

Newsletter for the friends of the Bibbulmun Track

## A MULTICULTURAL EXPERIENCE ON THE BIBBULMUN TRACK

**In early 2014, the Bibbulmun Track Foundation became involved in a project to introduce members of the culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) community to outdoor walking.**

The multifaceted project including up-skilling a number of the Edmund Rice Centre and Communicare youth leaders in basic walk leader training and providing an informal educational opportunity for Bibbulmun Track volunteer guides in cultural awareness, particularly around diverse populations.

The Foundation held a series of family walks on the Bibbulmun Track, targeting multicultural children and families. We engaged over 120 people including adults and children in a native animal encounter with the assistance of the Kanyana Rehabilitation Centre. All had the opportunity to learn about the Bibbulmun Track, native bushland and our native animals including the echidna, burrowing bettong, tawny frog mouth and many more.

One of the aims was to illustrate that WA's trails and National Parks are relatively safe and accessible places to recreate. Each family was given information and contacts to encourage and assist them to access trails and outdoor areas in future.

In August the Foundation coordinated a full day youth leadership training walk to encourage CaLD community youth to become outdoor walk leaders. Twenty eight young people were engaged and focussed on bush safety and first aid, bush cooking, group dynamics, appropriate gear and clothing, emergency protocols, risk management and other facets of becoming a leader. We also provided access to information regarding walk leader training and other outdoor recreation leadership opportunities.

We are in the process now of furthering the leadership program and look forward to reporting the outcome of this in future editions of Bibbulmun News.

This program would not have been possible without the support of the Inclusion Unit at the Department of Sport and Recreation. We thank them for their support.



Department of  
Sport and Recreation



Youth from the CaLD community are introduced to walk leader skills on the Bibbulmun Track.



Families enjoyed an encounter with native animals at Hewett's Hill campsite.

# Members' Night

## TALES FROM OTHER TRAILS

On Wednesday November 26th the BTF invited members and their partners to attend a function at the Department of Sports and Recreation, at which five 10 minute presentations were given describing walking in various parts of the world. Chairman of the BTF Mike Wood told of ascending Mount Kilimanjaro and volunteers Edith Thomas, Charmaine Harris, Isabel Busch and Jim Baker respectively told their tales of walking in Slovenia, exploring the English countryside, traversing Iceland and trekking the Offa's Dyke Path along the Welsh/English border. Wine and cheese were served part way through the evening and many questions were put to the presenters by the 60 attendees, who deemed the event a great success. This was one of many Members' Nights regularly hosted by the BTF.



# Christmas

## GIFT IDEAS!

### SPECIALS

New uniquely designed Bibb Track Headsox – available in red or blue \$30.00

T-shirts – available in titian, blue or bark \$14.95

Deuter Daypack with Bibb Track logo – red, 32L \$130

*More great gift ideas for your loved ones!*

New Guidebooks	\$11.95
Track Maps	\$11.50
Bush Books	\$6.95
Caps	\$14.95
Bushwalker Hats	\$19.50
Nalgene Water Bottles	\$14.40
Posters	\$10.00
Fridge Magnets	\$2.20
Replica Waugals	\$4.25

### IMPOSSIBLE TO BUY FOR?

**A Bibbulmun Track Membership** - give the gift that lasts the whole year (or three!)

**INDIVIDUAL**  
1 year \$40 or 3 years \$105

**SENIOR**  
1 year \$30 or 3 years \$75

Or why not buy a **Bibbulmun Track Gift Voucher** (any amount) that can be used for merchandise, an event from our Calendar of Events, or a Bibbulmun Walking Break.

Buy online today or call into the BTF office.

Members Receive  
**10%**  
discount off these prices



# CALLING ALL

## End-to-Enders

### JOIN US AT OUR 3RD END-TO-ENDERS PICNIC!

March 2015

Are you an End-to-Enders?  
Have you registered your end-to-end with the Foundation?

If so, you will soon receive your invitation to our third End-to-Enders' Picnic by email or by post. If you haven't already registered get on to it now!

Bring your stories and photos to share with others, browse through old campsite registers and enjoy a few hours with others who have completed the journey. You may bump into someone that you read about in the campsite registers – or who followed your story!

Details of the picnic will be sent to all registered end-to-enders - so please make sure we have your up-to-date details. Log onto our website and update your details now. Can't access your account? – see the Website Help page under Contact Us at [www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au).



# FROM MY Desk

## FAREWELL TO A FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER

Welcome to the final edition of Bibbulmun News for 2014.

I enjoy reading all the letters and stories we receive from walkers, but it was especially lovely to hear from the daughter of Peter Hewett, who was instrumental in the development of the Track.

In her letter (see page 4), Penni touches on a number of topics that reinforce what the Track and the Foundation are all about—access to and enjoyment of natural areas with minimal impact, the importance of volunteers, and events that give people the confidence and support to go bushwalking.

As I read through the articles in this edition of Bibb News I realised that these topics are reflected strongly and both the Foundation and the Department of Parks and Wildlife can be proud that the vision of the founders of the Track has been upheld.

I recently presented at a workshop convened by the World Wildlife Fund Brazil. They are implementing a long distance trail in Serra do Mar and were keen to hear from the Foundation regarding the involvement of community in supporting the Track through volunteering, membership and fundraising. It really is a joint effort and neither the Foundation nor the Department could keep the Track maintained without enthusiastic walkers prepared to give something back.

You'll find a number of volunteers profiled throughout the magazine and a couple of volunteer opportunities on page 11. However, if you don't have the time to volunteer please be assured that your membership is nevertheless highly valued and integral to the stability of the organisation and our ability to attract funding and sponsorship.

For an overview of the Foundation's activities you can find the AGM report on our website under get-involved/about-the-foundation/governance (or just search for AGM report).

It appears that 2014 was a hectic year for many and, if this was the case for you, I hope you have the opportunity to relax and enjoy time with family and friends over the festive season.

Best wishes

**Linda Daniels**  
Executive Director

Join us on



**THE FOUNDATION HAS BEEN BLESSED WITH A VERY STABLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND IT IS WITH SOME SADNESS AND AFFECTION THAT WE SAY THANK YOU AND FAREWELL TO LEONIE KIRKE.**

Leonie has been a loyal and dedicated board member since the inception of the Foundation in 1997. Her wealth of experience in the education sector helped the Foundation establish resources for schools and youth groups.

"I have found my involvement with the Bibbulmun Track most interesting and rewarding and am aware that its success is due to the countless hours spent by enthusiastic staff and the hundreds of volunteers, all of whom have a passion for the Track," said Leonie.

"At a personal level, I have always enjoyed bushwalking and trekking both in Australia and overseas. In today's increasingly technological age, it is imperative for us to encourage more people to get back to nature, and what better place to do it than on the Bibbulmun Track."

We thank Leonie for her great contribution over the past 17 years and hope she continues to enjoy walking on the Track and overseas.

Leonie's position on the Board has been filled by Foundation member and maintenance volunteer, Charlie Soord. We welcome Charlie and look forward to introducing him in a future edition of Bibbulmun News.



*Seasons  
Greetings*

**& Best Wishes for 2015!**



*The office will close on Wednesday 17 December  
and reopen on Monday 19 January 2015.*

# YOUR LETTERS



Hi There,

I've just returned home after participating in the Merry Monadnocks Misfits walk over the long weekend.

I thoroughly enjoyed the whole thing and wanted to say thanks for offering this type of event - an easy introduction to overnight walks for those of us with limited experience.

The walk was part of a personal journey for me.

My father was Peter Hewett - one of the main early drivers of the track being established. He passed away in 2010 and I've wanted to walk some (maybe all) of the track - part of his legacy - for some time now.

Dad spent his life giving to the community of which he was a part - whether it was helping to build the local church, running school P&C's, his lifelong involvement in the Scout movement, his work for the Forests Department, then CALM - he liked to give.

He was so proud of the way the Bibbulmun track had developed since his involvement. What really struck me was the incredible commitment of the people who volunteer to maintain the track, and help the Foundation. Maintaining volunteers over time is a challenge - I think Dad would see that as a wonderful achievement in itself.

He also believed that forests were for everyone, not just for water production, forestry, mining or conservation. He was a true believer in multiple use state forests and I think that was part of his drive to head up the Extension Branch of CALM, and work with Wayne and Ross to get the track started. So that people could actively enjoy this beautiful natural environment without impacting on it too much. I certainly did.

Please pass on my thanks to Peter - the jolly birthday boy who set a cracking pace - and especially Steve - a great guide, well organised, calm, knowledgeable and with a sense of humour (perhaps overdeveloped at cards ☺).

I'll be keeping an eye on your events calendar for similar walks.

Thank you all. Regards

**Penni Ellis (Hewett)** October 2014



Penni (left) with a friend during the Monadnocks event.

One evening at the end of a particularly long day, dusk was falling and I had increased my hiking pace in order to reach Harris Dam before nightfall. The forest was still and silent, the kookaburras had long since sounded their last calls when out of the gloom a cheery wolf-whistle sounded. It was so unexpected I stopped dead in my tracks. Strange... I thought. I made another move - it sounded again. Wh'weeeeet Wh'woooo! Loud and clear! Each move brought another whistle. Then I spied the source.

A cheery gnome was nestled in the bushes beside the track, his round chubby cheeks puffed out in a whistling pose and with each movement I made another whistle sounded. It was late, my husband would be getting concerned but I paused long enough to enjoy the scene. Somebody had gone to some trouble, and expense, to create a small fantasy in the forest. A tiny ornamental elf, fairies and trinkets arranged beside a very cute gnome. What a lovely surprise to find at the end of a long hot day. I hope the next hiker passing smiles with the pleasure as I did.

From a Happy Hiker:

**Maxine Holman,**

Albany



Hewetts Hill Campsite

# Pemberton Proves a hit!

Thank you  
**THANK YOU**  
Thank you

**AT OUR QUIZ NIGHT IN JULY, FOUNDATION MEMBER, ROY BROWN, SUCCESSFULLY BID FOR THE PEMBERTON BREAK PACKAGE - WE WERE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING LETTER...**

I'm sure you'll recall the silent auction at the quiz night 19th July where I successfully bid for a wonderful prize donated by the following organisations in Pemberton.

- Warren River Chalets, two nights for four people.
- Pemberton Discovery Tours, Beach & Forest Eco Adventure for four people.
- Silkwood Wines, four bottles of Silkwood wine.

Last weekend four of us had the pleasure of spending time in Pemberton and sharing the experience of these wonderful prizes.

For anyone walking the Track and looking for quiet, comfortable accommodation amongst the karri forest at Pemberton, I highly recommend Warren River Chalets. The self-contained rammed earth cottages blend well with the forest and the pot belly stove kept us warm at night.

We particularly enjoyed the four-hour Beach & Forest Eco Adventure. Our guide Graeme Dearle of Pemberton Discovery Tours guided us in a 4WD along tracks of the Warren National Park. Sharing his knowledge of the forest, we drove amongst karri and jarrah forest until we

arrived at D'Entrecasteaux National Park, where we encountered enormous sand dunes, plus hooded plovers and crested terns at the Warren River mouth. It was amazing to see the size of the sand dunes which are advancing approximately four metres per year and covering the forest. We also had the pleasure of seeing and photographing many native orchids along fringes of the tracks, an experience I'm sure members would all appreciate.

Our tour ended early afternoon and we drove to Silkwood Wines, situated at Channybearup Road, Pemberton. Apart from the excellent wines, the view of the lake surrounded by karri trees near Beedelup Falls is beautiful. We ended the day wine tasting, enjoying a coffee and delicious cake from an enclosed deck overlooking the lake.

We were able to enjoy these experiences thanks to the kind donations made by the above businesses. I'm certain that members who share an appreciation and walk the Bibbulmun Track would enjoy them too, whilst stopping over in Pemberton.

Thank you and regards,

**Roy Brown**



Roy (on the right) with friends at Silkwood Winery.



