

BIBBULMUN TRACK BELL CELEBRATES SON'S LIFE



Peter and Maryanne donated a Bibbulmun Track Bell to the Albany Visitor Centre in memory of their son Dylan.

When Peter and Maryanne Addenbrooke finished their end-to-end in Kalamunda, they rang the bell at the visitor centre with relish. In November they donated a bell to the Albany Visitor Centre, to enable hikers ending their journey there to do the same.

Peter and Maryanne donated the Bibbulmun Track bell in memory of their son Dylan, who they lost to suicide in 2016.

"We were aware of the bell in Kalamunda prior to our hike and at that time it seemed a little quirky but throughout our hike it took on a whole new meaning — a rite of passage," Peter said.

"We conquered so many trials throughout the journey, both mentally and physically, so to arrive at the end and ring the bell was truly a highlight."

Peter said it was their way of celebrating their son's life and recognising the mental and physical endeavour of hikers to overcome all obstacles and arrive at a destination of their choosing.

"My son Dylan and I hiked Pemberton to Northcliffe the week before he took his life," he said.

"I was aware he wasn't in a good place mentally and because hiking the track for me is therapeutic, I hoped it would be calming for him allowing us to talk about his issues.

"The bell signifies a challenge undertaken and conquered for hikers and is a way of honouring Dylan's memory — a life not completed."

"The bell will make its own history, with so many hikers challenging themselves in all ways, they can ring this bell to symbolise their success in completing this challenge."

Our heartfelt thanks to Peter and Maryanne for this beautiful gift. We are sure that end-to-enders over many years to come will welcome the opportunity to celebrate by ringing the bell, including Julia Mosley from Tasmania who had the honour of being the first to do so on 3rd December 2017.

HELENA CAMPSITE LOST TO FIRE

We were very sad to lose Helena Campsite in January. As you can see from the photo the shelter was completely destroyed despite the best efforts of the fire fighters. You can read more about that on page 7.

Plans were underway to extend the roofline of the shelter and the groundwork had already been completed in late 2017. It is likely that the new shelter will be in the original Deep South design which has bunks, but built in rammed earth.

In the meantime, walkers should keep away from the site as it is unsafe and wandoo trees will continue to burn and either drop limbs or fall over for many months.

There is no water, toilet or temporary campsite. A diversion is in place and it is about 18km between Ball Creek and Waalegh Campsites. A map of the diversion can be downloaded from our website.



Remains of the Helena shelter after the fire.

THE PERFECT MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS

SOME GREAT IDEAS FOR THAT SPECIAL MUM!

Silver Waugal Pendant

Beautifully crafted, unique silver stylised Waugal pendant

Unisex design – string onto a leather thong for a casual look, or create a stunning piece of jewellery with the addition of a silver chain.

RRP \$40 - Only \$36 for members



Bibbulmun Track KeepCup

Our funky Bibbulmun Track KeepCup is the perfect gift that keeps on giving. Next time Mum buys a take-away coffee she can show off her new KeepCup and be reducing disposable waste!

**RRP \$17.60
Only \$16 for members**



Tote bags, T-shirts, Phone covers and other great gifts from Redbubble!

You can now order a variety of products from the Redbubble website. Just search for Bibbulmun Track and two designs will pop up. The Waugal design and the simple Bibbulmun Track logo.

Choose the styles and designs you like and order direct from Redbubble.com

The Loss of a Great Sponsor

MOUNTAIN DESIGNS



It is with great sadness that we have to announce the loss of the Foundation's very first sponsor, Mountain Designs, due to the closure of their stores across Australia.

I have been asked by Linda to write this article due to my closeness with the company and its long term association with the Bibbulmun Track.

