

Newsletter for the friends of the Bibbulmun Track

NEW RAMMED EARTH SHELTERS A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Most of you will be aware of the destruction of four campsites during the calamitous fires of early 2015.

Brookton, Possum Springs, Gardner and Dog Pool were reduced to ashes, so the timber shelters and toilets are being replaced with new buildings of aesthetically pleasing rammed earth walls and steel roofs.

The rammed earth and steel are more fire resistant materials than used previously and the shelters will hopefully survive with minimal damage if subjected to bushfires in the future.

A feature of the steel roof structure is the use of weathering steel for the trusses. This steel does not need to be painted and takes on a natural slightly rusty appearance after several years, then continues to be protected against further rust by the buildup of a protective film.

Brookton Campsite was opened in July after the Perth Hills Field Day. Kirsten Stender and Rebecca Hamilton from the Department of Parks and Wildlife showed the group around the campsite discussing improvements over the original site and fire season precautions. The volunteers then completed the final touches as outlined in the Eyes on the Ground article on page 8.

By lunchtime the campsite had 35 plus visitors including the volunteers and a large party of day walkers who had heard about the new campsite and wanted to see it for themselves.

An official opening of Brookton Campsite will take place later in the year and all are welcome to join us. Keep an eye out on our website or the Bibbulmun Bytes e-newsletter for the date.



BTF volunteers, Andy and Michelle Nelson install the campsite sign. The couple are heading off on an end-to-end soon and are pleased to see all the campsites re-opening.



Maintenance volunteer, Guy Spouge, checks out the new dunny!



Volunteers complete the final touches at Brookton Campsite.



The weathering steel used throughout the campsite forms a stable rust-like appearance.

ADVENTURE RAFFLE

A GREAT RESULT



1st Prize winner Jean Mackie and her husband were delighted with their trip to Borneo, presented by Foundation Chairman and Managing Director of Peregrine Travel WA, Mike Wood.

We are delighted to announce the winners of our hugely successful 2016 Adventure Raffle.

With the support of our wonderful prize sponsors and YOU, our members and supporters who bought and sold tickets and/or made donations, we raised a total of \$50,000!

Every single dollar will help to build the new bridge over the Murray River. Due to the required long span of the bridge, and access issues, this is a \$600,000 project, therefore the funds raised are a vital contribution to the project. And the winners are...

1ST PRIZE - WINNER

Jean Mackie wins the all-inclusive 10-day tour for two to Borneo with Peregrine Travel WA. The prize also includes \$1,000 from the Foundation towards airfares.

2ND PRIZE

Shona McMinn is the lucky winner of a \$2000 Mountain Designs voucher.

3RD PRIZE

Paul Hepworth collects a 3-night glamping package with WA Wilderness, including eco-tour with Pemberton Discovery Tours, a cruise with Donnelly River Cruises, lunch at Silkwood Winery and a voucher for Holy Smoke Café.

4TH PRIZE

Sally Harris wins a \$1000 Mountain Designs voucher.

5TH PRIZE

Sharon Bright wins a \$750 Sea to Summit voucher.

BOOK SELLER PRIZE

Gillian Groom wins a \$250 Sea to Summit voucher.

A special thanks to all our raffle sponsors who very generously donated the fantastic prizes:



W A WILDERNESS
one step from nature





FROM MY Desk

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

2016 Annual General Meeting

Welcome to the Spring Edition of Bibbulmun News

No doubt you have heard about the new game which has become an overnight sensation— Pokémon Go. If not, you may have wondered why there has been a marked increase in the number of young people—from kids to 30-year-olds—in your local park!

Pokémon Go is a new type of game that blends the real world with a virtual one—what's known as “augmented reality”. The goal is to capture as many of the more than a hundred species of animated Pokémon as you can. The creatures can look like rats, snakes, dragons, birds, eggs, trees and even dinosaurs. To catch them, all you need to do is travel far and wide using the app and your phone's GPS to track them down and the phone's camera to capture them.

Whilst many will immediately bemoan more screen time, the reality is that it is getting millions of people around the world off the couch and exploring outdoors. When a Pokémon is captured, you might have to walk a kilometre to catch the next one—and you have to walk 5 or 10 kilometres to hatch an egg. I heard one woman on ABC radio last week saying that her usually sedentary daughter had walked 36 kilometres over a few days!

Key locations called Poke stops are located anywhere from churches and gyms to monuments and parks. On visiting National Park Falls in John Forrest National Park last weekend I discovered it was a Poke stop and wondered if that was partly why so many people were there. However, even if that was the initial motivation, phones were soon put away and people were just enjoying their surroundings.

It did give me a great idea though—we could make every campsite along the Bibbulmun Track a Poke stop with lots of Pokémon in-between—and set up the world's first Pokémon long-distance hike! What do you think? ;)

This photo from the Explore Parks Facebook page gives you a small glimpse into the alternative reality that could await you on your next Bibbulmun Track adventure.

In the meantime, if you have kids or grand kids, no doubt they already know all about this and can take you out on an adventure in your local neighbourhood.

Enjoy!

Linda Daniels
Executive Director



Join us on



The 2016 Foundation AGM will be held -

- on Thursday 27 October 2016, 5.00pm;
- at Level 1, Mountain Designs Building, 862 Hay Street, Perth.

Agenda -

1. Apologies.
2. Acceptance of 2016 AGM Minutes.
3. Chairman's annual report.
4. Executive Director's annual report.
5. Treasurer's annual report.
6. General business including -
Appointment of auditor.

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

Elections

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

- Four positions are declared open for re-election.
- Members are invited to nominate for election.
A member's nomination must be in writing, signed by the member and be received by the Foundation before the close of nominations at 4.00pm Monday 3 October 2016.
- Should a poll be needed to elect a Board member it will be conducted during the AGM.
- The term of office of each person elected to fill those vacancies will be 2 years from, and including, the date on which he or she is elected.

The elections will be held because -

- The terms of Mark McLauchlin, Charlie Soord, Patrick Tremlett and Louise Yeaman will expire. Three members are seeking re-election.

YOUR LETTERS



Good morning Bibbulmun Track Foundation Team

Just a quick note to thank you for the promptness in expediting our order, and for its safe and intact arrival.

As vintage trampers (in NZ mostly) and long-distance hikers (mostly in Europe), we were impressed with the sheer amount of hard work you as a team and all your many volunteers have put in to make it so straightforward for newbies and experienced people to access and walk one or more sections of the Bibbulmun Track.

We want to acknowledge the outstanding attention to detail in your maps and guidebooks. Really well done.

We plan to walk a good chunk of the Track next April-May, starting from Albany.

Although well used to planning and carrying through our long-distance walks, we will have questions, having only done short walks in Australia to date.

Regards

**Tim and Juliana
Smithells,
Hamilton, New
Zealand**

Bibbulmun Track end-to-end

It is with a great deal of pleasure that we submit our application for recognition of us both walking the Bibbulmun Track in 2015 and 2016 from south to north and ultimately from end-to-end.

We have done a great deal of walking in the past including completing the Alpine Walking Track in ACT, NSW and Vic, the Larapinta Track in NT, the Overland Track in Tasmania and many of the Great Walks in Queensland, but we would have to say that the Bibbulmun Track was exceptional in the manner it has been maintained and presented. The provision of shelters, water tanks, directional signage and the information available on the Foundations website in terms of track closures and deviation made planning the walk a dream.

One of the other features that we found very refreshing was the standard of the maps and guidebooks...we take our hats off to those that put the time and effort into the collection and compilation of the information that was ultimately put into a very easy to read and carry booklet...well done.

As for the walk itself there were some challenges as there should be, but with such consistent and numerous directional markers navigational skills were in most cases put on the back burner.

The range of different features along the Track whether it be vegetation or wildlife made each day something to look forward to.

And as for the people that we met on the Track they were always interesting, informative and in some cases very different.....again making for a very unique walking experience.

So again we thank you and all the volunteers for their efforts in making the Bibbulmun Track iconic in terms of not only long distance walking in Australia but across the world.

Take care and Good Walking

**Stuart and Denise Holley,
Queensland**

Hi Jim,

We completed our end-to-end Bibbulmun Track adventure yesterday in Albany after 52 days as planned and no major issues. What a wonderful natural asset that you have in this magnificent track! The spectacular sites throughout, the fellow walkers we met, the campsite facilities and hospitality in the towns were just fantastic.

Thank you for your mentoring and support in making this experience come to fruition.

Also if you could pass on our thanks to the Bibbulmun Foundation folk and the Department of Parks and Wildlife who make possible for us and all the other walkers to have such a magnificent experience.

I will most likely write an article for our club newsletter and will forward a copy. If you are ever over our way and would like to go for a walk with some real hills, please look me up!

Regards,

Robert Carter

(Ed - Jim is one of our trip planning volunteers)

Greetings to you, dear Bibbulmun Track administrator!

I have been living in the south west for 5.5 years now. During that time, I became aware of the Track but only ventured on small parts of some sections (e.g. Pemberton). HOWEVER, in the past few weeks I have become totally "addicted" to walking on day trip on parts of the Track on the sections Donnelly River - Pemberton (numerous day walks), Northcliffe and a bit of coastal.

The Track is simply absolutely beautiful!!! It is right up there in the top walking trails in the world and with 1,000kms, the Track is keeping me fit and always finding new fascinating natural sights. The Track is very well posted which is excellent and reassuring. I wish to express my gratitude to all the volunteers who maintain the Track and keep the campsites very clean...I haven't seen any rubbish at all so that means that both volunteers and hikers care for the environment to keep it pristine.

A HUGE thanks you and am very grateful to all the volunteers who do a wonderful job!

Denys Martin

Hi Jim

I arrived at Albany today!

It took 49 days including 2 days off!

Bibb Track was such an epic journey.

Appreciate your help. Thanks to your advice, I could make it!!

Thank BTF & vullies for maintaining track so well- nice shelters, condition of track, water tank and toilets, and everything!

Appreciate it.

I miss Track already. It is really strange. When I was on Track, I was always looking forward to achieving E2E soon but after finishing it, I feel a little bit nostalgic to Track.

