clouds rolled in, the rain came down
A couple of times we thought we'd drown
Slowly the boots got wetter and wetter
Socks and trousers fared no better
Now all the wet stuff's round the fire
And we're very slowly getting drier.

Red Dog & Chunky Monkey
05/11/08



8-day Highlights of the Bibbulmun Track Tour

Walk amongst giant boulders, magnificent forests and spectacular coastlines...

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Registrations opening soon – For more information or to register your interest contact the Bibbulmun Track Foundation.



HIKING RIM-TO-RIM ACROSS THE GRAND CANYON

Barry and Margaret Bryan (aka The Silvertops), from Ashby-de-la-Zouch in the UK, are multiple end-to-enders and fervent supporters of the Bibbulmun Track. However in 2012 their travels took them to the USA and a very different environment, the awe-inspiring Grand Canyon. This is Barry's story:

Since we retired in 2000 Margaret and I have embarked on many adventures and have managed to celebrate our wedding anniversary on three occasions on the Bibbulmun Track; in 2003 at Dookanelly, in 2006 at Swamp Oak and in 2009 at Chadoora—all on end-to-end walks.

Travel is infectious and the more you travel, the more you want to travel. A few years ago I realised that there was a lot to see in the USA, so in 2011 I booked a small RV for eight weeks and off we went. We had a great time with good weather, fantastic scenery and

some great hiking. The bug had bitten, so in 2012 we decided to go again and to do more hiking, staying out overnight. We were keen to backpack in the Yosemite National Park in California, Zion National Park in Utah and the Grand Canyon—where we intended to spend our wedding anniversary, hiking rim-to-rim. (Ed note: this means descending to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and climbing out on the opposite side, which involves descending from about 2500m to 750m and then climbing back up to 2200m. Makes Yarragil Form look like a scratch!)



The Group ready to set out, John, Maddie, Russ, Louis, Margaret & Barry

View from Plateau Point at Sunset



Crossing the Red Wall Bridge

I must admit to being somewhat anxious about backpacking in the USA and my principal concerns were black bears, electrical storms, flash flooding and to a lesser extent, route finding.

Our first three day/two night hike from Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite was quite an experience. The weather was good, the scenery was magnificent and we saw no black bears. However, we did have a one hour electrical storm in our second camp, which was pretty scary as we were high up in the mountains and surrounded by some very big trees.

Our second trek, two days/one night, from Tuolumne Meadows and the third walk, the West Rim Trail in Zion, both went well and gave us much more confidence, but the problem at this point was that although I had been able to arrange permits for Yosemite and Zion I had not been able to do so for the Grand Canyon.

Good reviews on the internet led me to contact Wildland Trekking of Flagstaff, Arizona, who would provide transport from Flagstaff to the North Rim, a guide, rations, any kit that we didn't have and transport



Hiking through the desert

back to Flagstaff at the end of our hike. We would be in a group of five so we would have company and most important, they would obtain the permits. I suggested a range of start dates that included our wedding anniversary, deposits were paid and there was a period of waiting. Then came the good news that our permit had been granted and that on our wedding anniversary we would be climbing out of the Grand Canyon up to the South Rim.

We headed down to Flagstaff for a night in a hotel before starting our hike. Early that evening, we met Russ, our guide, together with Luis, Maddie and John, who were to be our companions for the next four days. Russ gave us a full briefing on the trip including gear, provisions, the weather, and the nasty creatures that we might encounter. These included rattlesnakes, scorpions and spiders, but surprisingly the one most likely to cause injury was the local squirrel. Squirrel bites are the biggest problem at the South Rim because people try to feed, stroke or pet these attractive, harmless looking creatures.

After a four and a half hour drive through heavy showers we unloaded our gear at the North Kaibab Trailhead on the north rim. Thankfully the weather improved and remained dry and bright for the duration of our hike. We organised ourselves, gathered in front of the trailhead notice board for a group photograph and headed off down the trail. After an hour we stopped for lunch, and then passed through the small, man-made Supai Tunnel and across the Red Wall Bridge. The views were spectacular, but the exposure at times was extreme—not a place for hikers without a head for heights! It was dark when we reached Cottonwood Campsite and after hot drinks and a good meal we settled down for the night.

The following morning, the trail took us through desert vegetation, with prickly pear being the most common cactus. It became noticeably warmer as we hiked lower into the canyon, and trousers and

A Good head for heights is an advantage

fleece layers gave way to shorts and T-shirts. Russ produced another good lunch and we pressed on to reach Phantom Ranch mid-afternoon, close to the Colorado River. Phantom Ranch was very busy with hikers staying in the lodges, and on the campgrounds. There was also an endless procession of runners, attempting to run rim-to-rim-to-rim in 24 hours.

Before we left camp on our third day we walked the short distance to the Colorado River to see the Black, or Kaibab Bridge. This bridge was built in 1928, presenting the first opportunity for walkers to hike between the north and south rims. We, however, were crossing the river on the much newer (1960) Silver Bridge, so after collecting our packs we headed off along the river, crossed the bridge and followed the river for about 1.5km before starting our climb uphill to the south rim—about 1600m above our heads.



Phantom Ranch Campsite

HIKING RIM-TO-RIM ACROSS THE GRAND CANYON

...cont from page 31

The climb was very steady along a well graded path and even the Devil's Corkscrew—a short section of zigzags—was no problem. As we climbed we could see our destination on the South Rim, a rocky corner in the cliffs. Shortly after lunch we entered an area of lush vegetation with many cottonwood trees. This was Indian Garden, the site of our third camp, and we quickly settled down in the shade. After a short break we headed off to Plateau Point, from where the view of the canyon and the river was stunning, and it was interesting to see how the canyon was highlighted in the setting sun.

We broke camp early on the last day. Russ had estimated about four hours for the climb up to South Rim so we were on our way by 08.00, hoping

to be on the rim by midday. Once again the climb was steady, with two lengthy sections of zigzags. It was about 7km from the campground to the rim, with two rest houses en route. As we climbed higher the views were magnificent, and we were able to look back across the whole route that we had taken from the North Rim.

And so, just before noon, Margaret and I linked arms to walk the last few metres onto the South Rim, celebrating our 46th wedding anniversary by completing our hike across the Grand Canyon.

The weather had been bright and calm but as we stepped over the rim the wind became very strong and gusty, the sign of a cold weather front heading in. After a coffee stop and

a brief visit to the visitor centre we loaded our vehicle and ate a sandwich lunch as we drove back to Flagstaff. In no time at all we were back in our hotel saying fond farewells to Russ and our three companions. Then it was hot showers, afternoon tea and dinner with a few drinks to celebrate our achievement and our anniversary.

This hike isn't difficult, although a reasonable level of fitness is necessary, it's just the logistics that are the problem and we solved that by hiking with a company. Be aware though that the North Rim experiences snowfall from late October and access to it from the south may not be possible through the American winter.

Barry Bryan



The exposure can be daunting

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