

SUSPENSION BRIDGE OPENED AT ONE TREE BRIDGE

A new suspension bridge over the Donnelly River was officially opened at One Tree Bridge on 23rd October.

Special guests included Regional Development Minister Terry Redman and South West MLC Nigel Hallett.

Before he officially opened the bridge, Mr Redman congratulated everyone involved in its construction.

“This area has a rich history and we are here today at this official opening of a facility that keeps that link going,” he said.

The suspension bridge creates a safer alternative than the road bridge for both cyclists and walkers as the Munda Biddi Trail and Bibbulmun Track share the river crossing.

The \$165,000 project was a joint effort between the Shire of Manjimup and the Department of Parks and Wildlife, with some funding also coming from the Lotterywest Trails Grants program managed by the Department of Sport and Recreation.



Parks and Wildlife staff members from the Donnelly District built the new bridge. Photo courtesy of DPaW.



The new suspension bridge at One Tree Bridge provides safe passage over the Donnelly River for Bibb Track walkers, and cyclists on the Munda Biddi Trail.



Stan Gillman, walking from Balingup to Pemberton, turned up just as the bridge was opened.

Christmas Gift Ideas

- Silver Waugal Pendant** \$40.00
Beautifully crafted, unique silver stylised Waugal pendant.
- Bibbulmun Track Headsock** \$30.00
Available in red or blue
- T-shirts** \$14.95
Available in titian, blue or bark
- Deuter Daypack with Bibbulmun Track logo** Red, 32L \$165

CHRISTMAS STOCKING FILLERS:

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

IMPOSSIBLE TO BUY FOR?

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

- Individual - 1 year \$40 or 3 years \$105
- Senior - 1 year \$30 or 3 years \$75

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

Buy online today or call into the BTF office (08) 9481 0551.

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



Members Event

TALES FROM OTHER TRAILS 2015

On Tuesday 17th November, 80 BTF members attended our second Tales from other Trails evening where four presenters shared their experiences of walking on an international trail.

Four very different destinations were presented, including a walk in the Himalayas by Alan Barker, the Sunshine Coast Trail in Canada by Charlie Soord, the Camino de Santiago walk by Ian Wright and the "W" walk in Torres del Paine by Elwyn Campbell. Nibbles and refreshments were served and Sea to Summit provided delicious gourmet

food samples during the intermission.

Big thanks to the presenters for sharing their knowledge, experience and amazing photographs with us. We are sure all present were inspired to explore other walk trails from around the world, so we look forward to seeing you all at the next members' event!



Ross Sea to Summit provided Back Country Cuisine tastings.



A full house at the Tales from other Trails night.



FROM MY Desk

It was a pleasure to see so many members at the premier screening of *A Walk in the Woods*, the film adaptation of Bill Bryson's popular novel recounting his hike on the Appalachian Trail.

As some of you may know, the Appalachian Trail inspired the building of campsites and the volunteer maintenance program for the Bibbulmun Track, so we feel some affinity with this trail and subscribe to the AT Conservancy newsletter. In the lead up to the release of the movie there was a great deal of trepidation from the organisation about the impact this movie may have on the Trail.

In the 70s an average of 77 hikers per year completed the 3490 kilometre hike. After the release of Bill Bryson's novel in 1998 there was a 60% spike in traffic and in 2014 more than 2,800 thru-hikers started the trail and an estimated three to four million people hiked a section of it.

In some respects the popularity is a success, however the campsites are overcrowded and the increase in trash, destruction, and misuse of the trail is undermining the wilderness experience the Conservancy seeks to cultivate.

As with the Bibbulmun Track, there are so many access points it is impossible to instigate a booking system, however they have implemented a voluntary thru-hiker registration so others can see how many people are intending to start the trail on any given day. The Conservancy has also implemented programs to educate hikers about Leave No Trace principles and to recognise hikers for doing the right thing.

There is always a danger that as destinations or attractions are more widely known they get loved to death. The Foundation is acutely aware of this and the principal aim of our strategic plan is to maintain the quality of the experience for walkers.

With just over 120 people registering their end-to-ends annually the number of thru-hikers on the Bibbulmun Track is similar to the Appalachian Trail in the 80s. Although campsites are generally accessible to overnight walkers, they are occasionally crowded on long weekends. However end-to-enders will normally experience a great deal of solitude throughout their journey.

We need to ensure this wilderness experience is retained, while also encouraging more people to experience the Track, as it brings economic benefits to regional communities. Our tours and walking break packages that utilise off-Track accommodation are ways to find this balance.

We are pleased to have partnered with Inspiration Outdoors to increase the number of tours available and you can read about these on page ten.

Thank you to all our members, volunteers and sponsors for supporting us throughout the year.

Wishing you all the very best for the festive season.

Linda Daniels
Executive Director

Join us on



Christ Church Grammar RECOGNISES ITS 25TH VENTURE

The fund for restoring the River Road Bridge near Pemberton received a major boost this week with the receipt of a \$25,000 donation from Christ Church Grammar School.

Each year, students undertake an 11-day expedition through the bushland and coastal setting of Walpole-Nornalup National Park and 2015 marked the School's 25th venture.

Garth Wynne, Christ Church Grammar's Headmaster, wrote "This pivotal outdoor education experience which takes place in the south west of our beautiful State, in, around and on the Bibbulmun Track is an iconic part of a student's experience of our school. It would not be possible without the Track.

To reflect the gratefulness this school community feels, please find enclosed a cheque for \$25,000 which we know the Foundation will put to very good use. We hope that the relationship between the Bibbulmun Track and the students of Christ Church Grammar School will continue for many years to come."

We thank the school community for the generous donation and hope the students will continue to benefit from their experiences on the Track for generations to come.

Seasons Greetings

& Best Wishes for 2016!

The office will be closed from 4.00pm Friday 18th December until 9.00am Monday 18th January 2016.

YOUR LETTERS



Thanks for a most enjoyable evening and Walk in the Woods which had us all killing ourselves laughing as we recognized the familiar places where each of us has experienced both enchantment as well as unexpected mishaps, all part of the journey.

Terry Casey

Ed - We are glad to hear you enjoyed the movie night - it was great having a full-house of BTF members!

Hi Gwen

Thanks very much for the reply and the information. We are walking parts of the Bibbulmun Track now for one year and next long weekend we will walk for four days in the Collie area.

My husband and I walked almost all the GR routes in Western Europe and feel very lucky that we found something like GR here in WA. We love every day when we walk the Bibbulmun Track. It is a beautiful path. All the volunteers are doing a great job to maintain the Track. Thanks very much for all the work.

Kind regards from two happy walkers.

Elly Spillekom

Dear Linda

On Tuesday 8th September our Village walking group, the Happy Wanderers, put on a brunch after our usual morning walk hosted by the ladies from Brightwater. There was no change as such for the breakfast, but we did ask for donations which amount was to be matched by Lend Lease, our Village managers. Donations from our walkers amounted to \$152, Lend Lease came up with \$160 and further donations of \$25 were received from non-walkers in the Village, bringing the grand total to \$337, which amount has been handed to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation to help with restoration of facilities destroyed in the fires earlier this year.

Regards

Alan Barker

Ed - Thank you Alan and the other Happy Wanderers for the generous donation and to Lend Lease for matching it! The donation is greatly



*A tasty meal is a highlight at the end of the day.
Photo by Pelusey Photography.*

Dear Linda

I write on behalf of the School Council and wider Christ Church Grammar School community.

Last year I contacted you to let you know that 2015 is the School's 25th Venture. This pivotal outdoor education experience which takes place in the south west of our beautiful State, in, around and on the Bibbulmun Track is an iconic part of a student's experience of our School. It would not be possible without the track.

To reflect the gratefulness this School community feels, please find enclosed a cheque for \$25,000 which we know the Foundation will put to very good use. We hope that the relationship between the Bibbulmun Track and the students of Christ Church Grammar School will continue for many years to come.

Yours sincerely

Garth Wynne

Headmaster - Christ Church Grammar School

TRACK TUCKER

Recipe courtesy of Bibbulmun Track volunteer guides Ce Kealley and Chris Piggford.

NORTH AFRICAN STEW (6 MEDIUM SERVES)

- 1 kg lamb mince
 - 1 eggplant finely diced
 - 2 carrots, grated
 - 2 onions finely chopped
 - 1 tbsp olive oil
 - 2 x 420 grams crushed tomatoes
 - 450 grams canned cannelloni beans, rinsed & drained
 - ¾ cups couscous
 - Salt & pepper
 - ¼ tsp ground cinnamon
 - 2 tsp mint, finely chopped
 - ¼ cup finely chopped dried apricots
- Cook 1st 5 ingredients in casserole dish for 45 minutes, add remaining, stir, return to oven for 20 minutes, let stand for 15 minutes.
- Dehydrate until dry to the touch

Email the recipe for YOUR favourite Track Tucker to friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au



Eyes **ON THE** Ground

The extensive bush fires earlier this year and the many prescribed burns since have caused some issues for our maintenance program. Many volunteers haven't been able to visit their sections due to Track closures and some of the work required is more than even very conscientious volunteers could be expected to do by themselves.

The formation and training of the Volunteer Support Team has been timely and members of the team have joined the usual maintenance volunteers on various sections of the Track to assist. Some of the tasks undertaken have included the maintenance and rebuilding of water bars and drainage nicks, remarking the Track and replacing burnt trail markers.

The extra support provided by this team has been invaluable in our attempts to have the whole Track reopened for walkers. This is an on-going operation.

More training days are being planned for the few Support Volunteers who haven't been able to attend a training day.

The Donnelly Field Day was held in

September with 18 volunteers attending. We broke into two groups to head north and south attending to any problems we found along the way before meeting back at One Tree Bridge for lunch. The new suspension bridge over the Donnelly River at One Tree Bridge was admired but as it was not yet finished we were unable to test it.

A few volunteers have retired from sections in the southern half of the Track, so if you live in the southwest and would like to help, please let me know.