Pemberton Discovery Tours



Warren River Cottages



Warren National Park

**A SINCERE THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING WALKERS WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY MADE DONATIONS TO THE FOUNDATION.**

### Adventurous Women

- Alan Beeton
- Angela Bowman
- Bob Oxlade
- Dennis Phillips
- Gabriele Caratti
- John Oldfield
- Kaye Heelen
- Sarah Marquis
- Sue Lee

**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.

# B e f o r e   Y o u   g o

## CHECK THE LATEST TRACK CONDITIONS

For updates refer to the relevant Section by Section Guide under Trip Planner on [www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au)

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

### DPaW Contacts:

Recreation and Trails Unit

[recreationandtrails@dpaw.wa.gov.au](mailto:recreationandtrails@dpaw.wa.gov.au)  
Ph: (08) 9334 0265

### DPaW District Offices

Perth Hills District (Mundaring and Dwellingup)

*Perth Hills District (Mundaring and Dwellingup)*  
*Kalamunda to the Harvey-Quindanning Road*  
*Map 1 & 2 and Guidebooks 1 & 2*  
*Contact Rebecca Hamilton on (08) 9290 6100 or*  
*[mundaring@dpaw.wa.gov.au](mailto:mundaring@dpaw.wa.gov.au)*

Wellington District (Collie)

*The Harvey-Quindanning Road to Mumballup*  
*(Donnybrook-Boyup Brook Rd)*  
*Map 3 and Guidebook 3*  
*Contact Nick Evans on (08) 9735 1988 or*  
*[wellington@dpaw.wa.gov.au](mailto:wellington@dpaw.wa.gov.au)*

Blackwood District (Balingup)

*Blackwood District (Balingup)*  
*Mumballup (Donnybrook-Boyup Brook Rd) to Willow Springs*  
*(Gold Gully Rd)*  
*Map 4 and Guidebook 4*  
*Contact Andrew Sandri on (08) 9731 6232 or*  
*[blackwood@dpaw.wa.gov.au](mailto:blackwood@dpaw.wa.gov.au)*

Donnelly District (Pemberton and Northcliffe)

*Willow Springs (Gold Gully Rd) to Pingerup Rd*  
*Map 5 and Guidebook 5*  
*Contact John Hanel on (08) 9776 1207 or*  
*[donnelly.district@dpaw.wa.gov.au](mailto:donnelly.district@dpaw.wa.gov.au)*

Frankland District (Walpole)

*Pingerup Rd to Denmark River mouth*  
*Map 6, 7 and 8 and Guidebooks 6, 7 and 8*  
*Contact Chris Goodsell on (08) 9840 0400 or*  
*[frankland.district@dpaw.wa.gov.au](mailto:frankland.district@dpaw.wa.gov.au)*

Albany District (Denmark and Albany)

*Denmark River mouth to Albany*  
*Map 8 and Guidebook 8*  
*Contact Luke Coney on (08) 9842 4500 or*  
*[albany@dpaw.wa.gov.au](mailto:albany@dpaw.wa.gov.au)*

## LEAVE NO TRACE Minimise Campfire Impacts

- Pack a fuel stove - and resist the temptation to have a fire. Fuel stoves are the way of the future. Dead, fallen wood is habitat for many small animals.
- Pack a candle or tea lights for a comforting glow at night.
- Use only small pieces of dead, fallen wood that can be broken by hand and keep your fire small.
- Make sure campfire is completely extinguished before moving on.
- Observe all seasonal and local campfire restrictions and bans.
- Where fires are permitted, use only the concrete fire rings provided. Do not build additional fireplaces anywhere.
- If you must store firewood in the shelter, make a small, neat, tidy pile.





**Kerstin Stender, Trails Coordinator**

Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre 6983 Tel: 9334 0265

Email: [recreationandtrails@dpaw.wa.gov.au](mailto:recreationandtrails@dpaw.wa.gov.au)



Department of  
Parks and Wildlife



# RECREATION & TRAILS UNIT

This spring has already seen several cases where friends or family have alerted Parks and Wildlife staff about welfare concerns for hikers on the Bibbulmun Track and requesting they be rescued. On most of these occasions, after staff made contact with the hikers concerned, they found that no request for rescue had been made, nor was rescue required.

Leaving clear trip and communication plans with a trusted person will always assist in appropriate responses to requests for assistance. The police hold primary responsibility for search and rescue in Western Australia and should be your first call. Also consider carrying a personal locator beacon (PLB) for improved location identification and do not rely on mobile phone coverage. PLBs can be hired from the Foundation.

## Fire season

Be aware that the camp fire restrictions are about to come into force along parts of the Track, as determined by the relevant shires. The Shire of Toodyay, which affects the Avon Valley National Park, has already enacted theirs. No camp fires are permitted at Bibbulmun Track camp sites during restricted periods.

You would also have noticed that the prescribed burning season is underway. Even if you can't see fire or smoke, adhere to all Track closures and diversion signage. Last season, on a couple of instances, hikers were located in closed sections of the Track moments before the burn was due to be lit. Several diversions are proposed or are already in place, including a potentially large diversion west of Walpole. Make sure to check our Track Conditions website for more details prior to heading out.

## Campgrounds

Redevelopments are continuing at Lane Pool Reserve, near Dwellingup. The new Nanga campground is in the final stages of development,

which will allow better opportunities for towed vehicles and includes new tent sites. The old Baden Powell campground has now been closed and is no longer available for camping. The site will be harvested by the Forest Products Commission and then redeveloped as a day use area. Alternative locations for camping within the reserve include Nanga Mill and Nanga Townsite campgrounds. Sites at Charlie's Flat, Tony's Bend, Yarrigal, Chuditch and new Baden Powell can be booked online at the Park Stay website <http://parkstay.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

## Department update

Things continue to be busy at the Recreation and Trails Unit with the recent shift of our offices into the new Kieran McNamara herbarium building at Kensington. All the Visitor Services staff are now located together, which has already seen an improvement in communication and collaboration. This incorporates Capital Works and Roads, Recreation and Landscape, Community Involvement and the Recreation and Trails units. Another change was the creation of the new Visitor Communications Branch,

which includes Social Research, Interpretation, Marketing and eMedia.

## Pennine Way

Since the last newsletter I spent a week in the UK hiking the Pennine Way north to Hadrian's Wall. It was interesting to see that the trail tread was essentially the result of many hikers having walked the route previously, not because it was specifically constructed. The occasional section with flag stones provided assurance that I was on the right track. The Pennine Way Guide warned me that good navigational skills with a compass and map would be required to find my way. I certainly found this to be true, with the occasional markers serving as confirmation that I wasn't lost. Walking a section with Steve Westwood, the Way's manager, provided insight into this style of marking aimed at more experienced hikers. Beginners are recommended to start on easier routes to gain fitness and skills.

Enjoy your hikes on the well-marked Bibbulmun Track!

## MAJOR DIVERSION BETWEEN NORTHCLIFFE AND WALPOLE NOW IN PLACE

**LOCATION: BETWEEN DEESIDE COAST RD AND WALPOLE.**

A series of major prescribed burns are being carried out between Dog Pool Campsite and Walpole from December 1, 2014 to late summer 2015.

The timing of each burn is dependent on several factors such as weather conditions and so the entire section of the Track will be closed and diverted until all burns have finished.

Walkers should be aware that Track closures are in place from Deeside Coast Road (on Chesapeake Rd) through to Walpole.

This includes the following campsites: Dog Pool, Mt Chance, Woolbales, Long Point and Mt Clare - they are now closed.

Temporary campsites are in place. Temporary campsites do not have shelters so walkers must carry a tent. Water and a toilet are provided.

We strongly encourage walkers to plan their Bibbulmun Track walk in other areas to avoid these campsite closures and the major diversion which largely follows roads.

To download the map of the diversion please visit the Northcliffe Section by Section Guide under Trip planner at [www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au)

**For more information contact the Department of Parks and Wildlife Walpole on (08) 9840 0400.**

# Walker Story

## THE QUESTION "WHY"?

The Bibbulmun Track has been described by many as *A Way of Life*, in both the literal and figurative meanings of the phrase. Walkers undertake the challenge of completing a trek of 1000km through the bush, from one end of the Track to the other, for a myriad of different reasons. Some see it as a physical challenge, pitting their bodies against the environment, others as a way to escape from stresses of everyday life. There are those who seek solitude, those who enjoy the camaraderie of fellow walkers and many who simply wish to spend time in a simple, peaceful and largely unspoilt natural environment. Ask anyone "Why?" and each individual will have his or her own particular reasons.

Brigita Ferencak is a BTF volunteer and Life Member of the Foundation. She has completed two end-to-end walks and has a special affinity with the Track as she explains in her story:

Lao-Tse, a philosopher of the 6th century B.C., made the statement, "The journey of 1000 miles begins with one step". It was with this in mind that I embarked on not only a hiking trek, but on a life changing journey that would set the course for a newly discovered quality of living that I thought I had lost forever.

In 2006, at the age of 28, I was in a serious car accident that left me with permanent impairment of the function of my hands and arms, and after a seemingly endless ordeal of doctors, therapists, hospitals, surgery, pain clinics and drugs I had given up on the idea of resuming my life of joy and adventure. Up to that time I had enjoyed many years of roaming the world to faraway places. I had experienced the world in all its splendour and lived life to the full. Nature and the outdoors have always held a fascination for me, and I was able to combine my profession with my joy—teaching children respect for nature by means of outdoor education.

This now seemed no longer viable—I was a wreck,

physically and mentally. Although I grew to accept my limitations and gained partial use of my hands over the next two years, the things I loved, such as writing, art and gardening, seemed to be out of reach.

I realised then that I had to become either a victim or a fighter—to live or merely survive—and it was then that the Bibbulmun Track came into my life. I read about it, and it spoke to my heart, turning out to be my way of coping, offering the long awaited solution that helped me to withdraw from pain-killing drugs, to deal with my chronic pain in different ways and to learn to write again. Walking on the Track allowed me to build up the muscle strength in my body and above all strengthening in me that which was weakest—my soul.

In retrospect it was an obvious solution to my pain—to be immersed in nature, removed from countless appointments, able to take my own time, creating space to let my thoughts range freely through my head and to creating a new life after the accident.

By walking on the Bibbulmun Track I found a way to achieve the hardest thing I needed to do—to get away from everything that had stopped me from growing again. Solitude is necessary so that healing can occur and I found everything I was longing for in the midst of the outstanding landscape that surrounds the Bibbulmun Track. Knowing I would reach a shelter every night, finding the way easily by following the yellow Waugal signs, consulting the detailed maps and guide books and passing occasionally through townships was exactly the safety net that I needed at the time.

Knowing that other hikers would cross my path was also a welcome thought, and it was also the spirit of the comradeship of fellow walkers that fed my soul. I met inspiring people from all walks of life, enjoyed their company and I cherish everything about them in my memory, especially the encouragement they offered during times of despair and difficulty, which strengthened me and helped me to keep going.

Hiking on the Bibbulmun Track has, beyond any doubt, enabled me to pick up the broken pieces of my former life and empowered me to actively build the resilience to create a new mosaic of past and present. I walked the entire Track in all its glory for the second time in 2010. I have found the Bibbulmun Track Foundation and its members to be a source of kindness and fellowship, and I have become a life member to express my eternal gratitude. Last but not least I have to say that without my beloved partner believing in me and without my outstanding therapist I may not have found the strength to embark on this wonderful journey—you too I thank with all my heart.

**Brigita Ferencak**

August 2014



Brigita



# NOT A COCK AND BULL Story

LONG-TIME BTF MEMBER AND MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEER TEAM LEADER MAL COOPER RECENTLY RECEIVED SOME UNEXPECTED HELP ON A SURVEY AND MAINTENANCE TRIP ALONG THE TRACK. HERE IS HIS ACCOUNT, TOGETHER WITH A PICTURE OF HIS ASSISTANTS:



*Feathered friends helping out!*

“Had the company of two beautiful young men all day today. Have no idea where they came from, but they seemed to enjoy my company as much as I enjoyed theirs. They also assisted with a bit of maintenance between showers.

You never know who you will meet on the Track. They met me in the car park at Karri Gully, trotted across to greet me as I drove up and followed me up to the junction, where I was stationed for the day. I went back for a second load of gear, and they followed me back to the car park. Back to the

junction I headed, and back they came with me. I was beginning to feel like the Pied Piper!

And that is what it was like for the rest of the day. If I got out of the chair and walked up the Track they followed me. When I was seated they would wander up the Track a bit doing a bit of scratching in the mulch, but if I was out of sight for too long one would wander back to make sure I was still there, give a couple of clucks and both would come scurrying back.

When the rain started they sheltered under the gazebo and settled down beside me, and at lunch time whatever I was eating had to be shared. They certainly knew the sound of a muesli bar wrapper!

I have no idea where they came from. They were clearly used to human contact, they showed no signs of being able to fly, and the nearest farm is miles away.

Another mystery to add to the magic of the Bibbulmun Track!”

## WALKER STORY - THE BIBBULMUN TRACK AND BEYOND!

Last year Michael and Veronica Schulze, from Germany, completed an end-to-end walk of the Track—see issue #64. I had the pleasure of walking with them between Walpole and Northcliffe, during which time the subject of the location of the northernmost Waugal marker was discussed. A claim for this distinction was made in issue #62 when Barry Bryan of the Silvertops showed a marker in his garden in the UK at latitude 57.75 degrees. Sorry, Barry—read on as Veronica describes their trip! Jim Baker

### THE NORTHERNMOST WAUGAL

In June 2013 my husband Michael and I finished our end-to-end between Albany and Kalamunda, from where we took the bus to Bridgetown, hitchhiked into Donnelly River Village and walked back another 300 km to Wálpole—we loved the Bibbulmun Track that much!

Before returning to Germany we visited the BTF office in Perth and bought, among other souvenirs, a Waugal marker. It seemed impossible to have followed the Waugal for such a long time and not become emotionally attached to it.

But this Waugal was not destined to stay at home in Germany, but to become the Northernmost Waugal!

During our trek we had made plans to drive the Pan-American Highway, going all the way from Canada to Tierra del Fuego in South America. So in June 2014 we shipped our Toyota Land cruiser from Hamburg to Halifax, eastern Canada. From Halifax we drove north-west through Canada to the northernmost point of the Panamericana—Inuvik, a small town in the Northwest Territories, far beyond the Arctic Circle.

However, although this was the northernmost point for us, we had decided to leave the Waugal a little further south, in Watson Lake (pop. 1,700), a town just inside the Yukon border.

Watson Lake began as a humble trading post in the late 1890s, named after Frank Watson, who trapped and prospected in the area. Now Watson Lake is situated on the Alaska Highway and is the key transportation, communications and distribution centre for mining and logging activities in southern Yukon, northern British Columbia and a portion of the Northwest Territories, and it is home to the Signpost Forest.

The history of the Signpost Forest goes back to the construction of the Alaska Highway during World War II. After the attack on Pearl Harbor the USA realized the importance of a road to Alaska—and so the 1,500-mile long Alaska Highway was built in 1942 in incredibly short eight months and twelve days.