I'm gonna visit BTF as soon as I get back to Perth. Wow! It is so exciting I can see my profile on E2Eer gallery! So great!

Ah, I've enjoyed reading Bibb magazines. Appreciate fine reading stuff!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Regards,

SERI, South Korea

In May 2016 the Bruce Trail Conservancy held an event to officially twin a section of the Bruce Trail with the Bibbulmun Track. Two of their maintenance volunteers, Lynda and Carl, had walked sections of the Bibbulmun Track earlier in the year and sent us the following message...

G' day All from Canada

How're you going?

Today The Bruce Trail had the official opening of the 7km section designated as the Bibbulmun Track - Bruce Trail Friendship Trail. We shared some of our great memories of the Bibb and hope you and other Bibbers make it here someday to hike the Bruce. Here's to friendship around the world through hiking.

Cheers,

Lynda & Carl



Good to see Bruce Trail maintenance volunteer, Carl, wearing his Bibbulmun Track hat at the opening of the Friendship Trail in Canada!

Entertainment Book

It is not too late to order your entertainment book; every week new offers are being added!

Buy a 2016 | 2017 Perth Membership online or in the office.

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

-OR-

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

The Entertainment™ Book, and the Entertainment™ Digital Membership, are your guide to the most popular restaurants, attractions, shopping, travel and more, all with valuable up to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers.

\$13 of your \$65 purchase will go towards the Bibbulmun Track Foundation.

Thank you for your support.



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

TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES

- Use designated tent sites wherever possible.
- Stay on the Track, don't cut corners through the bush and stick to the internal trails at campsites to avoid trampling vegetation.
- Keep to the middle of the Track even when it is underwater.
- On sandy, coastal track walk wide of the centre to spread the impact over the whole width of the track.





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



Department of
Parks and Wildlife



Recreation & Trails UNIT

It is cold and rainy as I'm writing this, though the beautiful spring hiking weather is just ahead, with its stunning wild flower displays.

For many of you the bushfires from earlier this year, and 2015, have been forgotten. For us at the Department the aftermath of the fires has remained a key focus as we rebuild the Track infrastructure. We set the target of rebuilding the camp sites and bridges within 18 months of the 2015 fires, and we are nearly there. After a few minor contractual delays, the new rammed earth Possum Springs and Brookton Campsites are now open. At time of writing the Dog Pool and Gardner Campsites still require the roofs to go on, but are near completion. These two campsites are open, water is available—but bring your tent! The bridge across the Shannon River at the Dog Pool Camp Site has been rebuilt slightly further upstream from the original location.

I would like to thank the BG & E engineering company for their pro-bono contribution of the new Murray River suspension bridge design and subsidised construction drawings. The bridge is progressing, the site has been

confirmed, drawings completed and a contractor engaged to install the footings. Unfortunately we had a few hiccups in the final planning and are now awaiting the last approval before construction can commence in the near future.

A diversion remains in place via the seasonal crossing at Driver Road while the river water levels remain sufficiently low. The new trail sections, which will eventually link the suspension bridge with the Bibbulmun Track, are under construction. The requirements for new kit bridges and trail along this section provided good opportunities for further construction training with the Support Volunteer team. On completion, one of the new trail sections will provide an alternative to the current diversion along Harvey-Quindanning Road, and therefore be opened straight away. The Support Volunteers, provided with training and technical assistance, also replaced the bridge across Bell Brook south of Harvey-Quindanning Road, which was destroyed in the 2015 fires.

Insurance assessments and work programs are also progressing for infrastructure destroyed and damaged in this year's fires, including

the Murray Campsite and a boardwalk south of the Canning Campsite. The Support Volunteer team has remarked the Track through these sections and they have been reopened. The Murray Camp Site can be used and there is water but the shelter is still awaiting repairs and remains closed, so tents are required. Please check the Department's track conditions website for updates about which facilities are open and available (www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/parks/alerts-and-updates).

The Recreation and Trails Unit has seen a staff change with the departure of Stephanie Howells, who has returned to the department's Perth Hills District. Dave Linder is currently hiking on New Zealand's South Island, no doubt trying to stay warm. Kelly Scherbarth, our school based trainee, has settled well into her two-days a week with our team. Stuart Harrison and I are holding the fort on the other days.

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

Kerstin Stender
Trails Coordinator



Remains of Bell Brook Bridge.



New bridge over Bell Brook, constructed with the help of Support Volunteers Ben Blomfield and Wes Fokkema.

Eyes on the GROUND



Volunteers painting the campsite signs.

These last few months have been a busy time for our maintenance volunteers with regular maintenance visits, Field Days and extra projects needing to be completed in the aftermath of the fires. Sections directly affected by the bushfires or prescribed burns require much more attention than usual as the regrowth is generally thick and the zamia palms always seem to pop up in the middle of the Track and therefore must be dug out.

The Wellington District Field Day saw us meet on a chilly but sunny day and after morning tea we flexed our muscles to transport the kit bridge components into Bell Brook ready for construction. On either side of the bridge some pruning was needed as the regrowth is still rapid there. The now empty trailer provided a great lunch spot and we had just finished when the dark clouds

rolled in and we had to pack up and leave in a hurry before the rain tumbled down.

Perth Hills Field Day was also very chilly so we all enjoyed our hot cuppa when we met at Brookton Highway and talked about the plans for the day. One group went straight to the Brookton Campsite to finish off the tent



The Track from Brookton Highway into the campsite is wheelchair accessible.



Bruce Trail volunteers, Lynda Vera and Carl Alexander (right) visited WA in April.



The empty trailer provided a great lunch spot at the Wellington Field Day.



Michelle Nelson replaces a burnt trail marker

sites and internal trails as well as install the campsite signage. Another group worked to the north of the campsite checking for regrowth and replacing some burnt trail markers. The final group worked on the Track between Brookton Highway and the campsite clearing any obstacles and ensuring the surface is clear for wheelchairs as that section is suitable for the disabled.

The Support Volunteers have been busy with a number of projects; remarking the track north and south of Murray Campsite, constructing kit bridges at Bell Brook and working on the new alignment just north of Harvey Quindanning Rd, clearing and

constructing the trail and installing trail markers. In addition erosion control work has been performed in various areas of the Albany district.

In April I had the pleasure of meeting Lynda and Carl Alexander from Canada. Carl is the President of the Dufferin Hi-Land Club that maintains the section of Bruce Trail where our Friendship Trail is located. We swapped stories about track maintenance and once again I realised just how maintenance varies in different parts of the world. It's not often our volunteers need to don full safety equipment and use chain saws to clear a trail as is done in Canada.

The volunteers who look after the campsites which were damaged or destroyed in the fires have had a long wait to see their new campsites and we're pleased that at long last Possum Springs and Brookton are now open and Gardner and Dog Pool are not far from completion. Work has yet to commence on Murray Campsite.

Thank you to all of our regular and Support Volunteers for their commitment to the Track, visiting

their sections in all weathers to keep everything in great shape for walkers to enjoy.

Gwen Plunkett and Charmaine Harris
Volunteer Coordinators



Rob Black and the other volunteers helped carry all the bridge components to the river bank ready for building.



Volunteers Mark Pybus and Colin Gee help park ranger Nick Evans with the bridge components.

Bibbulmun Wellington Spur Trail

– A GREAT ADVENTURE FOR GROUPS.

Developed particularly with schools and scout groups in mind, the Bibbulmun Wellington Spur Trail offers a range of options as a stand-alone expedition or may be added to the outdoor recreation activities on offer in the Wellington National Park.



Overlooking Wellington Dam.

The spur trail links the Bibbulmun Track from Yabberup Campsite, south of Collie, to the Wellington Dam Recreation Area, which offers a range of other recreational activities including mountain biking and canoeing. It is a pretty walk through a mix of open farmland and WA's unique eucalypt forests of jarrah, marri and yarri (blackbutt). The trail has two group campsites and can be walked as a three day/two night or two day/one night walk. Walk options include:

COLLIE TO WELLINGTON DAM. 40KM

Day 1. Walk the Bibbulmun Track to Yabberup Campsite which is 19.6km south of Collie. (To shorten the walk, get



Wellington Spur Trail Waugal markers have a lime green background.

dropped off at Mungilup Road Bridge 13.7km or Mungilup Road South 10.4km. These vehicle drop-off points are shown on the map.) Lyall's Mill Group Campsite is approximately 350 metres away from Yabberup Campsite (300m from the spur/Track junction).

Day 2. The 15km walk from Lyalls Mill Campsite to Arcadia Campsite takes you through jarrah forest with occasional farmland and valley views.

Day 3. A 3.5km hike to Wellington Dam leaves time to explore the Dam Recreation Area. Camping is also available in the area.

GLEN MERVYN DAM TO WELLINGTON DAM. 25KM

Same itinerary as above but commence your walk at Glen Mervyn Dam. Follow the Bibbulmun Track for 6km to the start of the spur trail. This provides a shorter first day's walk depending on the age of the group and/or the travel time to get to the drop-off/pick-up points.

WELLINGTON DAM TO ARCADIA CAMPSITE. 7KM RETURN.

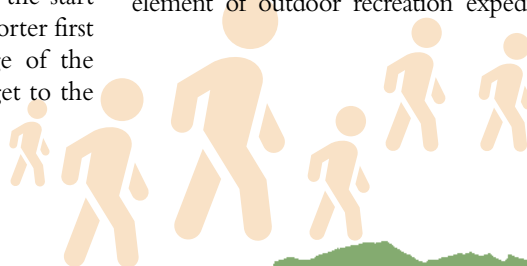
Starting the walk at the dam into Arcadia Campsite and back is a good day walk or overnight option for younger age groups.

GROUP CAMPSITES

The two campsites, Arcadia and Lyall's Hill, have been designed specifically to meet the needs of outdoor recreation groups and include:

- A large open shelter (two walls) for cooking
- A large rain water tank
- Picnic tables
- Two toilets
- A greater number of tent sites.

The campsite does not have a sleeping shelter, as learning to set up a tent is an important element of outdoor recreation expeditions.