Many thanks to all of our maintenance volunteers who work so hard to keep the Track in good condition and who send us regular reports so we

can assist with the work or request additional help from Parks and Wildlife.

Our volunteers can't be out on the Track all the time so we really appreciate reports from walkers who come across a problem while out walking. If you notice any issues at all, please call or email us the details, being as accurate as possible when describing the problem and the location. A photo is often helpful but not essential.

Gwen Plunkett and Charmaine Harris

Volunteer Coordinators



Parks and Wildlife officer, John McKenzie, describes the process of constructing the new bridge.



Volunteers John Murphy and Rob Willis-Jones installing water bars.



Geoff and Sue Palmer received their 15yr long service awards at the Donnelly Field Day.

Before you go...

CHECK THE LATEST TRACK CONDITIONS

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

Parks and Wildlife 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 the 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

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 McKenzie 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

Plan ahead and prepare

- Carry a map, inform someone at home of your intentions.
- Be aware of all restrictions relating to the area you are walking – for example whether campfires are permitted.
- Plan your route and drop-offs and pick-ups around designated vehicle access points.
- Remove all unnecessary packaging before you set out.
- Pack suitable clothing – it's better to have warm clothing and no fire than removing wildlife habitat to burn in order to keep warm.
- Make yourself aware of current local conditions such as diversions due to prescribed burns or bushfire, inlet crossings and safety of beaches by checking the latest track conditions on our website and ringing the local Parks & Wildlife office.





Dave Lindner,
Acting Trails Coordinator
Recreation and Trails Unit
Locked Bag 104, Benley Delivery Centre 6983
T: (08) 9334 0265 E: recreationandtrails@dpaw.wa.gov.au
W: www.dpaw.wa.gov.au



Department of
Parks and Wildlife



Recreation & Trails NEWSLETTER

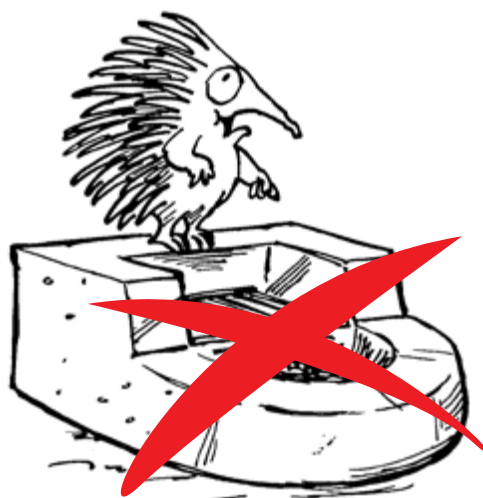
Parks and Wildlife staff members continue to be busy with fire remediation works following the devastating bushfires in February 2015, with our main focus on the replacement of the major infrastructure losses, e.g. shelters and bridges.

The department recently awarded the construction contract to Safeway Building and Renovations for rebuilding at Brookton and Possum Springs Campsites with the new rammed earth shelter and toilet designs. They are planning to commence building in mid-November with the new facilities being ready for use in early 2016. These will be a great asset for the Track as they will be more fire resilient than the traditional wooden shelters. With the two northern sites underway, planning continues for the two southern campsites (Gardner and Dog Pool).

The diversion (and temporary campsite) around the destroyed Dog Pool bridge have now been removed so walkers can access Dog Pool campsite and cross the Shannon River over the rocky crossing near the campsite. There's a toilet and water provided, but there is no shelter—walkers need to provide their own shelter by carrying a tent and should treat all water prior to consumption.

Our Project Manager, Dave Lathwell, is putting the finishing touches to the preparations to call the tender for the construction of the replacement bridge at Dog Pool, with construction planned over the coming summer months.

The other Bibbulmun Track focus for Parks and Wildlife is, of course, the replacement for Long Gully Bridge. The department and the Foundation would like to express many thanks to BG&E Engineering for their pro-bono contribution of engineering services in planning a new all-weather crossing for the Murray River. While we can't



- **Campfire bans are now in place along the Bibbulmun Track.**
- **Walkers should carry a fuel stove and not light any campfires or wood operated stoves.**
- **Campfire bans will continue at least to April 2016 depending on weather conditions.**
- **Always check the Track conditions before heading out.**

re-build Long Gully Bridge, the concept being developed by BG&E is a suspension style bridge elevated to accommodate a 100 year flood height, which will provide extensive river vistas and a unique crossing experience. There is still quite a lot of work to be done before the new design is ready for construction, but we are hopeful for construction prior to winter in 2016.

Unfortunately, we have been receiving some anecdotal reports of walkers ignoring prescribed burning trail closures and diversions—please remember these are implemented to maintain walker safety. By ignoring the closures and diversions, you are not only putting yourself in danger, but also potentially risking the lives of those who may need to come and rescue you. At this time of year the Department is carrying out a significant number of prescribed burns and walkers are reminded to check the Parks and Wildlife website (www.dpaw.wa.gov.au) for up-to-date warnings and Track conditions prior to setting out on their walk.

A timely reminder too, that local fire restrictions will come into force over the coming weeks as the temperatures rise, restricting camp fires. Check with the local

Parks and Wildlife office or Shire office for up to date information about the area in which you will be walking.

Christmas office closures: The Recreation and Trails Unit will be closed between Christmas and New Year to take a short break after a busy year. While the online current Track conditions will not be updated during this time, our local Parks and Wildlife offices will be contactable for up to date information if you are planning on heading out on the Track during the festive season.

Remember to check the forecast (<http://www.bom.gov.au/wa/forecasts/index.shtml>) before leaving home. For your own safety and comfort, we do not recommend walking on days when the forecast fire danger rating is very high or above.

Safe walking and wishing you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Dave Lindner
Acting Trails Coordinator

Walker Story

TRACK MAGIC!

THIS IS A STORY OF A VERY SPECIAL PERSON, SU BECKET,
WALKER EXTRAORDINAIRE, AND HER TWO DAUGHTERS.

Like the Yellow Brick Road in L. Frank Baum's famous story *The Wizard of Oz*, the Bibbulmun Track lays its own claim to fame as a magical creation. Alana and Lindsey Reid were taken on a spell-binding journey along the Track very early in their lives when their mother led them on an unsupported end-to-end! This year, the girls decided to work their own brand of magic out in the bush. In between times the three of them through-hiked the Appalachian Trail, but that's another story.

ALANA BEGINS THE TALE:

"In the Spring of 1999 my intrepid mother Su took my sister Lindsey (aged 8) and me (aged 9) for a stroll on the Bibbulmun Track. This stroll turned in to an unsupported end-to-end hike, taking us two months to walk from Kalamunda to Albany. We finished the trek in November, and for Christmas that year our grandparents gave us *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson. Mum read it straight away, Lindsey said she was never walking again, and it wasn't until years later that I picked it up. I was instantly drawn to the idea of the Appalachian Trail—a 3500km footpath that crosses 14 states of the USA on its way from Georgia to Maine. Could we do this?"

Of course they could, and they did, and we will feature that article in a future edition of the newsletter.

BACK TO THE BIBBULMUN TRACK.

The epic Bibbulmun end-to-end trek started in early September 1999 and finished in early November. At that time the New Track was in its infancy and in near pristine condition. The walk took 56 days, with two days off. Sadly the trio took no camera with them, and the only photographic record of that time is the picture to the right.

So why did Su decide to take the kids on such a journey? Su takes up the story:

"Before I settled down (Ed: How many of us relate to those words?) I travelled the world for about seven years, walked part of the Annapurna circuit, walked in the UK, hitchhiked around the middle east, worked in a Kibbutz...

When I returned to Australia I was keen to walk the Bibbulmun Track, but by then I had kids, and the Track was primitive, with no shelters, no water supplies and no toilet facilities—not a family friendly environment. A few years later, however, "The New Bibbulmun Track" project was completed and by 1998 a walker friendly, if still a tough, trek of 1000km through the bush was available for anyone who cared to undertake it.

I knew from previous walking experience that

the distances between the shelters would be no problem for me. We split the gear between us, I carried most of the food and we had a great time—and I was the only one who suffered from blisters! We were amongst the first of the End-to-enders, following closely in the footsteps of the inaugural walkers of 1998 and for sure the girls would have been amongst the youngest—and they did walk every step of the way!

The highlight of the whole trip was just being out away from everything and seeing the amazing diversity of our bush. Every day brought forth something different. I think when you are walking, seeing just one little thing, maybe a flower, maybe a kangaroo, makes your day. Basically your life is broken down to a very basic level. I guess it's the simplicity of the walking lifestyle that appeals to me.

The weather was excellent and the bush was alive with wildflowers—and snakes! At the end of the walk we were interviewed by the media; Alana said she wanted to turn around and walk back to Perth while Lindsey's reaction was that she never wanted to walk again, but obviously that was a feeling that has since changed!

A lot of water has passed under the bridge since then and I have done a lot of walking—the Cape to Cape, Cradle Mountain, the Bungle Bungles, and more than 5000km on the "Caminhos" of Europe. And now of course the Appalachian Trail. Whereas the Bibbulmun Track was my idea, the girls invited me to walk the AT with them."

And so, having returned from their stroll of 3500km in the USA, where the three were known collectively as Aussie Legs, and gained the



Alana, Su and Lindsey—ready to go!

individual trail names of Muddy Duckling (Alana), Firebear (Lindsey) and Redback (Su), in October Alana and Lindsey decided to do an overnight hike on the Bibbulmun Track. Alana:

“Last week Lindsey and I went for an overnight hike on the Bibbulmun Track; we wanted to add some spice to our lives! We decided to join the exclusive club of ultra lighters and only took the bare essentials for our trip.

We elected to do a 21km hike out to Waalegh campsite, stay the night and then hike back to our parked car. Other than overcoming some of our AT withdrawals, we needed to do some research on where the “bubbles” of end-to-end hikers are this year. Why? We wanted to perform some “trail magic”!

