

Bibbulmun NEWS

AUG'15 - DEC'15
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Newsletter for the friends of the Bibbulmun Track

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP TRAILS

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation is proud to announce the launch of Australia's first two International Friendship Trails. We have made friends with Canada's leading trail, the Bruce Trail Conservancy, and with the Jeju Olle Trail in South Korea.

The Friendship Trails project is an initiative of The World Trails Network. Friendship Trails are similar to twin towns, whereby trails in different countries team up in the name of partnership, mutual publicity and international cooperation.

It is hoped the concept of Friendship Trails will spread across the globe, promoting international understanding and the culture of walking, while boosting tourism and local economies.

The Friendship will also promote the sharing of information regarding the building and

maintenance of trails and the ongoing management of trail organisations.

The Foundation aims to identify nine international trails with common attributes to pair with each of the nine sections of the Bibbulmun Track. The Friendship Trails will be recognised in various ways including signage on the Track and a profile on the Bibbulmun Track website.

We will celebrate these friendships at special events in November and would like our members and volunteers to join us. (See the details on page 2.)

A celebration was held on the Jeju Olle Trail in January during the World Trails Conference. Kerstin Stender from Parks and Wildlife attended the conference and represented the Bibbulmun Track on our behalf.

You can discover more about the Jeju Olle trail in our Trailing around the World feature on page 30.



Suh Myung-sook from the Jeju Olle Foundation and Kerstin Stender representing the Bibbulmun Track at the Starting Point of Jeju Olle Trail Route 19.

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP TRAILS

FRIENDSHIP TRAIL EVENTS - PLEASE JOIN US!

Join us for the unveiling of our friendship signs and a short walk along part of the section of the Track that is paired with our new International Friendship Trails.

Bruce Trail - Canada

The Bruce Trail is Canada's oldest and longest marked footpath. The 890 kilometer long Bruce Trail is cared for by hundreds of dedicated volunteers, and spans incredibly varied and beautiful landscapes through Canada's most densely populated region, from rolling hills to spectacular vistas and rugged coastlines.

The Bruce Trail provides the only continuous public access to the magnificent Niagara Escarpment, a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve.

The Friendship Trail section of the Bibbulmun Track is Balingup to Donnelly River Village.

Event details:

A Friendship ceremony will be held at Karri Gully picnic area on Sunday 1st November at 9.30am. (19km east of Nannup, 27km west of Bridgetown on the northern side of the Brockman Highway.)

There will also be an optional walk along the Bibbulmun Track from Karri Gully to Gregory Brook campsite. (8km return)

Jeju Olle Trail - South Korea

The Jeju Olle walking trail is located on the beautiful island of Jeju, South Korea. Jeju Island is located 130 kilometres south of the Korean Peninsula. It is a large volcanic island, almost sub-tropical in climate, with beautiful scenery along the coast, through orange groves crisscrossed by distinctive stone walls and up to the peak of a dormant volcano.

The Jeju Olle is the most popular walking trail in Korea, providing over 200 kilometres of pathways. Plans are underway to extend the trail to encircle the entire island in the coming years.

The Friendship Trail section of the Bibbulmun Track is Denmark to Albany.

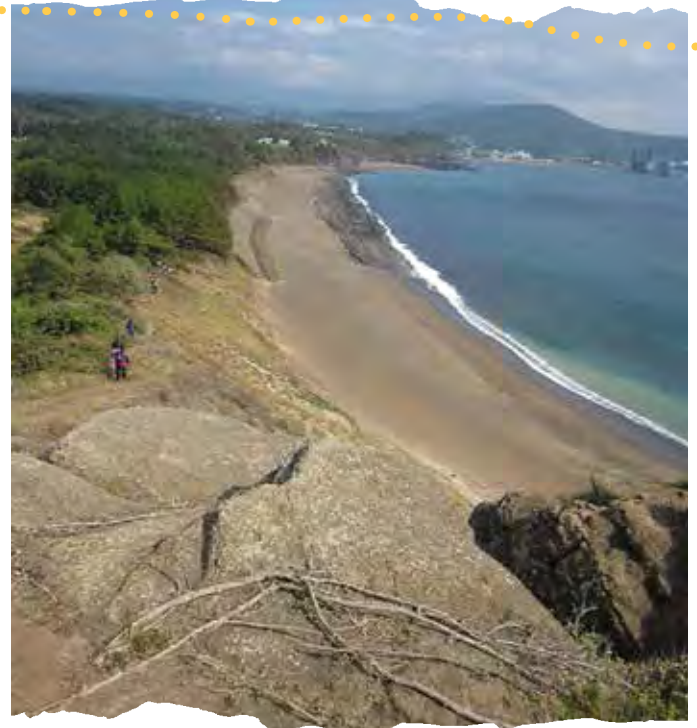
Event details:

The Friendship ceremony will be held at Shelley Beach Lookout, Shelley Beach Road on Sunday 29th November at 9.30am. (50 minute drive from Albany. From Lower Denmark Road follow Cosy Corner Road to waypoint, then turn left onto Shelley Beach Road. NB this is a gravel road.)

There will be an optional walk along the Track from Shelley Beach Lookout to Cosy Corner (7km one-way). If you do not wish to do a return walk please advise and we will arrange transport back to sp. Shelly Beach).



Hiker on the Bruce Trail



Jeju Olle Trail

RSVP

Please RSVP advising which event(s) you can attend and if you require transport back to Shelley Beach carpark for the Jeju Olle event.

Email events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au or call 9481 0551.



FROM MY Desk

Welcome to the spring edition of Bibbulmun News.

As you will read on page 7, plans for rebuilding much of the infrastructure lost in the February bushfires are well underway. Very little on-the-ground work can be done until the land is dry to prevent the spread of dieback, so when summer comes it will be all systems go.

Whilst the current diversions mean that a continuous end-to-end is now possible, we would still recommend putting it off for a year until the new campsites and bridges are in place so you can walk along the Track rather than roads. The diversion over the Murray River in particular is still dependent on a low water level and, when impassable, you will not be able to complete an end-to-end.

Of course, sectional end-to-enders are still registering their walks and we're very pleased to acknowledge another 28 individuals who have completed their journey. See pages 12 and 13.

End-to-enders are of course just one segment of those walking the Track and our user survey has finally closed after 18 months. By the time the next magazine comes out we hope to have the final report and it will be interesting to see if there are any major differences between this one and the survey completed in 2008.

Anecdotally, we are sure that more walkers are coming from interstate and overseas – this is certainly reflected in the campsites registers. We're very excited to be forming connections with other trails around the world and hope that the cross promotion will not only encourage visitors to the Bibbulmun Track but also inspire our members to visit trails they might not have thought about previously.

We're looking forward to recognising these new friendships later in the year and hope you'll join us at the events outlined on the opposite page.

Finally, in case you're not aware, the proposal for a two-year hunting trial has been rejected by the WA government for safety and cost reasons. Whilst this won't stop those already hunting and driving in areas they shouldn't, at least it won't encourage more of the same behavior.

If you do spot any vehicles in disease risk areas, on the Track, at campsites or anywhere else they shouldn't be, please take note of the date and time, location, vehicle make, colour and number plate or better still take a photo of the vehicle with the number plate and send it to us within a few days of the sighting so it can be actioned upon.

In the meantime – enjoy the upcoming wildflower season and have fun out there!

Linda Daniels
Executive Director

Join us on



A WALK IN THE WOODS

The Foundation is very excited to be hosting a screening of *A Walk in the Woods* on Wednesday 2 September at Grand Cinemas Warwick

We will have over 100 FREE tickets to give to our members thanks to Entertainment One Films and Grand Cinemas...keep an eye out for details.

Based on Bill Bryson's best-selling book, *A Walk in the Woods* is a heartwarming comedy starring Robert Redford and Nick Nolte as two old friends who embark on an epic journey into the American wilderness when they decide to hike the Appalachian Trail. The movie opens in cinemas everywhere on September 3.



NOTICE TO MEMBERS 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2015 Foundation AGM will be held - • on Thursday 22 October 2015, 5.00pm;
• at Level 1, Mountain Designs Building, 862 Hay Street, Perth.

Agenda

1. Apologies.
2. Acceptance of 2014 AGM minutes.
3. Chairman's annual report.
4. Executive Director's annual report.
5. Treasurer's annual report.
6. General business including -
 - Appointment of auditor.

Members proposing to attend are asked to notify Lindsay by telephone on 9481 0551 or by email to friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au.

Elections

Under rules 31 and 32, members are notified as follows –

- Three positions are declared open for re-election.
- Members are invited to nominate for election. A member's nomination must be in writing, signed by the member and be received by the Foundation before the close of nominations at 4.00pm Friday 2 October 2015.
- Should a poll be needed to elect a Board member it will be conducted during the AGM.

- The term of office of each person elected to fill those vacancies will be two years from, and including, the date on which he or she is elected.
- The elections will be held because –
- The terms of Simon Holthouse, Bruce Manning and Mike Wood will expire. All members are seeking re-election.

Linda Daniels
Executive Director, Bibbulmun Track Foundation

YOUR LETTERS



Hi Steve

Just wanted to write and thank you for an awesome week. I had so much fun and learnt a lot – truly exceeded all my expectations. I'm so glad that I didn't pull out when the logistics were getting tricky – largely due to your ongoing support and encouragement, excellent organisation and informative emails. You made it all possible!

I will never forget my time on the Bibbulmun Track and the friends I made there. I would love to do the whole thing one day and thanks to your fabulous tours I'm even starting to believe I could do it!

Hope our paths cross again one day but if not I have this photo to remind me of your boundless energy, enthusiasm and great sense of fun.

Warm regards,

Karen Smith, Sydney, NSW

Ed- Karen joined us on the Great Southern Expedition, April 2015 – see photo on the right.



Dear Gwen

Recently my friends, Frances and Peter, went for a weekend stay at Holberry House in Nannup. "We want to go and see your toilet" said Frances.