The Signpost Forest in Watson Lake was started by a homesick US soldier, who nailed a sign with the name of his hometown on an official signpost. Through the years, the Signpost Forest has grown as tourists from around the world have continued to erect signs from their hometowns or, as in our case, from places which are special to them. At present there are about 80,000 signs.

So now the Signpost Forest boasts a Waugal, nailed appropriately to a tree and proudly representing The Bibbulmun Track in the Yukon.

This must be the northernmost Waugal, on the 60th parallel!

**Michael and Veronica Schulze**



*Michael and the Northernmost Waugal!*



*Veronica and the Northernmost Waugal.*

# Volunteer Profile

## MALCOLM FERRIER

Dual end-to-ender Malcolm Ferrier has been a volunteer with the Bibbulmun Track Foundation for twelve years and currently works in the BTF office in Perth. In this account, entitled *The Walking Years*, Malcolm tells the story of how bush-walking and the Bibbulmun Track became an important part of his life after retirement:

### THE WALKING YEARS

As I approached retirement in 1998, I knew I needed another interest. A colleague was in touch with a group called The Great Walk Network, who were organising a supported seven hundred kilometre walk from Perth to Denmark, over a period of six weeks starting in March. I signed up, acquired essentials for life in the bush and after a few weeks of training I joined thirty or so walkers in Kings Park. After an hour of speeches from prominent well wishers we marched to Parliament House where more speeches decrying old growth logging were made. Sympathetic politicians came out and made polite noises and the press pointedly ignored us. We then paraded to another speech fest on the Esplanade, and finally set off to our first campsite on an oval at Canning Vale.

For the following six weeks we shared fireside sing-alongs, got lost on old logging tracks, were escorted through mining prospects, debated our way around personal dramas and formed close, if non-enduring, bonds. Facilities were basic. We had an old truck that carried our camping gear and water and an even older bus for those who wished to come along but not walk. There was limited water; we bathed naked in creeks and dams and became quite feral in our habits. I recall arriving at North Dandalup Dam—we

stripped and leapt into the water in front of bemused and embarrassed picnickers. It was three weeks before I had a hot shower or tasted coffee or alcohol. At last, a group of us gathered on the summit of Mount Hallowell overlooking Denmark and bemoaned the fact that normal life was about to sweep us up again.

One of the participants, a man of sixty-five, set out the following year to walk the Bibbulmun Track, and I joined him on some of his training sessions. He carried a heavy pack on these walks and when I tested the weight of it I knew that I could never carry such a load, certainly not over any distance. However, I maintained a curiosity about the Bibbulmun Track and in August of 2003 I tried an overnight walk from North Bannister to the White Horse Hills campsite and repeated it two weeks later with my wife Meredith. I had been doing day walks throughout the intervening years, retaining my enthusiasm. I had also inherited a section of Track that I maintained as a volunteer with the Bibbulmun Track Foundation.

I began to venture further, mostly alone and then with friends Ian and Ari; we completed several long sections together. Some of these walks were repeats for me and by 2007 I had walked many more



kilometres than the length of the whole Track, but still had a few sections and campsites to visit.

Early on the twenty ninth of August, 2008, Ian Sweetman and I set off from the top of Mount Wells in dense fog; three days later we reached the granite dome of White Horse Hills, and shortly after I reached the flat rock where my Bibbulmun odyssey had begun five years earlier. I put a stone on the cairn, Ian shook my hand and I felt pleased that finally I had seen the entire length of the Bibbulmun Track. From now on I could walk sections of the Track without the feeling of not knowing what was over the hill.

Now, at the age of seventy two I have just completed the Denmark to Albany section and my second end-to-end. I am gratified that my body allows me to walk all day with twenty kilograms on my back and bounce back to repeat it next day. My walking companions are usually faster than me, but I have yet to have a sprain or injury that has seriously impeded my progress.

Last but not least, I relish the many interesting experiences and the friendships I have made in my twelve years as a volunteer in the Bibbulmun Track Office.

## 3-Day Wilderness FIRST AID COURSE

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation is hosting a 3-day Wilderness First Aid course through Wilderness First Aid Consultants on 28 Feb - 2 March (long-weekend) 2015.

This 3-day course is a well-rounded introduction to Wilderness First Aid for bushwalkers, climbers, paddlers. It includes CPR and scenario based teaching. This course serves as an introduction to all of the essential topics of Wilderness Medicine.

You will be issued with Wilderness First Aid (WFA) Certification valid for three years as well as a CPR Certification valid for one year.

During this course you will have a written and practical CPR/EAR assessment component. You will also be critiqued on your performance during scenarios to ensure understanding of basic principles.

**The fee is \$350 for the three days. Registrations are now open! To view the course outline and make a booking go to <http://www.wfac.com.au/Courses/Show.aspx?id=2>**



Malcolm at West Cape Howe

# Parks & Wildlife

## OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS 2014



Department of  
Parks and Wildlife



WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO RECOGNISE FOUR BTF VOLUNTEERS WHO RECEIVED OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS AT THE DEPARTMENT'S VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION FUNCTION ON DECEMBER 5TH.



### COLIN GEE

Colin joined the Foundation in 2005. In addition to one day a week in the office he is a maintenance volunteer and volunteer guide - contributing over 2331 hours to date.

As well as regular office duties, Colin conducts trip planning sessions with those intending to undertake long walks on the Track. He is efficient, organised and an excellent team member.

As a fully trained guide, Colin leads overnight and day walks for adults and children and is a popular guide who ably passes on his extensive knowledge of the Track.

He and a team of family members maintain a section of the Track near Collie. Due to his excellent handyman and interpersonal skills he has also lead small groups at maintenance Field Days.

Colin participates in almost every aspect of the Foundation's work and is invaluable.



### ELSIE GRYGIEL

Elsie joined the Foundation in May 2006, and commenced volunteering at the same time. Since then she has contributed an impressive 4965 hours.

In addition to dealing with new memberships, updating the database and banking, Elsie's office duties include trip planning advice. This is a service she also provides to international and interstate walkers via email from home.

As a trained guide, Elsie leads overnight, children's and women-only walks. She also assists with workshops for those planning an end-to-end or extended walk on the Track.

Elsie has inspired many people having completed an end-to-end after overcoming major health issues. She is a powerful force in encouraging the wider community to join in outdoor activities and to enjoy the facilities provided by the Track. She is a great example of a quiet achiever.



### HANS HOETTE

Hans joined the Foundation in 1998 and in his roles of office and maintenance volunteer has clocked up over 3000 hours of volunteer work.

For many years Hans has been a maintenance volunteer ensuring that the Track remains safe for use by the public and submitting regular reports to keep Parks and Wildlife informed of the condition of his section.

In the office, Hans greets visitors and answers their many queries. He also deals with many of the general office duties such as compiling new member packs and preparing for event planning nights and other events held in the office.

The consistency with which Hans fulfils his duties is an outstanding example to everyone; he is a reliable and friendly member of the office team, ensuring that many logistical functions are carried out smoothly.



### PETER WHITTLE

Peter became an office volunteer in 2006 and a maintenance volunteer in 2007. He currently leads a small team maintaining a high use section of the Track in the Perth Hills.

In addition to general office duties, Peter co-ordinated the involvement of up to seventy volunteers in the current and previous walker surveys - allocating dates and times for site surveys and carrying out many of the sessions himself.

Peter also oversees the office OH&S program carrying out or arranging regular checks of electrical and safety equipment.

Since becoming a volunteer, Peter has contributed over 2140 hours. He is a popular and versatile team member who has always been willing to undertake a wide variety of roles.

## DO YOU HAVE THE SKILLS & EXPERIENCE TO BECOME A BIBBULMUN TRACK GUIDE?

*The Foundation is looking for volunteers who have:*

- enthusiasm and an outgoing personality
- a sound knowledge of the Bibbulmun Track and the Foundation
- strong organizational skills
- computer skills
- own transport
- senior first aid (or prepared to take the course)
- weekends available for training and then guiding events
- above all - the desire to share their love of bushwalking and the Track with others!

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

# 9481 0551

## SEEKING SUPER VOLUNTEERS!

UNTIL NOW, OUR VOLUNTEERS HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO USE POWER TOOLS LIMITING THE TYPE OF MAINTENANCE THEY CAN CARRY OUT ON THE TRACK.

We are pleased to say that we are about to embark on a training program enabling a select group of volunteers to carry out additional duties including the use of brush cutters and chainsaws.

This is a positive step forward for our maintenance program and we invite members to attend a briefing for more information.

You may already be a maintenance volunteer, however, this is not a requirement. Super volunteers do not have to commit to visiting a particular section four times a year. Rather, they will attend on a more ad-hoc basis - such as to clear the Track of fallen trees after a storm.

### SUPER VOLUNTEER CRITERIA:

- Could live anywhere between Perth and Albany.
- Undertake extra duties including being responsible for and supervising volunteers during on-Track work-days, signage maintenance, chainsaw and brush cutter operations - training provided.
- Assist maintenance volunteers if additional help is needed for a specific task.
- Assist/manage corporate maintenance days.
- Assist the department with trailmaintenance.

If you are interested in being involved in this most important program contact Gwen for further information including briefing dates on [friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au](mailto:friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au) or by phone 9481 0551.

# Yes, THEY DID IT!

The Bibbulmun Track appeals to a wide variety of people with its diversity of landscapes, flora and fauna, which all add to the magical experiences helping to draw them back to it time and time again, with many of them now returning for subsequent end-to-ends.

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

Our congratulations go to all of them!

**David Moore** (26) from the USA called himself *Dingo* on what was his first long distance walk (N-S, 18.10.13 to 05.12.13). He shared the walk with **Amanda Forrest** (23), of Donnybrook, who was known as *Fox*. David thought it was a great track and is now hooked on walking—although he says his highlight was turning the walk into a 1000km pub crawl! David appreciated Amanda's home dehydrated meals on his walk. Every section along the south coast was amazing and he found it difficult to walk at times because his eyes were stuck on the breath-taking views and not on the trail. Amanda loved the variety of the environment, and Walpole to Denmark was a special section. She enjoyed "getting to know my own backyard". The Bibbulmun Track was a different environment for David because at home he's usually in the mountains.

**Neville Henderson** (38) from the UK described his end-to-end (N-S, 04.05.14 to 04.07.14) as a great walk where he met good people and made some great friends. Neville carried almost all his food! He loved the whole Track, and a highlight was Mt Wells in a storm. In comparison with other walks, Neville thinks the Bibbulmun Track has the best trail-markers and shelters he's ever used. His best equipment were his Berghaus boots which were lightweight and dried quickly.

**Ben Whitburn** (32), from NZ, was *Wandering Lost* on his end-to-end (S-N, 07.07.14 to 03.08.14) during which he had a wonderful time and thanks the BTF, the vollies and Parks & Wildlife for such a great track. Ben resupplied in the Track towns. Boat Harbour to Rame Head was his favourite section. Ben endured a hail storm on his first day and, while unfit at the start, became very fit and found it easy walking by the end. He saw a lot of wallabies and 'roos, a quokka, many cockatoos and cheeky magpies. He says the Bibbulmun Track has been well planned and maintained, making it easy to average high daily distances.

**Stephen Locke** (30), from England, aka *Lockie* says he had a stunning walk (N-S, 21.08.14 to 09.10.14) which created a real sense of isolation—unique in a world which is fast losing its touch with nature. He packed only fresh fruit and vegies, reasoning that what you eat makes you stronger so the extra weight can be carried. Sections in the karri forests were his favourites, with Dog Pool campsite and Donnelly River Village being particularly enjoyable, and he was also very happy to finally hit the coast at Mandalay. Stephen was lucky enough to be able to watch several kangaroos

bounding, en masse, through the bush at 4am one morning. In comparison with other walks, the Bibbulmun Track was more peaceful than Everest or the Coast-to-Coast.

**James Yiannett** (37), from New Zealand, says his end-to-end (N-S, 23.08.14 to 09.10.14) was his best walk ever. Kalamunda to Dwellingup was his favourite section. He maintains that fresh food is best on the Track.

**Frits Wester** (46), from the Netherlands, (N-S, 04.09.14 to 19.10.14) thinks the Bibbulmun Track is a great track, and very well maintained. He passes on his thanks to all the volunteers. He also thanked all his fellow hikers for the chocolate, the pudding, the cake, the wine and the sausages! Frits couldn't choose a favourite section, but a highlight was reaching Mandalay Beach. He enjoyed seeing some Australian wildlife, but didn't like the flies. His best equipment was a Jetboil stove and worst was a bumpy sleeping mat. His advice for others is to stop watching TV and go hiking...

**Rob** (72) and **Debby McColl**, from New Zealand, had a wonderful experience (N-S, 04.09.14 to 20.10.14) enjoying the fantastic diversity of terrain, flora and fauna. They loved the Track towns, had no trouble resupplying and found the postal system worked well for food parcels. They both loved every day, felt privileged to walk the Track and are thankful to those who made it possible. The granite domes and wild storms along the south coast were among their highlights. A huge variety of wildlife was seen including whales and echidnas, and more than 90 species of birds. They even grew to like the snakes! Best equipment included their lightweight shoes rather than boots. Their advice is to weigh every item, weed out anything unneeded and replace every heavy item with a lightweight equivalent.

**Paul Kergall** (18), from France, chose the Bibbulmun Track for his longest walk so far (N-S, 09.04.14 to 03.06.14), and he says "What a great walk!" He had some heavy rain, but beautiful rainbows all along the Track.

.....