Our hike was fun; the weather was lovely, we saw two kangaroos, a snake, some kookaburras and quite a few day hikers. We stopped in at Ball Creek campsite for morning tea, Helena for lunch and then got somewhat lost. We never got properly lost on the AT, but somehow (in our own beloved backyard) we managed to go over 2km off trail! When we eventually found the Track again (4km of extra walking later) we decided to head back to Helena campsite and spend the night there. We spent it with two section hikers and passed a relaxed evening with a beautiful view.

While we were relaxing in the shelter, we trawled through the register to find where everyone was. I managed to find a “bubble” of about 11 end-to-enders who would be hitting the Track just south of Donnelly River. Our plan was to find these hikers and give them some “trail magic” as a payback for all the awesome magic we received on our own hike.

On Sunday morning the four of us, Dad included, packed up the car and drove for five hours to find a camping area in the

Donnelly area near a Bibbulmun Track access point. (Ed: red car symbol on the map, folks!) We eventually came to Chappel’s Bridge Campsite, where we were delighted to find plenty of room to camp, the Donnelly River next to us and the Bibbulmun Track right in front of us! We quickly set up camp and put up our homemade signs.



We set up our signs

It was late afternoon, so armed with wine, beer and brownies, we walked up to the nearest shelter on the Bibbulmun Track, Boarding House, where we found four lady end-to-enders, who were thrilled to be treated to some of our “magic”. The campsite register showed our original “bubble” of walkers had already passed through.

On Monday, late in the day, two sisters popped out of the bush, who we plied with beer, sausages, cheese, chips, cookies and brownies and next morning cooked them bacon and eggs for breakfast and sent them on their way with a snack pack each. Next day we drove north, parked and made our way along the Track to the Grimwade campsite, where we shared snacks and drinks with one more lady hiker.



Dad cooking up a storm

All in all we reckon our first attempt at “trail magic” went fairly well, considering we missed the actual bubble I’d planned for! Some things we noticed:

- Bibbulmun Track hikers are nowhere near as hungry as we were on the AT.
- At first, everyone was thoroughly confused by what we were doing and had to be convinced that it was okay to eat our food.
- We saw eight women and only one guy. Go girls!
- You really need to camp out for a few days to make it worthwhile.
- Everyone should begin doing Bibbulmun Track magic! It was a really nice way to combine doing something we love (camping and relaxing) with something that made other people smile. On the AT we were constantly overwhelmed by the encounters we had with trail angels, and we will definitely try to make this a regular thing.

Until later,
Alana.”



Our campsite at Chappel’s Bridge

GUIDED TOURS

ON THE

Bibbulmun Track

Enjoy the beauty and serenity of the Bibbulmun Track,
without carrying a heavy pack or camping out!

NEW TOWN TO TOWN TOURS

The Foundation is excited to announce that five new guided tours will be on offer in 2016.

Our new Town to Town tours enable you to complete whole sections of the Track in absolute comfort with accommodation, meals and transport provided.



ALBANY TO DENMARK

2nd - 8th April 2016

Days: 7 day tour, 5 days walking.

Accommodation:

The Cove in Demark.

Cost: \$1,950pp twin share.

This stretch of the Bibbulmun Track follows the magnificent southern coastline from Albany to Denmark. The rugged coastal scenery on this section of the Bibbulmun Track is some of the best in Western Australia!

You'll have time to explore the fascinating town of Denmark as well as enjoy the serenity of the forest chalets.



PEMBERTON TO NORTHCLIFFE

10th - 13th April 2016

Days: 4 day tour, 4 days walking.

Accommodation:

Warren River Cottages, Pemberton.

Cost: \$1,150pp twin share.

Escape to the forest! We will take you on a magical four day walk from Pemberton to Northcliffe. Each day you will walk between 11 and 19 km, taking in the rivers, forests and farms that typify the area. Let the cool and quiet forest work its magic on you. Turn up your face to the mighty karri trees, close your eyes and you may hear the chanting of long ago as you breathe the deep earthy smells of the forest.



WALPOLE TO DENMARK

17th- 25th April 2016

Days: 9 day tour, 7.5 days walking.

Accommodation:

The Cove, Denmark.

Cost: \$2,375pp twin share.

This section holds its own as the most scenic and varied section of the Bibbulmun Track. It takes in majestic forests, deserted beaches, magnificent bays and spectacular cliffs. You'll visit the Valley of the Giants near Walpole and see the beautiful rock formations and tranquil waters of Greens Pool and Elephant Rocks near Denmark with many in between. It is a challenging walk, with hills and beaches to conquer. But the beauty and variety of the walk will make it all worthwhile.



NORTHCLIFFE TO WALPOLE

14th -22nd May 2016

Days: 9 day tour, 8.5 days walking

Accommodation:

Northcliffe Hotel, Northcliffe,
and Bayside Villas, Walpole

Cost: \$2,375pp twin share.

This section of the Bibbulmun Track offers some of the most diverse walking experiences in Australia with towering Karri forest, pristine rivers, grasslands, wetlands, beaches and dramatic coastal cliffs.

This is a moderately challenging walk.



COLLIE TO BALINGUP

19th - 23rd September 2016

Days: 5 day tour, 4.5 days walking

Accommodation:

Balingup Hill View Retreat.

Cost: \$1,575pp twin share.

Only a few hours drive from Perth, the Bibbulmun Track between Collie and Balingup offers some excellent walking and passes through one of the best stands of virgin jarrah forest in the south west. Lose yourself amongst the wildflowers and the sounds of the bush on this five day break, during which you will complete 84 km of the world-class Bibbulmun Track.

BEST OF THE BIBBULMUN



OUR POPULAR BIBBULMUN AND BEYOND 9-DAY TOUR RETURNS

9th - 17th May 2016

Experience the best of the Bibbulmun Track and beyond into the spectacular Stirling Ranges. Just bring your boots, your camera and a sense of adventure and join Lead Guide, Steve Sertis, on this all-inclusive 9-day guided tour

Bold these 2 lines and put full stops at end of each line.

All accommodation, meals and transfers included
Free Deuter daypack and water bottle valued at over \$200.

TAKE THE FIRST STEP

Contact the Bibbulmun Track Foundation

T: (08) 9481 0551

E: events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

For more information

www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au



Yes, THEY DID IT!

Track closures earlier this year are continuing to have an effect on the number of walkers being able to register an end-to-end, but with official diversions and the reopening of some sections, the registrations are trickling in again. We hope to see this trend continue over the coming months.

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!

Evelyne de Boeck (27), from Belgium, and **Per Jonas Strand** (27), from Norway, shared their end-to-end (N-S, 03.07.15 to 15.08.15), which they found much less challenging and less of a wilderness experience than expected. Nevertheless they had a fun walk, met lovely people and saw beautiful things. Per particularly enjoyed the Donnelly region after entering the mighty karri forests and hearing the birdsong choirs. The rugged south coastal sections were favourites for both, and extra highlights for Evelyne included seeing dolphins playing in the surf and spotting a whale near the wind farm. Both thought Donnelly River Village was unreal with its free-wandering kangaroos and emus. They relied on the Track towns for food supplies and found them to be quite adequate. Per found that adding soup to noodles can add a lot of flavour. They've walked extensively overseas and thought that, in comparison, the Track was easier, more comfortable, more planned, less dangerous and less challenging overall, but very achievable for most people. Aarn backpacks were the best equipment for both.

John King (35) came from Canada for what he describes as an amazing journey (S-N, 17.06.15 to 23.08.15) where he met lots of people, drank great WA wines, walked beaches, got into the best shape of his life and created memories to last his lifetime. He relied on a combination of fresh supplies and track-food staples, with his favourite recipe being boiled coconut cream and couscous with roasted pistachios

.....
"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
.....

and almonds. His favourite Track town was Balingup and his favourite section was Denmark to Walpole. Highlights included swimming at Torbay, feeling small amongst the giant tangles and karris and experiencing a wild storm at West Cape Howe campsite. John feels the beauty of the Track is subtle and, as a photographer, he delved deeper and deeper into it as his journey progressed. Wildlife included the possum he hung out with one night, and the mice who ate his trail mix! He advises buying track notes and maps, stretching each morning, carrying plenty of water, taking it slow and having fun.

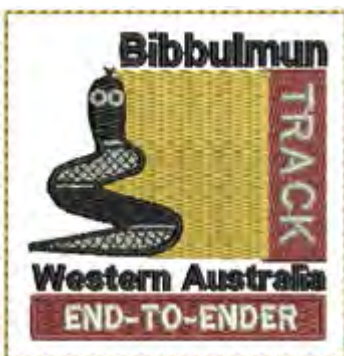
Colin Rolfe (55), from New Zealand, was just *Col* on his end-to-end (N-S, 06.08.15 to 03.09.15) which he found to be challenging but fun and very satisfying. He underestimated just how hard even

the smaller hills could be day after day, but he liked the similarity of the campsites so that he knew what to expect at the end of each day. He found supplies were adequate in most towns, and reasonably priced. Favourite sections were White Horse Hills to Mt Wells in the north, and from Rame Head to Boat Harbour in the south. Highlights included finding White Horse Hills campsite in the dark and crossing the Wilson Inlet bar just three hours before it was opened to the ocean. He also enjoyed the coastal dunes and beaches. He experienced a feeling of remoteness along the Track even though it could be quite close to roads, towns and people. Colin was lucky enough to see an echidna in addition to several snakes, and some dopey emus. A small transistor radio was among his best equipment, and badly fitting gaiters were his worst. Advice for others is to clean and dry your feet daily, and to study maps in advance.

Elizabeth Smith (59), from Queensland, simply called herself *Liz* as she experienced her first long distance walk (N-S, 17.08.15 to 09.10.15). She's very appreciative of everyone who planned, created and maintains such a great WA resource. She found that posting food drops of dehydrated food worked well, especially as she thought that supplies in some towns were not always the best. Favourite sections included the hills near Kalamunda and the coastal sections toward Albany, although she says even the regrowth in the burnt areas had its own beauty. Meeting other people and swapping stories and gear tips with them was a highlight, as was reading the Track logs and red books and then catching up with walkers that she'd been following or others who had been following her. Liz loved the bird life—the

Do you have your End-to-End BADGE?