Many of you will remember my ownership of the Mountain Designs master franchise here in WA and how I started out first as the manager of the old Fremantle store in Point Street in 1987, moving to the new CBD store in Hay Street in 1988. I bought the Perth store in May 1992, went to Everest as a member of the Australian Everest Expedition in 1993 and was then asked by Jesse Brampton to sit on the Advisory panel for the Building a Better Bibbulmun Track project in 1996.

Jesse convinced me to part with some money to pay for the building of the Northern Terminus in Kalamunda as part of the new alignment, and since then the relationship with the Bibbulmun Track has just kept going.

When we decided to start the Foundation, Mountain Designs gave it a home in the rear of the building. This was integral to the success of the BTF. As well as the security of free office space, Mountain Designs gifted all the initial hire gear and could be relied upon to come up with the goods and prizes for things like the volunteer rewards and raffles.

Many of the BTF's potential sponsors took heart at seeing a respected company like Mountain Designs already sponsoring the BTF and chipped in wholeheartedly as well. Both organisations benefited from the credibility we created.

Even after I sold the Mountain Designs WA franchise stores back to the franchisor in QLD they still supported the Foundation as they had done in the past. It is unusual for a NGO like the BTF to have the same sponsor for 20 years.

As Chairman I would like to give a shout out of thanks to Mountain Designs and the Nunn family. The rise of online shopping has already had far reaching consequences for the retail sector and we wish them well in their future endeavors.

Thank you for playing such a significant role in the history of the Foundation.

Mike Wood

BTF Chair



FROM MY Desk

Welcome to the winter edition of Bibbulmun News

If you receive our e-newsletter or follow us on Facebook you will be aware that both the Track and the Foundation got off to a rocky start this year.

Despite the cooler than average summer, sadly we lost Helena Campsite to a bush fire. The fire was deliberately lit and it is hard to conceive the motivation of someone intent on causing such destruction to the bush and wildlife. Fortunately, despite a very close call, no one was hurt. You can read more about the dramatic rescue of a bushwalker in Kerstin's article on page 7.

Also in early January, we found out that we had four weeks to vacate our office of 20 years, located above Mountain Designs in Perth. We were devastated to hear about the store's closure. Not only because we operated from there but, as outlined in Mike's article on the opposite page, because Mountain Designs had played a key role in helping the Foundation to get established and were an integral part of the outdoor industry in Australia.

Many thanks to the people who offered us alternative accommodation. After weighing up location, cost, accessibility and other factors we were very pleased to take up the offer from the Perth YHA and officially opened our doors on 26 March.

The packing up and move, first into storage and then the YHA, was a mammoth operation. Who knew that our furniture, hire gear, merchandise and other paraphernalia would fill three shipping containers!

In spite of the challenges, it was business as usual online with a small team of staff and volunteers dealing with the orders, enquiries and myriad of other jobs from a temporary location. Sincere thanks to Steve for steering the ship and to Ce and Ash for also going above and beyond.

As always, our volunteers have been outstanding. Out on the Track, the Support Volunteer team has successfully undertaken a couple of major projects ably coordinated by volunteers, Charlie Soord and Mark Davidson (see Eyes on the Ground article on page 8). In Perth, a small army assisted us with the moves.

Sincere thanks to all our members, volunteers and supporters. When adversity strikes you find out who your friends are – and we are blessed indeed!

Linda Daniels
Executive Director

Join us on



FOUNDATION'S NEW HOME IS THE PERTH YHA

On 26 March, the Foundation officially commenced operating out of the Perth YHA on Wellington Street.

You'll find our enquiries desk and shop on the ground floor next to the YHA reception desk, whilst our office area is up on the first floor.

Constructed in 1940 in the Inter-War Art Deco style, the building was the headquarters for the St John Ambulance Association. It was used as the location for first aid training courses, a museum and library, and for many years served as the central city ambulance depot.



In 2003, the YHA extended the rear of the building and upgraded the facilities to create an award winning hostel with modern multi-share, twin, double, en-suited rooms as well as large family rooms and group accommodation.