I suggested they park at the Bibbulmun sign on the Brockman Highway on the way to Bridgetown then walk left to Gregory Brook campsite. Enclosed is a picture of Frances sitting on "my" toilet. What a great way to be remembered. Anyone can have a tree or a park bench. Thank you whoever thought of Dunny Donors!!

They so enjoyed the walk on the Bibb they are keen to do some more short walks. I have suggested One Tree Bridge to Green's Island, Channybearup Road to Beedelup Falls and Balingup through the Golden Tree Park. Anyone have other favourites in that area? They want to stay in Nannup?

Very best wishes to all in the office,

Angela Loucaides

P.S. Other friends are also going to make the pilgrimage to sit on the throne!

P.P.S. How do you feel about an occasional article in the Bibb News – "Favourite short walks on the Track"?

Ed – we love the idea for the article and have profiled one of the above suggestions on page 19

Dear Ms Daniels

Recently, May 4th to the 12th I had the pleasure in participating in the walk with Steve and Charmaine.

It was without doubt the best guided walk I have been on. The walk and the country were great but these two guides really made the walk. They are just the best!

Thanking for the opportunity to participate.

Yours sincerely

David Lewis

Ed – Thank you for the feedback – we think our guides are great too :)



Hi

I would just like to say a big thank you to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation for the unexpected prize of a Deluxe Packcover that I received as part of the March membership renewal prize draw.

Thank you also to Sea to Summit for donating the prize, which will certainly come in handy

Regards

Martin Jackson

Kids **ON THE** Track



The Foundation is dedicated to encouraging youngsters to discover the delights of the outdoors. In an age where kids bury their noses in plastic rectangles, text rather than talk, believe all food comes from factories and idolise animation, we feel a responsibility to offer them the opportunity to visit the real world.

We organise events where parents can take their kids on camping weekends, offer cooking lessons for kids, the opportunity to get close up with bush animals and a trek for teenagers. (See our Calendar of Events online for details.) So once in a while it becomes a delight to feel that it's working!

Firstly we received this message from Dave Williams:

Walkers may have noticed the Grandpa/Grandson signing in some of the northern registers over the last two summers. The grandpa is David Williams, a double End-to-Ender, and the grandson is Joshua, who started walking the Track when he was 13. They have now completed a quarter of the Bibbulmun Track together. This includes the Kalamunda to Dwellingup section, and the beautiful coastline around Denmark.

David sent us pictures of Bibbulmun Track cakes celebrating Joshua's 15th birthday.



Kids on a Walk with Mum event.

Shortly after we received a note and a photograph from Paul McGovern:

Hi, I'm a new member and I love reading your magazine. I wondered if you'd like to use this image of my son Charlie McGovern who is also a new member. His first venture on to the Track was in 2005 at about six weeks old. He now lives in France and had just flown in from Paris the week I took him on a hike from Sullivan Rock north towards Monadnocks. He loved it every bit as much as me! He was only 8 when this was taken in Aug 2014 and it was a bit of a tester for more to come. We have since done some day walks on the Cape to Cape of around seven kilometres all without tears!

We are planning a Track two-nighter when he arrives back this July, rain, hail or shine!

He'd be rapt to make an appearance in your magazine.

Best Regards,

Paul McGovern



Charlie showing good Track etiquette in repairing a cairn marker

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

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

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

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

Prescribed Burning Operations

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

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

Groups on the Track

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

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.

Parks and Wildlife Contacts:

Recreation and Trails Unit

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

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

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

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

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

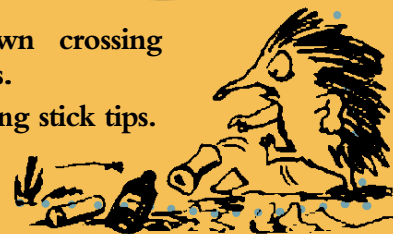
Albany District (Denmark and Albany)

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

LEAVE NO TRACE

Leave what you find - Avoid the spread of Dieback (soil-borne virus which kills native plants).

- Observe vehicle access restrictions – although many roads are shown crossing the Track, only those marked with the car symbol can be used as access points.
- Use the purpose built boot cleaning stations to clean mud off boots and walking stick tips.
- Spray boots with a solution of 70% meths.





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



Department of
Parks and Wildlife



DPaW Recreation AND TRAILS UNIT

It has been some months since the fires and we have been working hard on re-opening the Bibbulmun Track as soon as possible, assessing the damage and preparing towards rebuilding lost infrastructure. It would be fair to say that I haven't done much else apart from fire recovery. A positive aspect of the fires was getting out of the office during the assessment and becoming more familiar with the Track. It was also a fantastic opportunity to work with the volunteers to re-mark burned sections of the Track and do some hands-on training. The re-marking of the burnt sections south of Northcliffe was undertaken with the assistance of Bibbulmun Track Foundation volunteers during a multi-day trip, allowing the Track to be opened on its original alignment on the 8 May. On the 19 June the Track was re-opened in its entirety, making end-to-end walks possible again for the first time since the fires started in late February 2015.



Kerstin (in blue jacket) teaching the support volunteers new drainage techniques.

The loss of the large bridges across the Murray River (Long Gully Bridge) and the Shannon River (Dog Pool Bridge) has meant major disruptions to the Track. Diversions remain in place to ensure continuity of the Track. Once the Shannon River rose beyond safe crossing levels at the original Dog Pool Bridge location, a diversion was implemented, including a temporary campsite set up consisting of tent spaces and a water tank. A new bridge location has been confirmed just upstream from the old bridge site, fully surveyed with a new bridge designed and certified. The steel bridge components are being pre-fabricated just now, ready to be installed as soon as the river levels drop in late spring.

With limited winter crossing points at the Murray River the diversion for that location will utilise the Driver Road vehicle bridge until it floods due to the winter rains. At that point the Track will be closed until the water levels drop, as there are no other reasonable diversion options. Investigations continue in order to seek the best options for a future crossing and bridge design.

The Dookanelly campsite remains open and as the Possum Springs shelter was destroyed

in the fire That campsite has been equipped with a temporary toilet and water tank. A temporary set up is also in place at the Gardner campsite. The bridges either side of Gardner only sustained minor damage, requiring repairs, but were assessed as safe for use in the interim.

The other two campsites destroyed in the fires earlier this year were Brookton and Possum Springs. These are to be replaced with more fire resistant rammed earth, instead of the timber structure, in the same design as the Nornalup shelters. Building design, plus site plans, have been completed and are with the engineer for certifications. Construction of Brookton and Possum Springs shelters will commence in spring 2015.

The new Maintenance Support Volunteer Program, which was developed in partnership with the Bibbulmun Track Foundation, will offer a much wider range of tasks and projects for volunteers to engage in. The new Support Volunteers had already undertaken some introductory and additional trail design theory training, which was recently followed up with a hands-on session in the field. With the addition of the Foundation's own accredited chainsaw training the new Support Volunteers are now

ready to undertake tasks such as clearing trees after storms, re-marking large sections, repairing and installing drainage and assisting the sectional volunteers with pruning using brush cutters. For the first time Bibbulmun Track Support Volunteers can use mechanised tools such as chainsaws and brush cutters. This Program represents a new approach to Track maintenance with increased community engagement and ownership. No doubt you will notice some of the new Support Volunteer's work when out on the Track in the coming months.

By the time you read this article I will actually be on leave hiking in Europe, including the Mont Blanc Trail (between Switzerland, Italy and France) and the Kings Trail (in the very north of Sweden). During my absence Dave Linder will be stepping up and acting in the Trails Coordinator's position.

Enjoy the cooler weather and stay safe in the winter storms.

Kerstin Stender

Trails Coordinator

Walker Story

WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS

In 1915, Elbert Green Hubbard, an American writer, publisher, artist and philosopher coined the phrase “When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.” There have been many other versions of this saying over the years since then.

Sun-Mi Clyburn, also an American writer and artist, based in WA, has her own version - “When life gives you lemons, sometimes you just need to go for a walk”. And go for a walk she did. A very long walk. In her memoir she describes the pleasures of walking the Bibbulmun Track and its benefits for peace of mind.

I looked up at the stars through the thick canopy of the karri trees, took another sip of green tea from my aluminum mug and moved closer to the fire, the only source of light and warmth for tens of kilometers. My fiancée Kirk and I had made it to camp earlier than usual; normally we wouldn't get to relax and enjoy the surroundings for long before it grew dark. The sounds of scurrying wildlife and water flowing through the creek were the only things interrupting an otherwise absolutely silent night. This was serenity. I was sad, but somewhat relieved that this was my last night on the Bibbulmun Track. 160km over eleven days worth of walking was quite an achievement for me and somewhat surprising, considering I had been in crutches, because of a knee injury, just four weeks before we started. I had done some serious prepping for this; besides doing the research on the Track itself and getting all the necessary equipment I'd been training nearly every day. I also did a first aid course and put together probably the most comprehensive first aid kit a person could carry.

We thought of a number of places to start walking from, and eventually settled on Albany. I loved the southern stretch. It was difficult, because we walked through sand a lot of the time and with

the foliage being mostly coastal shrubbery we were completely exposed and vulnerable to rain and sun, but we hugged the coast the whole time. I love the ocean, the sound of the waves, the smell of the salty air and the way the sand and water tickle my toes when I walk barefoot along the shore. Still, walking an average of 13km a day with a 20kg back pack was gruelling at times.

Some hikers drive to their starting points and use TransWA services to return to their vehicles. We opted for public transport there and back. We took a bus down to Albany on Good Friday and spent the night at the YHA, a pleasant little hostel, with comfy rooms, a rustic outdoor area and wall paintings that made the place feel homely and inviting. After a good night's sleep we went down to Cosi's cafe for an excellent breakfast of eggs Benedict and coffee. This was the last brekkie we were going to have for a while that wasn't oats, so we enjoyed it.