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



Our CONGRATULATIONS to the following
21 walkers on completing an end-to-end!
4 from overseas, 8 from interstate
and 9 from WA.



ever present calls and colours—which was very different to Queensland. Gaiters and Fixomull were among best equipment, and boots that shredded her feet in the first few weeks were her worst. She advises taking one day at a time and not rushing to complete the walk.

Mark Rooke-Jones, from NSW, was *Sir Poppins* on his trek (Sectional N-S, 28.05.15 to 19.09.15) that he was finally able to complete once some of the burned Track sections were opened again. No other details have been provided.

Graham Bailey (66), from Tasmania, enjoyed his walks (Sectional, October 09 to October 15) and feels the campsites and Track towns ensure the Bibbulmun Track is a trail that is great for mature walkers. Once he'd done his first walk he wanted to do more. He also says it has unique qualities that should be cherished and not compared with other trails. Being able to resupply in towns along the way worked well. Balingup to Pemberton was a favourite section and Graham especially loved the magnificent karri trees. Wildflowers were a highlight and the TransWA bus services were a bonus in helping to make walking in sections much easier. Early morning birdsong wafting into the shelters was particularly enjoyed. Best equipment was his stove—for making those early morning cuppas! His advice for others is to simply get out there.

Shona Hannagan (32), from South Australia, completed a solo end-to-end (N-S, 02.09.15 to 10.10.15). Her favourite sections were between Kalamunda and Dwellingup, and she feels that the Bibbulmun shouldn't be compared with other trails because every walk is different and amazing in its own way. She says wildlife was plentiful, but she would have liked more food! Shona's lightweight, comfortable sneakers were best equipment. Waterproof matches were worst—she says not to bother with them! She advises making up your own rules as you walk.

Richard Slade (59), from Victoria, loved the peace and quiet on his walks (Sectional, 2010 to 17.10.15) although he enjoyed the company of friends on some sections. This was the first long distance walk he has completed and says no other walk will ever be the same. He used food drop boxes for supplies and loved being able to open up each new box of goodies. His favourite sections were on his first walk between Mandalay Beach and Donnelly River Village and he thought the wildflowers were amazing. A sleeping mat was his best equipment and his first rucksack was his worst.

William (Bill) O'Leary (58), of Wundowie, actually walked two solo end-to-ends at the same time (N-S, S-N, 09.01.12 to 24.04.14) by leaving his vehicle at an access spot, walking away from it and then returning to it. Once he got onto the Track, Bill discovered he loved it and is proud that he organised everything himself—food, travel and accommodation. Giants to Rame Head was his favourite section, but he has a special memory of one cold night when driving toward the Driver Rd crossing for another walk when he saw an echidna desperately trying to climb the steep road embankment into the bush. Bill stopped, wrapped him in his jumper and lifted him up to safety. The echidna scuttled away, then looked back as if to thank him—quite an emotional moment! This was one of four echidnas that he saw, along with numerous 'roos, emus, wild pigs, feral cats, birds, foxes, a bobtail and nearly forty snakes. Best equipment included his guide books, CamelBak and a grasstree walking pole. Worst were his joggers before buying hiking boots. Bill's advice is not to rush, but to enjoy your time in WA's nature.

It's never too late to register an end-to-end, like **Joel Johnstone** (21), of Broadwater (N-S, 03.12.04 to 16.01.05). His favourite sections were between Pemberton and Walpole and he saw many snakes. Joel's advice to others is to think twice about walking in summer, do some research into lightweight packing, and consult a podiatrist first if you have flat feet!

Steven Fleming (35), of Bayswater, was extremely satisfied to be able to complete his end-to-end (S-N, 16.05.15 to 17.07.15) following the bushfires earlier this year. In fact, he was the first walker to visit Blackwood campsite after it was officially reopened! For him, the most memorable sections were between Walpole and Pemberton with coastal scenery, forests, burnt-out sections, farmland and some of the loveliest campsites along the Track. Homemade dehydrated food worked well for Steven and he vacuum packed all meals individually. Spaghetti bolognese was a big favourite! Some very interesting people were encountered along the way, and a further highlight was seeing the early morning mist pouring through the valley below Blackwood campsite. Snakes and roos were seen and he startled an emu near Nerang. Birds were plentiful and he especially liked the blue wrens. This was Steven's first long distance walk but he's now inspired to do more. Essential equipment included *wet ones* for a daily bath. His spork was his worst equipment, with both ends breaking. He advises being aware of weight, but carrying lots of snacks in large pockets of your cargo pants.

Scott Lutwyche (42), of Perth, found his end-to-end (N-S, 13.07.15 to 20.08.15) was tougher than he thought it would be, but he had an awesome experience, finding the Track and shelters to be very well maintained and clean. His favourite sections were between Donnelly River Village and Pemberton. "The karri trees are amazing!" A memorable highlight was arriving at Mt Wells late in the evening in a rain storm to discover another hiker already there with the fire going. What could be better? Scott saw numerous emus, roos and wallabies but only one snake. Best equipment included Injini toe socks and his Jetboil, while worst was his backpack which fell apart. Scott maintains that planning and preparation are everything to promote enjoyment.

Yes, THEY DID IT! (CONT.)

Rosemary Gooch (52), of Daglish, loved her walk (N-S Sectional, April 2008 to 28.09.15) even though it took her nearly nine years to complete her end-to-end. "I started to walk with an old friend and two strangers, and ended up at the end of my walks with about twenty great and true friends." Due to the sectional nature of her walks, Rosemary had no need for resupplies. She preferred the southern half of the Track.

Alf Catalano (38), of Victoria Park, had an awesome experience (N-S, 25.08.15 to 01.10.15) which was a journey into his soul to see what he was made of. He's appreciative of advice received from the BTF regarding management of food supplies with food drops. The Pingerup Plains to Albany was his favourite section as he loved the wildflowers and the views that went on forever. Sunset and sunrise at Mt Chance were both special. Wildlife sightings included a very up close and personal encounter with an emu that scared the wits out of both of them! Becoming more familiar with animal tracks and behaviour due to daily sightings was an enjoyable experience. Alf's spot tracker was his best equipment as it provided peace of mind for family and friends back home, and could help provide emergency aid if needed. Worst equipment was a new solar panel battery bank charger which broke—Alf was very appreciative of the people in Northcliffe who helped out with an alternative. His advice to others is to have adequate sleeping equipment, look after your feet and "Pack it light and pack it tight!"

Guy Smith (35), of East Victoria Park, (N-S, 17.08.15 to 09.10.15) experienced an enormous feeling of satisfaction and elation when he reached the Southern Terminus, with no blisters and all limbs accounted for! It has definitely whetted his appetite for more long hiking trips. He resupplied in Track towns along the way and found this was adequate, but will consider posting food boxes on any future walks. Guy really enjoyed the walk between Boat Harbour

and William Bay with its beautiful views and beach walking. Highlights included Waalegh, White Horse Hills and Lake Maringup campsites, the spectacular tingle and karri trees and the first glimpse of the Albany wind farm. The Bibbulmun Track compares very favourably with other walks that he has done in South America and Scotland with its accessibility, comprehensive facilities and the feeling of wilderness it produces as it shows off a beautiful corner of Australia. His single walking stick was among best equipment and a fuel stove that broke was his worst. Guy advises planning well, staying warm and dry, looking out for Waugals and marvelling at the beauty of the south-west.

Tom Hilliar (67), of Cooloongup, was *A Nubis* on his latest end-to-end (Sectional, 02.06.15 to 07.10.15) and wants to give his usual gratitude to all those involved in the upkeep of the Track and campsites. He'd also like to draw attention to his best ever piece of equipment—his trusty 4-band transistor radio which has been with him every step of the way and which picks up the ABC on 95% of the Track! Who needs today's whizz bang techno gadgets? For the price of a couple of AA batteries Tom has access to weather reports and a multitude of programs and entertainment, especially at night.

Emile LeFevre (25), of Three Springs, was *Emile* and says his end-to-end (N-S, 26.08.15 to 08.10.15) was his first time on a hiking track, but it won't be his last. He particularly liked the Pingerup Plains area around Mt Chance and saw a lot of wildlife along the way. His MSR Hubba tent and a neo-air mattress were best equipment, but his synthetic sleeping bag let him down. He advises others to go as lightweight as possible.

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

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**A HUGE THANK YOU TO
EVERYONE WHO MADE A
DONATION AT THE WALK IN THE
WOODS PREMIERE - WE RAISED
JUST OVER \$1000!**

**AND MANY THANKS TO THE
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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.

To make a tax deductible donation, cheques can be made out to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation with your name and address. Cash and credit card donations are also welcome of course! We will then provide you with a receipt from the National Trust receipt book which indicates the donation is specifically for the Bibbulmun Track.

All donations, large and small, are gratefully received and all help to preserve our beautiful Bibbulmun Track.



Getting into Gear

COFFEE KEEPS YOU WARM AND TOASTY!

BY MIKE WOOD - CHAIRMAN RTE

It's probably not the time, as we come into summer, to start writing about gear that is designed to keep you warm, but these days I reckon you can never do without a good, lightweight down jacket. The warmth of down per weight ratio is the best of any fibre—we still haven't managed to beat Mother Nature in this regard.

But be careful with this, because it's not the down, or the synthetic fill, that keeps you warm. It is the air trapped by the fill that is heated up by your body heat, the down or the synthetic fill is merely an insulator. I must admit to owning several down jackets, and a couple of synthetic ones. Icebreaker has now started making jackets filled with merino wool, adding another type of jacket to the market.