The 5 star YHA is ideally situated close to the city centre next to Perth's Central Station and offers a range of facilities including a pool, gym, movie room and onsite café.

Whilst many types of travellers stay in hostels, the YHA originated from the need for low cost accommodation suitable for hikers. Their website says *"We want to give you the chance to meet people who march to the beat of a different drum, to eavesdrop on languages you've never heard before, and to share a meal with people you never would have met from countries with names you can't pronounce. It's about bringing together a totally random group of people who share only one thing in common: a thirst to see the world."*

Reading that, I think the synergy between the YHA and the Bibbulmun Track Foundation is obvious!



YHA.COM.AU



YOUR LETTERS

Hi All,

When walking back to my car from a walk today near Walpole, and trying not to get any wetter and thinking about things in general, a few thoughts occurred to me along the theme of:

You haven't been on the Bibbulmun Track unless....

- ...you come across a tiger snake and you play statue until it moves*
- ...you cannot see the track anymore as your spectacles have fogged up from heavy breathing, or from the humidity*
- ...you run out of camera battery just before taking the perfect shot*
- ...you step on what you thought was a solid bit of ground, but end up ankle deep in mud*
- ...you forgot a piece of equipment and had to do without it for the walk*
- ...you have been cut in the elbow crease of your arm by sword grass*
- ...you have waded through the Pingerup Plains*
- ...you thought you were nearly at the top of the hill but then realise you are not*
- ...you thanked a vollie under your breath for clearing the track you are walking on*
- ...you have climbed over, or found a way around a fallen tree, or through the branches blocking the track*
- ... you have surprised a friend by walking with an unexpected meet up and supply of fresh fruit and vegetables*
- ...you get hit by an unexpected downpour and before you can get your wet weather gear out and you are drenched through*

Guy Spouge

Ed: Guy is one of the Track's long-time maintenance volunteers. Anyone have any further thoughts along these lines?

Dear Gwen

With regret I wish to tender my resignation from maintenance volunteering for the area TS 029 out of Dwellingup.

I think I have been involved for about 20 years and feel I'm not able to carry on anymore. My late husband Nicholas and I really enjoyed doing our Track- indeed it was his wish that some of his ashes were scattered in bushland along that way.

In the latter years my very good friend Robert Esslement took over the job, but he also has medical problems.

I will still retain my membership and will always support such a great Foundation.

Sincerely yours

Maureen Quirke

Hi,

I received my copy of the Bibbulmun News today. I sat down with a cuppa and read about the new Northern Terminus and Jim Freeman and Michael O'Connor's story.

It has been some time since I returned home from my end-to-end north to south walk-my pack is hanging on a hook in the garage where I left it in late November 2016. I have plans to take more walks in Australia and abroad, but I just need to take care of my work commitments for another year or so then I can take the pack off the hook and continue.

I do miss my evenings reading my novel in my tent and my days in nature enjoying the Track and playing ukulele with my walking friend Juan. I especially enjoyed sharing camp with Jim Freeman for two nights south of Northcliffe. I remember Jim walking out of camp at 5:00am and saying "what's wrong with you, lying in your tent! The day is half gone!"

Thank you for providing the Bibbulmun Track.

Best Regards,

Bill Price

Dear All,

What a pleasure it was to go to my mailbox and find a parcel there from the Bibbulmun Track Foundation-a full set of the Track Guides, being for winning the draw for the January membership renewal prize draw. Thank you very much.

I walked the Track about 4 years ago, but could not call myself an end-to-ender, because I missed a couple of days (due to my friend's bad feet!). I only had the old guide books, and had been thinking of getting the new guide books and walking the Track again, because I enjoyed it so much. Now, maybe I will

I hope you are getting somewhere with the office relocation issue. Thinking of you all, even though I can't help from here in Tasmania.

Thank you again.