*"You'll have good days and bad days. Your feet will throb and ache and your body will question at times just what the hell you are doing. But when it's all over, done and dusted, the great memories you'll take with you will be worth every step you have taken."*

**Peter and Sandy Hearnden**

.....

Paul ate noodles, rice and couscous, spicing them up a bit with powdered flavourings. His favourite sections were in the D'Entrecasteaux National Park and a highlight was seeing the southern ocean after 39 days in the forests. He also enjoyed meeting many other walkers. He advises that the weather can be your best friend but also your worst enemy.

**Rob** (56) and **Tim** (54) **Fox**, of NSW, had a fantastic experience (Sectional, 18.08.13 to 28.05.14) and would like to thank all those involved in making the Bibbulmun Track a world-class track. A hearty meal was had at the end of each day, with dehydrated meals plus Deb potato. Maringup, Mt Chance and White Horse Hills were favourite campsites. They enjoyed the joy and simplicity of track life—"walking, eating and sleeping. The thrill of seeing your next shelter—fantastic! Best of all, the people you meet along the way. Some you talk to for a few minutes and will never see again, some you walk with for days". Both have walked other tracks but say that the Bibbulmun Track is by far the best planned and best maintained with campsites located in fantastic spots, while the Track takes you to spectacular places. Neolite sleeping mats were a favourite for both while Rob liked his Trangia, and Tim his SPOT-locator. They advise packing light, and not carrying any extras. Take your time and enjoy every campsite.

**Bill Book** (66), from the ACT, was *Bilbo* on his walk (N-S, 10.05.14 to 23.06.14) which was a wonderful experience for him once he'd attained a level of pack fitness. He became quite imaginative with instant noodles and couscous, combining them with Cup a soup, tomato paste and sachets of tuna and salmon. But he doesn't recommend combining them with sugar and dried fruit in an attempt at making dessert! Bill's favourite sections were those from Mt Chance southwards. Rain pants were best equipment as they saved him from a serious scalding when a boiling billy was dumped on his legs, and he also used them as warm sleepwear.

**Paul Burge** (43), from NSW, has returned for another end-to-end (N-S, 03.07.14 to 07.08.14) and says the Track was perfect, and everything was great. Inlets were closed, wildlife sightings were good for winter and he even saw a whale. All his equipment was good, but Paul maintains that his two feet were the best! His advice for others is to walk at your own pace.

**Bob Oxlade** (79), from Victoria, felt very pleased to successfully complete another end-to-end (N-S, 30.03.14 to 14.09.14). He had five food drops along the Track and enjoyed a variety of dried meals. Meeting some of the well-known regular walkers was a highlight. Rob maintains the Bibbulmun Track is a great walk for all, and he felt safe being not too far away from access. Walking poles were his best equipment, along with a lightweight, roomy tent. He urges other walkers to keep their packs light.

Our CONGRATULATIONS to the following  
43 walkers on completing an end-to-end!  
9 from overseas, 9 from interstate and  
25 from WA.



**Joel Theodore** (21), from Victoria, was *Teddy* on his awesome journey (N-S, 06.09.14 to 12.10.14). He says it shows how much enjoyment you can get from simply walking. He thought it was great to meet such amazing, like-minded people, all with interesting stories. Joel resupplied in the Track towns. The Pingerup Plains was his favourite section and seeing the shelter at the end of each day was a highlight. His advice is not to dwell on it—get out there and go for it!

**Gabrielle Guzzo** (22), aka *Gabi*, and **Andrew Thomas** (24), aka *Andy T*, came from South Australia and collectively called themselves *Gandi* on their end-to-end (N-S, 18.08.14 to 15.10.14). Gabrielle loved every minute and was so happy that she wanted to live in a shelter! Andrew gives endless thanks to Gabrielle for thousands of laughs along the way making a magical experience he'll never forget. Denmark to Albany was a favourite section for both, and Gabrielle also liked the Pingerup Plains. Highlights included swimming in the ocean, beach walking, sleeping under the stars and waking to the sunrises. Gabrielle says the walk was one of the most amazing experiences of her life, giving so much joy and peace. Andrew also felt at peace, and found a new confidence in himself and his abilities. Bush walking sticks were best equipment. They advise not to rush, take your time to enjoy the walk, and pack light.

**Octavia Barrington** (62), from NSW, found the northern sections more enjoyable than the southern parts on her end-to-end (N-S, 31.08.14 to 16.10.14). Posting dehydrated food parcels worked well for her and she found the Visitor Information Centres were wonderful. Mandalay to Long Point was a favourite section. Unlike many walkers, Octavia loved the sand-hills. Meeting other walkers and arranging future trips with them was a highlight. Overall, the Track was not as difficult as Octavia thought it might be, just long.

**Graham Murdoch** (58), from Waikiki, completed his end-to-end (Sectional, 01.03.2000 to 01.06.2008) while walking a section with the 10th Anniversary walkers. His favourite section was from Monadnock to Sullivan Rock (*Graham is the Maintenance Vollie for this section!*) and his highlight was the satisfaction of finally completing his last section after nine years, even though there was no band or celebration at the end. Graham maintains that it is legal to eat all the cheese and chocolate you can carry!

**Trish Berridge**, from Trigg, was *Waugalette#1*, and **Jan Howie** (59) from Attadale was *Waugalette#2* as they completed an end-to-end (Sectional, 05.04.05 to 07.11.12) along with two other Waugalettes. They found it was a great journey and were always keen to revisit the Track. Dog Pool campsite with its fantastic swimming hole was a favourite on a 34 degree day. Peaceful Bay to Boat Harbour was

memorable in November 08 when the white sticky tail-flowers were at their peak. Jan found the shelters more basic than on some other walks but they serve their purpose well. Down sleeping bags and walking poles were among best equipment. Advice for others is to just do it, with no need to rush.

**Michael Bowman** (20), from Lockridge, called himself *Mikey B* on his great hike (N-S, 30.09.13 to 16.11.13). He says he almost gave up after the first day, but by the fifth he was loving it! Next time, he's going to provide a wider variety of food as 49 dinners of rice and tuna were a bit hard to take... Walpole to Denmark was his favourite section and seeing a giant tingle tree for the first time was jaw-dropping. Overall, the Track was amazing. An inflatable pillow was best equipment.

**David Anderson** (45), from Brunswick, aka *Pack Animal*, has registered two end-to-ends (Sectional, 05.12.13 to 13.05.14 and 22.07.14 to 03.09.14). David enjoyed both the most northerly sections and the south coastal sections, with night walking in the karri forest being a highlight. He urges other walkers to check out the spur trail to Wellington Dam.

**Erika Booth** (49), from Parkwood (S-N, 30.03.14 to 01.06.14), walked with **Diane Easton** (52), from Yangebup (Sectional, 30.03.14 to 03.08.14) as *Rumble and Tumble* on what was an incredible experience and achievement for both. Erika can't wait to do it all over again! It was a daunting task at the beginning, especially for Diane, but encouragement from others helped enormously. Erika found Glucogel jelly beans worked well for a quick sugar fix. An encounter with a magpie was a special, memorable, highlight as he seemed to want to lead them down the Track and walked with them for some considerable distance near Muttonbird Campsite. Trudging up the long set of steps near West Cape Howe was also memorable for Erika! A lot of wildlife was seen and they enjoyed the kookaburras who laughed at them for going to bed at such a ridiculous hour! Their advice is to prepare well, don't put it off, and just do it.

**Shane Spengler** (29), from Esperance, lost 17kg on what he describes as his epic experience (N-S, 06.05.14 to 18.06.14). He organised basic food drops in some towns and "got a bit over" rehydrated spag bol. Mandalay Beach through to Torbay was his favourite section, and his highlights were many—sharing campsites with the *Boofheads*, walking with his sister and girlfriend, the friendly people of Denmark, and approaching the Southern Ocean at Mandalay Beach. Shane saw a huge amount of birdlife and a variety of other wildlife. A light sleeping mat and a frequently used first-aid kit were among best equipment. He advises others to be a bit selfish and do the trek for themselves, for whatever reason. Shane enjoyed his walk more after he relaxed his itinerary.

**Ian Scullin** (56), of Bicton, thought it was

a privilege to be able to experience such a great Track (Sectional, 01.10.05 to 20.06.14). He found it was a challenge, but was so rewarding in so many ways. Ian enjoyed being in a beautiful, relatively unspoilt natural environment and says the wildlife was a real treat, being sometimes unexpected, but always welcome. There was a seemingly endless variety of birds. His favourite sections were around Walpole. All food, simple as it may have been, was gold to Ian! Walking poles were his best equipment. He urges others not to rush their journey, but to enjoy every second of it.

**Kerry Chapman** (49), of Albany, found her end-to-end (S-N, 28.04.14 to 26.06.14) to be an incredible, very cathartic, experience. It was a real test for the individual, but also a great experience meeting other people on Track. Kerry was glad to have carried plenty of food. She had food drops at a couple of towns and found she could top up at most places when necessary. The coastal sections and views of headlands between Albany and Mandalay Beach were her favourites and she also loved the Pingerup Plains. She advises not to over-plan the walk, just do it!

**Heidi Nistelberger** (31), of Leeming, says her end-to-end (S-N 28.04.14 to 26.06.14) was one of the best holidays she's ever had. "Once your body becomes adjusted to the daily walking and pack weight, it's a delight to move day to day, meeting new people at times, enjoying solitude at others. Your life is simplified, with the only concerns being food, water, weather and getting to the next campsite... bliss!" She originally underestimated food needs, but this became a licence to pack in all the chocolate and peanut butter. Heidi loved the diversity along the Track, particularly between Denmark and Northcliffe. Highlights included a full moon at Maringup with lake reflections and the sounds of ducks. Her first night alone in a shelter was a little strange for Heidi who enjoyed company at campsites. But walking on her own during the day was cathartic—in a busy world you don't get much time to be so quiet and introspective. This was the longest continuous walk she's done and she maintains that you have to be mentally ready for the long haul. She advises investing in good equipment and having rest days in the towns.

**Rowena Scott**, of Edgewater, called herself *Woylie* on her end-to-end (S-N, 06.05.14 to 11.07.14). She found autumn was a good time to walk, providing you are equipped for the cold and the potential rain. Walking alone gave her the opportunity to see plenty of wildlife and she enjoyed sitting quietly in the shelters watching the birds. A huge variety of wildlife was seen and enjoyed, with highlights being a close encounter with an echidna, and seeing so many nocturnal animals. Rowena loved the spectacular scenery, the serenity and peace, meeting other people, and the great feeling

of accomplishment. Polo fleece booties were among her best equipment. Her advice is to buy good quality walking poles, eat nourishing meals and pack light.

**Michael Spragg** (56), of Harvey, signed in as *Michael from Harvey* © on his wonderful experience (N-S, 26.04.14 to 13.07.14) enjoying the gifts of nature. He thanks all those involved in maintenance to ensure this unique experience is available for future generations. He found the sections between Denmark to Northcliffe had just about everything that is magic about the Track. Highlights included meeting his wife (who brought in the chocolate and beer!), and meeting fellow walkers who were so generous with advice, supplies and encouragement. Walking poles, mattress and cheap \$5 crocs were among best equipment. Michael carried a GPS which he said was unnecessary, heavy and ate batteries. His advice is to expect inclement weather, expect to get aches and pains, expect to be bothered by insects—but this is a small price to pay for such a memorable experience.

**Jaye Edwards** (36), from South Guildford, was *Jayebear* as she found the solitary nature of her walk (S-N, 12.05.14 to 19.07.14) to be exactly what she was looking for—time to connect with herself and the environment in a simple manner. A bonus was the extraordinary people she met along the Track and the relationships formed. Highlights included the phenomenal fungi of the southern forests and managing the Darling Range hills with ease toward the end of her journey. Jaye had a fear of snake bite, but managed it well, even seeing six tiger snakes in a two kilometre stretch near Nullaki! Best equipment were cheap crocs for around camp. She recommends taking the journey slowly, engaging with the environment and soaking it all in.

**Melanie Kirkpatrick** (66), of Gooseberry Hill, called herself *Princess Ophidiophobia* as she walked the Track (Sectional, 23.06.13 to 04.08.14) and is thrilled at her achievement as she didn't believe that she could do it. She loved the whole lot—except maybe the sand dunes. A highlight was surviving “a hell of a storm”

going into Collie, and the water-holes at the top of White Horse Hills were also special. Melanie managed to get over a morbid fear of snakes, but is wondering if pig shooters and their dogs qualify as wildlife, as they worried her quite a bit, and far too often. She feels we are very lucky to have this wonderful walking track. She's travelled extensively but this walk really touched her heart. Melanie's best equipment were her gaiters. She urges others not to rush the walk, to stop for rest days, explore the towns and meet the locals. Make it a walk that you can re-live over and over again!

**Peter Gray** (49), from Leinster, has completed his Bibbulmun journey after several years (Sectional, 18.09.10 to 02.09.14) and says his favourite sections were between Denmark and Northcliffe. A Jetboil stove and Neo-Air mattress were best equipment, and broken plastic sporks were his worst.

**Ken Patterson** (65), of Gooseberry Hill, had a fantastic experience walking the Track (N-S, 17.08.14 to 04.10.14) during late winter when there was an amazing diversity of wildflowers, cool walking conditions and just four wet days. His evening meals of pasta and rice verged on monotony until varied by spices or additional vegies. Meals purchased in towns were an absolute delight. Ken enjoyed the views from Mounts Cooke, Vincent and Cuthbert, and especially enjoyed his first visit to Lake Maringup. For him, the trek was an experience of a lifetime; the scenery was stunning, the wildflowers were amazing, the sense of achievement was wonderful and the company of fellow walkers was fantastic.