I often use my lovely wife, Holly, to test these jackets as it ticks many boxes if I buy her one first. Not only do I get many brownie points for my thoughtfulness, but I also get a warm, happy wife and an honest, real world tested opinion about the usefulness of the new jacket. How often the jacket gets used of course is a real litmus test. I recently purchased the Icebreaker Helix for her to try out and Holly used it on a regular basis on our last European trip, a week walking on the Camino de Santiago in Spain and a week walking in the Dolomites; plus a research trip to Slovenia, Bosnia and Croatia on the Via Dinarica.

Another new piece of kit that caught my eye recently was the stylish Mountain Designs Coffee Fibre Down Vest called the Vienna. Coffee? I love coffee, but in a jacket? Yes, it turns out that if you mix recycled coffee bean fibre with good down you get a fill that absorbs odour, but then doesn't release it until the jacket is washed, meaning longer wear without the smell. Mountain Designs ethically source their 600 loft down, combine it with the recycled coffee bean fibre and then wrap it in Repel™Cold & Wind, a fabric engineered to offer total protection from windy, chilly conditions to bring you a breathable, warm, windproof and water resistant jacket.

Some of the other features in this range include;

DESIGN FEATURES:

- Chinsulator: for cosy zip up without uncomfortable skin abrasion.
- Elastic wrist hem: for a comfortable fit that keeps the cold out.
- Two external pockets and one internal pocket: keep your keys and other items secure.
- Attractive and practical diamond quilting: provides even down distribution and style.
- Stylish matte fabric: perfect for urban wear.
- Stuff sack included for travel: make room for more gear.
- Pockets and collar lined with brushed tricot: for comfort and warmth.
- Elliptical hem: stylish and keeps cold wind out.

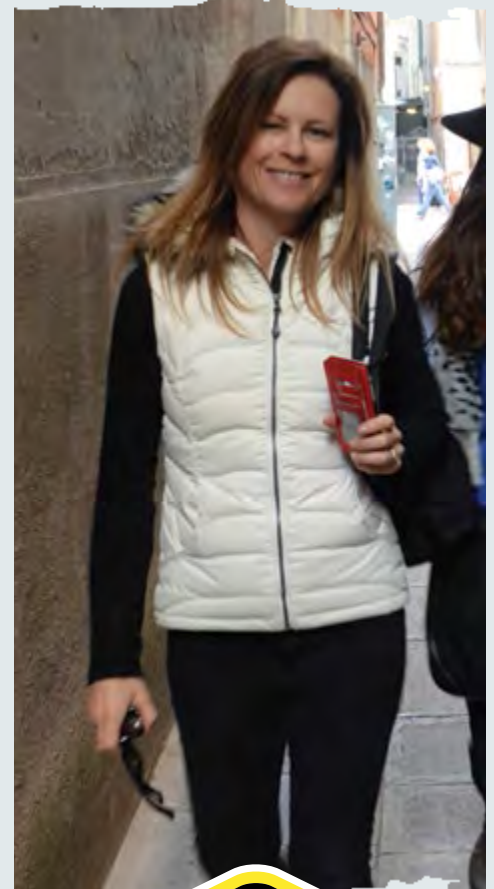
TECHNOLOGY:

- Repel™Cold & Wind: fabric engineered to offer total protection from windy, chilly conditions.
- Eco2sy® Down: recycles coffee grounds and transforms them into toasty insulation. Warm and cuddly, naturally absorbs odours, lightweight and compressible, dries quicker than 100% down without chemical treatment and is sustainable and biodegradable.
- DWR (Durable Water Repellent): not only stops water from soaking into the fabric, but also repels dirt, blood, wine and other nasty items.

Mountain Designs is one of the first Australian companies to use this cutting edge technology and according to Mountain Designs Product Developer Sandra Heidemann, the range was more than 18 months in the making. "Mountain Designs has always used ethically sourced down but we wanted to go further and not just use natural material but reclaim and re-use waste. The sustainable and environmentally friendly range includes men's, women's and children's jackets and vests. The children's jackets are even reversible."

Anyway, I can tell you that Holly's new vest got used extensively in Europe, and although it might be packed away now until next autumn it may make some more appearances on the cooler summer nights.

Mike Wood




Accommodation, Tours and Services



Please support the Walker Friendly Businesses that support the Track.

- Accommodation - Visitor Centre - Track Transfers - Catering - Tour Guides

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CAMP KENNEDY BAPTIST YOUTH CAMP	ALBANY		(08) 9845 1040	albanybaptist.com.au/camp-kennedy.html	
CAPE HOWE COTTAGES	ALBANY		(08) 9845 1295	capehowe.com.au	10% Discount on accommodation
DUNMOYLEN HOUSE B&B	ALBANY		(08) 9842 5235	dunmoylen.com.au	
ELSEWHERE	BALINGUP		0417 965 491	balinguptourism.com.au/accommodation/elsewhere	
THE POST HOUSE (BALINGUP BUDGET ACCOMMODATION)	BALINGUP		(08) 9764 1049	theposthouse.net.au	10% discount (individuals and couples). Different discount options available to groups.
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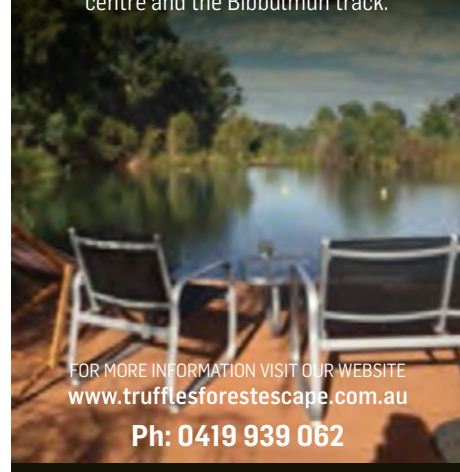
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Ph: 0419 939 062

DWELLINGUP

NEW ZEALAND

THE REMOTE SOUTH

February 2017

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Highlights of this tour include the three-day Hump Ridge Track, sea kayaking from Stewart Island and a taste of the famous Kepler Track.

Enjoy stunning views of towering Mountain landscapes, rugged coastlines, rocky outcrops, golden beaches, and thick forest -this region has it all!

To register your interest email events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au and we'll provide more details when finalised.




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Office GOSSIP

FAVOURITE SHORT WALKS

MONKEY ROCK TO OCEAN BEACH ROAD

Map 8: Denmark/Albany.

9 km return.

Start: Monkey Rock car park, which is on Lights Rd about 3km off Ocean Beach Rd.

As a member of the Western Walking Club I have visited lots of exciting places around WA. A favourite is the walk over Monkey Rock to Ocean Beach Road; though your stamina gets tested once you leave the car park.

The hike up a fairly steep hill shaded by trees soon brings its rewards. If you are lucky to be there in the wildflower season you will see lots of flowers as well. A large granite boulder on your right is well worth the effort for a short detour made easier by someone leaving a rope to help to get to the top. The views are spectacular, so don't miss it.

A short time later a spur trail brings you to the top of Mt Hallowell. Good stop for a snack, and then return to the Track. As you continue along the tall trees and fantastic boulders of all shapes and sizes makes this walk so memorable.

Edith Thomas



After many months of closures and diversions following February's bushfires and the autumn and spring prescribed burns, we finally have most of the Track reopened. As a result we are not spending so much of our day assisting walkers with enquiries about their planned walks and the effect the closures and diversions will have.

Even though we are not so busy with the aftermath of the fires, we still have our days filled with other walker enquiries, putting together Bibbulmun News, which is a real team effort, arranging Thank You Days for our wonderful volunteers, working on updating the Day Walk Map Packs (due for release early in 2016) and keeping up with all the usual admin tasks.

There have been a few Community Events recently—Trek the Trail, Walk the Zig Zag and Have a Go Day, and before each of these we have a morning tea for the volunteers who will be helping.

We recently said farewell to Malcolm Ferrier who has been a volunteer in the office for many years. He

decided it was time to “hang up his boots” and spend time following other pursuits.

Many of the team have enjoyed holidays recently—some overseas, some local, some walking, some cruising and others roughing it with a 4WD and tent.

We are all now looking forward to our summer break when the office will be closed from 4.00pm Friday December 18 till we return at 9.00am Monday January 18.

We all wish you a very Happy Christmas and New Year and for those who are planning a festive season walk, enjoy your time on the Track.

Gwen Plunkett

Office Manager & Volunteer

Volunteer Profile

DIANE TINKER

Diane joined the BTF in March 1999 she is a two-times End-to-ender and currently leads a team of Maintenance Volunteers who look after the section of Track between Wetherley Rd and the Karri Gully Picnic Area.

This is her story:

Over 1999/2001 I completed a sectional end-to-end and promised myself that once I retired I would be back to complete the trip in one go. That happened in 2007, and it was as I wrote of my appreciation of the Track volunteers in the red book in the Albany Visitor Centre I knew I wanted to become a volunteer myself!

In May 2009 I took on two sections of the Track in the Walpole District, travelling down from Perth every quarter. I thoroughly enjoyed the diversity of the two sections—the first alongside the Walpole-Nornalup Inlet and the second going from the Southwest Highway through the karri/tingle forest up to the Giant Tingle Tree. Not only did I meet end-to-enders on this section but also many tourists from all over the world and Australia to whom I had to explain why I was carrying secateurs, a saw, shears and giant loppers!

I moved to Bridgetown in 2012 and added the section from Karri Gully going north just past the Gregory Brook shelter. Other volunteers were later found for Walpole so this latter section is now the only one that I clear. I enjoy having a shelter on

my section; somewhere to put my feet up, have a rest and read all the comments in the books!

All the walkers I meet are so appreciative of what volunteers do, both those on the Track and those in the office, to make their journey safe and pleasant. They all love being in the outdoors and truly enjoy being at one with nature— just like me.

Why do I volunteer?

I love being out there, I enjoy helping others and being part of the Bibbulmun Track team and I like to think I am making a difference!



PRIZE WINNERS!