The start of the Bibbulmun Track took us through town, so we didn't get very excited about it initially. We stopped at Frenchy's cafe on Frenchman Bay Rd for iced mochas and the best strawberry cheesecake I think I've ever had, then about three kilometres down the road we made a sharp turn right into the bush. This was it! Uphill it went. It

was a clear day and the sun had a definite sting to it. We got into camp four hours later, exhausted, made some tea and went to the look-out to watch the sun set over the ocean and the wind farm. We sat there looking at how far we'd have to walk over the next few days. It was stunning and peaceful.

We heard from people in camp that day two would be the most challenging, as the body is in a mild state of shock. We woke up sore after a terrible night's sleep, almost dreading the moment when we'd have to put our back-packs on again and walk to the next camp. We walked by the wind turbines and sand dunes in the rain.

Day three was my favourite; we walked a seven kilometre stretch of beach and crossed the sand bar below the Torbay inlet. It was good to take my shoes off and walk in the water. It was a much needed sunny, soothing and relaxing day. We got to Cosy Corner and climbed up a set of 170 stairs back into the bush. By days four and five we felt strong and determined. We climbed higher and higher and admired the stunning views over Shelly Beach and West Cape Howe. In the distance we could still see the wind turbines, but now they were tiny dots on the horizon. We started to feel how far we had come; we felt track fit and starting to have fun.



That wasn't the end of our adventure: next we walked through the marri and karri forests. The scenery of this area was so different from the southern section of Albany to Denmark. All the trees in the Golden Valley Tree Park had turned to a colourful pallet of reds, oranges and yellows. We walked through pine forest, the majestic karri trees provided shade and shelter from the rain, the air was more humid and, most importantly—there was no sand! Through the thick forest you couldn't see miles ahead of you, which oddly enough made the walking easier. It's probably a psychological thing; down south we could see more than a day's walk ahead of us, but in the forest you can see only five to ten metres ahead!

By then we were averaging almost twice the daily distance compared to when we first set out. We got to Donnelly River Village and took a longer break. The holiday village was remote and tranquil, with no mobile coverage or transport, so the only way to get in touch with the outside world was with a pay phone. The reception and general store closed at five o'clock but thankfully we got there in time to get two beds in the room reserved for Bibbulmun Track walkers. We had dinner, much needed hot showers and fell asleep in warm comfy beds. After spending two days relaxing, playing table tennis, watching family movies and interacting with the friendly wildlife we continued on to One Tree Bridge, where family picked us up.

After that we spent the weekend in Pemberton exploring the culinary and natural attractions the area had to offer. We went to the Pemberton bakery for delicious homemade pies and sausage rolls, sampled the wines of Mountford Winery, and bought a few bottles of their excellent Tangletoe organic cider and cider liqueur (it baffles me that their products aren't available in Perth!) and had dinner at the magical Karri Valley Resort. We also visited the surrounding national parks and took the car down the scenic Karri Forest Explorer Drive.

On our last day down south we stopped at the Lavender and Berry farm for their legendary blueberry pancakes topped with vanilla ice-cream and homemade berry preserves. We sat out in the alfresco that looked out over the lavender bushes and a peaceful pond. It was a nice end to the trip. On the drive back to Perth I got a bit nostalgic. Looking back, it's amazing when you realize how many things in everyday life we take for granted; things as simple as clean fingernails, water, soap, toilets and toilet paper, dry feet, two-minute noodles, electric light, shelter and technology. Even though I am a self-proclaimed city slicker, I've come to understand why people are drawn to bush walking and keep going back to walk more. In a world of instant everything, hard work and need for money, it's a relief to be able to switch off and let things just be, get up at sunrise, sleep when it's dark, let your mind wander and flow without unnecessary interruptions. Here you have only one agenda for the day-walking. If you do that every day, every day is a success. It's addictive.



In addition, the interactions you have with other hikers give you hope for humanity. You meet some of the nicest, most generous people along the Track. There is an instant sense of companionship and readiness to share space and resources. The smallest things end up being of vital importance when you're out in the middle of nowhere, so you want to help each other out. A number of fellow campers topped up the fuel for our stove, others gave us a stack of large bandaids for Kirk's blisters when we had run out, and I gave one lady a spoon, because she had lost hers. One night a gentleman pulled out a bottle of red wine, a bag of marshmallows and some chocolate and insisted we help ourselves. The nicest surprise, however, was when one lady pulled out a ukulele and played for us.

No wonder National Geographic considers the Bibbulmun Track one of the top 20 best tracks in the world. It has some of the most diverse scenery and even though the terrain can be challenging, even gruelling at times, it's accessible for all age categories and fitness levels. Surprisingly, most of the people we met on the track were in retirement age, but we also met hikers in their 20s and 30s, teenagers, even parents with children. It isn't all easy, it isn't always fun, but I promise you it is all well worth it.

Sun-Mi Clyburn



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Eyes ON THE

During my trip to NZ earlier in the year I enjoyed walking on a number of trails; on the South Island the Queen Charlotte, Kepler and Routeburn Tracks as well as a number of smaller trails around Wanaka and on the North Island the Coastal Walkway in the north of the Coromandel, Matiu Somes Island in Wellington Harbour and Rotoroa Island off the coast of Auckland. We met with the Department of Conservation (DOC) workers who maintain these trails and found that while some issues are the same as those on the Bibbulmun Track, others are completely different. We don't have to dig drains along the side of the trail such as we saw on the Kepler Track, safeguard our lunch from inquisitive wekas (Wanaka and Queen Charlotte) or deal with the ravages of torrential rain on steep hills on all the trails. (Ed: wekas are large flightless birds).

ALBANY / FRANKLAND FIELD DAY

The huts on the Kepler and Routeburn as well as the other well known trails in NZ are amazing, with stainless steel hikers' kitchens, flushing toilets and multi-levels—very different from our timber shelters and thus requiring a high level of maintenance, a booking system and a fee for usage. The Queen Charlotte DOC staff were busy checking signage as well as working on the replacement of some small wooden crossings where small streams flow across the Track before emptying into the Sound. These areas can be very boggy and present the same problems as we have.



Gwen, Charmaine and Bruce discussing the old steps showing 17 years of wear



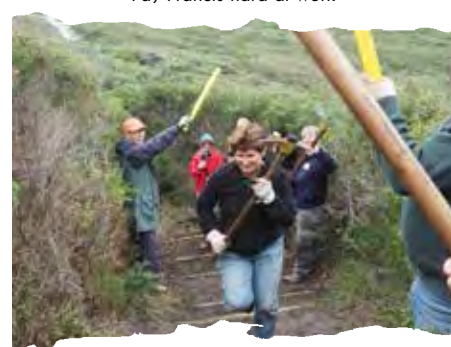
Beth Sawers, Bill Hollingworth and Fay Francis hard at work



Great teamwork



Newly completed steps



Carey's run of honour up the new steps

BLACKWOOD FIELD DAY



Marker post on the newly realigned section north of Blackwood Campsite



New Southampton Bridge



Working around Blackwood Campsite by Guy Spouge

Ground

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



FIELD DAYS

Field Days so far this year have been held in Wellington, Blackwood and Albany Districts. In Wellington District we re-marked a section of the Track around Possum Springs campsite which had been burnt in the fires earlier this year. This section has now been re-opened although walkers will have to carry a tent as the shelter has not yet been rebuilt.

In Balingup we checked out the new Southampton Bridge which has just opened after the fires two years ago. We then checked the newly realigned Track both north and south of Blackwood campsite and cleaned up around the campsite which is now officially open. The entire pine plantation had to be felled after the fires so this campsite looks completely different now.

Albany and Frankland District volunteers joined forces to rebuild a set of 30 steps near the windfarm. With a group of 20 volunteers the job was completed in less than two hours so this very enthusiastic group decided to move to a nearby location to complete another 10 steps before ending the day with lunch back at the windfarm car park.

SUPPORT VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Most of our support volunteers have completed their First Aid training and many have now completed chainsaw and advanced maintenance training. Support volunteers have a different role from that of the current maintenance volunteers. As well as providing support when required, they

will be able to assist on Field Days, help clear up after storm damage and help install diversion signage.

The advanced maintenance training day was held around Gringer Creek campsite with 12 volunteers learning to install drainage nicks, drive in sign posts, rationalise signage and maintain the campsites and shelters. Kerstin from Recreation and Trails supervised the training including the new drainage technique which should prove more efficient and longer lasting. Kirstin also distributed a new manual and took us through the Job Safety Analysis (JSA) process to ensure we get through all our tasks without incident and make it home safely.

Chainsaw training was conducted by Board member and maintenance volunteer, Mark McLauchlin, at the Perth Hills Parks and Wildlife Office. After the morning's theory session, the volunteers spent the afternoon learning the practical aspects of using a chainsaw.

Thanks to all of our maintenance volunteers who give up much of their time to look after their sections or be part of the Support Team.

Gwen Plunkett and Charmaine Harris

Volunteer Coordinators

CHAINSAW TRAINING DAY



VOLUNTEER SUPPORT TEAM SPONSORS

Many thanks to Alcoa for coming on board to sponsor the team for an initial period of three years, to BHP Billiton Worsley Alumina for purchasing the equipment needed and to the Stihl Shop in Osborne Park for giving us a generous discount on the chainsaws, brush cutters and associated safety gear.



Yes, THEY DID IT!

The Track closures caused by the devastating bushfires have had a big toll on the number of walkers being able to complete, and thus register, an end-to-end over the past few months. Those who were planning a through-walk have had to wait for the reopening of various sections before they've been able to embark on their adventure. Hence, we have a reduced number of registrations to report, but we look forward to a torrent of them in the next issue!

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!