**Randall Jasper** (61), of Albany, (N-S, 17.08.14 to 04.10.14) says this was a great time of year to complete an end-to-end—there were flowers everywhere and very little rain. Woolbales to Long Point was his favourite section, with highlights being the Pingerup Plains (despite the wading), the Quarram showgrounds and the last section! Randall's most important equipment was his pair of walking poles—without a doubt!

**Tim Parker**, of Medina, has been walking the Track for many years and is pleased to finally finish an end-to-end (Sectional, 17.10.97 to 04.10.14). He found it hard to pick a favourite section but found the Pingerup Plains to be an incredible landscape where there is a profound sense of isolation and you can really feel the spirituality of the landscape. Watching the sunsets from the granite domes at Mt Chance and Woolbales, plus reaching the ocean at Mandalay were all highlights. Tim liked being able to walk for weeks on end surrounded by just beauty and nature, and says the Bibbulmun Track always calls him back. He's made wonderful Track friends and appreciates the support he's had from his wife. Best equipment included a collapsible bottle in which he carried some red wine at all times! Tim says the best thing about the Bibbulmun Track is that it never ends—you can always go back and walk it again!

**Mark Hughes** (67), of Wembley Downs, was called *Staggers* when he walked the Track (Sectional, 01.09.08 to 07.10.14) on what he refers to as “one of my great journeys”. He maintains that even the worst days on track

were good! His favourite section was Woolbales to Boat Harbour, and the highlight was his first sighting of the Southern Ocean. A self-inflating mattress and his sleeping bag were best equipment and he advises others to buy good gear and practise with it. Further advice is to look after your feet.

**Roy Chipperfield** (49), from Mindarie, was known as *Roy Chipie* on his walks (Sectional, 04.02.12 to 12.10.14). For him, it was a good way to see south-west WA while getting back to nature, and he'd like to thank all the volunteers who work on the Track. Roy ate commercial freeze-dried meals, nut bars and porridge. His favourite sections included Mt Cooke, the giant tingle trees and the south coast. This is the first long walk that Roy has completed and he found it very enjoyable and felt a great sense of achievement on completion.

**David Bell** (61), from Leeming, walked mainly north to south on his fantastic, epic journey (Sectional, 19.04.12 to 17.10.14) and is appreciative of maintenance volunteers. Northcliffe to Peaceful Bay were favourite sections and his many highlights included seeing the ocean for the first time. He saw many roos and emus, a quokka and only three snakes. Walking poles and a Jetboil stove were among best equipment and his body was his worst! David urges good planning and preparation and says don't rush the walk.

**Steve Willard** (60) and **Shane Bailey** (55), of Darlington, both enjoyed their end-to-end experience (N-S, 24.08.14 to 19.10.14). Steve was pleased they could take their time and Shane liked the increasing sense of becoming fitter. They used a combination of commercial freeze-dried meals and home dehydrated meals to provide some variety. They found it was wonderful to be immersed in nature and humbling to walk amongst the tall karris and tingles. It was good to connect with so many other people who they would not have otherwise met. Walking through the wildflowers was an added bonus. They saw a lot of wildlife, including a friendly emu at Yourdamung campsite. Walking poles were a favourite with both of them and cable-ties were light and useful. They advise packing light, and taking your time to enjoy the journey.

**Herb Boltong** (70), from Baskerville called himself *Bolt One On* during his end-to-end walks (Sectional, 16.04.13 to 23.10.14). Now that he's completed the Bibbulmun Track, Herb is considering the Munda Biddi. He sent food parcels to Track towns and used freeze-dried meals. Favourite sections were in the south where friends joined him from Northcliffe to Albany. His most useful piece of equipment, by far, was his hat—it kept his head dry and warm, was used as a fly-swatter and he could sit on it when the Track was wet. He urges others to get out there and give it a go.

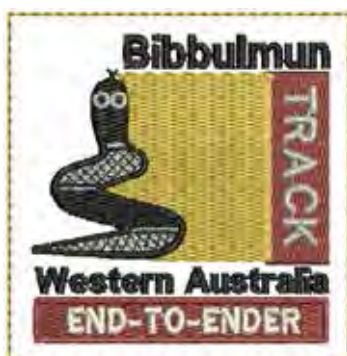
**Paul Dudfield**, from Ravenswood, has registered his end-to-end (Sectional, 09.09.13 to 29.10.14) but provided no details of his walk.

Compiled by

**Charmaine Harris**  
(BTF Volunteer and end-to-ender)

Have you got your  
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# UPCOMING EVENTS 2015

## MOON WALK

**Unwind on a serene warm autumn evening by the light of a full moon.**

Join us on a casual 9km return walk through beautiful mixed jarrah forest to a large granite outcrop, the perfect location to enjoy a picnic, a glass of wine and watch the setting sun and the rising full moon.

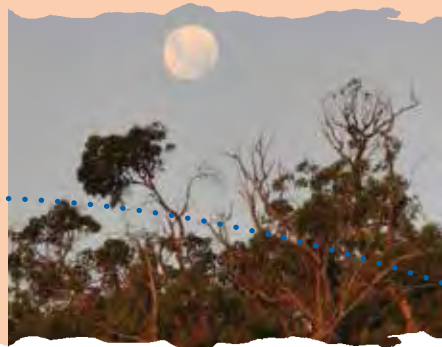
You'll be walking back by the light of the moon on some uneven terrain, so you need to be reasonably fit, have had some previous Bibbulmun Track experience and be confident when walking in the dark with a torch.

**Date:** Saturday 7 March 2015

**Where:** East of Armadale, The Darling Range

**Rating:** Beginners

**Cost:** members \$20, non-members \$30



## GREAT SOUTHERN EXPEDITION

**Have you already been on some overnight walks? Well get ready to experience walking along rugged coast lines and sandy beaches, cross coastal inlets and traverse high points overlooking the great Southern Ocean.**

This 85km trek takes you from Denmark through to the Southern Terminus of the Bibbulmun Track in Albany. We also have the opportunity for a food drop half way through so that the weight of your pack is much lighter.

There is also the opportunity for a food drop half-way through to lighten the weight of your pack.

Includes shared accommodation in Denmark and Albany, food drop, trained guides, comprehensive planning night, map, and equipment hire. BYO food. Transport not included.

**Early Bird Places available – Be quick, early bird price ends January 31 or when all allocated early bird places are taken.**

**Dates:** Sunday 5 April - Sunday 12 April

**Where:** Denmark to Albany

**Rating:** Experienced

**Cost:** Standard - members \$480, non-members \$510.

Early bird – members \$450, non-members \$480

## L-PLATES PUB PLOD

**The perfect event for those new to bushwalking! A fun and informative 12km walk embracing the beautiful mixed jarrah forest.**

Learn about our world renowned Bibbulmun Track from experienced and fully trained guides. Not only will you get to enjoy time at one of the Bibbulmun Track campsites, this walk finishes at the walker's favourite local haunt, the Mundaring Weir Hotel. Beverages at hotel not included.

**When:** Sunday 12 April 2015

**Where:** Near Mundaring Weir, The Darling Range

**Rating:** Beginners

**Cost:** members \$20, non-members \$30

**Book all events online – [www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au)**



## NEW WALKER SERVICES IN DENMARK

Cross the Nullaki Inlet in style on the new boat operated by Denmark Rivermouth Cruise.

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*Book your transport and/or accommodation on (08) 9848 1262.*

**[www.denmarkrivermouthcaravanpark.com.au](http://www.denmarkrivermouthcaravanpark.com.au)**



# Accommodation, Tours and Services

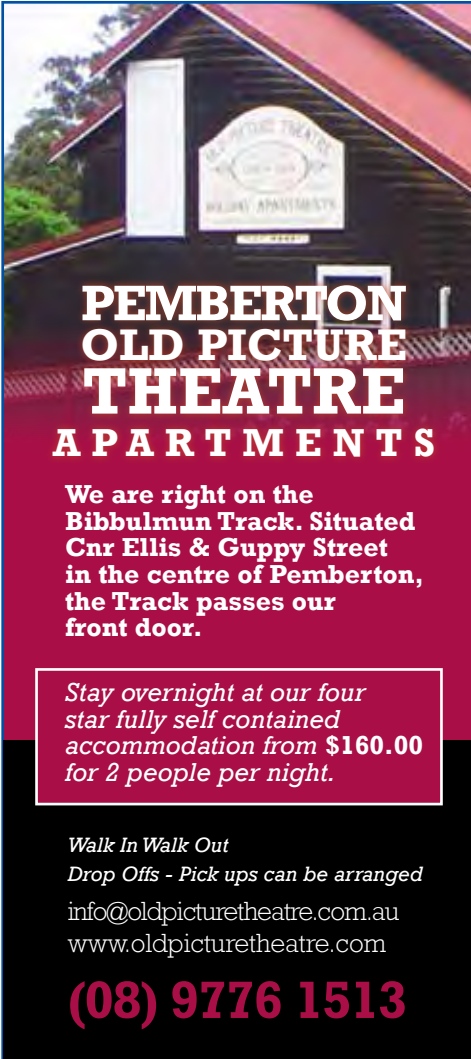


Please support the Walker Friendly Businesses that support the Track.

Accommodation  
 Tourist Bureau  
 Transport prov  
 Tour  
 Track Transfers  
 Catering  
 Tour Guides

BUSINESS NAME	TOWN	TYPE OF BUSINESS	PHONE NO.	WEBSITE	DISCOUNT OFFERED TO MEMBERS
ALBANY BAYSIDE OCEAN VILLAS	ALBANY		0400 216 971	albanybaysideoceanvillas.com	
BAYVIEW BACKPACKERS YHA	ALBANY		(08) 9842 3388	bayviewbackpackers.com.au	
CAPE HOWE COTTAGES	ALBANY		(08) 9845 1295	members.westnet.com.au/normanhouse	
NORMAN HOUSE	ALBANY		(08) 9841 5995		
CAMP KENNEDY BAPTIST YOUTH CAMP	ALBANY				
THE POST HOUSE (BALINGUP BUDGET ACCOMMODATION)	BALINGUP		(08) 9764 1049	accom@theposthouse.net.au	10% discount (individuals and couples). Different discount options available to groups.
JUST LIKE MUMS	BALINGUP		0407 425 163		Discount available for groups of two or more guests only
COLLIE RIVER VALLEY TOURIST PARK	COLLIE		(08) 9734 5088	colliecaravanpark.com.au	
THE COLLIEFIELDS	COLLIE		(08) 9734 2052	colliefields.com	
WHISPERING PINES B&B	COLLIE		(08) 9734 3883	whisperingpinesbandb.com.au	
DENMARK RIVERMOUTH CARAVAN PARK & CRUISES	DENMARK		(08) 9848 1262	denmarkrivermouthcaravanpark.com.au	
DENMARK WATERFRONT MOTEL	DENMARK		(08) 9848 1147	denmarkwaterfront.com.au	
BLUE WREN TRAVELLERS REST YHA	DENMARK		(08) 9848 3300	denmarkbluwren.com.au	
THE COVE	DENMARK		(08) 9848 1770	thecovechalets.com	
WINDROSE B&B	DENMARK		(08) 9848 3502	windrose.com.au	
PELICANS AT DENMARK	DENMARK		0413 122 176	pelicansatdenmark.com.au	
CAPE HOWE COTTAGES	DENMARK			capehowe.com.au	
DONNELLY RIVER HOLIDAY VILLAGE	DONNELLY RIVER		(08) 9772 1244	donnellyriver.com.au	From \$25 pp.
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DWELLINGUP ADVENTURES	DWELLINGUP		(08) 9538 1127	dwellingupadventures.com.au	
DWELLINGUP B&B AND CHALETs	DWELLINGUP		(08) 9538 1155	dwellingupchalets.com.au	
TADDY CREEK	DWELLINGUP		(08) 9285 2736	taddyreek.com.au	
WATERMARK KILNS AND WATERMARK MARRON	NORTHCLIFFE		(08) 9776 7349	watermarkkilns.com.au	
NUTKIN LODGE	PEACEFUL BAY		(08) 9840 8650	nutkinlodge.com.au	
PEACEFUL BAY CHALETs AND BACKPACKERS	PEACEFUL BAY		08 9840 8169	peacefulbaychalets.com.au	
OLD PICTURE THEATRE HOLIDAY APARTMENTS	PEMBERTON		(08) 9776 1513	oldpicturetheatre.com.au	
PEMBERTON CAMP SCHOOL	PEMBERTON		(08) 9776 1277	pembertoncampschool.com.au	
PEMBERTON DISCOVERY TOURS & CAR RENTAL	PEMBERTON		(08) 9776 0484	pembertondiscoverytours.com.au	
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CHE SARA SARA CHALETs	WALPOLE		(08) 9840 8004	myweb.westnet.com.au/chesara	
COALMINE BEACH HOLIDAY & CARAVAN PARK	WALPOLE		(08) 9840 1026	coalminebeach.com.au	
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WALPOLE LODGE	WALPOLE		(08) 9840 1244	walpolelodge.com.au	
BAYSIDE VILLAS	WALPOLE		(08) 9840 1888	baysidevillas.com.au	10%.
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PEMBERTON VISITOR CENTRE	VISITOR CENTRES		(08) 9776 1133	pembertonvisitor.com.au	
DENMARK VISITOR CENTRE	VISITOR CENTRES		(08) 9848 2055	denmark.com.au	
SOUTHERN FORESTS WA	VISITOR CENTRES		(08) 9771 7777	southernforests.com.au	





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Packages held & pick-up or drop off available on request. Catch the Australind & we'll collect you from Brunswick. Leave your car in our locked back yard for a few days on the track & we will drop you out to walk back or pick you up from a meeting point along the way.