Need to know:

- The trail is marked with lime green Waugal markers to differentiate it from the main Track.
- The route is marked on Bibbulmun Track map 3 – Collie.
- All groups of eight or more need to lodge a Notice of Intent (NOI) form.
- Hire gear is available from the Foundation including PLBs (Personal Locating Beacons)
- A range of resources for planning an expedition are available on the Bibbulmun Track website.



Walking through Wellington National Park.

ABOUT WELLINGTON DAM NATIONAL PARK:

The key features of this 17,000 hectare park are the Wellington Dam and beautiful Collie River Valley with its ancient valley gorge. There are a range of activities you can add to your hike on the spur trail to extend your trip, including:

- Mountain biking on the 9.5km Sika loop trail or at the Mt Lennard (Pile Rd) mtb network.
- Canoeing on the Wellington Dam.
- Abseiling in the quarry.
- Other walk trails.

WELLINGTON DISCOVERY FOREST.

This interpretive centre (located 10 kilometres from the dam) incorporates self-guided walk trails through the forest and information to give an insight into jarrah forest ecology and past management of the forest. Eco-education excursions are offered to school groups throughout the park.

ACCOMMODATION:

Once off the Track groups can camp at Potters Gorge. Recently refurbished, this site on the banks of the dam has new toilet blocks, a great communal fire pit and campers' kitchen. Bookings can be made through the kiosk at the dam. Alternatively, Wellington Forest Cottages are just 10kms from the dam near the Discovery Forest.

To find all the contact information and download the expedition planning resources, visit the Schools and Scouts page under Trip Planning on the Bibbulmun Track website: www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/trip-planner/schools-scouts



Lyall's Mill Campsite on the Wellington Spur Trail.



1	Mungalup Rd Bridge
2	Mungalup Rd South
3	Glen Mervyn Dam
4	Lyall's Mill Campsite
5	Arcadia Campsite
6	Wellington Dam

The Wellington Dam Spur Trail and group campsites are generously supported by



Department of
Sport and Recreation



The trailhead sign at Wellington Dam.

Yes, THEY DID IT!

As the Track has gradually reopened after last year's disastrous bushfires, more walkers are now able to complete their end-to-ends, either as a through hike or the final sections of a longer effort. And it's still pleasing to see end-to-ends completed earlier being registered for recognition by the Foundation.

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!

Goncalo Bernado (26), from Portugal, loved how simple life got while on the Track (S-N, 26.03.16 to 16.05.16) and thanks everyone involved in its provision and upkeep. He thinks it's a lot nicer than El Camino because of its more remote route and its campsites. While he was able to resupply in towns along the way, Goncalo found it was challenging carrying food for 12 days between Dwellingup and Kalamunda. (Ed - Contact us for advice about this section). Highlights included going the whole distance without setting foot in a vehicle despite the closures and diversions. He was also happy to prove his self-sufficiency by walking solo. A home-made meth burner stove and a hammock were his best equipment. Goncalo urges others to go out and enjoy the simple life on Track.

John Colby (71), from NSW, was known as John C on his end-to-end (N-S, 19.08.15 to 17.10.15). He had good weather with no need for wading on the Pingerup Plains or at any of the inlet crossings —dry boots nearly all the way. He says the Bibbulmun Track facilities, shelters with water and

toilets, are unsurpassed anywhere else. He generally resupplied at towns along the way but found there were limited supplies at some stops. The whole southern half of the Track was John's favourite. He particularly enjoyed the number and variety of birds, and the wildflowers that he hadn't seen before. John met many nice, interesting people on the Track and thanks them all for adding to his experience. He advises travelling light without carrying any "just-in-case what-ers" but would have been lost without his beanie.

.....
"I loved some time on my own to reflect, but also enjoyed meeting all kinds of people on Track and listening to their stories. I liked the silence at times, the sound of the rain and the chirping of the birds... it was good to connect with the Australian bush and learn a bit about it."

Barbara Remenyi, Queensland
.....

Denise and Stuart Holley, experienced walkers from Queensland, completed their end-to-end (Sectional, 05.03.15 to 22.05.16) on what they describe as a world class iconic long-distance walking track. They were impressed with the Track maintenance and presentation, and its shelters, water tanks, directional signage, maps, guidebooks and exceptional website with up-to-date information making their trip-planning so much easier. They found there were some challenges on the walk, as expected, but the variety of vegetation and wildlife made each day something to look forward to. Denise and Stuart enjoyed meeting other walkers who helped to make their end-to-end a unique walking experience.

Barbara Remenyi (42), of Queensland, (Sectional, 01.05.15 to 22.05.16) loved some time on her own to reflect, but also enjoyed meeting all kinds of people on Track

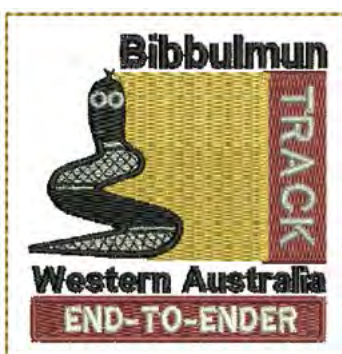
and listening to their stories. She liked the silence at times, the sound of the rain and the chirping of the birds. She found it was good to connect with the Australian bush and learn a bit about it. Barbara is appreciative of the safe, well-maintained Track and thanks all those involved with it. She was able to resupply in Track towns along the way. Sections following the Donnelly River were her favourites and the karri forests were a particular delight. Her advice is not to wait for tomorrow, next week, next month, next year just go!

Mary Harris (51) is one of the JRT Sisters and has come from NSW for two weeks walking for the last nine years in order to complete her end-to-end (Sectional, October 07 to 24.05.16), which became a special journey on a unique track. May was her best time of year for walking and she loved starting early and being rewarded with relaxing afternoons in the campsites. Her favourite section was between the Pingerup Plains and Walpole and her highlights included reading the red journals each evening, travelling through the ever-changing scenery, coming across a Waugal after doubting her direction, and sharing information and ideas with fellow walkers. Her best food ingredients were fresh garlic and cheese wrapped in a Chux™—it would keep for 10 days! Mary was happy with all towns for food supplies but gas was sometimes tricky. Wildlife included dolphins, 'roos and snakes, in addition to the pack-chewer at Beavis campsite. Gaiters were her most useful equipment, protecting against sand, sticks and snakes.

Dory Costello (62), from NSW, was simply Dory on his third end-to-end (N-S, 25.04.16 to 17.06.16). He says the Track is forever changing and he's contemplating walking a double next time. He was able to resupply in Track towns with no problems and seemed

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to like a diet of Snickers and local apples. Giants to Rame Head was Dory's favourite section and he loved the tingle trees in this region. He spent a lot of time on his own without sharing campsites and enjoyed mostly fine, cool and dry weather — ideal conditions. He saw only one snake, many 'roos and emus and found the quenda at Torbay Campsite was very friendly. Advice to others is that 1000km is really just one day at a time, one step at a time...

Janet McIntosh (59), from NSW, called herself Thirty and a Bit on her solo end-to-end (S-N, 30.04.16 to 28.06.16) and is very grateful for the provision of the Track. With such good marking, achievable distances and well-kept shelters she says that it is suitable for a huge range of walking abilities. The infrastructure is outstanding when compared to other trails, and there's the sense that walkers can do it safely and independently. She was thrilled to find that the solitude of walking alone was not at all lonely! There was so much time to think, absorb and indulge. Her pre-cooked, dehydrated meals were very successful, - yummy and light to carry. The coastal sections were favourites with their wild beauty and the highlights were many—variations in terrain and flora, camaraderie on the Track, and outstanding campsites like Lake Maringup, Beraking, Waalegh and Helena.

Preston Suijendorp (66), of North Yunderup, just called himself Preston as he walked in sections of three to seven days (Sectional, 15.04.09 to 04.06.12) on a fantastic experience that he thoroughly recommends to others. He tried out many of Steve's recipes from the Foundation's cooking class. Preston liked the section from Walpole to Denmark with its varied country and spectacular views. He particularly enjoyed a river of mist rolling between Mt Cuthbert and Mt Vincent as he had morning tea above it, a spectacular sunrise at Lake Maringup and being lulled to sleep by babbling brooks at a couple of the campsites. Solitude for contemplation was enjoyed at times but he also liked meeting people from all over the world. Wildlife seen included bold kangaroos along the south coast, a

quokka, tiger snakes and possums. The Track campsites and remoteness rate it ahead of other walks that Preston has completed. He liked his Exped air mattress but a cheap tent produced way too much condensation. He urges others to get out there and give it a go.

Greg Kent (61), of Sorrento, was half of Greg and Mike when he completed his first long walk (S-N, 05.08.12 to 23.08.12). He said it was good to get away from the rat race and just chill out. He thought volunteers do a great job in keeping the Track in such good condition. Greg had no problems restocking supplies in the Track towns. His favourite section was between Peaceful Bay and Rame Head and, overall, it was just a great walk with a good friend. They met some great people along the way —specially two Alaskan brothers who chased them down from Albany. Snakes, 'roos and many cockatoos were seen. Boots and walking poles were best equipment, but a self-inflating mattress kept letting him down! He advises others to go and enjoy the wonderful countryside and changing landscapes.

Luke Smith (31), of Lesmurdie, called himself Gingemoe on this end-to-end (N-S, 06.09.13 to 23.10.13) after which he headed back northwards again from Albany, but pulled out at Gringer Creek due to flies, ticks and extreme heat. His favourite section was from Walpole to Denmark, with highlights being some very early morning starts with Pack Animal, and then hiking a lot of the way with Herbivore and Carnivore. Walking poles were his best equipment until one broke just out from Albany. Luke advises other walkers to just "be in the moment."

"I was thrilled to find that the solitude of walking alone was not at all lonely! There was so much time to think, absorb and indulge."