EARLY BIRD RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP PRIZE DRAW

JULY:

Giselle Marshall received a medium drylite microtowel for her Early Bird renewal.

Janice Glossop received the 2nd prize of a pair of gaiters and a hat donated by a member.

AUGUST:

Ian Ozanne received a Large Xplate for his Early Bird renewal

Vicki Grinceru received the 2nd prize of a travel mug kindly donated by a member

SEPTEMBER:

Lesley Howe received a Large XPlate for her Early Bird renewal

Jeffery Beale received the 2nd prize of an Ultra mesh stuff sack and a Nano head net

UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE, THE ABOVE PRIZES WERE GENEROUSLY DONATED BY FOUNDATION SPONSOR



Bibb Track Packs OVERSEAS

BTF member and volunteer, Trish Bird, on the Coast to Coast Walk in the UK.

“It’s a well-travelled backpack!” said Trish. “As well as the Coast to Coast it has done the Pennine Way, Camino Frances, Camino Portuguese and day walks in Italy, Croatia, Austria and Slovenia. On the Camino it carried all the gear I needed.”

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.



Bibb Track Pack on the Coast to Coast Walk in England.

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.

SCOTCH COLLEGE AWARD WINNING end-to-end program



THE BIBBULMUN TRACK PROGRAM HAS BEEN PART OF BOARDING AT SCOTCH COLLEGE FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS. THE WALK IS COMPULSORY FROM YEAR 7 TO HALF-WAY THROUGH YEAR 10 AND THEN THE BOYS CHOOSE WHETHER THEY WISH TO COMPLETE THE TRACK OVER THEIR REMAINING YEARS AT THE COLLEGE.

The expedition builds on the themes of resilience, independence and personal growth and provides a significant point of difference for the college as being the only school in Australia that offers their boarding students a unique and challenging experience.

In 2012 the program was awarded the ABSA (Australian Schools Boarding Association) Most Innovative Idea in a Boarding School Award and the College is very proud of the boys and staff who participate in this program.

The boys who complete the whole 1000 kilometres become End-to-Enders. In many ways a boy does not have to become an End-to-Enders to absorb the values of the program as each trip has its own specific challenges. It is through the overcoming of these obstacles that they grow and gain confidence in their own abilities and recognise that the challenge itself is not the issue; it is more the willingness to accept it.

BIBBULMUN TRACK 2011-2015 A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

In 2011, 32 excited Year 8 boys were driven to Kalamunda, each of their day packs filled with a bottle of water, a sandwich for lunch, and five jumbo size snap lock bags filled with assorted lollies, Chupa Chups and chocolate bars for the purpose of fuelling them over a one day walk to Mundaring Weir.

This was the start of a long journey down windy paths and old vehicle tracks that turned a 400km drive down the Albany Highway into a 1000km trek—a trek that ultimately helped to turn these young flat-fringe, bowl-cut country boys into young men. This was our introduction to the Bibbulmun Track. Five years later, 17 young men from Keys House walked into Albany to complete one of the greatest challenges of their lives.

In Year 9 we had a four day walk and a seven day walk. This was where we would first experience what the Bibbulmun Track had to offer, with rolling hills and breathtaking views of the forest around Mount Cooke, just south of Perth. One of these hills was Mount Wells or "Mount Tick" as the boys called it, due to the infestation we suffered while we were there.

By the time that Year 10 came around, walking the Track had become voluntary and this meant that some boys dropped out for different reasons. We did, however, still have a large group of boys eager as ever to go out to give the Track another crack. By the end of Year 11 the boys were seasoned Track walkers ready for the challenges of the final two sections.

The first walk of Year 12 lived up to our expectations with breathtaking scenery, long smooth beaches, amazing views and soft, slippery sand dunes. Walpole to Peaceful Bay was the best walk so far along the



A highlight was during the first walk of Year 12 when the boys reached the coast and realized just how far they had come.

Track. Reaching our first beach near Peaceful Bay was a moment that had us realising how far we had come and how little we had left to go.

"Walking across that line behind the bagpipes with 17 of your mates is a really rewarding and fulfilling moment."

The final Year 12 walk of the Bibbulmun Track began with a rough wakeup call at 5:15am after returning home from the Scotch Year 12 Ball After's at 3:30am. This final walk was the first walk for which the Outdoor Education Staff had allowed us to organise our own meals, which meant the end of carrying vegetables and fruit, except for Hunty, who decided it would be a great idea to bring a kilogram of carrots and a capsicum that he was convinced was called a zucchini. Walking into Denmark was a relief to all, as we got to sleep in cabins with real beds and had a barbecue for dinner.

The final morning was one we had been looking forward to since we walked that first kilometre from Kalamunda. As we walked nearer to Albany we could see the winding trail and as we looked across to the

city of Albany, now only three or four kilometres away as the crow flies, we realised we still had eight kilometres to go! Henry Murdoch (OSC 2013), donned his pipe band outfit, puffed up his pipes and escorted us to the Southern Terminus of the Track, and the end became a realisation. Walking across that line behind the bagpipes with 17 of your mates is a really rewarding and fulfilling moment.

Throughout the 1003km of the Track we were fortunate enough to walk with many Scotch teaching staff as well as specialists from outside the school. We were also supported by staff who did all the resupplying and all the boys are very appreciative of their efforts.

The best way to describe the boarders out on the Track would be to compare them with a tree full of galahs, always talking with phrases and sayings that get repeated again and again and again. It just never stops. The banter was also great fun.

Committing to a 1003km walk over five years is a real challenge. We strongly recommend the younger boys to continue walking the Track, as it will be an experience they will never forget.

Harry Ayres and Riley Noble

Year 12 Scotch College Keys House End-to-Enders



Five years after their first walk, 17 young men from Keys House walked into Albany to complete one of the greatest challenges of their lives.

Track Town Balingup

The historic town of Balingup is situated at the northern entrance to the picturesque Blackwood River Valley in the south west of Western Australia

A premier tourist town, Balingup is well known for its art and craft, galleries, festivals and events and is surrounded by wonderful scenery – forests, winding rivers, rolling hills, vineyards and lush orchards.

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

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

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

With a small but vibrant community, Balingup is acknowledged as a leader in staging festivals and events. The major events are the Balingup

Small Farm Field Day (April), Telling Tales in Balingup (Children's Writers Festival in July) and the Balingup Medieval Carnivale (August). In addition to these events you will find there is always something happening and plenty of things to do.

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

Balingup awaits you any time of year – the hardest decision you will need to make is deciding when to leave.

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

FACT FILE:

**Balingup and Districts
Tourism Association Inc**

**South Western Highway
(main street of Balingup)**

Balingup, Western Australia, 6253

**Opening hours – 7 days/week
10am – 3pm**

Phone: (08) 9764 1818

**Email:
balinguptourism@westnet.com.au**

www.balinguptourism.com.au



The main street of Balingup offers speciality shops and cafes.



Blackwood Valley on a misty morning.

BARRIERS BROKEN ON THE BIBBULMUN TRACK

In partnership with the Department of Sport and Recreation, the Bibbulmun Track Foundation progressed the CaLD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) Community Trails Program.

The program, which was initiated in 2011, aims to:

- Motivate and empower people in these communities to initiate their own walks with friends and family by giving them the necessary tools and basic skills with which to do so.
- Demystify any perceived threats the bush may conjure and reduce barriers that prevent bushwalking through interaction with guides who share their experience, and through learning about the native animals that inhabit the WA bush.
- Broaden the training of BTF guides so that their interaction with CaLD communities is effective and positive for all involved.

The latest family walk was held on Saturday November 7th with the support of Communicare. Forty participants from eighteen families walked to a Bibbulmun Track campsite near Kalamunda, where they were introduced to a forest red-tailed black cockatoo, an echidna, a burrowing bettong, a tawny frog mouth and other native animals from the Kanyana Rehabilitation Centre.

Prior to the walk, BTF volunteer guides and others from the outdoor recreation industry took part in a cultural awareness workshop. The

workshop, run by Communicare, gave everyone a good insight into our preconceptions regarding those from a CaLD background. Participants learned how to relate to people from diverse backgrounds, understand cultural protocols and potential barriers to participation and received tips on how to overcome these barriers.

Lauren Reid-Dornbusch, Communicare's Get Active Project Officer, said "The Bushwalk proved to be an incredible opportunity for families to experience a new and exciting form of active recreation within an Australian bushland setting. It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon of shared cultures and learning for both the families and leaders facilitating the program."

More family walks will take place in early 2016 along with the initiation of a youth leadership program aimed at the same CaLD sector. We thank the Inclusion Unit at the Department of Sport and Recreation for their support.



Department of
Sport and Recreation



"The bush walk was a great opportunity to have our (Dar Alaqam Arabic School) families all together; parents and children and teachers. I've been in contact with all the families that went on the excursion and everyone was happy with the day. We will talk about the experience, and what we learnt about the plants and the animals, in our classrooms in our Arabic language. It was a good experience for all of us to have such wonderful information about some wild animals, and be able to feel them.

I would like to thank everyone involved; Steve from the Bibbulmun Track Foundation, Lauren from Communicare, the lovely ladies from Kanyana Rehabilitation Centre and Khadija from our Dar Alaqam Arabic School for their organisation and hard work who made the day memorable."

Dar Alaqam Principal – Rania Kanaan (SIC)

NOTICE BOARD

WANTED: LIGHTWEIGHT TENT

After a sub-1kg 2 person tent such as the Sea to Summit Duo (800g) for next year's E2E.

Contact: Andy
0428 848 533
E: diving.andy68@gmail.com

FOR SALE: HIKING BOOTS

One pair of Zamberlan hiking boots (used but in very good condition) European size 45. Leather lined inside (these were probably women's boots but fitted me perfectly). I have two pairs of hiking boots, so someone who will use these can have them for FREE.

Contact: Pieter Nienaber
0407 387 687
E: pnienaber@gmail.com

FOUND: PEDOMETER

A pedometer found early September at Ball Creek. Please contact the office if you have lost one.