Robert Langer (33), from Germany, was *Milkmonster* on his solo end-to-end (N-S, 26.10.14 to 28.11.14). He thought the walk was relatively easy and is appreciative of the work involved in maintaining the Track. He loved being able to resupply so readily in the towns along the way and advises spending some time in them. The Peaceful Bay area was a favourite section and his stay at Schafer Campsite was a highlight. Robert will always remember his first sight of the ocean- it was amazing! Snakes, wallabies, echidnas and lots of birds and mozzies were seen. Best equipment included his net-tent and sun umbrella.

Charles Pearn (68) hails from the Canadian Rocky Mountains and found everything on his walk (Sectional, 18.10.12 to 15.04.15) was totally different and fascinating. He thinks the Bibbulmun is a wonderful track that provided him a wonderful lifetime experience. He says he'd use food drops next time as he didn't always get his food right, and lost a lot of weight. His favourite sections were around the Balingup area but he says just about everything was a highlight- especially the birdsong. He enjoyed meeting many

interesting people who were hiking for all sorts of reasons. As a long-distance walk, Charles says this is one of the best. His Jetboil was his best equipment.

Judith Webster (75), from the ACT, was the *Persevering Plodder* on her walking adventure (Sectional, 03.09.10 to 28.04.15). She is appreciative of the good campsites and the support provided by guidebooks, maps and trail markers. Some sections were solo; companions joined her on others. Judith double-hutted in the earlier northern sections to keep pack weight down as resupplying is more difficult there. She particularly enjoyed the karri and tingle forests, the Pingerup

rewarding thing they have done as a couple. They've hiked extensively overseas but still love coming back to their beloved Track because it is so unique and diverse. Their favourite section was from Northcliffe to Walpole - they loved it so much that they've become maintenance volunteers on the Mt Clare section near Walpole! Beautiful coastal panoramas were also enjoyed. Their One Planet packs, along with walking poles and boots, were their best equipment. They advise contacting the Foundation office if unsure about anything as the staff and volunteers have a wealth of information and experience to share.

Cale Aiden Ritchie, of Albany, registered his end-to-end (N-S, 24.10.12 to 24.11.12), but provided no other details of his walk.

Jaime Manson (55), of Bindoon, signed in as *J Manson* on his walks (Sectional, Sept 03 to June 15). He says it was much easier to provide his own food rather than resupply in the towns. DRV to Pemberton was a favourite section, as well as from Walpole to Denmark, which he enjoyed walking with family members. Jaime found the whole experience to be very relaxing and destressing. He didn't see as much wildlife as he expected but was amused by some mad red-tailed black cockies throwing honkey nuts at them! Best equipment were his walking poles and worst was his tent that he always carried, but never used! He advises others to relax and enjoy the walk, and to avoid the towns during public holidays.

Ron Casey (58), of Port Denison, (Sectional, 15.08.05 to 31.10.14) just loves getting out in the bush and walking. His favourite section on his walk was around Beedelup, and his walking poles were his best equipment. Worst was his gas stove which he finally binned, before buying a Jetboil. He urges others to "just do it!"

.....
"Sometimes you wonder why you're doing this when every muscle is screaming after all the up down, up down and the last kilometre into the campsite seems to go on forever. Then there's the feeling of euphoria when at last you reach the shelter and the overwhelming joy of achievement which makes it all worthwhile".

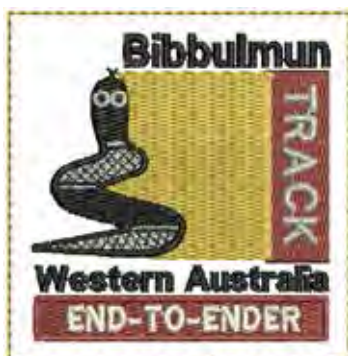
Joan Clark and Jennifer Wharton, Bindoon
.....

Plains and the coastal scenery, with the spring wildflowers and her personal sense of achievement being highlights. Despite the physical discomforts and the challenges that confronted her, the whole experience was a very rewarding one. She found the solitude was soothing whilst sharing the shelters was stimulating and bonding. Splendid wrens were wonderful, and the frogs at Beavis were annoying, but amusing. Very few snakes were seen. A lightweight pack and trekking poles were her best equipment.

Sue (50) and **Charlie** (54) **Soord**, of Forrestfield, were the *Florryfliers* on their end-to-end (Sectional, May 1998 to Sept 2010). They say that hiking on the Bibbulmun Track has been the most

Do you have your End-to-Ender BADGE?

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



Our CONGRATULATIONS to the following
28 walkers on completing an end-to-end!
2 from overseas, 1 from interstate and
28 from WA.



Natalie Spencer (38), from Baldivis, is amazed at her own persistence and perseverance to complete a self-imposed end-to-end goal (Sectional, 04.03.06 to 19.11.14). After a shaky start, she walked her way into fitness with a rest day in each town, and no double-hutting. She found the different pace of life was refreshing and simplified, even though every day was still a challenge. Natalie thrived on a good variety of dehydrated meals with supply top-ups in each town. Walpole to Peaceful Bay was her favourite section, followed closely by the section from Tom Rd to Boarding House. Highlights included the spectacular coastal scenery, karri and tingle forests, the welcome sight of campsites and especially the bird life. She loved the fairy wrens! She saw 47 snakes, some of which were far too close for her liking, as well as roos, emus, lizards and a quokka. All Natalie's equipment worked well and she particularly liked her Inreach SE safety communication device. Most annoying equipment were the touchy zips on her raincoat and sleeping bag. She urges others to get out there, do it and take your time.

.....
"...the pace of life was refreshing and simplified, even though every day was still a challenge."

Natalie Spencer, Baldivis

Brent McIntyre (25), of St James, was known as *Supertramp* on his solo journey (N-S, 13.10.14 to 30.11.14) which was the first long walk he'd ever done. He says he carried far more food than he needed as he was determined not to run out of it! But he still managed to run out of chocolate a few times! It was hard to pick a favourite section as he loved all the karri forests. Special memories include his arrival at Mandalay Beach, canoeing the Irwin Inlet and his parents joining him at Dookanelly and Frankland River Campsites. Brent found it was a great experience to walk alone and he had several days along the way with no human contact at all. A huge variety of wildlife was seen including crabs, frogs and possums. His boots were best equipment, but he traded in a heavy gas stove early in the trip. He advises others to just do it.

This year saw another large group of boarders from Scotch College complete their end-to-end over a 5yr period (Sectional, 27.03.11 to 28.02.15). They are **Sam Humphry** (17) of Moora, **Phillip Mackie** (17) of Mt Barker, **Charles Foz Forrester** (17) of Mogumber, **Piers Warby Egerton-Warburton** (17) of Mt Barker, **Angus Hunt Hunt** (17) of Lake Grace, **James Fox-Slater** (17) of Stratham, **Alistair Dolts Dolton** (17) of Dandaragan, **Harry Ayers Ayers** (17) of Darkan, **Daniel Golly Gollan** (17) of Beverley, **Samuel Marto Martin** (17) of Bindoon, **Riley Noble** (17) of Kulin, **John Wilson** (17) of Kulin, **Harrison Plugga Pluschke** (17) of Northampton, **Matt Dare** (16) of Dumbleyung and **Austin Gearbox Gear** (17) of Swanbourne. Many of them described it as the best experience of their lives so far. Angus loved the freedom and the experience; Charles, Harry and Harrison enjoyed fun with their mates; for Piers and Austin it created memories to last a lifetime; and John said each year's walk got better as they got older. Comments about food varied from "not enough snacks" (Sam), and "weighed too much" (Philip), to "so hungry it didn't matter what I ate" (Alistair). The section from Walpole to Peaceful Bay was a favourite for James, John and Samuel, whereas Phillip, Daniel and Matt preferred the whole south coast section. A swim near Murray campsite was a great memory for Riley, and nearly everyone agreed that a special highlight was reaching the ocean and swimming at the beaches. Other great memories included the views from the mountain tops, the campsites and Charlie catching a pig! While some were tired, sore and cold at times, Daniel was excited to finish, Austin enjoyed building both endurance and fitness, and Sam was surprised that he finished. Sleeping mats, pillows, stoves and even strapping tape were among best equipment. Hootchies rated a mention as least favourite equipment for several. Their advice for others includes packing lightly, walking with friends and never giving up.

Tom McAlister (71), of Sorrento, was just *Tom* on his walk (Sectional, 15.09.13 to 03.03.15). He was very impressed with the Track and shelters and understands its tourism potential as he met visitors from all over the world who'd come just to walk the Track.

He provided his own food for the walk but says the pubs in the Track towns are just brilliant! Tom loved meeting other people along the way and shared a memorable meal at Peaceful Bay with one of our volunteers. He was saddened at the effect that feral cats are having on wildlife and would like to see more eradication of them. Tom has done a lot of walking world-wide and maintains that "the Bibbulmun Track is the best wilderness walk in the world"- and especially if you walk in the wildflower season. He advises not to compromise on the quality of your equipment.

Joan Clark (62) and **Jennifer Wharton** (70), both of Bindoon, signed in as *Joan and Jenny* on their walks (Sectional, June 2004 to 29.03.15). By doing it in sections they had extra time to really enjoy the local fauna and flora. The types of food they carried became lighter over time, but there was always room for bananas, apples and homemade fruit cake- not forgetting the bladder of wine and nibbles for their evening sundowners! Frankland River Campsite was a favourite spot after they arrived there in darkness and discovered the river on their doorstep in the morning. Other highlights included getting lost on Abyssinia Rock and throwing themselves into the freezing water at Mandalay Beach. They enjoyed being able to escape their normal day-to-day routine and rejuvenating bodies and minds. "Sometimes you wonder why you're doing this when every muscle is screaming after all the up down, up down and the last kilometre into the campsite seems to go on forever. Then there's the feeling of euphoria when at last you reach the shelter and the overwhelming joy of achievement which makes it all worthwhile". They didn't see as much wildlife as expected, but birds were plentiful around the Peaceful Bay area. Snakes and lizards ran away from them - thank goodness! Walking poles, Fixomull and Tiger Balm were among best equipment and worst were early ill-fitting backpacks. They advise taking special note of your walking direction when you stop for a rest on Track!