Janet McIntosh (aka Thirty and a Bit), NSW

Lari McDonald (60), of Success, and **Hedley Amos** (66), of Jarrahdale, enjoyed walking together on Lari's first through end-to-end and Hedley's fourth (N-S, 23.09.15 to 11.11.15). They prepared and dehydrated their own meals which were then organised

into various food drops along the way. The karri forest was Lari's favourite section whereas Hedley liked everywhere in the southern forests with karri, tingle and marri. He especially loved the sections beside the Donnelly River between Tom Road and the base of THAT hill before Beavis campsite. A highlight for both was the trail magic provided by the Reid family at Chappels Bridge. Meeting other people and sharing their knowledge and experiences was also enjoyable. Both are passionate about the Track and it compares very favourably with other walks they've completed. Hedley says changes in season and weather can completely alter each Track experience. Lari's best gear included walking poles and her new mattress blower-upper. A Big Agnes tent was Hedley's best. Advice for others is to learn as much as possible before you go, try some day walks, and pack only half what you think you might need. Then just do it...you only have one life!

Jolene Gailitis (37), of Maylands, called herself Jojo on her first long hike (N-S, 14.12.15 to 31.01.16) during which she felt like a big kid on a huge adventure and now admits to being a Bibbulmun addict. She says it's the best thing she's ever done and thanks volunteers for all their hard work. Food parcels were sent to towns, but Jolene feels confident that she could have simply resupplied in the towns. She enjoyed meeting other hikers and the wonderfully supportive and friendly people in the Track towns. Her favourite section was between DRV and Pemberton although she also liked the Perth Hills, the tingle forest and all the beaches. Walking poles and her mozzie dome tent were best equipment, and her worst was a solar charger. Jolene reminds others not to be in too much of a hurry to finish, but to enjoy the journey because you'll miss it when it's all over.

Lesley (62) and **Stuart** (66) **Price**, of Kalamunda, say the whole Track was worth doing (Sectional, 1998 to 12.02.16) and it's probably the best maintained and marked track experienced to date. They carefully planned their food supplies to maximise nutrition and minimise weight. A highlight

for both was being able to spend quality time together while out on the Track. Their tent and walking poles were best equipment. Their advice for others is not to stint on the quality of equipment.

Another group of students from Scotch College has finished its epic trek along the Bibbulmun Track (Sectional, 31.03.12 to 05.03.16). The latest group includes Hamish **Ritchle** (17) of Darkan, **Jye Waters** (17) of Yerecoin, **Flynn Taylor** (17) of Katanning, **Todd Retallack** (16) of Bremer Bay, **Braden Retallack** (16) of Bremer Bay, **Jake Lane** (17) of Hyden, **Oscar Hutton** (17) of Claremont, **Eric Gibson** (16) of Cable Beach, **Chris Di Russo** (16) of Hyden, **Yukio Chaplin** (17) of Broome and **David Bott** (16) of Esperance. For Flynn it was an amazing trip which strengthened relationships with his friends. Although challenging, it was a fun experience and well worth the effort according to Todd, Braden, Oscar, Jye, Yukio, Chris and David. The importance of good food and extra snacks was noted by Hamish, Jake and Eric, and David would have liked more Mars Bars! The coastal sections between Mandalay Beach and Walpole were favourites for Flynn, Todd, Braden, Chris and Yukio whereas Jye, Jake and Oscar preferred sections around Peaceful Bay. The northern forests around Dwellingup were liked by Hamish, Eric and David. Swimming, fishing, and camping with their buddies were highlights for the entire group. Many liked the amazing views and Hamish enjoyed taking photos of the incredible scenery. Oscar found the environment became more beautiful the further south they went and Eric also liked it more each year. Both Yukio and Flynn liked getting into camp each day and Chris enjoyed the reward of finishing. A pack cover, some inflatable mattresses, sleeping bags and a blow-up pillow were among the group's more liked equipment, and less liked were rain jackets, a hootchie and anything heavy! Advice they offer is to pack light and don't carry more than you need.

Glenn Smith, of Winthrop, has registered his end-to-end (Sectional, 2002 to 02.04.16) but provided no other details of his walks.

Andrew Vallance (51), from Northam, had

a fantastic experience overall (Sectional, 2005 to 17.04.16) and recommends it to all West Australians—we don't need passports, air fares or currency changes, to dodge snipers, evade bears and lions or skirt landmines—it's right on our doorstep and takes you to some of the most amazing sights that are truly world class. A favourite food for him was two-minute noodles combined with Deb potato and beef jerky. The Pingerup Plains was Andrew's favourite section with other highlights seeing logs covered in mosses and lichens of all colours and shapes in the karri forests, the views along the south coast, and seeing the shelter at the end of each day. Andrew found some sections to be a challenge and felt an enormous sense of achievement when he finished. It was great seeing many native animals, but not so great seeing the number of feral pigs and cats. Walking poles were best gear and some poor quality boots were his worst. He advises buying good quality gear and listening to others along the Track for tips.

Laurie Brown (55), of Subiaco, was LozzaB on the most inspirational adventure of his life (S-N, 06.03.16 to 23.04.16). He sends a huge thanks to everyone who cares for and maintains such a remarkable resource. On the down-side, it was sad to see so much fire damage. He found it too hard to nominate a favourite section but Laurie's favourite campsite was Blackwood with its awesome sunset and sunrise; quite mystical. It was the best walk he has ever done and was a phenomenal personal experience which he does not have the words to describe. Best equipment included his Big Agnes tent and Osprey pack. Laurie advises planning, planning, planning and staying warm with a good sleeping bag.

Tom Bettison (20), of Beechboro, says this end-to-end (N-S, 29.03.16 to 04.05.16) will not be his last! While parts of the walk weren't easy, it was worth the sweat. He loved every minute and it was fascinating seeing the scenery change along the Track. Tom didn't cook at all on his walk - his diet consisted of dried foods that didn't require heating. Pasta, dried meats, nuts and trail mix, dried fruit, and plenty of delicious snacks. While he enjoyed the views from all viewpoints, those between Walpole and Albany were favourites. It was

also remarkable seeing the contrast between where the fires had burned and where bush had survived, specifically near Murray and West Cape Howe campsites. A Nemo mattress, sleeping bag liner and Kindle were among best equipment. He advises wearing clothing that is light, fast drying and doesn't smell — and don't underestimate good quality underwear!

Stuart Parks (48), of Kalamunda, doesn't deny it was a tough trek (S-N, 13.03.16 to 13.05.16) but says it got easier as he got track-fit and adjusted to the weight of his pack. His solo end-to-end was a charity walk to raise awareness of mental health, but it also turned into a deeply personal and memorable experience that he will cherish forever. Resupplying was a combination of posted drops and friends meeting him along the way. This was less worrying than relying solely on the towns for supplies. It was hard for Stuart to single out a favourite section but he loved the south coast with its beautiful beaches, cliffs, bays and wildlife. He also enjoyed the Darling Range, feeling

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Vale Chris Piggford

right at home in the forest. Highlights were meeting interesting people in the towns and along the Track, and having Track-chats with them. Stuart says his Jetboil was a great bit of kit but was disappointed with the quoted rating of a synthetic sleeping bag. He advises taking a mozzie net and not skimping on the quality of your sleeping bag.

Hugo Smith (31), of East Perth, (S-N, 03.05.16 to 21.05.16) says the Track was generally well maintained and signed, although he found it a bit confusing close to some towns and also where diversions had been in place around the sections damaged by bushfires. His diet consisted of porridge for breakfast, cheese and peanut butter at lunch, and rice or pasta ready-meals for dinner. A favourite section was between Denmark and Walpole because of the coastline and the varying terrain. A highlight for Hugo was meeting the timelimit he'd set for his trek. Numerous emus, 'roos, birds and only five snakes were seen along the way. An alcohol stove and titanium pot were best equipment and his belt was his worst as it rubbed painfully as weight was lost. He advises eating whenever you're hungry, sleeping well at night and enjoying the views and wildlife.

Anita (50) and **Bill** (54) **Parsons**, of Busselton, signed in as Anita and Bill on the longest walk they have done so far (S-N, 17.04.16 to 03.06.16). They say it was an amazing experience that they thoroughly enjoyed. They give credit to all volunteers for the good condition of the Track and campsites. They organised food drops before their walk but managed to pack way too many muesli bars and dry biscuits. Favourite sections were between Dwellingup and Kalamunda as well as the tingle forest near Walpole and their favourite campsites were Frankland River, Lake Maringup and Monadnocks, where sitting by a campfire under the stars was bliss. Anita and Bill found the simplicity of Track life was so appealing, even though it was physically demanding at times. They liked the peace of campsites to themselves but also enjoyed the company of friendly walkers when information was shared. Trekking poles, Jetboil and inner socks were best equipment. They urge others to talk to end-to-enders for advice and then to walk short sections

to experience what it's like. You'll then come back for more!

Kate (63) and Ian (68) Petty, of Byford, are better known as iPack and iPlod when they walk the Track, and they found their latest end-to-end (N-S, 01.04.16 to 06.06.16) to be more challenging due to the destruction from the bushfires. They say it was sad to see so much damage, but good to see how quickly nature can regenerate the forests. It was also interesting to see what sights are revealed when the vegetation has gone. Ian feels that food supplies are getting better in some towns. His favourite section was West Cape Howe to Torbay whereas Kate preferred Giants to Rame Head. Highlights included getting caught in hail between Long Point and Mt Clare and later walking Old Quarram Beach in brilliant weather. Both agree the Bibbulmun Track compares very favourably with other walks. Best equipment included their Big Agnes tent and sleeping bag. Their worst equipment was a leaking Camelbak reservoir. They contacted the manufacturer about it, only to be told that Camelbaks are not suitable for use in backpacks! Their advice is to read the red journals for approaching Track conditions and to pay attention to signage, especially in burnt areas.

Didier Monot (48), of Rockingham, was Magpie on a fantastic, life-changing end-to-end (N-S, 06.04.16 to 13.06.16), during which he lost 17-20kg in weight and became the fittest he's ever been, both physically and mentally. He organised food boxes along the whole trip but he found most people had no issues resupplying in the towns. Didier's biggest issue was confusion due to past diversion Waugals still being in place. He didn't really have a favourite section, but found highlights were everywhere. He enjoyed the south coast, the campsites and meeting other people. His advice to others is to just hike your own hike.