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# Bibbulmun TEAM CHALLENGE 2014

At the Awards Night on Tuesday 4th November, KPMG was awarded the title of Challenge Champions for the Bibbulmun Team Challenge 2014. The team's name will be inscribed on the perpetual Team Challenge Champions trophy, which is kept on display in the Foundation's front office.

During October and November, 32 participants in eight teams competed in this unique team-building event.

With special emphasis on outdoor skills, problem solving and environmental awareness, plus mental and physical challenges, the participants walked up to 15km a day along the Bibbulmun Track between North Bannister and Dwellingup. Each team raced carts on Dwellingup and built outriggers to race on the Murray River as part of the Challenge.

Led by the Foundation's Events Manager Steve Sertis, the event involved 14 instructors and volunteers, whom we thank for their time and enthusiasm.

## FIRST HEAT

KPMG took the lead early on day one but had only a 50 point lead ahead of the Sharp Squad (Parks and Wildlife) by the end of the first day. CBA and Long Way To Go weren't all that far behind but by day two KPMG had cemented their lead a little more. As the weather hotted up on days three and four the



*The outrigger race drew quite a crowd!*

teams were glad of the outrigger challenge and a chance to cool off. They continued to battle it out with the second and third place constantly changing hands. No matter what the challenges were all the teams rose to them with the utmost optimism and completed every activity. In the end KPMG retained their lead and emerged as Heat Winners, closely followed by the Sharp Squad, CBA and then Long Way To Go.

## SECOND HEAT

The Sierra Grandies took the lead fairly early on day one and by the end of the day had established beyond doubt that they were in

for a win! However only 100 points behind them were SP\_CE, who themselves didn't have much breathing space as the Axis of Ignorance was steaming along, finishing the first day just 50 points behind them. The girls from Geraldton Grammar took a little while to warm up but second, third and fourth place switched a few times over the four days. The Grandies held their lead each day until the final few activities on day four which gave Axis of Ignorance the opportunity to catch them, the result being an unprecedented tie for first place for Sierra Grandies and Axis of Ignorance with SP\_CE coming in second, followed closely by Geraldton Grammar.



*Ash from SP\_CE accepting The Spirit of the Bibbulmun Award from Jim Freeman*

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

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

**We are proud to announce that this year's Spirit of the Bibbulmun Award was awarded to the SP\_CE. Well done!**



Joint Heat winners Sierra Grandies obviously happy at completing another challenge!

## THE WRAP-UP

Decision making was very important and making those right decisions was paramount, especially when it came to packing. There was a cooking challenge—some of the food was exquisite, some not! Some challenges brought out the best in some people, others realised that they needed to draw deep for inner strength. The sheer grit and determination shown by

all participants to go for gold, plus an overall sense of humour were impressive—everyone rallied together and showed magnificent levels of support and camaraderie.

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

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

**Steve Sertis**

*Event Manager and  
Lead Guide*



KPMG accepting the Team Challenge Perpetual Trophy

## PHOTO CAPTION Competition

Come up with a caption for this photo of volunteer, Isabel Busch, snapped at the Team Challenge Awards night.

The winner will receive a prize from Sea to Summit.

Entries can be submitted by fax, email, post or on our Facebook page.



Joint Heat winners Axis of Ignorance all tied up on the first day

**THANK YOU TO  
OUR SPONSORS:**  
Mountain Designs  
Sea to Summit



## THE 2014 CHALLENGERS

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

Department of Parks and Wildlife, Commonwealth Bank Australia, Geraldton Grammar School, KPMG, Long Way To Go, SP\_CE, Axis of Ignorance and Sierra Grandies.

# PRIZE WINNERS!

## CONGRATULATIONS

to Linda Clark - winner of the mid-year draw for members renewing as Life Members. Linda received a Bibbulmun Track 32L Deuter Day Pack from the Foundation.

**Congratulations to the winners of our Monthly Membership renewal prize draws:**

### JULY

Anna Bawden won a Deluxe Backpack Cover

Second prize of a Travel Clothes Line went to Lionel Jardine

### AUGUST

Phil Ullrich won a Medium Drylite Microtowel

Second prize of a Head net and Back Country Smoothie went to Lindy Lester

### SEPTEMBER

Arnold Zeh won a Pocket Trowel

Second prize of a Back Country Fruit Smoothie and Head Net went to Joan O'Grady

Unless stated otherwise, the prizes mentioned above were generously donated by Foundation sponsor

**Sea to Summit.**



## NEW UNIQUELY DESIGNED BIBBULMUN TRACK HEADSOX – NOW AVAILABLE!

Headsox are a multifunctional, seamless head and neckwear accessory made from stretchy micro fibre. They are light and flexible and provide the ideal defence from the elements... helping to keep you cool when the going gets hot in summer, protecting your head, ears and neck when the chill starts to

kick in. With 12 versatile ways to get your head around Headsox, they are perfect for any activity where maximum comfort and protection are a must.

**Christmas Special**  
Only \$30 (normally \$35).  
(10% discount for BTF members)  
Order online via our shop.

## 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 CHANGED ADDRESS?

Help us save time and postage and update your details. Hop onto our website, log in and update your details under My Account. You can also upload a pic of yourself!

Not sure how?

Visit our Website Help page under Contact Us at [www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au)

Otherwise call us and we will update your profile for you.

## WEEKLY EQUIPMENT HIRE prices

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

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

\$150.00 for basic equipment

\$499.00 for PLBs

\$230.00 for Dehydrators

Payment may be made by cash, cheque or credit card  
For all enquiries contact the Foundation: Tel: 9481 0551

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



# Gossip Office

## G O S S I P

October and November are always busy as we prepare for one of the highlights of the year, the presentation of Long Service Awards for our long-serving volunteers, the Volunteer Rewards, sponsored by Mountain Designs for hours given to volunteering, and the annual Parks and Wildlife Volunteer Awards.

This year presentations will be made to more than seventy of our three hundred volunteers. Much time is spent collating the necessary data relating to these awards and fortunately I have plenty of help from the wonderful team in the office. While I appreciate their dedication every day, it's at this time that I always marvel at just how much teamwork keeps keeping the office running and allows us to achieve all that we do.

Looking back over the year, it becomes clear that little happens in the office without input from many of the team. When Charmaine and I head off for a week's Field Trip, Edith and Steve, ably assisted by others, fill the gap. As Lead Guide, Steve is often out of the office so we do our best to assist with events activities. Marketing manager Jean often has

displays to set up or community events to attend, so Christine takes calls and attends to marketing while many pairs of hands put together brochures, banners and displays. Of course, we all head off on leave at various times and others happily take over from the lucky travellers.

The production of a number of new products and brochures, has kept us all busy, all done with input from most of the team. Jean worked on the new brochure and poster, with help with photo selection and proof reading. The design and colour selection for our popular new head sox were discussed at length around the table. A great example of team work was the creation of the new Guidebooks. This project kept Steve busy for months, with planning and design ideas

discussed by all the team. Steve was out on the Track for weeks updating track notes, distances and photos. At the same time, others were busy proof-reading, editing, selecting photos and snippets from the registers.

Some of you will already know members of the team but to others we may be the voice on the end of the phone or the person who posts your merchandise order or updates your membership. To help you identify us all we have included a photo of all of the team—see how many of us you know.

We'll be closing the office on Wednesday December 17, reopening on Monday January 19. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and look forward to assisting you again in 2015.

## Office Team



Alan and Malcolm



Peter



Jim



Vickie



Linda



Hans



Gayle



Charmaine



Gwen and Edith



Jean



Colin



Isabel



Peter



Steve



Christine



Jim



Peter



Lesley



Elsie



Deb

# Track Town Northcliffe: ON THE EDGE OF THE WILDERNESS

## “OLD STYLE COUNTRY TOWN CHARM & HOSPITALITY”

Most walkers encounter Northcliffe from the north and if continuing south should take a deep breath before taking off on the next stretch beside the Gardner River, through karri forest, coastal heathland and swamps—big swamps. The Bibbulmun Track maps note the latter as “subject to inundation”, and you’d better believe it, especially in winter and spring.

Taking that deep breath gives walkers the opportunity to stock up with food at the Northcliffe General Store or at the Karri Country Good Food Co-operative. Both have the usual range of walkers’ favourites—oatmeal, nuts, raisins, noodles etc. Fuel for stoves is also available as well as sunscreen and insect repellent.

Take time out to drop in to the Visitor Centre, where the manager, Wendy, is a terrific naturalist and photographer. She and her staff can advise you where the orchids are flowering and identify that flower you saw and the bird or frog you heard on your way in, as well as providing the latest information on Track and weather conditions. Emails can be checked there and they will hold food parcels for walkers.



Nature's Window D'Entrecasteaux

TransWA coaches run through Northcliffe on most days of the week and bookings can be made at the Visitor Centre. Cars may be left at the Visitor Centre or at the DPaW Northcliffe depot enabling walkers to explore the area on foot. Bringing your vehicle to Northcliffe gives you a perfect opportunity to also explore Pt D'Entrecasteaux and Shannon National Park.

The Visitor Centre is also the access point to Understory, an outstanding trail that winds for a 1.2 kilometres through pristine native forest. Along the way are specially commissioned sculptures, hiding in the bush, or looming above in the trees.

To get a hands-on feel for its history, visit Northcliffe's Pioneer Museum. It's lovingly maintained and staffed daily by volunteers, who can tell some great yarns about the early settlers and show you how they lived.

Accommodation is available in town at the hotel and along the Track at the caravan park, a short distance from the town centre. Further away,



Northcliffe Museum

but still close to the Track, are historic Watermark Kilns to the north and Riverway Chalets to the south. Both will provide free transport to and from town. This is also true of Gilvonnies' B & B, Caringal in the Karri and Canterbury Cottage.

The Post Office sells everything from stamps to cement and perhaps most importantly, from a walker's point of view, it has EFTPOS. Meals are available at both the Hollow Butt Café and the hotel/motel.

Give Northcliffe some time. You'll be pleased you did.

### Please support our Walker Friendly Businesses in Northcliffe

Watermark Kilns and Watermark Marron  
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hulcup@westnet.com.au  
www.watermarkkilns.com.au



Karri Spider Orchid

# Walker Story

## The Bibbulmun is This and More

**Eric Bow from California came to Australia to walk the Bibbulmun Track—perhaps the most experienced long distance walker to have done so. His comments and his poetry speak volumes:**

Many tourists travel to Western Australia to enjoy the pristine beaches around Perth, take a ferry over to Rottnest Island or explore the outback in a jeep. I didn't. I came to hike the Bibbulmun Track. I'm a thru-hiker, a triple crowner, which means I've completed end-to-end hikes on America's three grandest trails—The Pacific Crest, The Continental Divide and The Appalachian—a total of 12,000 kilometers. Throw in The Arizona and Florida Trails and I'm pushing 16,000. At this point thru-hiking is in my blood. It's become a passion—an obsession. There are a few trails in the States I still have my eye on, but in 2014 I decided to go international. Before arriving in Oz, I'd logged another 2,200 kilometers on New Zealand's long path, Te Araroa. Since completing the Bibbulmun Track, I've done the thru-hike of the Pyrenees Haute Route from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean,

It's hard to compare tramping through the black swamp of Bradwell Bay to crossing snowbound passes in the northern Cascades, treading across the desert southwest where water and shade trees are scarce, to trekking through the green tunnel of the forests in Appalachia, spending weeks above 3,000 meters among the peaks and plateaus of the Rockies to walking along the white sand beaches of Australia's southern coast. It's like comparing apples and oranges. To a fruit lover, they're both sweet, but with completely different tastes. I suppose what I'm trying to say is that each trail has its own unique features that make it special.

After settling in at Sandpatch on the penultimate day of my journey along the Bibbulmun Track, I put pen to paper and wrote the following verses about my experience.

*Once upon a rain day dreary  
While I rested feet so weary  
From the soft sand walking I had done upon the  
coastal shore.*

*As I sit I start reflecting  
On my trek my thoughts collecting  
The many miles, the days, the nights and everything  
that's gone before.  
The Bibbulmun—So what's in store?*

*From the treetops comes a squawking  
It's the cockatoos, they're talking  
All while feeding on the tasty seeds the Eucalyptus  
bore.*

*My Oh My! These messy eaters  
Shriekers, squawkers, high-toned tweeters  
Down from the canopy a rain of twigs and leaves  
doth pour.  
The Bibbulmun is this and more.*

*Three kangaroos disturbed, now jumping  
Set my beating heart a-thumping  
A fourth more tranquil stays and looks upon me  
as if I'm a bore.*

*Lowers head, continues chewing  
Choice green grass, the rain renewing  
Wondering why the others fled and what they were  
so frightened for.  
The Bibbulmun is this and more.*

*What is this curled in the track,  
Rows of spiky spines on back?  
Echidna! Cuddly creature. We're so lucky! You  
I do adore.*

*Emerging from its sphere a-quaking  
Every limb its nerves are shaking  
Unsure whether I'm a friend or some blood-lusting  
carnivore.  
The Bibbulmun is this and more.*

*At Grimwade lives a wee, sly possum.  
Two more arrive. That's three. How awesome!  
The party's on! Is there another? Who is going  
to make it four?*

*Under shine of headlamps snuffling*

*Off to yonder forest shuffling  
Three is plenty. Three is company. No need for a  
possum war!  
The Bibbulmun is this and more.*

*Not too far from Frankland River  
A myriad of delights deliver  
Awestruck children walking spans high above the  
forest floor.*

*There the towering karris mingle  
With the giant red gum tingle  
A relic from Gondwanaland back to the age of  
dinosaur.  
The Bibbulmun is this and more.*

*The starry sky revealed at night  
Sends my scattered thoughts to flight  
Above the coastal headlands and landscapes out of  
dreamtime lore.*

*O'er granite domes and sand dunes high  
O'er river pools 'neath darkened sky  
To mix with endless crashing waves amidst the  
Southern Ocean's roar.  
Oh Bibbulmun! Oh Mi Amor!*

A few months have passed since I completed my southbound thru-hike. However, I still remember rising early to greet the breaking dawn, marvelling at the beauty of the sun's morning rays slanting through the karri forest, keeping a daily count of the kangaroos encountered, searching for the perfect spot to photograph sunset, and being lulled to sleep by the sound of rain on shelter roofs. I'm sure others who have section hiked or done an end-to-end share similar memories and, in that respect, it makes us all a part of the Bibbulmun Family.