Compiled by Charmaine Harris
BTF Volunteer and End-to-Ender

New Flora & Fauna

FACT SHEETS FOR CAMPSITES

There are thousands of native flora and fauna species that occur in the southwest of Western Australia. This region, known as the Southwest Botanical Province, is one of the world's 34 terrestrial hotspots for conservation priority.

We are very pleased to have completed a project that provides fact sheets identifying some of the most common native flora and fauna likely to be seen along the Bibbulmun Track.

In general terms the Track's environmental habitat and species diversity can be divided into three eco-regions:

Darling Range Jarrah/Marri Forest Region

Karri Forests Region

South Coastal, Forest Hinterland and Wetlands Region

Kalamunda - Balingup

Balingup - Northcliffe

Northcliffe - Albany



Over the coming weeks a laminated copy of the applicable fact sheet will be placed in each campsite register box for walkers to read during their stay.

We are very grateful to volunteers Cliff and Sharron Burns (aka the Bibbulbums) for researching and collating the content. They have done an outstanding job including having taken most of the photographs.

We hope you enjoy reading these when you're next at a campsite- and please leave them there for the next walker to appreciate!



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Sleeping Mats



Award winning design

Getting into Gear - SEA TO SUMMIT SLEEPING MATS

BY MIKE WOOD - CHAIRMAN BTF

Last year I was in the Sea to Summit offices and warehouse in East Perth organising some repairs and catching up with old friends and I mentioned that I was off to Nepal the following April, trekking in the Annapurnas.

“Well, you must try out our new sleeping mats” Penny said.

Now, I'm very wary of trying out new sleeping mats. Every time one of my old suppliers persuaded me to try a new range of sleeping mats (when I owned the Mountain Designs stores in WA) I was nearly always underwhelmed – and that's if they were good mats. If they were bad quality..... well, let's just say it's not the thing you want to test on your customers. A customer returning with a faulty product is bad enough, a customer returning with a faulty product and a bad night's sleep.....! Nasty!

Did I really want to be a test dummy? The STS staff all assured me the mats had been extensively tested. Other gear shop staff told me they'd had no issues. So, finally, I took my good night's sleep into my own hands and said, “Yes”.

However, the real test would come when my wife tried one out. We were offered two different thicknesses, the Ultralight at 5cm and the Comfort at 5.5cm, both of which sounded ridiculously thick compared to my trusty Thermarest at 3.8cm. Naturally my wife, Holly, chose the thicker one which was fine as she places a much higher value on the quality of her sleep – as do I! It is in my interest to have her sleep well.

There were some things I noticed straight away, firstly, they were light, the Ultralight weighted in at 325 grams, the Comfort at 595gms, both were regular size lengths. I could see on the website that small and extra-large sizes were also available. You always get me with 'light'.

Then there is the pack size, these guys pack up really small! My Ultralight packed up to 7.5cm x 17cm leaving plenty of room in my pack for other things. Holly commented that the space saving in her duffel bag was noticeable from last year even though her Comfort mat was slightly larger than mine at 10cm x 17cm.

Next, the texture of the fabric. Were they going to be slippery? Would we slide off them? This only way to really find out was to test them. They were fine. No more slippage than normal.

The most difficult thing to get my head around was the lack of foam fill. I have always had a suspicion of 'airbeds' from my early days as a scout. They were cold, uncomfortable and suitable only for playing in the water. I liked the moulded comfort of a foam filled Thermarest, I believed them when they told me it was the warmest system. How were these STS mats going to hold their warmth?

Next, I was worried that they weren't self-inflating. I wasn't sure that hallucinating due to blowing up my mat at altitude was a good thing. But it turned out that only a few breaths were needed and it was done. You can buy bag pumps, like those with the Exped mats, called the Jet Stream Pump Sack and the Air Stream Dry Sack, which inflate the mats without you having to blow them up with your mouth. The sacks even fit an Exped mat too.

Sea to Summit have had these mats tested by experts, like those at Backpacker Magazine, in conditions from the lowest valley in the United States to the highest peaks in Nepal, and the feedback was always the same: “This is the most comfortable night's sleep we've had on a pad this packable” Combine that with a unique design that uses two separate air chambers-giving you 3.15 centimetres of insulation against a leak-and you get our new favourite mats. Pump the bottom half to maximum capacity to lift you off any roots or rocks, and then fine-tune the top half to your preferred level of firmness. Five hundred forty-eight individual air cells provide structure and better support than traditional horizontal or vertical chambers-even for restless sleepers. One tester deliberately inflated just one side (she had the insulated version), and despite sleeping on uneven, frozen terrain, she was still warm and comfy at 5,000 metres in Nepal.

Sleep cold? Add about \$45 to move up to the insulated models which are filled with Thermoloft, these ramp the R-value from 1.5 to 5 for only 85gms more. The valves allow fine-tuneable inflation and instant deflation. They also mean no air gets trapped

when you're rolling them up in the morning, packing is definitely quicker.

Sea to Summit has added a range of 22 sleeping mats to its portfolio of outdoor gear. The major innovation is really Air Sprung Cells, air chambers created by a dot-weld pattern that allows them to operate independently of each other. That means when you shift your weight the air doesn't all squish out to one side. In the Comfort Plus version of the mat, there are two layers of air chambers for more comfort and in case you hole your mat on one side, the top half of the mat still stays inflated. Excellent idea.

Another quality range of products from Sea to Summit; we should be proud that there is a West Australian company out there competing on the world stage and doing it well.

*Sleeping mats
are available
from*



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

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CAMP KENNEDY BAPTIST YOUTH CAMP	ALBANY		(08) 9845 1040	albanybaptist.com.au/campkennedy	
DUNMOYLEN HOUSE B&B	ALBANY		(08)9842 5235	www.dunmoylen.com.au	
ELSEWHERE	BALINGUP		0417 965 491		
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JUST LIKE MUMS	BALINGUP		0407 425 163		Discount available for groups of two or more guests only
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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.**

Donations can be made via our website, over the phone or in person in our office. If you prefer to send a cheque please make it out to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation with your name and address noted. 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 will all help to rebuild our beautiful Bibbulmun Track.

Gossip Gossip Gossip Gossip Gossip Gossip Gossip Gossip Gossip Gossip



Office GOSSIP

Things have settled down in the office after the dramatic start to the year, when we were all busy keeping everyone informed about the three bushfires and the damage sustained to campsites, bridges and other infrastructure on the Track. With the Track reopened we remain busy with enquiries about the diversions that have been put in place.

In the past few months we said goodbye to Christine, who left us to concentrate on her photography business, which is going well and she's enjoying the challenge. Chelsea Weaver took up the reins of our event marketing and is a great addition to the team.

After volunteering in the office for more than 10 years, Hans decided it was time to retire to concentrate on his many other activities. Hans always kept us well-supplied-not only with new member packs, but also with morning tea goodies.

More recently we also farewelled Jean Byrne, who returned only briefly after her trip to England in June. Jean worked with us for over 15 years and had a special flair for community activities such as the Royal Show, Trek the Trail and a host of other events, thus raising the profile of the Bibbulmun Track and the Foundation when both were relatively unknown. Jean also had the marvellous idea for the renovations in the front office a few years ago, resulting in a much improved work space.

We are very pleased to welcome Lindsay Vibert to the team as Office Administrator. This is a new position created to assist me with the running of the office, allowing me to focus more on the volunteer and maintenance programs. Lindsay is a maintenance volunteer, trainee guide and has walked approximately 3000kms on the Track so will be a great asset to the team.

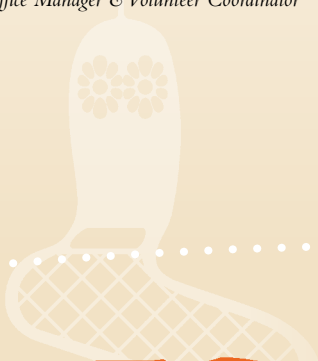
We have also welcomed some new volunteers. Mary Oates is inputting data from the campsite log books, Lorna Saunders is helping me with memberships and log book data entry while Gayle is away, Mike Cosson, who as well as dealing with log book data entry is coming to grips with many of the regular office tasks and Julie Johnston, who has agreed to take on the mammoth task of updating our office procedures file.

With the walking season in full swing now, we are enjoying helping walkers with advice and preparation, especially those planning an end-to-end, and it is not unusual to have members in for a trip planning advice sessions. With the entire Track currently open, albeit with diversions, an end-to-end is now possible so we expect to see some new end-to-enders arriving soon to register their achievement.

We love to meet our members and you are always welcome to pop in to renew your membership, to pick up some merchandise or just to say hello.

Gwen Plunkett

Office Manager & Volunteer Coordinator



FAVOURITE SHORT WALKS

This column was suggested by member Angela Loucaides (see Your Letters on page 4) and profiles one of her favourite short walks on the Track.

Let us know your favourite and we'll profile a new short walk in each edition.

One Tree Bridge to Green's Island

Map 5: Pemberton 4.4km return

Start: Near Green's Island camping ground which is 2km off Donnelly Drive, 23km west of Manjimup via Graphite Road (or park at One Tree Bridge to reverse the walk).

The Track meanders along the Donnelly River, bubbling over rocks while a cheeky kookaburra watches from high upon the gumtree. The narrow undulating bush track is lined with beautiful maidenhair ferns and in the spring colourful wildflowers bloom in the bush.

Reaching Graphite Road the remains of the old One Tree Bridge are worth a visit. Crossing the road, Glenoran Pool picnic area is a lovely place for a snack or a quick dip to cool down on a hot day.