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

We were saddened to hear of the recent death of long-time Foundation member and volunteer Chris Piggford.

Chris has been a member of the Foundation since February 2000 and registered as a volunteer in September of that year. Over the years Chris has been an office volunteer, a maintenance volunteer looking after the section of Track around Helena Campsite since 2004 and one of our very popular guides leading day and overnight walks.

In 2003 Chris completed an end-to-end and was known as the Galloping Gourmet. His experience allowed him to offer help and advice to inexperienced walkers on the many events he guided.

In 2001 Chris met his lovely partner Ce on a walk on the Bibbulmun Track near Donnelly River Village and they have been together ever since, sharing a great love of the Bibbulmun Track.

All of us at the Foundation will miss Chris's cheery smile and good humour and we extend our sympathy to Ce, and to Chris's family.



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Office GOSSIP

As usual we've all been busy in the office – thanks in part to the fact that most of us escaped for holidays over the last few months, leaving others to continue the good work. We've had postcards and emails from all over the world which keeps us in touch with the travellers.

The raffle is over and we thank everyone who bought and sold tickets to support us. All of the proceeds from the raffle are going towards the replacement bridge over the Murray River and your generous support through ticket sales and donations boosted the appeal by the \$50,000 that we raised. Congratulations! The raffle is a very busy time for the office and we have to be very organised and efficient to make sure accurate records are kept.

In May we bade goodbye to Chelsea who had been with us for a year, and welcomed Ashley as Marketing Coordinator. Ashley has settled in well and become a popular member of the team. We've also welcomed new volunteers Vicki Squires and Patricia Armstrong.

With the cooler weather we are busier than ever with members coming in for trip planning advice sessions and most days see one of our trip planning volunteers helping to plan an end-to-end or extended walk.

The log book data entry project continues with more wonderful volunteers busily entering the data for us. So far there have been over 66,000 entries from the log books mostly dating from 2003 to about 2010.

Shortly we hope to have some new log books and we'll then begin a rotation system which will give us more recent data. If you would like to help with this really important project please let me know. All you need is a computer and internet access and a bit of free time at home.

I hope that all of our members have the chance to do some walking over the coming walking season, be it your first walk on the Track, the completion of an end-to-end after many years, a continuous end-to-end or one of our events.

Gwen Plunkett
Office Manager & Volunteer Coordinator

VOLUNTEER opportunities...

We have a number of volunteer opportunities available at the moment. If you are interested in any of the following please contact

Gwen on 9481 0551 or email friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Seeking Santa!

We are looking for a volunteer who is great with kids to play the part of Santa on one of our kid's events. If you love story telling and dressing up in red then this gig is for you!

Male or female applicants are fine – if you know a suitable Elf then dob them in too!

Can you drive a bus?

We are in need of volunteers who hold a current LR class driving license to drive a coaster bus transporting people to and from our events. An 'F-Class' or and 'F-Endorsement' is certainly not essential but is preferred.

The majority of events are day walks held during the week and within an hour's drive of Perth.

Log-book data entry

A job which can be done in the comfort of your own home - all you need is a computer and internet access. This project is already providing valuable data which will assist with the management and marketing of the Track. If you have some free time we would love to hear from you.



Office admin assistant and volunteer, Edith Thomas, helped to record the raffle tickets sold.

Nature Academy

NURTURES NEW LEADERS

The Edmund Rice Centre partnered with the Bibbulmun Track Foundation to launch a Nature Academy for youth from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) backgrounds.

The Foundation's role was to conduct a programme designed to train youth to lead bushwalks. Nineteen signed up - all young women between the ages of twelve and twenty years old from a range of countries including Somalia, Burundi, Sudan, Uganda, South Sudan and Senegal.

The first unit covered the theory of conducting walks on the Bibbulmun Track. Topics included a map reading and route planning exercise, health and safety, basic gear and clothing, some first aid, the nature of leading walks, and tips on how to lead group walks.

Eighteen then completed unit two where they learnt to cook using a fuel stove. They prepared and tasted a range of dishes. The focus was on developing an appropriate menu taking into account the bulk, weight and suitability of food for hiking.

The same participants then completed the third unit, an advanced day walk. The group put into practice the theory learned in the first unit. Keeping the group together, coordinating breaks, taking care of group members and navigating the bush were all part of the learning experience. The group was given autonomy to coordinate the foregoing tasks and to get the group to the end of the walk safely and in a timely manner.

On a Saturday morning in April the fourth unit covered how to pack a backpack and make decisions regarding appropriate equipment, food and clothing. Fourteen participants attended and then went on to successfully complete the final unit; an overnight trek that weekend.

Once again the group was given autonomy on setting goals: for example, the distances to be covered between breaks, the length of breaks, and the lunch stop location. They also had the responsibility of navigating and keeping the group together and safe.

In very adverse weather conditions, the group reached the campsite and worked as a team to successfully erect tents and prepare dinner. This was done in darkness as it was dusk by the time the group arrived at the campsite.

Dealing with issues affecting the group, such as sore bodies, slow walkers and heavy packs, took its toll and this was a challenge for many, even the experienced Bibbulmun Track Foundation guides— a true learning experience for everyone involved!

Spirits were still high the next day as participants broke camp and headed for the end of the walk. A debriefing and evaluation of the overnight walk and the entire youth leadership programme gave some great feedback ranging from "This is not for me" through to "I am interested in doing much more."

The next step on the youth leadership programme is for selected participants to be involved in BTF organised walks and to make a presentation of their experiences.

We hope the fourteen young women who completed the programme will continue to enjoy the great outdoors and share their knowledge and experience with others in their community.

Many thanks to the Inclusion Unit at the Department of Sport and Recreation for supporting this programme.



Department of
Sport and Recreation



Learning how to use a Trangia stove during the cooking workshop.

Using the boot cleaning station before entering a Disease Risk Area (DRA).



Relaxing at the Bibbulmun Track campsite.

PRIZE WINNERS!

EARLY BIRD MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

March

Veronica Rae received a Black Diamond head torch.

Mark Hughes received the 2nd prize of a Nano head net and a book kindly donated by the Dept. of Parks and Wildlife.

April

Helen Climas received a Flashback Wilderness Equipment 25 litre backpack.

Patricia Berridge received a Nano Head Net from Sea to Summit and a book kindly donated by the Dept. of Parks and Wildlife.

May

Ian Rae received a Sea to Summit XPlate.

Ian Ablett received the 2nd prize of a GoToob donated by Sea to Summit, a frog watch kit and a book kindly donated by the Dept. of Parks and Wildlife.

June

David South received a Drylite micro towel

Gordon Oma won a XS stuff sack from Sea to Summit and a book donated from Parks and Wildlife.

PRIZE FOR RENEWING AS A LIFE MEMBER

This prize was won by Dianne Easton who received a Headsox, GoToob and 4 Litre Dry sack.

Unless otherwise stated all the prizes were donated by Sea to Summit and we thank them for their generous support.



Department of Parks and Wildlife



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Lachlan Gardiner

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.

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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

\$300.00 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.

TRACK TOWN DENMARK

Western Australia's Extraordinary Wilderness Coast...

IT IS MORE THAN JUST A WEEKEND.

On the south coast of Western Australia, in the heart of the Great Southern region, this ancient landscape offers a very contemporary travel experience.

Denmark is beautifully set in tree covered hillsides along the Denmark River and the Wilson Inlet. The area is rich in colours and contrasts. Golden sand fringes turquoise water. Surf beaches and sheltered swimming bays front the wild Southern Ocean where, in winter, migrating whales add to the scenery.

Well-marked walking trails meander through the wilderness areas. Granite outcrops and rugged headlands give way to silver-barked karri forests and green vineyards. Kangaroos and alpacas share paddocks with sheep and cattle.

Denmark combines the charm of a country town with a thriving and sophisticated arts, food and wine scene. With its backdrop of forested slopes and



Driving around the area is a pleasure.

waterways, it's the perfect place to be as active or relaxed as you choose.

The main thoroughfare, Strickland Street, is filled with shops offering a great range of unique hand crafted artisan wears, eco-friendly products and delicious food including the renowned award winning Denmark bakery!

Berridge Park, right on the Denmark River, is home to many events throughout the year. You can hire canoes, charter a boat or take a swim here, you might be lucky enough to see the Denmark Dragon Boat pass by!

The Bibbulmun Track in this region gives walkers the best mix of forest and coastline making it the perfect location to be based. It also provides, after Peaceful Bay, some of the most challenging days



Wildlife at Wilson Inlet



Berridge Park on the banks of the Denmark River.

on the entire Track. Denmark to Albany is an easier coastal section to walk and offers sheltered swimming spots and some of the most uninterrupted scenery along the south coast.

You'll find a wide range of accommodation to suit all tastes and budgets – so get online and book yourself a holiday – you won't regret it!

FACT FILE:

Denmark Visitor Centre is open
9am to 5pm 7 days a week.
Email: bookings@denmark.com.au
Phone: (08) 9848 2055
Address: 73 South Coast Highway,
Denmark, WA 6333
www.denmark.com.au

Please support our walker friendly businesses in Denmark. Many of them offer a discount to members – see details on page 16:

Blue Wren Travellers' Rest	(08) 9848 3300	denmarkbluewren.com.au
Casa Libelula	0403 154 764	facebook.com/CasaLibelula6333/
Denmark Rivermouth Caravan Park	(08) 9848 1262	denmarkrivermouthcaravanpark.com.au
Inlet Waters B & B	0404 577 014	inletwaters.com
Pelicans At Denmark	0413 122 176	pelicansatdenmark.com.au
Tennessee Hill Chalets	0429 678 676	tennesseehill.com.au
The Cove	(08) 9848 1770	thecovechalets.com
Windrose B & B	(08) 9848 3502	windrose.com.au



Walker Story

HIKE-HOPE-HEAL

BTF member Stuart Parks walked the Track end-to-end earlier this year, driven by strong personal reasons, as explained in this story of his trek:

People walk the Track for any number of reasons; some personal, some for a cause and some just because it is there.