**Eric Bow, San Diego, California.**

**End-to-End 2014**



Eric Bow, walker extraordinaire on the Track near Dwellingup

# NOTICE BOARD

## FOR SALE: FOOD DEHYDRATOR

Food dehydrator used once. Good size. Worth \$199 will sell. \$80 Make - Kitchen Couture. Contact: Anne Hill 95821686 or 0428710552  
e: hillurup@bigpond.com

## FOR SALE: SCARPA - 'NEPAL' LEATHER BOOTS

New. (EU 40, USm 7 1/2, USw 8 1/2). Conditioned, but not even worn in. Ultimately too small for me. \$90  
Contact: Gary Williams 0419 942 967  
e: williams4562@gmail.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  
e: johnelaineillard@hotmail.com

## FOR SALE: GREGORY LIGHTWEIGHT JADE 50L WOMEN'S BACKPACK

Multi-access and good organization. Perfect for weekend/overnight hiking or travel. Very good condition. Similar quality to Osprey packs. Colour blue & grey. Top Loading - weighs 1.6kg. Tough, durable and very comfortable with mesh back panel for air flow across the back. Women's specific fit. Used for walking/hiking for a few weeks and was very comfortable and functional. \$140.00  
Contact: Deb Mickle 0438 973 698  
e: deborah.mickle@bigpond.com

## WANTED: INFO ON GPS

Can anyone advise please? Best GPS app for Android or GPS device.  
Contact: Bruce  
e: brucealechale@gmail.com

## FOR SALE: MENS WALKING BOOTS X2 PAIRS

1.KATHMANDU "Randonee"  
Full cut mens trekking boots. UK 11 all leather upper, Vibram sole Very little use. \$80.  
2.SALOMON  
Mid cut mens trekking boots. UK 11, Eu 46, US 11.5. Medium use, Goretex lined. \$60.  
Contact: Terry 9339.6539  
e: ptoh@bigpond.com

## FOR SALE: PACK AND BOOTS

Backpack, Ladies 60 ltr. Inside pouch for water bladder, inside security pocket, roomy side pockets and external straps and mountings. Grey/Black. Ideal for extended and overnight walking. Holds tent, sleep mat and sleeping bag, stove, food and clothes. Surplus to requirements, really good condition. \$110  
Boots, mens hiking, UK 10 Euro 44. Good condition. \$55.  
Contact: Elaine 9377 6186  
e: johnelaineillard@hotmail.com

## WANT TO ADVERTISE ON OUR NOTICE BOARD?

Members - You can advertise on our Notice Board by logging into your profile and clicking the Notice Board & Classified tab under the News tab.

If you are not a member please phone or email us to arrange your advert. Cost is \$5 for 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](mailto:friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au)

# LOST & FOUND

## FOUND: THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE BTF OFFICE.

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

## TENT

Found at Giants. 2 man OzTrail Backpacker.

## GOLD EARRING

Found on the Track.

## MEN'S WATCH

Found on the way up to Mt Vincent on Wednesday 8th October.

## BLACK & GREY STRIPED SCARF

Found at Ball Creek campsite on 9 September 2014.

## CAP LEFT BY GEOFF E

Found at Waleegh campsite on 10 September 2014.

## LOST: - WEDDING BAND

Lost between Boarding House and Beavis campsites. Reward offered.  
Contact: Paul 0408 130 133  
e: Pmwillow@tpg.com.au

## Freeze Dri BACK COUNTRY Cuisine

### fast nourishing food for adventurers



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

Tim Macartney-Snape  
on his Nepal expedition,  
October 2013



**SEATO@SUMMIT**  
seatosummitdistribution.com.au



# EYES ON THE GROUND

The Eyes on the Ground Maintenance Volunteer Program has been running for nearly eighteen years and this year, for the first time, almost every section of the Track is being cared for by a team of volunteers. In addition, we have a long list of prospective volunteers who are ready to step up and take over should anyone retire. Throughout the eighteen years countless volunteers have committed many hours of hard work to keep the Track well maintained, providing a safe and enjoyable walking trail for everyone.

The final Field Day for 2014 was held near Mundaring Weir in October with 17 volunteers wielding rake hoes, spades and rakes. We were lucky that the weather wasn't too hot, as we had a lot of hard work to do, including erosion control measures on a couple of steep hills. As well as cleaning out steps and filling in some badly eroded sections, countless water bars were installed, with Kerstin from Rec. and Trails demonstrating a slightly different method to normal, which should be more efficient and longer lasting. We also had the opportunity to finally meet Rebecca from the Mundaring District Office. Thanks to both Kerstin and Rebecca for coming along.

There has been a lot of interest in the Advanced Training program for volunteers, who will have a different role from that of the current maintenance volunteers. As well as training in chain saw and power tool use, they will have advanced training in various aspects of trail maintenance and will be able to assist our maintenance volunteers when necessary.

We have been very pleased with the new system of reporting to the Parks and Wildlife Districts. Problems are more easily identified, which means that the districts have been able to take action promptly and report back when the job is completed.

Thanks to all of our maintenance volunteers who give up much of their time to look after their sections.

**Gwen Plunkett and Charmaine Harris**  
Volunteer Coordinators.

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



## Alcoa Clean Up Day Mt Wells campsite

In late October eight Alcoa volunteers helped out with a variety of tasks at Mt Wells campsite.

The inside of the hut was re-painted and a wooden table installed along with large hooks for packs and wet gear.

Outside, the crew collected and removed the scattered debris from the storm-damaged tower, established some much

needed tent sites and removed weeds from around the hut.

The Alcoa crew was well supported by DPaW personnel, Foundation staff member Steve Sertis and Trish Bird, the BTF maintenance volunteer for Mt Wells Campsite.

*Many thanks to all involved in a great day's work!*



## Retaining walls Hewett's Hill campsite gets special treatment

The steps and retaining walls at one of the Track's most popular campsites, Hewett's Hill, have recently received some major attention. A particularly nice touch was the use of a massive log below the table which is not only functional but looks great.

Our thanks to the Parks and Wildlife crew including Pedro Laurent, Ken Welligan, Brad Walters, Warrick Trew and Wayne Needham.





# TRACK TRIVIA

## HI FELLOW WALKERS!

When I began working as a volunteer with the BTF in 2003 my primary task was to offer trip planning advice to walkers who intended to walk long distances on the Bibbulmun Track, in particular those whose intention it was to walk the Track from end-to-end. Unfortunately Gwen discovered that I could read and write and, given sufficient encouragement, switch on a computer and make tea, so my work load grew exponentially. I realised that I had reached the zenith of acceptance when I was allowed independent use of the office vacuum cleaner for the first time in 2008!

Working as a BTF vullie is a very rewarding fun experience and dealing with folk who are setting out to become end-to-enders remains the highlight for me. Nowadays, the far-reaching Internet and the excellent website that has been developed by the Foundation mean that more people than ever from overseas and out of state are coming to WA to walk the Track, and requesting advice in advance.

So email becomes a valuable tool, and in more recent times the use of free telephone communication via Skype means that I can sit and chat with a potential end-to-ender on the other side of the world. Not only that, the video link means I'm able to show him or her items of gear, food, pictures of campsites or whatever is needed for them to become more familiar with the Track and what they have in store during their walk.

Over the past three years or so, I've had the pleasure of working with overseas walkers from the UK, NZ, USA, Switzerland, Mainland China, Germany, Canada, France, Korea, Taiwan, Sweden and Cambodia. Plus of course, those Australians who come from the top end and the largely unexplored areas east of the Nullarbor.

That apart, there is a special pleasure in spending time with Sandgroppers who set out to complete the whole Track. This usually involved one or two meetings in the BTF office during which we thrash out all the details of the planning required for their adventure. Sometimes this can be difficult, depending upon the experience—or lack thereof—of the candidate.

- "Can I take my horse with me?"*
- "Can I ring ahead to reserve a bed in the shelter?"*
- "Do I need an extension lead for my hairdryer?"*
- "What do I do if I see a crocodile on the Track?"*

*These are all questions that I have been asked—and many more besides!*

In all of this, the most rewarding part of the job for me is to hear from those people that I have tried to help who succeed in their efforts and find the euphoria of success—"I did it!"

One such person is Melanie Kilpatrick, with whom I've had considerable contact over the past few years. Melanie was determined to walk the Bibbulmun Track from end-to-end, as she explained during our first meeting in the BTF office a few years ago. She was petrified of snakes, she told me, so she would take the Track name of Princess Ophidiophobia (look it up!).

Since that time Melanie has met with many problems and fought against physical and medical difficulties—but she did it, completing a sectional end-to-end (See the Yes, they did it! feature on page 14). When asked what made her decide to do the walk, Melanie says it wasn't really a conscious decision—"the whole thing sort of snuck up on me"—and before she knew it she was searching for a walking companion and the Track had reeled her in.

I remember warning her during our first meeting that walking on the Bibbulmun Track can be addictive, and after experiencing the joy of her achievement she is ready to turn around and do it again!



*Melanie Kilpatrick ringing the bell in Kalamunda at the end of her trek.*

And so the geographical meanderings of our Waugal markers. As all Bibbulmun Track walkers are aware, follow the Waugals is the primary instruction for finding your way along the Track.

However in recent years we have had stories of the Waugal markers appearing in odd places—in Spain, in a garden in Ashby-de-le-Zouch in the UK and now in the Yukon in Canada (See the story on page 9).

Not to be outdone, vullie Charmaine Harris has introduced a Waugal to the northernmost point of mainland Australia.



### WHERE WILL THIS END?

- How about a competition for:  
The southernmost Waugal  
The first Waugal in space

- The highest Waugal on Earth (e.g. Mt Everest)
- The deepest Waugal in the ocean
- Any more thoughts, walkers?

*Happy Walking,  
Wrong Way Jim.*



*Leave a lasting legacy...*

**Include a gift for the Bibbulmun Track Foundation in your will and help ensure the Bibbulmun Track is maintained for generations to come.**

# Sleeping Mats



**After decent coffee and access to Facebook, sleep is one of the fundamental human needs. If you don't get it you start to fall apart quickly. And nothing can interrupt your precious relaxation time like being cold or uncomfortable.**

If we could only drag our pocket-spring mattress into the backcountry we would, but unless you're built like Arnold Schwarzenegger that's impossible. Therefore Sea to Summit set itself to pour a huge amount of time, expertise and passion-for-slumber into creating a better sleeping mat.

And all that R&D led the tech-nerds at Sea to Summit to come up with the sleeping mat equivalent of the pocket-spring luxury - Air Sprung Cells. Under load each cell deforms independently,

conforming to your body shape, providing more contact area and thus an even dispersion of pressure. Air Sprung Cells differ from the traditional baffle construction of other air mats on the market because they are constructed using a dot-weld pattern. This pattern creates a high-surface-area matrix of interconnected chambers - yes, you got it, Air Sprung Cells.

But Air Sprung Cells are just the beginning of the innovation erupting from these mats. Two offset layers and

Exkin Platinum as well as Thermolite insulation (depending on the model) add warmth without any cold spots. The patent-pending multifunctional valve allows super fast inflation, deflation and adjustment. And the clever Extrusion Lamination method makes Sea to Summit sleeping mats probably the most durable mats on the market.

This new sleeping mat range already won numerous awards in the US and Germany even before its launching date end of November!

**Go to [www.seatosummit.com.au](http://www.seatosummit.com.au) for more information.**





# BTF LARAPINTA Trip report

In September this year I was privileged to escort a Bibbulmun Track Foundation tour to explore some of the best known sections of the 223km Larapinta Trail in Central Australia. I really didn't know what to expect, and I was surprised by the diverse scenery encountered each day— high ridgeline traverses, narrow canyons, stunning gorges and idyllic waterholes.

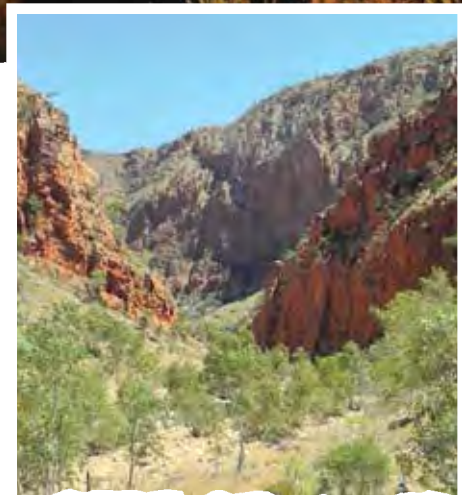
The Larapinta Trail weaves its way through the starkly beautiful landscape of the West MacDonnell Ranges in Central Australia and truly captures the essence of the outback.