Maidenhair ferns line the Track. Photo by Pelusey Photography

Track TUCKER

Protein Balls

Recipe from Tania Hudson

- 8 large fresh dates (pitted)
- 5 tblsp coconut oil (melted)
- 3/4 cup raw almonds
- 1/2 cup sunflower seeds
- 1/2 cup pepitas
- A few tblsp chia seeds
- 4-5 tblsp cacao nibs (you can buy these just about anywhere these days)
- 5 tblsp coconut (for rolling)

I sometimes vary this and put in walnuts or other nuts instead of almonds, or choc chips instead of cacao seeds for a less healthy version. Actually, you can throw in just about anything and it seems to work!

You might add a little more coconut oil if the mixture seems too dry.

Process all together and roll into balls. Roll in the coconut. Refrigerate.

Send us YOUR favourite recipe for Track Tucker!

SNAKE BITE KIT

As most Bibb Track walkers know – snakes are often the most commonly sighted wildlife as they like to sunbake on the Track!

Whilst making a noise generally shoos them away and bites are rare – it is highly recommended to have compression bandages in your first aid kit as the pressure and immobilisation technique is the most effective first aid treatment for venomous snakes. This handy kit has three 10cm compression bandages that can maintain the correct pressure and will remain tight during transport of the victim. Three bandages are necessary to apply pressure to an adult male's leg. **A first aid sheet is included.**

Dimensions: 125 x 105 x 40mm
Weight: approx 150g
RRP \$22.00 (less 10% for members)

Available from the Foundation.



GREAT GIFT IDEAS FOR FATHER'S DAY

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

Unique gift – Bibbulmun Track Foundation
Membership – \$40.00 Senior \$30.00
(Life membership and 3 yearly also available)

**Quality time with the kids on a
Walking with Dad event!** – Book online

Bibbulmun Track Headsox – SO versatile!

With 12 versatile ways to get your head around Headsox, they are perfect for the active dad. 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.
Available in red and blue
RRP \$35*

Snake Bite Kit

A must have in all first aid kits, backpacks and glove boxes - this kit has three 10cm compression bandages that can maintain the correct pressure and will remain tight during transport of the victim. Three bandages are necessary to apply pressure to an adult male's leg.
Dimensions: 125 x 105 x 40mm Weight: approx 150g
RRP \$22*

Silver Waugal

Beautifully crafted, unique silver stylised Waugal pendant. Unisex design – string onto a leather thong for a casual look, or create a stunning piece of jewellery with the addition of a silver chain.
Dimensions: 30mm x 35mm.

RRP \$40*

*10% discount for BTF members

View and order our complete range of merchandise online at www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au or pop into the office, above Mountain Designs, Hay Street, Perth.



PRIZE WINNERS!

EARLY BIRD RENEWAL - MEMBERSHIP PRIZE DRAW

FEBRUARY

Peter Finlay received an XBowl for his Early Bird renewal.

Jean Hammond received the 2nd prize of a small pocket towel

MARCH

Martin Jackson received a deluxe pack cover
2nd prize was awarded to Patricia Hogan who received a Titanium cutlery set

APRIL

First prize winner was Perry Raison. He received a deluxe pack cover

Yvonne Noble was awarded the 2nd prize, a 2 litre dry sac

MAY

An Ultra Sil compression sac was won by Barry Tregenza.

2nd prize went to Harald Detering who received a Delta mug

JUNE

First prize winner was Hazel Kileff who received a medium drylite microtowel

Alan Auburn won 2nd prize, a pocket shower

National Volunteer Week prize competition

Kathi Störig was the lucky winner of a Segway Riverside Tour for two people.

Life Member Winner

Congratulations to Chris Jones who took Life Membership and won himself a Bibbulmun Track 32L Deuter Day Pack

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



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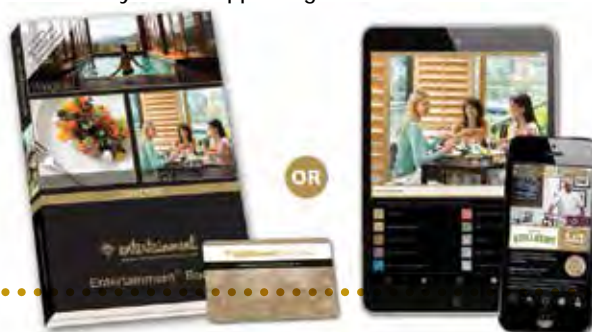
-OR-

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

Whichever you choose, \$13 of your \$65 purchase helps the Bibbulmun Track Foundation, and you receive over \$20,000 worth of valuable offers valid through to 1 June 2016!

You can pre-order online at www.entbook.com.au/835a11 or call the office on (08) 94810551.

Thank you for supporting the Bibbulmun Track!



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

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

Long time BTF member Colin Broun, his wife Liz and friend Stan undertook a walk along the Track in April this year. Little did they expect their trip to become an epic adventure of search and rescue! Read on:

Walker Story

STONED ON THE TRACK

We had not walked any of the Bibbulmun Track since 2008, so with the promise of at least six days of autumn sunshine my wife Liz, good friend Stan and I set off. We took a taxi from Collie to the Glen Mervyn Dam, planning to walk back to town, collect the car, drive to Balingup, and walk back to the dam.

The first stage to Yabberup Campsite was an easy, shaded, meandering walk through mixed forest. Walking on and through this ancient land, long the domain of the traditional land holders is always a privilege. After heating and eating precooked beef and vegetables, complemented by a full bodied shiraz, we retired to bed expecting a quiet, bush caressing sleep.

However at midnight I developed stomach and back pain, which became progressively stronger. Liz, fearing something serious, telephoned 000 and St John Ambulance Perth arranged for the Collie ambulance to meet us on Best Road, a gravel road off Mungilup Road. We packed and set off at 4.00 am along the Wellington Spur trail, to the point where it crosses Best Rd. I was unable to carry a back pack or walk very fast. Stan, a hero, carried two packs (26Kg) and led the way with a GPS, a bright hand torch, head torch and comforting, inspiring conversation

The Collie ambulance officers were in the area already, kept in contact by telephone and indicated their position by sounding the siren. However, at times we seemed to be walking away from them. After what seemed like an eternity and with many stops, we finally arrived at Best Road-no ambulance, flat mobile battery, no reception and the pain unrelenting

The flat battery problem was quickly solved using our Go Puck charger (Ed: see www.gopuck.com) to charge our iphone, and Liz and Stan walked up a steep gravel road to obtain telephone reception, whereupon we discovered that points at which Best Road crosses the Bibbulmun Track and where it crosses the Wellington Spur trail are some kilometres apart! The ambos were waiting anxiously where we had told them to be, where Best Road crosses the Bibbulmun Track to the south of the Yabberup Campsite, which explained why we had felt that we were walking away from the sound of their siren.

As the warm, morning sun peeped through the forest canopy they found us and the efficient ambulance crew immediately had me receiving pain relief and reassurance. The ambulance crew were magnificent. Gentle, kind and forgiving. Collie based Parks and Wildlife Officer Tom Kenneally also met us. Tom was responding to a request for assistance from St John Ambulance State Operations Centre, after the ambulance crew had initially been unable to locate us.

He kindly drove Stan and Liz and our back packs to Collie, while I travelled in the ambulance to the Collie Hospital Emergency Department, where I was diagnosed with renal colic. After pain relieving injections, I was able travel to Perth by car to SJOG Perth for further, excellent treatment

Massive thanks are due to the St John Ambulance officers, to Tom Kenneally, my fellow walkers and to Dr Saharay and the emergency staff at Collie Hospital.

We have in WA a very efficient, highly trained, State wide St John Ambulance Service and also experienced Parks and Wildlife Officers. My illness was not life threatening, although in the early hours of a morning, the mind fantasises the worst possibilities.

Having strong, loving fellow walkers, reliable maps and brightly reflecting Waugal signs was very comforting. Walking along the Track at night adds another beautiful aspect. The serenity of the Australian bush is often best appreciated at night.

In the stress and urgency to pack up and leave Yabberup to meet the ambulance, despite having the Bibbulmun Track maps, we gave incorrect information to the St John Ambulance. Lesson learned!

We will walk the Collie to Balingup section in October, this time kidney stone free!

Colin Broun



Colin's wife, Liz, on the Track.

Emergency+ Smartphone App



The Emergency + app recently helped rescuers locate a couple lost while hiking in the NSW Tablelands.

The hikers were found safe and well after calling Triple 000 and using the Emergency + app on their phone during the search.

The app provides information about who and when to call in emergency and non-emergency situations. It also displays the GPS coordinates of the phone's location so you can read them out to the emergency operator allowing emergency services to pinpoint your exact location.

As highlighted in the walker story on this page – knowing exactly where to send the crew can be the hardest part of attending an emergency. However, it is still no substitute for adequate preparation and planning – and you cannot rely on getting phone reception all along the Track.

The app is free and available for download on iOS, Android and Windows devices.

Track Town Dwellingup

The ultimate destination for a Getaway Weekend

Only one and a half hours drive south of Perth, Dwellingup is an ideal destination for day walks or a weekend break.

Nestled in the jarrah forest of the Darling Escarpment, Dwellingup is a popular camping destination and home to the Lane Poole Reserve on the Murray River. The Reserve occupies 55,000 hectares and offers a variety of adventure activities and tranquil settings.

Dwellingup was almost obliterated by the bushfires of 1961 but is now a year-round destination for many visitors. Those seeking an intimate experience with the natural environment or perhaps more interactive experiences will find that Dwellingup and its surrounds have plenty to offer.

Attractions and activities include a trip on the heritage steam train, white water rafting, mountain biking and visiting the Forest Heritage Centre.

A great day's walk can be had along the Bibbulmun Track by taking the train to Etmilyn and hiking the nine kilometres back to town. This walk features excellent examples of jarrah, red gum, grass trees and banksia, together with a variety of palms and ferns unique to this part of the forest. It is advisable to contact the Hotham Valley Railway for timetable information.