For me it was a combination of many reasons. I don't come from a hiking background, and in fact had never done any sizeable walks, especially one that would take two months.

My decision to walk the Bibbulmun Track end-to-end was born the day a friend and colleague committed suicide in late July 2015 at the age of 48. He had succumbed to depression and PTSD and I took the news of his death hard, as did all his family and friends. As is often the case there seemed at the time to be no warning or signs, but in retrospect there were, and these were mostly missed.

Kevin and I had worked on the same shift for about five years as firefighters at a suburban fire station near Perth. We became close friends and had shared some very hard, confronting and graphic incidents, not to mention other workplace issues that seemed to plague Kevin's career. Even though firefighters are very resilient and strong in carrying out their roles, they also are human and are deeply affected by what they see. It is when these invasive thoughts and memories are not acknowledged and dealt with correctly that the stress can lead to debilitating mental illness. I felt that the reasons behind his death should not be ignored. To me this was unacceptable, and I wasn't prepared to let this happen to anyone else without at least trying to highlight how prevalent suicide is, especially amongst workers in the emergency services.

I had long service leave coming up the following year, so I had the time to plan and prepare for the journey—dehydrating meals, sorting equipment, booking accommodation, fundraising and working on my fitness.

In truth, nothing can fully prepare you for walking about 20km a day, for about 50 days, carrying a 21kg pack. Track fitness would come, but only after about two weeks of walking. I had to rely on determination and the will to succeed to get me beyond the initial pain, and the demons in my head. Walking solo has its challenges and adds a mental angle that you are forced to confront and overcome. You rely on yourself alone and have no one to encourage you and spur you on during the low moments.

The walk had three goals—to honour the life of Kevin Corbey, to raise funds for beyondblue, The Black Dog Institute and The Bibbulmun Track Foundation.

In addition, my aim was to raise awareness of depression and PTSD and reduce the stigma surrounding the subject of mental health. I formed an army of supporters on my Facebook page, which would be my contact point during the walk. I drew much strength from reading posts and comments urging me on as I walked.

13th March 2016 rolled around and there I was at the Bibbulmun Track Southern Terminus, being farewelled by my family. It was one of the hardest moments of my life—I wouldn't see them again for 40 days. I had now left my normal life and my strong and capable wife Barbie to pick up the slack I was leaving behind. The sacrifices and hardships endured by my family in my absence have not been lost on me.

And so it began. In a moment of synchronicity "Walk On" by U2 randomly played through my earphones. As sad as I felt at this moment, I also was excited that I had so much adventure, so much to experience in front of me; to see, feel, hear, taste and smell. I felt empowered that it was just me, the Track and what I had on my back.

As the early days ticked over and the body slowly but surely adjusted my senses were treated to stunning scenery and wildlife. The south coast scenery cannot be done just in words – it was absolutely stunning and remarkable. I never once felt unsafe or in any

danger despite the terrain and numerous snake encounters. There were, however, very real mind games to play. Mentally I did feel overwhelmed at times, especially those early days with hundreds of kilometres in front of me and homesickness to contend with. I missed my family horribly. To overcome these invasive thoughts I reminded myself why I was there, of the lives that could be saved and the people out there who were doing it much tougher than me. I told myself many times to stop feeling sorry for myself and the phrase I used when I came across any obstacle, mental or physical, was "it is what it is".

As each section slid behind me and I started new maps, my fitness was growing to levels I hadn't felt since my football playing days many years ago. I also was becoming more assured that I would reach the Northern Terminus in Kalamunda on May 13th. I particularly loved walking into a new town knowing that I could rest and bask in the knowledge that I had completed another section. A real sense of achievement and purpose for a cause I feel so passionate about.

At some point before the half way mark of Donnelly River I started to experience some very bad pain in my left shin making the downhill sections particularly excruciating. From here to Collie I had to draw on every reserve of determination I had to keep going. Pain was with me every step of the way over the course of about 250km. It did detract from the journey but you can mentally block out pain when you need to. By the time I reached Collie I was in real trouble and thought I would have to pull out. When



Stuart at the Northern Terminus with some of his many supporters.



Stuart with fellow fundraisers Ah Siao and Junwei from Singapore who ran the Track to raise funds for the Bone Marrow Donor Programme.

the physio in Collie couldn't even touch my badly swollen shin, he immediately suspected one or more stress fractures and I was advised to rest and let it heal. However, meeting up with my family again had me mentally on top of the world.

Against all medical advice I decided to push on. Nothing was going to stop me. By now I had obtained walking poles and that took some of the burden off my legs. Remarkably on the day I left Collie the shin came good and continued to improve. By the time I reached Dwellingup the pain had all but disappeared.

Now it was 800km down and 200km to go—finishing the Track seemed very real now. I really enjoyed this section and in particular the Darling Range. I felt I was at home here, as I live in Kalamunda. I doubled and even triple huffed some days, as I felt so fit and close to the Northern

Terminus. The nights had become very cold and inadequacy of my synthetic sleeping bag became obvious. I had also lost over 10kg of body weight, so my ability to stay warm had diminished. But these hurdles were nothing compared to what I had already overcome and I savoured my last week on the Track.

I spent the final night at Hewett's Hill, so it was only 12km into the Terminus at midday on Friday 13th May. To walk through Jorgensen Park and finally through the threshold at the terminus was almost surreal. There was a very large crowd of family, friends and colleagues assembled, which was very humbling and overwhelming. But to know that I had touched so many lives and that all these people felt they were part of my journey made every step worth it.

It may have been solo but there was a mighty team behind me.

Would I do it again? During the walk I can remember thinking never again, but since my return and missing the Track as much as I do—never say never!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to my family, supporters, contributors and everyone I met along my journey. And thank you to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation and all the volunteers that contribute to the Track. We have a world renowned, remarkable and stunning resource on our doorstep.

This was a most humbling and rewarding experience that I will treasure until the end of my days.

STUART PARKS

beyondblue is an Australian not-for-profit organisation working to address issues associated with depression, anxiety disorders and related mental disorders.

The Black Dog Institute is an Australian not-for-profit facility for diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mood disorders such as depression and bipolar disorder.

Stuart also encouraged donations for the **Bibbulmun Track** for which we are very grateful.

Spectacular Guided Tours of the Great Ocean Walk, Victoria



No camping, no heavy backpacks

Amazing 7 Day, 6 Night Tour
Ex. Melbourne, \$2,355pp

Tour Dates:
20-26 November 2016
13-19 March 2017
24-30 April 2017

Walk the entire Great Ocean Walk (104km) enjoying comfortable accommodation and home cooked meals each night

All meals, accommodation and transport included

Experienced guides, small group size

NOTICE BOARD

WANTED: WALKING PARTNERS FOR NOVEMBER

60 years old, fit, quiet and thoughtful, female, inexperienced walker looking for Bibbulmun walk-mate during first two weeks Nov '16. Open to 'overnight' or 'day walks' or mixture of both. (Only previous experience is Tassie Overland track two years ago carrying own gear etc.)

Contact: Michele
0423 159 419

E: aroneysmith@optusnet.com.au

WANTED: WALKING COMPANION

I am starting an end-to-end mid-August. Would love people to walk with, either the whole way from Kalamunda to Albany, or parts of the Track. Am a senior, but fit and very keen to complete the walk in about 53 days. Would love some company along the way.

Contact: Barb
E: grannydougz@gmail.com

WANTED: WALKING COMPANION

Just can't get enough of hiking and looking for others to join me. Just completed the Cape to Cape with five others, due to commitments they aren't able to hike anytime soon. I live in the south west, I am mid 50's and would prefer similar female.

Contact: Julie
0407 536 948
E: julzbessant@outlook.com

LOST: KEYS IN PERTH HILLS

Keys lost between Mundaring Weir Hotel and Hewett's Hill Campsite.

Two door keys with black gate fob, and other gate opener. Think they were on a plastic yellow keyring

Contact: Linda
(08) 9481 0551
E: linda@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

LOST: NATIVE EYEWEAR TRANGO POLARIZED SUNGLASSES

Lost a brown pair of Native Eyewear Trango Polarized Sunglasses at Brookton Hwy on 25 June 2016. If found please email me.

Contact: Bill Dolan
0401 585 530
E: billsdolan@yahoo.com

LOST: BACKPACK COVER

Lost backpack cover while descending the steps towards Shelley Beach Rd from West Cape Howe.

Contact: Anne
0428 710 552

LOST: A BUFF AND A NORTH FACE CAP

1. Buff (grey colour): between Dwellingup and Harvey Quindanning road.
2. North face cap (white colour): between Chadoora Campsite and Dwellingup.

Contact: Junwei
0487 276 820
E: ng0001ei@gmail.com

FOUND: COMPASS

Found at Waalegh Campsite. True owner will know it has been lost and should be able to identify maker, case and describe it. Send details via email and I will arrange to send it on when owner is found.

Contact: Stuart
E: stubarb@iinet.net.au

FOUND: MEN'S JACKET

A red and black men's jacket was found in the Boat Harbour shelter. It has a BWF and referee logo on the top front left side. It is being held at the DPAW Frankland District Office (Walpole).

Contact: Jackie
(08) 9840 0400
E: Jackie.Manning@dpaw.wa.gov.au

FOUND: DESIGNER SUNGLASSES

A pair of designer sunglasses found mid-April at Warren Campsite.

Contact: Andy
0413 371 754

WANT TO ADVERTISE ON OUR NOTICE BOARD?

Free for members – just log into your profile on the Bibbulmun Track website. Click the Notice Board & Classified tab under the News tab.

Non-members, please phone or email us to arrange your adverts. **Cost is \$5 for 3 months.**

All items will be deleted (from the website) after three months if not renewed.