Contact: Lindsay Vibert
08 9481 0551
E: admin@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

FOUND: READING GLASSES

A pair of reading glasses was found in mid-September near the old tin mine workings on the Track north of the Mt Jones Dam between Balingup and Blackwood campsite. If you are the owner, please contact us with a description and then come to collect.

Contact: Gwen
08 9481 0551
E: friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

FOUND: TOYOTA CAR KEY

A walker handed in a Toyota car key found near the William Bay Shelter.

Contact: Jackie Manning
(Frankland District
DPaW Office)
08 9840 0400

Small group, guided walking tours staying in off track accommodation

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



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

W: www.inspirationoutdoors.com.au
E: walk@inspirationoutdoors.com.au
P: (08) 6219 5164

NOMINEES FOR 2015



Department of
Parks and Wildlife



OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS

THE FOUNDATION NOMINATED THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEERS FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS.
THE AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE AT AN EVENT IN DECEMBER.



ALAN BARKER

Alan joined the Foundation in 2005 and since 2007 has contributed 2528 hours of volunteering.

Alan spends one day a week in the office where he offers advice to walkers; fills merchandise orders; maintains merchandise stocks and supplies of member packs for new members; responds to general phone queries; interacts with members of the public who visit the office; processes mail and assists in the general office maintenance.

Alan has also been a maintenance volunteer, volunteered on the Bibbulmun Team Challenge and manned the information stand at community days including the recent Have a Go Day.



GAYLE KEALLEY

Gayle joined the Foundation in 2005 and since 2006 has contributed 2194 hours of volunteering.

Gayle is a Maintenance Team Leader for two sections of the Track totalling 13kms around Parry Inlet ensuring it is safe and well defined for walkers.

Gayle also spends one day a week in the office where, in addition to assisting walkers and general administration, she assists with the organisation of events such as volunteer recognition days and helps with the banking.



JOHN MURPHY

John joined the Foundation in 2002. He commenced volunteering in 2003 when he joined the Maintenance Program. He has also assisted with our walker surveys by undertaking on-Track interviews. Since joining the volunteer program, John has contributed almost 1100 hours of volunteering.

John is Team Leader of the volunteers that maintain the eight kilometre section of Track between Brookton Highway and Dan Road in the Perth Hills District. Over the last three years, John has walked his section on average every two months.



PATRICK TREMLETT

Patrick joined the Foundation in 2005 and is a life member. He is one of nine members of the BTF's board. Since 2006, Patrick has completed 866 hours of volunteering, although this does not include the time spent attending to BTF Board matters.

Additionally, Patrick maintains the section of Track between the Mumballup Tavern and the Noggerup Campsite and is a Volunteer Guide, leading both day and overnight walks for the Foundation's Calendar of Events..

Patrick has introduced countless West Australians to bushwalking on the Bibbulmun Track and the feedback from event participants about his professionalism and positive manner is always excellent.

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.



TRACK TRIVIA

HI FELLOW WALKERS!

After being driven off the Track back in April by prescribed burning (see issue #69) I have managed to achieve some walking and travel over the ensuing six months, although I have to confess I've not been out on our Track since the fires drove me off.

In July I undertook a walk in north Yorkshire, with three friends from the UK. The 177km Cleveland Way was opened in 1969 and is the second oldest national trail in Britain. It is a beautiful walk, about half of which is across open moorland and pasture land and the other half along cliff tops and beaches of the Yorkshire coast, taking in the historic towns of Whitby and Scarborough.

As with previous walks in the UK I had my luggage transported ahead to pre-booked accommodation and enjoyed full English breakfasts and good ale. The weather as ever played an important role, offering a selection of sunshine, rain, hail and gale force winds. The trail passes close to the town of Marton, where Captain James Cook was born in 1728, and a monument to Cook stands on the high moors above. The Cleveland Way is an interesting and picturesque trail that offers about a week of moderately strenuous walking.

Then in September I went for a five day safari in the Kimberley with my old friend Tim from my days in Korea. Tim is South African and was blown away by the similarity between the Kimberley and his homeland in the Transvaal. For anyone who has not been to this fantastic part of Australia—go there if you can, it is unbelievably beautiful.



The author, dwarfed by Cook's Monument



The fabulous Bungle Bungles.



Looking back at the town of Scarborough.

On another note, I am pleased to report that following my picture of the wee beastie I saw loitering at Mt Dale Campsite, a new species has been identified along the Track, namely the Commentator Frog.

See the Walker Story on the following page.

Happy Walking!
Wrong Way Jim

Walker Story

FROGS AND FOOTY

Ian Rae, End-to-ender, Volunteer Guide and Maintenance Volunteer, guided a group of first-time walkers on the Balingup Weekend Adventure Walk in May. He was accompanied by the BTF Events Manager and Lead Guide Steve Sertis and Volunteer Guide Isabel Busch, by all accounts a powerful set of leaders.

Not only was Ian leading this walk, he was also leading the Blackwood Day Walk over the same week-end. This is his story:

I'm sure most guides would agree that spending a day or two on the Bibbulmun Track with first timers is ample reward for the effort you put into ensuring that the experience is safe and enjoyable for all concerned.

So it was that on a Friday evening in May I welcomed a bus load of keen, fresh faced trekkers to the Balingup Hilton, together with their guides for the weekend, Steve and Isabel.

Without doubt one of the major highlights of the weekend is the show and tell session on the first night as Steve swiftly assesses the mountain of gear contained within the unsuspecting trekkers' backpacks. The scene is disturbingly reminiscent of an episode of Border Patrol as Steve disposes of an impressive pile of hitherto essential stuff, the combined weight of which would make even the most seasoned walker wince.

Bright and early Saturday morning it's back on the bus for all of us as we head out to the start point of the Balingup Weekend Adventure.

Steve and Isabel and their group drop off to commence their overnight walk back to Balingup. I return to town, collect my group and we all shoot out to Grimwade-Kirup Road, park the bus, walk into Grimwade campsite for lunch and walk back to Balingup by late afternoon. I bid my day-walkers farewell and return by bus to Tower Road, which is only a short walk from Grimwade campsite where I will spend the night with Steve and Isabel and their group.

Phew! Just keeping everyone and everything on track for the duration of the weekend is a bit like organizing a royal wedding. (WWJ: Herding cats is an expression that comes to mind).

We were blessed with a crisp, clear night and all the campfire chatter revolved around Isabel's beloved Freo Dockers who were

about to line up against North Melbourne. In deference to the rest of the group (especially Steve), Isabel had thoughtfully secreted a tiny wireless deep within her puff-jacket and only a strategically placed earpiece gave it away. (WWJ: In case there is anyone reading this who doesn't know—maybe a resident of Outer Mongolia—this refers to an AFL, or footy match. As a recycled Pom who is still weeping over England's demise in the Rugby World Cup, I recently decided to attempt to understand AFL, so I read the rules about scoring a behind, which for some perverse reason appealed to me. If I was confused before...)

Despite the clear, star filled evening sky and a similar forecast for the following day, Steve insisted that he could hear bonking frogs—clearly indicating that rain was on the way and suggesting that we should be prepared for a wet Sunday.

It was only after an hour or so of intermittent croaking from the frogs (audible only to Steve) that an alert member of the group noticed that following each score check, Isabel would flick out her earpiece and take her place next to Steve at the fireside, whereupon he would pick up the distant sounds of Freo winning at Subiaco—sounds with which Steve is totally unaccustomed!

And so boys and girls, the tale of a mythical being set to rival the revered Rainbow Serpent was born that night – The Commentator Frog. (Ed: If anyone can get a picture of this beast, please email it to the BTF for the next edition of the Newsletter).

Rare but hardly endangered, The Commentator Frog is endemic to the Grimwade campsite (but only during the footy season) and those who first witnessed its homecoming will surely treasure their memories forever – well, at least until their next walk.

Just another weekend on the Bibbulmun Track really!



Grimwade campsite



UPCOMING EVENTS 2016

MOON WALK

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

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

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

Date: Saturday 5 March 2016

Where: East of Armadale, The Darling Range

Rating: Beginners

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

FOOD IN A FUEL STOVE

Tired of eating the same old food out on the Track? Join Lead Guide and End-to-Ender, Steve Sertis, for a fun and hands-on cooking workshop learning tasty recipes and innovative ideas for preparing healthy food on a portable stove. Learn how Steve dehydrates some of his own food – and get to try it!

Date: Tuesday 22 March 2016

Where: City Location

Rating: Beginners

Cost: members \$65, non-members \$80

END TO END WORKSHOP

This workshop takes you through what you need to do to begin planning your epic journey. Learn how to develop your own itinerary, organise food and food drops, plan effective rest days, cross the various inlets and consider the various emergency options available to you.

Take on board what our end-to-enders suggest and you will move one giant step closer to completing one of the biggest achievements in your life!

Date: Wednesday 16 March 2016

Where: City Location

Rating: Beginners

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

GETTING INTO GEAR

Come along for a fun and interesting evening run by experienced walkers. Learn as they show you the gear they like to use, talk about the gear they don't use, and give you those tips you never hear about.

They will discuss the gear needed for day walks through to the gear for an end-to-end journey.

Expect to laugh a little and learn a lot! Places strictly limited.

Date: Wednesday 23 March 2016

Where: City Location

Rating: Beginners

Cost: members \$15, non-members \$25

DANDY DWELLINGUP DAMES

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

Meet us down in Dwellingup on Friday afternoon (leave Perth by 4pm) at our accommodation set by the banks of the Murray River. After breakfast on Saturday we spend the day walking on the Track (7km) and then come back to wonderful neck and shoulder massage.

Relax in the afternoon with views over the Murray River at our accommodation for the night and enjoy a delicious meal. The next day we walk a different section of the Track (9km).

After freshening up, we pack our bags and return to Perth.