Our six day trip included so many memorable experiences, the highlights of which included the impressive Simpsons Gap and Standley Chasm, gazing in awe at ancient landscapes and spectacular views at Counts Point, encountering a metre long sandy water monitor lizard and being immersed in the peace and tranquillity of Ormiston Pound and Ormiston Gorge.

Believe it or not, however, the major highlight was, getting up at one o'clock in the morning to climb

8km to the summit of Mt Sonder, at 1380m the trail's highest point, with only the light of our headlamps. We reached the dramatic cliff-edged western peak just in time to watch the sky change colour before the sun peeped above the horizon and we welcomed in the day. As we descended in the early morning light, we realised just what a huge feat it had been!

The permanent campsites were a blessing at the end of each day providing hot showers, camp beds, swags and a comfortable lounge to enjoy a glass of wine and reminisce on the day's events. Thank you to our World Expedition guides who shared their knowledge, transported us around and cooked up



Ormiston Gorge

the most delicious meals. Thanks also to my fellow companions; you made this an incredible experience which will stay in my memory forever.

Jean Byrne



## 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

29 March 3.30pm 🦶
6km return sunset walk from Camel Farm to Hewett's Hill
19 April 9.00am 🦶🦶
14km return walk from Albany Hwy to Boonering Hill
3 May 9.30am 🦶
13km return from River Rd to the Murray River via Swamp Oak Campsite return (Dwellingup sth)

10 May 8.30am 🦶🦶🦶
19km return walk from Dale Road to Beraking Campsite. (Fit and experienced walkers only!)
24 May 9.00am 🦶🦶
12km return walk from Kinsella Rd to Canning Campsite
31 May 8.30am 🦶🦶🦶
20.4km return walk from Kalamunda to Hewett's Hill Campsite. (Fit and experienced walkers only!)

**Bookings for each walk will open one month prior to each walk.**

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

### Monadnocks

Finished work early, walked in and set up before sunset. Lovely to have the campsite to ourselves. We talked about our dreams and danced around the fire. My mum has just completed her end-to-end in sections of one week at a time and we are very proud of her. Go Jo Roworth! Beautiful time of year to be on the Track. Thank you to everyone who looks after these campsites.

Kate & Tael Harpes 11/10/2009

### Beavis

The hills were alive with the sound of panting, grunting, cursing and groaning but we thoroughly enjoyed the toil and stress between Boarding House and here. What a lovely campsite; thanks to all concerned.

Paul & Tris 10/11/2007

### Grimwade

This is my last shelter on my 11 day bushwalking trip that I went on to spice up my Australian holiday. The walk was definitely the best part of my three month holiday. The things I've seen and experienced in the bush...I can't find the words to describe them.

Wojtek from Poland 15/09/2000

### Giants

"Amazing trip. My first canoe ride, take me an hour to learn to control it under stormy wind is memorable. Kangaroos are everywhere some may lay on track enjoying their beers. And the spiders which can make a nest big enough to hunt kangaroos, are also impressive. Tingle tree are so huge which covered the sky, snake are hiding underground seeking chance to surprise you. Australia is really awesome. Wildlife is a gift."

Mak Wai Kei 21/02/14  
(Hong Kong)

"Met a French family of 5 – they were amazed at the wildlife, mainly the incessant March flies! I tried to teach them the "flick" method but they ran around like crazy, throwing their clothes and stuff at the biting little bastards! I remember encountering Marchies on the track some years ago and they emotionally broke me till I learnt how to deal with them. Even now I utter profanities especially when they get you on the Achilles or ankle bone or back of the knee..."

Phil Doh 26/02/14

"...walking the Denmark –Walpole leg with my 8-year-old wonder-woman daughter, having a great time and getting so much out of it. I highly recommend taking the kids on the track. Water has been a real eye-opener- how heavy it is, how easy to underestimate how much you need and how very much of it you consume while walking. Our favourite parts – early morning swim at Boat Harbour (water clear as crystal), counting kangaroos while plodding over the dune, and eating our curry over a Quarram sunset..."

Eliza and Zaydee 27/01/14

### Mount Dale

Craziest thing happened to me today, all day long I kept thinking that I could hear music that got progressively louder as the day went on. Then, as I reached Mt Dale shelter, I stumbled upon a great group of people dancing and blasting out psy-trance music. I had been able to hear from Waalegh, 20km away! They were very friendly, gave me hot food, tea and even a beer. Pretty much the most random thing that's ever happened to me.

Snarf (USA) 20/04/08

The Martin kids were sick of school  
Tired of chalk and talk  
So "Dad," they said. "today we'll wag  
And go out for a walk."

Well, Dad's eyes lit up  
And soon the car was packed  
"Let's hit the Bibb just near Mount Dale  
We'll do the hut, then back."

With chocolate, Coke and bags of chips  
Plus bread and margarine  
They strode on out to find Dale hut  
A hut they'd never seen.

Black clouds loomed with treachery  
The sky was fit to blow  
So all Martins scurried quick  
As fast as they could go.

They made the hut before the rain  
Where it was very dry  
They gathered wood and lit a fire  
And did it with one try

There they honed their bush skills,  
Picked some wild baked beans  
And made a yummy bush feast  
The best there's even been.

Soon the Martins will be back  
Next time with swag and pack  
They've vowed to "end-to-end" it  
The famous Bibbulmun Track!

H & D Martin 28/05/08

### Yourdamung

Some ladies whose lives were slack  
Decided to walk the Track  
Their backpacks were tight  
But their spirits were light  
And since then they've never looked back!

The Bibbulmun Beauties  
from Albany 02/06/07

# TRAILING AROUND THE WORLD

## WALKING THE WEST HIGHLAND WAY, SCOTLAND

Long time Foundation members and experienced walkers Charlie and Sue Soord spent part of their time in the UK in 2011 walking the West Highland Way, in the west of Scotland. Read Charlie's description of their trek:

When planning a trip to the UK my wife Sue and I thought it would be a good opportunity to complete a hike in Scotland. After some research on the internet, we came up with the West Highland Way (WHW). The WHW is a very popular walk of about 95 miles (154 km) in the Scottish Highlands, starting at Milngavie, just north of Glasgow, and finishing at Fort William. We were a bit apprehensive about undertaking this walk due to its popularity—some 40,000 walkers complete it every year—and had images of a track with day walkers, horse riders and tourists everywhere. We were pleasantly surprised to find that this was not the case.

Our estimate for the walk was eight days, with a day off about half way for a break to take in some of the Scottish countryside. We had our luggage transported ahead to our pre-booked accommodation, which meant we would be carrying only day packs, an added bonus.

Our adventure started with an hour-long train trip from Glasgow to Milngavie. We walked from Milngavie town centre, where the pictured monument indicates the start of the walk, to Drymen, a distance of about 19km. We did encounter a few walkers on this day, but this was expected as it was the official start of the walk and a popular day walking route. The walk was on a well designated pathway through farming areas and some quaint Scottish villages with which we both fell in love. The weather was mild and slightly overcast. We booked ourselves into an excellent B&B at the Clachan Inn.

On the second day the walking distance increased to 24km as we walked from Drymen to Rowardennan, with the route taking us away from civilisation and out into the countryside. We had a steady climb up to the top of Conic Hill (358 metres) which provided great views over Loch Lomond, and experienced the chill of the Scottish wind for the first time. The walking on this day was quite varied and interesting, especially alongside Loch Lomond through ancient oak woodlands. We ended up for the night at a great YHA located just outside Rowardennan.

The weather had to change sometime, after all this was Scotland. On the third morning we left Rowardennan in misty light rain, but luckily no strong wind. As we walked alongside the loch it was like a millpond. The walking was easy for a few kilometres and once again we walked next to an ancient oak forest. We reached Inversnaid for a morning tea of coffee and scones as the misty rain started to clear and once again we had great views over the loch. The track became quite rocky and covered in greasy tree roots, reminding us of our tramping experiences in New Zealand and Tasmania. Also another delight reminiscent of New Zealand were the midges that gave us the 'hurry up' every



Wigwam Accommodation

time we stopped. We came across a walkers' hut, or 'bothy' as the Scots call them, where walkers could stay overnight if they wished. After walking 22.5km we reached Inverarnan, where we experienced our first Wigwam accommodation (I likened it to staying in a hobbit's house!) (Ed note: Wigwams are a fairly recent innovation, built of wood and shaped rather like an upturned boat. They are found in many parts of the UK as shelters for walkers).



Walkers Hut (Bothy)



Finishing point at sore feet statue in Fort William



Highest point WHW

Day four was an easy day's walk, 19km to Tyndrum. We had a bit of a climb just after Carmyle Cottage, where the track joins an old military road built in the 18th Century. We also walked through the ruins of the 13th Century Saint Fillan's Chapel and graveyard, and passed through the countryside where the Battle of Dal Righ took place, when Robert the Bruce was defeated in 1306. We experienced some Melbourne weather with four seasons in one day (but thank goodness no midges). Stayed in a great hostel called "By The Way" run by outdoor enthusiasts.

Time to rest our tired legs. The thought of walking 28km the next day was a great excuse for a break. The Scottish weather finally caught up with us and it rained all day. We decided to catch the train to Oban, a fishing and ferry port. The hour-long train trip was very scenic. Once in Oban we caught a small ferry to the nearby island of Kerrera for a fantastic seafood lunch and yes, it rained all the way back to Tyndrum.

Day six got off to a great start when I realised it was going to be a 30 plus kilometre walk, not 28, to the Kings House Hotel! We had an early start about 7:15am and walked alongside Beinn Odhar (899m) and Beinn Dorain (1074m). The low clouds obscured their tops but they were still very impressive.

We walked towards Rannoch Moor on an old military road, which had cobble stones that were very painful on our feet. The moor itself was a very interesting place to walk across, no sheep or cattle to be seen anywhere. In fact there was nothing to be seen for miles. Thank goodness the weather was calm; I would not like to be caught out there in the heavy rain or strong winds.

We began to think that we had the moor to ourselves and we could not believe it when some marathon runners came flying past us! Unbeknown to us there

was an ultra-marathon planned for the day that had started in Milngavie early that morning. The winner apparently completed the 154km course in 16 hours.

We left Kings House Hotel early the next morning and headed for Kinlochleven, about 14km distant. The weather was overcast with no wind. Our next challenge was the Devil's Staircase, which we were looking forward to, as when we climbed it we would reach the highest point of the walk at 564 metres. Once we reached the top the 360 degree views were amazing, especially the fantastic sight of Buachaille Etive Mor. This mountain is one of the most impressive and photographed peaks in Scotland. We started a steep descent towards the village of Kinlochleven and passed an extensive hydroelectric power station. The views of the pretty village were spectacular.

The final day of this great walk left us with some 24km to go. We climbed steeply to leave Kinlochleven and walked along another old military road. Again, the views of the valley and Loch Leven were spectacular.



Rannoch Moor

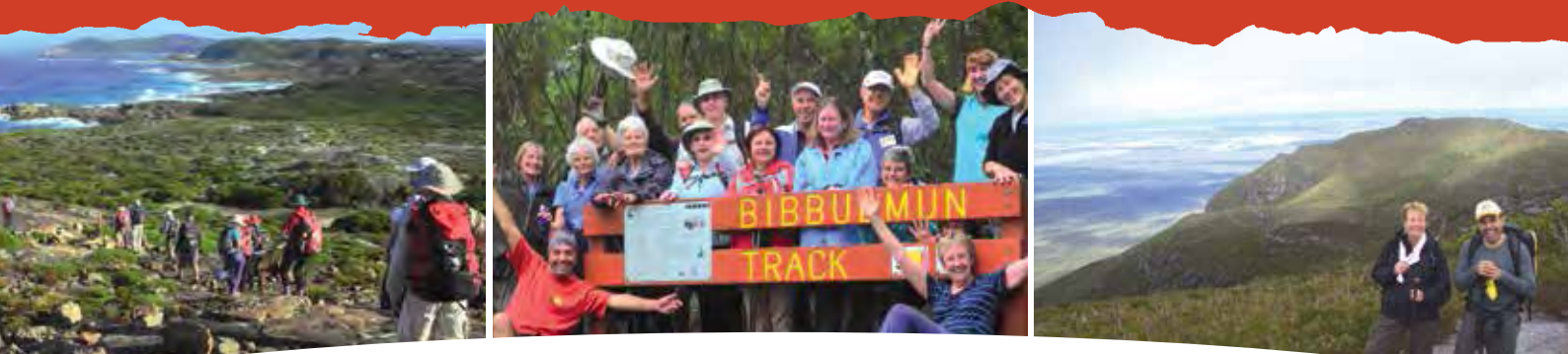


Starting Point of the walk

We walked across Lairig Moor, another exposed isolated area where for miles only the ruins of old buildings were to be seen, and then descended steeply into Glen Nevis, with great views of Ben Nevis (1342m). The weather was kind to us again and we could see walkers taking the winding tracks to the top of the largest mountain in the UK. From there we took a leisurely walk into Fort William for a well earned break and a great curry dinner.

Sue and I were very impressed with the West Highland Way, which surpassed all of our expectations. Scotland is an amazing country with incredible scenery, and the history of the places we walked through was fascinating. The track is well marked and on a worn pathway. We both would like to go back and complete some more walks in this unique area. The highlights were many, especially walking alongside the lochs, the remoteness and isolation of some parts of the walk and walking across the barren moors.

### Charlie and Sue Soord



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