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

GUIDED TOURS ON THE BIBBULMUN TRACK

DOWNLOAD THE DOSSIERS FROM OUR WEBSITE [HTTPS://WWW.BIBBULMUNTRACK.ORG.AU/WALK-THE-TRACK/GUIDED-TOURS/](https://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/walk-the-track/guided-tours/)

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

23 - 29 March 2017

8 - 14 October 2017

24 - 30 October 2017

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

9 - 12 April 2017

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 your face up 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

30 March - 7 April 2017

15 - 23 October 2017

31 October - 8th November 2017:

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

17 - 25 April 2017

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

18 - 22 September 2017

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.

PEMBERTON TO DONNELLY RIVER

13 - 19 May 2017

Days: 7 day tour, 5 days walking.

Accommodation: Forest Lodge Pemberton. Cost: \$1,850pp twin share.

The Donnelly River is a companion for much of this section as the Track wends its way through the river valley. This translates into some very challenging walking in parts. There is much forest railway history along the Donnelly. How many old trestle bridges across the river can you spot along the way? This 100km walk takes you through breath taking Karri forest, some of the best old-growth karri in the South West.



Checking out the map during a break at the top of Mt Pingerup.

BEST OF THE BIBBULMUN

OUR POPULAR
BIBBULMUN AND
BEYOND 9-DAY TOUR
AND 8-DAY HIGHLIGHTS
TOUR RETURN.

May 2017
September 2017

*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 these
all-inclusive tours.**

- Selected full and half day guided walks
- Spectacular coastal, forest and wilderness areas
- 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

Great Gift ideas for father's day

SUNDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER

FAVOURITE SHORT WALKS

UNIQUE GIFT

Bibbulmun Track Foundation

Membership - \$40.00 Senior \$30.00

(Life membership and 3 yearly also available)

Quality time with the kids on a Walking with Dad event! Head to our

website <https://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/walk-the-track/> to book online.

Snake bite Kit

A must have in all first aid kits, backpacks and glove boxes – this kit has three 10cm compression bandages that can maintain the correct pressure and will remain tight during transport of the victim. RRP \$22

Bibbulmun Track Head Wear

Headsox, Cap or Hat.

With 12 versatile ways to get your head around Headsox, they are perfect for the active dad. Or if you are walking the Track or just out and about, the peak cap or our cotton bushwalker's hat give great sun protection. Sox available in red or blue and caps/hats in cream and camel. RRP starting from \$14.95

If you are not sure what Dad might enjoy, why not buy him a Bibbulmun Track Gift Voucher (any amount) and leave the choice to him!

With a complete range of merchandise and the release of our new events for July to November there is bound to be something to suit every Dad this Father's Day. Email: friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au to purchase your gift voucher today.

View and order our complete range of merchandise online at

www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

or pop into the office,

above Mountain Designs,

Hay Street, Perth.



SULLIVAN ROCK TO MONADNOCKS CAMPSITE

Map 1: Darling Range 15.4km return

Park: Take Albany Highway from Armadale to Sullivan Rock picnic area (9km south of the Jarrahdale Rd turnoff). The parking area is on your right heading south.

The section of Track that I like to walk, especially in the spring and autumn, is a 15km stroll from Sullivan Rock to Monadnock Campsite and back. Well, maybe not a stroll, as it involves negotiating Mt. Cuthbert and Mt. Vincent in both directions, but the views from the top of both, and the pleasure of taking lunch at Monadnock, makes the effort well worthwhile

From the parking area, cross carefully over the highway and take the marked spur trail across the granite slab to where it meets the Bibbulmun Track. Turn left, use the boot-cleaning station and ascend Mt. Vincent.

Take a rest, enjoy the views and then drop down into the valley between the two hills. Then scramble over the summit of Mt. Cuthbert (more views) and descend to the very hospitable campsite of Monadnock, with its two level picnic table site.

I take a flask of hot soup, a pack of sandwiches and some fruit; sit back and dine in the wilderness, enjoying the peace and serenity of the jarrah forest. An hour's rest, walk back over the hills, drive to Perth, take a long hot shower and feel at peace with the world.

Incidentally, do you know the derivation of Monadnock? It means a hill or mountain standing isolated above a predominately flat plain, derived from a native North American word, possibly menonadenak. How did it get to WA?

So I've told you something—now does anyone know who Vincent or Cuthbert were? If you do, please let me know!

Jim Baker (jim_baker@bigpond.com)



View from Mt Cuthbert by Pelusey Photography.

Newmont Flies High as Key Partner in Black Cockatoo Ecology Project

An ambitious world-first project to protect the endangered black cockatoo population of Western Australia reached an important milestone earlier this month when a flock of the birds, fitted with ultra-lightweight tracking technology, took to the skies over Perth.

The occasion was another display of Newmont Mining Corporation's impressive environmental credentials and commitment to responsible stewardship of our delicate ecosystem, with the Newmont Boddington Gold Mine in Boddington a key partner in the ground-breaking initiative.

The mine identified the Black Cockatoo Ecology Project as especially worthy of support some years back and Newmont has since been working with researchers and academics at Perth's Murdoch University and fellow funders the Department of Parks and Wildlife, the Perth Zoo and Kaarakin Black Cockatoo Conservation Centre to make it happen.

The Dutch developed state-of-the-art technology will allow for intensive tracking and data capture and enable Murdoch University researchers to monitor the species—and the related forest red-tailed black cockatoo – over a five-year period.

It also allows Newmont to improve the understanding of potential impacts and to continuously improve mitigation and rehabilitation methodologies to best support these species.

The cockatoos are all wild and injured birds restored to good health and rehabilitated by staff at Perth Zoo and Kaarakin Black Cockatoo Conservation Centre.

On their return to their natural environment, four of the birds were fitted with uniquely numbered and

coloured leg bands, satellite transmitters and solar powered GPS trackers, a suite of technologies never before used anywhere in the world to track parrots.

These elements will feed valuable data back to the researchers each day, in the case of the tail-mounted satellite tag eight times a day and with the back-mounted GPS transmitter every 10 minutes.

The researchers are thus able to follow the birds' every move. They will know exactly where they are at any given time, they will appreciate the habitat they're frequenting and the foods they're eating, as well as any obstacles that might threaten their survival.

It is also understood, from professionals such as Associate Professor Kris Warren of Murdoch University's School of Veterinary and Life Sciences that the birds will join wild flocks and as these are followed, a better understanding will be gained of the ecology of the species.

Critical feeding and breeding habitat will be identified, with all the data proving invaluable in arriving at conservation management decisions that will ultimately prove decisive in collective efforts to save the State's threatened black cockatoos.



Black Cockatoo by Sam Rycken.

Social Sunday Walks

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

WALK RATINGS: 🦶 BEGINNERS 🦶🦶 INTERMEDIATE 🦶🦶🦶 EXPERIENCED

WALK BOOKINGS - Only 2 can be booked at a time

21 August 9am 🦶
16km return walk from Cosy Corner (Torbay) to Shelley Beach Lookout
4 September 9am 🦶🦶🦶
16.2km return walk from North Bannister to the Serpentine River via the Gringer Creek Campsite
11 September 9am 🦶🦶🦶
16km Mt Cooke circuit walk via Mt Cooke Campsite
18 September 8.30am 🦶🦶🦶
23.5km return walk from Perth Hills National Parks Centre to Helena Campsite (Fit and experienced walkers only!)

2 October 9am 🦶🦶🦶
16.3km return walk from Sullivan Rock to Monadnocks Campsite
16 October 8.30am 🦶🦶🦶
18.4km return walk from Dale Road to Beraking Campsite. (Fit and experienced walkers only!)
23 October 9am 🦶🦶🦶
16km Mt Cooke circuit walk via Mt Cooke Campsite
6 November 4pm 🦶
6.4km return sunset walk from Camel Farm to Hewett's Hill Campsite

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

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





TRACK TRIVIA

HELLO FELLOW WALKERS!

I am writing this in the cold damp of the English summer, where the last two weeks have seen some extraordinary events in history, with the departure of the UK from the European Union, the economic and political implications of which have rippled around the world. Then England whitewashed Australia at rugby (how lucky I am to have dual nationality—I can't lose) and the English soccer team crashed ignominiously out of the European Cup, beaten by Iceland. For those who don't follow soccer, that is roughly equivalent to the Dockers losing to the Presbyterian Ladies' College. Then Scotland decided it wanted to stay in the EU.

On the basis of all this turmoil three of us decided to go north and walk the Hadrian's Wall Path, a 135km track across the north of England, following the remains of the wall built by the Roman Emperor Hadrian in AD 122-128. Our original plan was to rebuild the wall as we went, thus reducing the fear of a Scottish invasion, but the prohibitive cost of the cement required rendered this impractical. We left the miserable weather in the south of England and miraculously had five days walking in warm sunny conditions, with only a sprinkling of rain on the final day. The terrain varied from easy to some of the toughest walking I have experienced in the UK, with very steep inclines and drops along the middle section of the Path. The history of the region and the Wall itself is fascinating—this is a trek well worth doing! The pictures below give an idea of the Wall and surrounding countryside.

And so back to our own Bibbulmun Track. During my time in the UK I continue with the email trip planning advice for those people out of state or overseas who intend to walk the Track, and also my work with the Bibbulmun Newsletter. The curious questions and suggestions

continue to come in, so I thought this might be an opportune time to deal with some of them.

Q: I want to walk the Track from north to south. If I bring a compass from England, will it point in the right direction?

A: Be assured it will point north. However, if this is a problem you could consider either walking south to north, thereby following the direction of the needle, or practice facing north and turning through 180° each morning. You should also consider the fact that much of the Track runs from east to west, or west to east depending on whether you walk north to south or south to north. Hope this clarifies things for you.

Q: If I see a snake, how do I find out if it is poisonous?

A: I think you mean venomous. To find out if it is poisonous, you would have to eat it. Good luck! Python, however, is very nutritious, but does not taste like chicken, it tastes like snake.

Q: If I see a snake, how do I find out if it is venomous?

A: Don't stop to think about it! Assume it is.

Then there are many suggestions about making the Track easier to navigate, including having Waugal markers of different colours pointing north and south, having directional indicators or location names on the larger Bibbulmun Track signs and having distances marked on the triangular Waugal markers. Slightly more tongue in cheek suggestions have been dial-a-Sherpa-service, luggage transfer between campsites and pizza delivery by drone.