In spring there is an abundance of wildflowers including hovea, kangaroo paw and cat's paw, together with spider, cowslip and purple enamel orchids. In addition a vast array of brightly coloured fungi is on display, including the awesomely coloured coral fungi.



The Forest Heritage Centre provides a gallery and retail shop for artisans and artists to show and sell their fine wood and art.

Long distance walkers are able to purchase supplies from the post office (which has camping equipment), the town's general store or the Dwellingup History and Visitor Centre. Additionally, Dwellingup is an excellent spot to take a break and rest those weary feet for a time. You'll find the Bibbulmun Track register at the visitor centre and computers with internet access for public use.

Accommodation options range from tent sites, walker rooms and chalets at the caravan park, self-catering cottages, B&Bs and luxury chalets. Delicious meals can be enjoyed at the Blue Wren Café, Touch of Aroma, Mteez Food & Fashion Millhouse and the Community Hotel. Take away food is available from the café, general store and roadhouse.



A walker south of Dwellingup.

The Dwellingup History and Visitor Information Centre is located on Marrinup Street. The building is constructed from local timber and houses a fully restored Mack fire truck and a unique collection of historical items related to Dwellingup and other old mill towns in the region.

Opening hours are from 9am - 3.30pm Wednesday to Friday and 10am - 3pm Saturday and Sunday. The staff will be happy to offer assistance during your visit to Dwellingup, the ultimate destination for a getaway weekend.

For more information visit www.dwellingupwa.com or call (08) 9538 1108.

Forest Heritage Centre
DWELLINGUP | WESTERN AUSTRALIA
1 Acacia St

"Birds of a Feather"
On show NOW till October 30th

This is a mixed media exhibition featuring the bright colours, movements and beauty of birds

For more information contact 9538 1395
or admin@forestheritagecentre.com.au

Grandy's LONG WALK

By Linda Stanley with
illustrations by Viv Burrows

Inspired by her end-to-end walk on the Bibbulmun Track Linda Stanley wrote a book to encourage children to connect with nature, explore their surroundings and develop curiosity and awareness of nature around them.

Grandy's Long Walk is a beautifully illustrated book that takes the reader along the Track and highlights the changes in the environment along the way. Each page is illustrated with the unique wildlife and amazing flora that can be discovered on each section along the way.

Aimed at children between the ages of 3 and 10 this book makes a perfect bedtime story.

RRP \$14.99 (Available online or from the BTF office.)



Bibb Track Packs OVERSEAS

BTF member and volunteer,
Hedley Amos, entering Villafranca
de Los Barros, Extremadura, Spain.
173km from Seville and heading for
Santiago de Compostella.

Has your Bibbulmun Track backpack
travelled overseas? Send us your photos!
These superb Deuter packs are available to
purchase from the BTF office or online.



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NOTICE BOARD

FOR SALE:

"ZAMBERLAN" LADIES HIKING BOOTS

Ladies Hiking Boots "Zamberlan" 430 Venus GT WNS, colour beige; size 43 Euro/ 11 USA; only worn ones on short day trip; new: \$219.95; sell:

\$150, negotiable.

Contact: Kathi Storig
0412666264
E: kathi.storig@iinet.net.au

FOR SALE:

CAMPING GAZ SINGLE BURNER STOVE

This little stove has walked the Bibbulmun Track, the Cape-to-Cape Track and Tasmania's Overland Track with me as well. It is reliable and easy to use.

Can be used for bushwalking or for tenting holidays by car.

Great for cooking or just for boiling the billy.

Comes with 7 canisters for plenty of cooking.

\$50, the lot

Contact: Arthur
0468 468 699
E: brightnall@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 three months if not renewed.

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



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

- Mountain Designs, Perth
 - BCF Midland
- Dwellingup Adventures
- Camping World Collie
- Balingup Visitor Centre
 - Manjimup Mitre 10
- Pemberton Discovery Centre
- Ricketts Jack F & Co, Denmark
 - Trailblazers, Albany
- Camping Kayaks 4 x 4, Albany

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Over 60 stores across Australia & New Zealand *Gear for places you'd rather be...*

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OUR TIMBER STRUCTURES HERITAGE

A sad state of affairs

The loss of the Long Gully Bridge in February by fire was a tragedy. It was a tragedy because a structure of high engineering heritage significance has been totally lost, and a tragedy as the trekking of Bibbulmun Track walkers has been seriously disrupted. The gradual loss of our timber structures generally, many iconic and in remote areas, is also a tragedy, says Ian Maitland, chair of Engineering Heritage Western Australia

Timber structures exposed to the elements deteriorate because of fungal decay (rot), termite attack, corrosion of iron or steel connections and other actions such as fire, storm and flood. However deterioration can be greatly reduced by planned, systematic maintenance. Much of this can be undertaken by unskilled people.

Unfortunately there is little or no planned maintenance for these structures in place throughout the state, particularly in remote areas, where they are out-of-sight, out-of-mind.

A scope of work for repairs to the River Road Bridge near Pemberton was

prepared last year. This involves seventeen procedures including replacement of unsound timber and treatment for rot. When implemented the bridge will be safe again for hikers. Much of the work is to be undertaken by them.

There are many types of old timber structures throughout our state. Pictured below is the Sons of Gwalia mine headframe, constructed in Oregon in 1899. A program for conservation and strengthening has commenced. On Western Australian Day, 31 May, a celebration was held on site when the headframe was awarded an Engineering Heritage National Marker,

under Engineers Australia's Engineering Heritage Recognition Program.

This is a success story. Hopefully in future there will be more, as the importance of our heritage timber structures become more widely recognized and planned maintenance programs are implemented.

Help us restore River Road Bridge

Please donate towards the restoration of River Road Bridge and help secure the future of this timber structure.



Sons of Gwalia mine headframe, constructed in Oregon in 1899.



The last logging trains travelled across the River Road bridge in 1964.

Tennessee Hill Chalets

- Superb Self catering accommodation
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- Special Bibbulmun Track package
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www.tennesseehill.com.au
info@tennesseehill.com.au
233 Piggot Martin Rd, Lowlands WA6330





TRACK TRIVIA

HI FELLOW WALKERS!

I finally got myself organised to do a week's walking along the Track in the Perth Hills between the Discovery Centre and North Bannister. The weather was ideal and all went well until the prescribed burning convinced me to make an early exit! Just bad luck-and now as I write it's pouring with rain! Never mind, I did manage to stay overnight in Helena, Beraking and Mount Dale campsites, an area of the Track I hadn't visited for about three years. The views from Helena and Beraking were as breathtaking as ever and the sunset at Beraking was magnificent, as evidenced by the picture below.



Sadly, the stark contrast of the dead tree against the sky is evidence of something else-Dieback. The extent of Dieback in the jarrah forest was far greater than I remembered from previous visits and the sight of so many dead and dying trees was very disturbing. For those who are not aware, Dieback refers to the deadly introduced plant disease caused by the pathogen *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, which spends its entire life in the soil and in plant tissue. It causes root rot in susceptible plants, thereby limiting or stopping the uptake of water and nutrients.

Dieback has been described as an environmental bulldozer, which will kill over 40% of WA's native plants, and it is human activity that causes the most significant, rapid and widespread distribution of the pathogen. Road construction, earth moving and driving infested vehicles on bush roads all contribute significantly to its spread. Ironically as I was taking this photograph I could hear the sound of trail bikes below me in the valley, travelling illegally in the disease risk area.

Boot cleaning stations are provided at many points along the Bibbulmun Track to reduce the movement of the pathogen on walkers' footwear-please make use of them. And please report any instances of wheeled vehicles seen using the Track, either to the BTF or the Department of Parks and Wildlife, preferably with registration plate details.

You will be helping to preserve our bushland!

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!

At Mount Dale Campsite I observed a species of wildlife that I had not previously spotted on the Track, peering at me suspiciously as I ate my lunch. I managed a picture (see below) and noticed the wee beastie was still there next morning. Has anyone else seen one of these? Last but not least, I believe we



have found the ultimate achiever in the "Northernmost Waugal" competition. BTF member and End-to-Ender Melanie Kirkpatrick recently sent us this photograph showing her holding a Waugal marker at latitude 80° 37', or as close to the North Pole as makes no difference!. Beat that if you can!



Melanie with the Waugal and her GPS unit

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.



South Coast Escape - 4 or 5-day Break

This self-drive four-night/three-day itinerary enables you to complete the 45.6km section of the Bibbulmun Track from Mutton Bird Road to Eden Road between Albany and Denmark - and enjoy comfortable accommodation and meals each evening.

The entire package is arranged for you and includes:

- all meals - breakfast, lunch and dinner
- car shuffle transfers (from cottages to the Track)
- Bibbulmun Track Guide Book and
- map 8 (Denmark/Albany).

From \$1300* for two people.

Optional extra:

Extend the above package: stay another night and walk a fourth day to complete a 58.9km section of Track from \$300* extra for two people.

*NOTE: prices are a guide only -
email tourism@bibbulmuntrack.org.au
or call (08) 9481 0551 to arrange a quote.



UPCOMING EVENTS 2015

Spring is just around the corner and we are getting excited about our upcoming events in September. With the wildflowers in bloom and the perfect walking weather setting in, spring is the best time of the year to be out on Track! So come join us on one of our upcoming events, meet new friends and enjoy the Bibbulmun Track in all its beauty!

BIBBULMUN BLOSSOMS

Date: Sunday 6th Sept 2015

Where: Near Kalamunda

Rating: Intermediate

Come and learn about the many wildflowers in bloom on a guided walk (8km with some steep hills) near Kalamunda this spring.

Our guides will assist you to identify the flora along the way. A copy of Wildflowers of the Northern Bibbulmun Track and Jarrah Forests is included. A good level of fitness is required.