Date: Friday 13 May 2016 to Sunday 15 May 2016

Where: Dwellingup

Rating: Beginners

Cost: members \$395, non-members \$415



Reflections

FROM THE REGISTERS

Chadoora

After six years of walking the "New" Bibbulmun Track (I walked some of the old one) I've decided, at the age of 68, to hang up my boots. I didn't quite manage all of the Track but I've walked several sections more than once. I feel a bit sad, but I feel the time has come. I'm spending my final night in this beautiful shelter. I will keep all my memories of the Track, the diverse people I have met and the pleasure of it all. So now I can say goodbye and take it easy. God bless you all!

Val J 06/05/11

It feels like a different planet out here! No phones, no computers, no Facebook. Unadulterated thinking time. All of the weekday restlessness fades away. I truly cannot get enough of the serenity.

Walden Finn 29/09/11

Sandpatch

My last night on the Track. What can I say but thank you to the other walkers, DPaW, BTF and all the vollies. Thank you one and all for making this a great experience for me. I have wanted to do this end-to-end for years and now that I have sold my business (Balingup PO/ Hikers Hideaway) I have done it! Having worked in Tassie and Peru I can say that the Bibb is up there with the best of them.

PS Still not seen a snake.

PPS Not shared a shelter since Maringup—word has got out that I'm to be avoided!

Andrew 28/06/14

(Ed: Andrew has been a great supporter of the Track for many years during which time he has helped out many walkers in many different ways).

Waalegh

Wonder filled walk from Helena. Mist made all the spider webs visible. Orchids sprouting out. Sweet perfume in the air. Beautiful wandoo. Lunch of carrots, peanut butter, salami and green tea. Could life be better? Onward to Beraking in the rain!

Guy (end-to-end hopefully)
20/08/14

Ball Creek

Haven't been here since 2007 when I passed through end-to-ending the Track from Kalamunda to Albany. Fantastic to breathe the WA air and have the sun on my face again. You folks are so lucky to have this trail!

Sean (Tasmania) 01/06/13

It's such a beautiful day for a walk so I have brought my three year-old daughter for her first hike on the Bibbulmun Track. It has taken us three hours to walk from the Hills Discovery Centre with only one rest. She has done so well! It is a wonderful thing to see the Track through the fresh eyes of a child. Just hope she makes it back without my having to carry her.

Lizzymisso 23/05/15

Tom Road

Mushrooms, toadstools and fungi must be the wildflowers of autumn; especially plentiful since Balingup they have intrigued and delighted us with their colours, shapes and variety. We've taken dozens of photographs.

Simon, David and Steve 28/05/10

Noggerup

We spent the night at Camp Yabberup
Had a nice cold beer at the Mumby pub
Saw some horse win the Melbourne Cup
Reached the paddock that went up and up
Where the wild flowers made
our eyes light up

Also saw one lone buttercup

At three-thirty we arrived at
Camp Noggerup

And enjoyed the putting of our feet up
SEW of WWC 04/11/03

Things I have learned the hard way on
the Bibbulmun Track:

1. My body isn't what it used to be
 2. The hot spots on my feet that will be OK until I reach the next shelter won't be
 3. You can't spit through a fly-veil
- Anon 18/12/04

Murray

Last day of the millennium and what a place to spend it! A beautiful shelter and a great swimming spot. Enjoyed a lovely dinner with a bottle of wine that carried in to toast in the New Year.

Best wishes to everyone for 2000!

Karin, David & Marianne 30/12/00



TRAILING AROUND THE WORLD

THE BRUCE TRAIL, CANADA

View of the Point. Credit Judi Martin

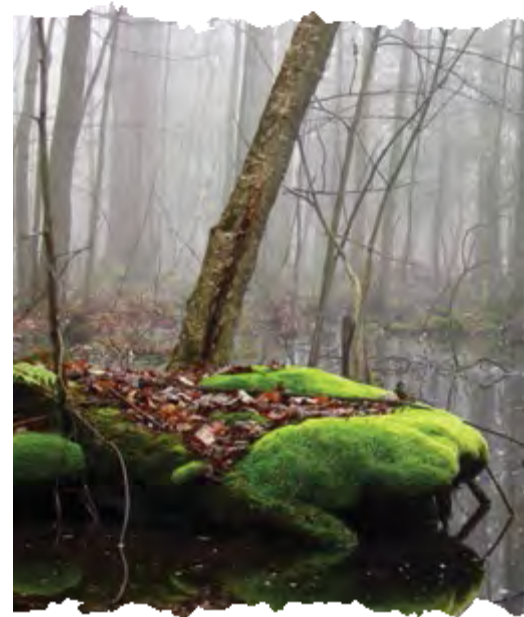
Conceived in the early 1960s, The 890 kilometre Bruce Trail, Canada's oldest and longest marked footpath provides the only continuous public access to the magnificent Niagara Escarpment, which runs predominantly from east to west from New York State, through Ontario, Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois. The escarpment is most famous for the cliff over which the Niagara River plunges at Niagara Falls, for which it is named.

The Trail runs along the escarpment from Niagara to Tobermory, with more than 890 kilometres of main track and over 400 kilometres of associated side trails. Like the Bibbulmun Track, the Bruce Trail is for walkers only, except for limited sections that pass along public roads or where specific permission is given for wheeled vehicles or horses. It is named after James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin and Governor General of the Province of Canada from 1847 to 1854.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) is a charitable organization committed to establishing a conservation corridor containing a public footpath along the Niagara Escarpment, in order to protect its natural ecosystems and to promote environmentally responsible public access to this UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. Nine regional Bruce Trail Clubs are

part of the BTC. Each Club is volunteer-run and is responsible for maintaining, stewarding and promoting a section of the Bruce Trail. Today, more than 1,250 volunteers donate their time and talents to the BTC and its nine member Clubs, and the BTC is supported by over 8,500 members.

The Trail begins in the Niagara Peninsula of Southern Ontario in Queenston, Ontario, on the Niagara River, not far from Niagara Falls, and a side trail allows walkers to view the falls. The southern segment is a narrow green corridor through a populated area in southern Ontario, a wonderland of waterfalls and panoramic views of ships plying their way along Lake Ontario. From there, it travels through the major towns and cities of St. Catharines where it passes through wine country. It continues due north, and the central section becomes remote



Wetland. Credit Jim Lang

and hilly. The escarpment often disappears into the hillsides, only to pop dramatically out again when you least expect it. Through the northern section, the walk is largely high on the escarpment ledges above the azure waters of Georgian Bay, part of Lake Huron. The northern terminus is in the small town of Tobermory, on the tip of the Bruce Peninsula.

The scenery along the walk is extremely varied and beautiful, ranging from cool green woodlands, massive rocky cliffs, beaches, waterfalls and slow-growing centuries-old coniferous trees right on the limestone lip of the escarpment itself. The wildlife is plentiful and walkers may see deer, chipmunks, squirrels,



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Credit Greg Coman



raccoons, porcupines, skunks and bears, as well as many birds and butterflies. The Bruce Trail passes through numerous government

operated parks, and about half of its length runs through public land. Where private property is traversed the BTC has made agreements with landowners to allow trail users to pass through. Walking on the Trail is free but camping is only permitted at designated campsites. The BTC does not control the campsites, which vary from the very basic to large, drive-in campgrounds, and the costs will vary accordingly. For those wishing for a more comfortable walk there are B&Bs and hotels along the way, but careful planning is required.

The best time to plan a walk with regard to the weather is from late spring to early autumn i.e. May through September. As described earlier, the BTC is divided up into nine regional Trail Clubs, and each Club is responsible for its own section of the Trail. Information about each section can be obtained from the Club itself. All of this data can be found at the BTC official website www.bruce-trail.org

White blazes mark the main trail, blue blazes indicate side trails, and to keep your bearings, the Bruce Trail Guidebook from the Bruce

Trail Conservancy is indispensable.

Because there are many side trails and literally hundreds of access points, countless day-walks are possible with many loop trails available. Each Club recognizes an end-to-end walk through its particular section with the award of a badge and the BTC awards badges to those who walk the whole Trail—but in this case they must join the BTC as a member. As with the Bibbulmun Track, the degree of difficulty of walking is very variable. Typical levels of difficulty would be:

Easy: Well defined flat level track. Fine for newcomers with minimal equipment.

Medium: Generally on trail. May be hilly, light bushwhacking, some rough spots or obstacles. Boots are recommended.

Difficult: Tough terrain with one or more of the following: extensive bushwhacking, steep sections, long climbs and descents, beaver dams, rock scrambling or other obstacles. Boots and a high level of fitness essential. Long pants and sleeves recommended.

These are generalisations and obviously conditions will vary with the weather and with the particular section of the Trail being walked. It is essential that anyone planning a walk on the Bruce Trail should plan carefully and contact the BTC for as much information in advance as possible, especially with regard to accommodation along the way.



Green and Grounded. Credit Liz Corbett



TRAILING AROUND THE WORLD

THE BRUCE TRAIL, CANADA (CONT.)

Websters Falls. Credit Shirley A Dennis

Finally, herewith the comment of a Canadian hiker regarding the Trail:

"The incredible diversity of landscape, the hundreds of waterfalls and the abundance of wildlife creates the perfect backdrop for time spent in the great outdoors. We hike winter and summer, rain or shine—and yes, we have faced challenges due to inclement weather, but nothing we could not handle. Young and old will love the Bruce Trail, it is 900km of sheer beauty. Strap on a set of hiking boots, grab some water and an energy bar and enjoy!"

FACT FILE

When to go: Canada experiences all seasons. The best time to hike the Bruce Trail is late spring through to the spectacular fall colours. May–October.

What to wear: Good walking footwear, lightweight clothing, rain jacket, lightweight fleece.

Equipment: Day-pack, water bottle, basic first aid kit. Unless going end-to-end, and then you will need to prepare for camping and food on the trail.

Guidebook and Maps: Available for purchase online

The Bruce Trail website has a wealth of information about planning, trail safety and day pack essentials.

www.brucetrail.org

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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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