Folks, the Bibbulmun Track is a wilderness trail, which has been lauded by thousands of walkers for maintaining a balance of walker friendliness with minimal impact on its surroundings. More elaborate signage would detract from this image, to say nothing of the cost and logistical difficulties of maintenance. Carry a compass, refer to the guidebooks and maps, and you will find the Track easy to negotiate.

Happy Walking!
Wrong Way Jim



The 135km Hadrian's Wall Path follows the remains of the wall built by the Roman Emperor Hadrian in AD 122-128.

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Reflections

FROM THE REGISTERS

Denmark VIC

William Bay was thick with cloud
While on the roof the rain was loud
Over the mountain and down to the rocks
In slippery shoes and well soaked socks
Into Denmark over the rise
To find the girls with the steaming hot pies!

Red Dog & Chunky Monkey. 21/11/08

I made it to my first town! Just restocking food (it's sad when you're carrying the shopping bag and realise it's all going on your back!), resting and exploring town. Allowing one day for wounds to heal and then on to William Bay. Happy travels!

Wonder Woman aka Nicole Schultz Michigan USA

Long Point

On their 39th day they reached into their stores and lo... the salami was skanky! Wailing and gnashing of teeth occurred until Makaria stepped forth with rod in hand. "Fear not!" He strode to the coast, placed skanky salami on his hook and pulled forth a fish from the waves! But Ryannah saith, "That is but a little fish that will taste like *%!*".

"Oh ye of little faith," saith Macariah, stuck the little fish on his hook, cast forth and lo, hauled in a herring!

"Rollmops!" saith Ryannah, but he ignored her, and continued his labours, until he hath five more herring, which he baked and served with couscous and rich tomato sauce.

"It doth taste fishy," saith Ryannah. "Have we no loaves?"

And Macariah thought, "Is there no pleasing some folk?" and dreamed that night of smiting people.

*Ryan and Mac on the Bibbulmun Track.
09/01/2005*

Hidden Valley

Last day on the Track - a few days of R&R in Albany and then on with the adventure. The last 51 days have been exhilarating as well as exhausting. We have enjoyed the company of others as much as the trekking. Now looking forward to Perth, Melbourne, Sydney and New Zealand before returning home to Winnipeg in time for Xmas.

Janet & Sandy from Canada. 05/11/2003

Gardner

To any walkers along the Bibbulmun - I hope your Christmas has been as nourishing and peaceful and as significant as this one has been for me.

Terry Yates 25/12/1999

This is a wonderful change from the Canadian winter; everything is new, the plants, birds, animals and trees. Back home everything is white with a blanket of snow in the mountains. A nice peaceful Xmas day with Liana and our new Australian mates.

Merry Xmas to all!

*Murray and Liana Vancouver Canada.
25/12/1999*

As I recline here in chalet in the hills, sipping fresh rainwater, I couldn't be happier. Though slog today in the mid-day heat but worth it to be in this beautiful location. On to Maringup tomorrow.

Davo 03/12/2000

Mount Chance

Here I am, sitting on top of the world on the last day of the year, watching the sunset, contemplating the past and the future and loving every minute of it. This landscape is insanely beautiful, surreal—what's the right word? I am so looking forward to walking through more scenery worthy of a Salvadore Dali painting!

Celeste 31/12/2003

What's out of bounds along the Track? A tired kangaroo! (Getting worse, aren't they?)

The Mad Axeman 11/09/2004

Had breakfast on top of the rock watching the sun rising with the moon near the horizon. Some view! I'll be back.

Mark S 31/08/2004

I came from Japan, it was hard way but I could see beautiful sight and strange bush. Very exciting! I love Australia!

Inmoto Sachiko 31/03/2002

(Ed: Long way to walk!)



TRAILING AROUND THE WORLD

MOUNTAINS TO MEDITERRANEAN ON THE PYRENEES

BY STEVE SERTIS

In June the Bibbulmun Track Foundation hosted a trip walking both the Camino and a route through the Pyrenees. Previous articles in Bibbulmun News have already addressed trekking on the Camino so this article is focused on the second part of our trip – a five day Mountains to Mediterranean trek.

Following the conclusion of our 10 days on the Camino (walking Sarria to Santiago De Compostela) most of the group headed (via Barcelona) toward the first village in the Spanish Pyrenees – Setcases. Setcases is a small secluded village nestled in a valley below the picturesque mountains. Its history dates back to 965 A.D. and it gets its name from the seven houses built lower in the valley by the seven sons of a shepherd after being taken by surprise by the first

snows higher up where they would graze their sheep. We stayed in a quaint family-run hotel on this our first night before beginning the trek up to the ridgelines. The air was certainly cool and fresh. Given the ambience of the village at the day's end, you could easily be forgiven for thinking you were about to embark on a skiing trip.

The first day lived up to most expectations in terms of the difficulty but certainly exceeded them with absolutely outstanding vistas. The 13 kilometre trek (note I use this word rather than *walk*) almost immediately began to ascend steeply on a rocky trail following the GR11 (also known as the ruta Transpirenaica in Spain, is part of the extensive GR footpath network of paths, tracks and trails in Europe). Once at the top of the ridge (altitude 1900m),

the trail became a narrow earthy path which meandered through open fields with colourful flowers and splendid green and bushy conifers. The panoramas were breathtaking!

Upon reaching the town of Mollo we soon realised that three of the group, who were confidently walking in front of the rest of us, were not at our hotel. Around three hours later they arrived a little worse for wear, tired and one in particular, quite sore and bruised after battling through blackberry bushes while ascending back to the ridgeline. In essence they spotted a village, thought it was Mollo and headed for it! Needless to say, all three never strayed far from the group the remainder of the trip.

The second day (14 kilometres) saw us cross the border leaving Spain behind and entering France. After setting foot in France we retreated about 50 metres and had lunch on the Spanish side. My first welcome to France was when my phone beeped with a text message: "Welcome to France, your call rates are...". Of course when we sat down to have lunch I was very courteously welcomed back into Spain with another text message: "Welcome to Spain, your call rates are..." Not really the welcome I was expecting but it served me right for having my phone on (at least it was silenced).

I was a little more nervous heading into France because while I had learnt Spanish in the year leading up to the trip, I hardly knew a word of French. Consequently after



Banyuls on the edge of the Mediterranean.



spending around two weeks in Spain, I was constantly saying “*Si, I mean, Oui*”.

One part that we all found quite difficult to adjust to was the deferred starting or opening times. As keen WA bushwalkers, we are usually up early and at our destination my mid-afternoon. It seemed we had to add two to four hours to everything. Breakfast started between 8am - 9am not 6am or 7am, walking started at 9.30am -10am not at 7.30am and dinner was at 8pm or much later. Remembering it was summer and the daylight hours very long, on day three it meant we didn't start walking until 10.30am when it was already more than 25°. This made the walking harder. But with plenty of water, lots of shady breaks with fabulous views and some very bad (dad style) jokes at lunch time, we got into the next town around 6.30pm. Now that sounds preposterous (even more so because we only covered 12 kilometres) and it would be unthinkable if we were here at home. But given the sun is pretty much still up at 10pm, we didn't really have a cause for concern. In any case, those who opted not to walk this day (or on any other day), simply took a bus or taxi to the next town and had plenty of time to see the sights and experience the local offerings.

What also made this walk interesting (and a little confusing) was the different markers we would follow on any particular day. On parts of the trek we followed the GR10 and GR11 (red and white markings), other parts had just yellow markings, while others had a

combination of red and yellow, red and blue or yellow and white. In addition we had to watch out if any of these colours were in the shape of an X because we weren't to follow that route under any circumstances – unless the notes said you had to – and they did here and there.

This walk was very different to what we had become accustomed to on the Camino – a café every few kilometres – *café con leche por favor!* Only on day four did we pass through another village. Those who expected a coffee were, however, disappointed. Nevertheless the lunch spot in the village square of Reynes, under a shady tree on a warm day right in front of the local church, was splendid. We were a little concerned though when immediately after the church bells rang a number of times, numerous

cars made a simultaneous and seemingly determined and rushed exodus through the village square. We couldn't help thinking that they knew something we didn't.

Our final day was one of the highlights, reaching the Mediterranean at the town of Banyuls. Although not a long walk that day for most (the two intrepid of the group walked the full 22 kilometres), it was very rocky and the descent in parts was steep. In fact many commented on the sheer abundance of rocks (mainly underfoot). Readers who have visited the shores of the Mediterranean will know that most of it is strewn with pebbles (not sand to which we are accustomed). It was no surprise then that upon reaching the shoreline at the end of a technically tricky walk, one walker looked at the beach and exclaimed “more bloody rocks!”. Naturally, on a high after reaching our destination, we all burst out laughing and I noticed some locals turn their heads. We celebrated our achievement that afternoon and well into the evening with drinks on the terrace of our hotel overlooking the sea.

Thanks to Peregrine Travel Centre for organising this itinerary.



For a detailed account of hiking the length of the Pyrenees on the GR10 go to the *Trailing Around the World* section of our website. <https://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/news/trailing-around-the-world/across-the-pyrenees>



The scenery on the first day of the hike was spectacular.

Track Closures and Diversions

PLEASE DON'T IGNORE WARNING SIGNS

Recently there have been a number of cases of individual walkers, or groups, ignoring Track closure/diversion signage that has been erected by the Department of Parks and Wildlife when prescribed burns are due to be, or have been recently carried out. Those walkers were fortunate to have been discovered by Department staff members who are required to check the Track and campsites before the fires are lit. Those walkers have been evacuated from the fire zone, narrowly escaping injury or worse.

By ignoring signage, walkers put not only themselves in danger but may endanger the lives of others who are required to rescue them. Often burns will

not be completed in one day, sections will be burnt dependent on weather, timing etc., and the diversions will need to remain until the whole burn is completed.

Once again we highlight the need to follow all diversions and signage. It has been placed there for all users of the Track to follow and will be removed as soon as the burn is complete and the area is declared safe.

Attention



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Printed on environmentally friendly paper