BALINGUP EXPLORER

Date: Friday 11th to Sunday 13th Sept 2015

Where: Balingup

Rating: Intermediate

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

Spend Friday night in Balingup before being transported 40kms south for two full days of walking with packs back to town, camping out on Saturday night. Freshen up on Sunday afternoon with a hot shower in Balingup before being transported to Perth.



BALINGUP BELLES

Date: Friday 11th to Sunday 13th Sept 2015

Where: Balingup

Rating: Beginners

Ladies! Leave the rest behind and spoil yourself for two glorious days and nights in the magnificent Blackwood area.

Begin on Friday night with dinner at the Mullalyup Farm Lodge. After a continental breakfast on Saturday, walk along a section of the Track north of Balingup.

In the afternoon return to a relaxing neck and shoulder massage and perhaps a stroll around the gardens followed by dinner.



OTHER EVENTS COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER...

Blackwood Day Walk
12th Sept 2015

Over the Hill (2)
24th Sept 2015

The Mumby Pub Plod 25-
28th Sept 2015

Camp Cooking for Kids
29th Sept 2015

Book all events online – www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

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

6 September, 9am

16.2km return walk from North Bannister to the Serpentine River via the Gringer Creek Campsite

13 September 9am

18km return walk from Sand Patch Car Park to Mutton Bird Campsite near Albany

20 September 8.30am

23.5km return walk from Perth Hills National Parks Centre to Helena Campsite (Fit and experienced walkers only!)

4 October 9am

16.3km return walk from Sullivan Rock to Monadnocks Campsite

18 October 8.30am

18.4km return walk from Dale Road to Beraking Campsite. (Fit and experienced walkers only!)

25 October 9am

16km Mt Cooke circuit walk via Mt Cooke Campsite

8 November 4pm

6.4km return sunset walk from Camel Farm to Hewett's Hill Campsite

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

Gringer Creek

Got dropped off at North Bannister Roadhouse last night and found the Track and the campsite with no problems by torchlight. Nice signposting guys, and what a fabulous campsite. If I lived here I would definitely volunteer to build a place like this. We could do with facilities like these back home on the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path (175 miles of beautiful hills, cliffs and beaches in West Wales). Heading south today and finishing in Dwellingup.

Sal Cazmoon 07/02/05

Canning

Great campsite with great tent sites. Heading to North Bannister and that will complete map #1 for us. One down and seven to go! What a wonderful way to spend your holidays, "wandering and pondering" along the Bibbulmun Track.

Ian and Bernadette Wright 30/09/13

Beedelup

Ancient, beautiful, timeless.

Stewart Fitzpatrick 09/11/03

Frankland

Absolutely breathtaking-It's my first time at walking and camping along the Bibbulmun Track. It certainly won't be my last!

Emily from Katanning 31/03/02

This place allows you be at one with yourself. Enjoy the tranquillity!

Ben & Ant 31/03/02

Lovely campsite by the river. Rained heavily overnight. Saw a snake and a big mob of white cockies. On the Track to Albany via Walpole tomorrow...

Clare 26/04/02...back again. Wrong way! Albany is in the other direction. Will try again!

Clare 28/04/02

(Ed note: See, I'm not the only one! Wrong Way Jim)

Gardner

Hikers are like snails, we carry our homes on our backs, move along slowly and leave nothing but a trail behind us.

Joby 26/11/12

If you are a snorer, please consider the following points:

If you snore at home, you will snore on the Track; there is no miracle Bibbulmun cure that prevents snoring in a shelter.

Earplugs will not block out the sound of a small truck

If you have a snoring problem, please consider a product on the market available at all camping stores-it's called a tent!

Johno 07/05/07

Saying: "people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones". Having shared shelters with John since Collie, I know he lives in a glass house!

FOF #2 07/05/07

Murray

Our journey was OK but we got lost in a place. My family and I before that saw three strange coloured small wallabies. After that my Dad was reading the guide book when he looked up and saw a giant lizard. He was a very, very light green and on its head its

frill was reddish. So it was a good peaceful walk, except when we got lost.

Isabella Biggs (10 yrs. old) 01/10/10

I got to Dwellingup on Saturday after eleven days from Kalamunda, dreaming of eating a nice, juicy, medium-rare rib-eye steak. And guess what? The bloody pub had an "all you can eat" Chinese buffet! More bloody rice and noodles!

Ben 20/07/04

08/01/10 Anon

Day 15 for Dad's Army. We're doing just one shelter at a time and getting used to the hiking and the hills now-just as well with only 727km to go to Albany! What a great way to spend Good Friday!

Jim Turnbull (65) and George Audley (66) 29/03/02

Arrived last night after overshooting the campsite by 5km. Luckily managed to go the wrong way after that and so we ended up where we wanted to be-here! Confused? Well so are we! Beautiful campsite on a gorgeous morning. We'll walk off some of our Easter eggs on the way to Swamp Oak this morning.

Karen, Paula & Christine (who snuggled up with Dad's Army last night) 30/03/02

Artwork from Murray Campsite



TRAILING AROUND THE WORLD

JEJU OLLE TRAIL, SOUTH KOREA

PHOTO BY PETER CAMPBELL

Jeju is a volcanic island located off the southern tip of South Korea. Its sub-tropical climate has always made it a popular venue for Koreans, especially honeymooners, over decades. It is a place of great beauty, with picturesque lava rock scenery, ocean cliff views and beautiful groves of tangerine trees. Located in the centre is the dormant volcano Mt. Hallasan.

Recently, large numbers of international tourists have visited Jeju, many of whom have been attracted by the Jeju Olle Trail. Established in 2007 by the Jeju Olle Foundation, the Jeju Olle Trail spans over 400 kilometres of beautifully maintained and managed walking trails. Olle translates as a narrow pathway that connects the street to the front gate of one's house.

The Jeju Olle Trail consists of more than twenty individual interconnected tracks on Jeju itself, ranging from five to 23 kilometres in length, with other trails on nearby smaller islands.

Routes range from a casual stroll on wooden planks on level surfaces to tougher climbs up the island's volcano cones. The trails pass through various landscapes along the way including small villages, beaches, farms and forests. Each specific route is an opportunity to soak in the beauty of Jeju and the island's culture.

The majority of the trails are based on old footpath routes between and around neighbouring villages. All the paths are clearly marked; blue and orange arrows guide the walker (blue pointing the clockwise direction and orange pointing the counter clockwise way), ribbons hang from tree branches, and spray painted arrows in blue help to show the way.

The most famous route marker, however, is the Ganse pony. The Ganse pony is the symbol of the trail and the Jeju Olle Foundation, and represents the small ponies that used to roam the island. The name comes from an old Jeju dialect meaning slow, lazybones, hence, the spirit of walking slowly on the trail. These markers are prevalent at major stops along the trail routes and mark how many kilometres the user has walked of each specific route.



Trail users can show their love of the trail by taking part in the passport program. Each route has two or three unique stamps that can be placed in a passport booklet once that section of the trail is completed. Hikers can collect the stamps to display the length of the trail they have accomplished. The passport program is a great way to capture the enthusiasm of children hiking along the trail with their parents; a goal that the Jeju Olle Trail and Foundation are working towards.

As with the Bibbulmun Track, walkers can decide on how much or how little of the walk they wish to undertake. Each section of the Jeju Olle Trail has toilet facilities and shops at the beginning and end and there are many restaurants and street stalls along the way, so local provisions and water are readily available.





FACT FILE

When to go:

Jeju is subtropical but can be very cold in the winter and hot and humid in the summer. So aim for either March to May or September to November.

What to wear:

Good walking footwear, lightweight clothing, rain jacket, lightweight fleece.

Equipment:

Day-pack, water bottle, basic first aid kit.

Guidebook:

Available free of charge at the Jeju International Airport

Food:

Be prepared to not find much western style food along the way. Carry some snacks!

Water:

Generally OK and safe but take water treatment tablets if you have any qualms about the local water source.

How to get there:

Fly to Seoul and then on to Jeju on a Korean domestic flight. Alternatively if you want to see more of the country there are ferries from a number of towns in the south of Korea that you can take across to the island. Google the Visit Korea website.

www.jejuolle.org

A good resource for choosing the right trail is the official Olle website (www.jejuolle.org). All the trails have been carefully designed and they each have a unique flavour. You don't have to be incredibly fit to walk an Olle trail, but they can be tiring. The only real dangers are falling rocks (look up), falling off a rock (don't look down), or storms; the island is prone to heavy winds and typhoons so check the weather before you set off.

Wherever you go, on Jeju you're rarely far from a bus or a taxi. Most of the trails are near a bus stop of some kind, or pass through towns.

The Jeju people have fully embraced the Jeju Olle Trail by providing housing along the routes for hikers travelling for the long-term. Many guesthouses, where hikers can rent a room for the night, and grandmother houses, where users can rent for longer extended periods of time, are frequent along the trail and make planning a long hiking expedition easier.

Hospitality and generosity are attributes the Jeju people take pride in, and this makes for an enjoyable hiking experience. Many sections of the trail routes cross private land; including walking through farmer's fields of carrots, lettuce, and turnips, or an occasional cow or sheep pasture. The connection of the user to the land is

enhanced by this aspect of scenery, and provides for a cultural experience as well. Grave markers of ancestors also line the trail surrounded by lava rock walls giving the hiker an insight into traditional Jeju life. When a relative passes away, they are buried in their favourite spot on the island, so it is not a surprise that the trail passes by so many of these markers.



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THE BIBBULMUN TRACK FOUNDATION

PO Box 7605, Cloisters Square
PERTH Western Australia 6850

Telephone: (08) 9481 0551 OR 9321 0649

Facsimile: (08) 9481 0546

Email: friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Website: www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

OFFICE LOCATION:

1st Floor, Mountain Designs Adventure Building,
862 Hay Street Perth

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Friday 9am - 4pm

Editor: Linda Daniels

Sub Editor: Jim Baker

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