Jenny Tudehope

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

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

Robert Allen
Penny Bates
BCBC (Book Club Book Club)

Brian Bickell
Megan Born
Rebecca Brockwell
Shelley Brookland
Kerry Castles
Ricky Coates
Christian Cote
Boyd Cowley

Josephine Cummings

Mark Davidson
Alex Desebrock
Kim Gray

Jeffrey Gresham
Tim Griffin
Mark Hopkins
Chris Jones
Valerie Jordan
Carol Jowett
Ronald Lutz
Tom McAlister
Bob Oxlade

Anita Patel
Michael Paterson
Peppermint Grove Art Group

David Perry
Mark Pybus
Thomas G Roberts
Anne Robinson
Eric Taylor
Serge Tseu
Ultra Series WA
Jessica Wolff
Walking Two by Two

Helena Campsite is one of my special favourites, having many many happy memories there.

Please accept this \$500 toward the rebuilding of Helena shelter.

You all do amazing work in offering quality walks for anyone wishing to enjoy our beautiful Aussie bush.

Walking WOLFF ... keep healthy and happy

Jessica Wolff

Ed - thank you Jessica for your very generous donation

Thank you for this great life experience. I walked the entire track between 29 October and 15 December 2017. I am Chris the Crazy Canuck and this trail was a great therapy of the mind and the soul. Here is a small contribution to support the Foundation and the continuation of this amazing life experience opportunity.

Christian Cote
Victoria British-Columbia

Hello all,

Just like to donate \$500.00 to help finance the rebuilding of the Helena camp site. I have visited this site a number of times over the years and still marvel at the magnificent view when waking to a fog filled valley. Many memorable nights have been spent sitting around a warm fire exchanging stories and chocolate with complete strangers.

Kind regards,

Kim Gray

Ed - thank you Kim for your kind donation

Donations are tax deductible!

Through the National Trust, donations to the Foundation are deposited in a special account and assigned specifically to projects that enhance the Bibbulmun Track's environmental sustainability. The National Trust provides this service for free so you can be sure that 100% of your donation will go to Track projects.

Tax deductible donations can be made online, in person by cash or credit card, or by cheque which can be made out to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation with your name and address. We will then provide you with a receipt from the National Trust receipt book which indicates the donation is specifically for the Bibbulmun Track.

All donations, regardless of the amount, are gratefully received and all help to preserve our beautiful Bibbulmun Track.

Bibbulmun Journeys

On Sunday 11 March a sell-out crowd of passionate Bibbulmun Track hikers was treated to the premier viewing of the documentary Bibbulmun Journeys.

Quite a few of those who attended were actually featured in the film which showcased not only the Track, but the people who hike it and volunteer to maintain it.

Filmed and produced by Michelle Ryan from Walking Two by Two and her son Liam, the doco is both entertaining and inspiring, with lots of spectacular footage shot using a drone.

Michelle generously donated part of the proceeds from ticket sales to the Foundation, presenting Steve from the BTF with a cheque for \$715 towards the rebuild of Helena Campsite.

We highly recommend the film and you can order the DVD from walkingtwobytwo.com.au for \$20 + \$5p/p

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 Parks and Wildlife Services 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@dbca.wa.gov.au

Ph: (08) 9219 8265

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@dbca.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@dbca.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@dbca.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@dbca.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@dbca.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@dbca.wa.gov.au

LEAVE NO TRACE TIP – LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

Do not add to or create new rock cairns. Cairns are for navigation only where other trail marking is not possible.

Individual rocks provide shelter for all types of critters and new cairns not only disturb the natural environment but can lead walkers astray.





Kerstin Stender,
Trails Coordinator

Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre 6983

Tel: (08) 9219 8265

Email: recreationandtrails@dbca.wa.gov.au



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Recreation & Trails UNIT

Another summer and yet again a bushfire impacted on the Bibbulmun Track. Unfortunately the Sawyers Valley fire in January this year scorched 10km of the Track, including the Helena Campsite. Post fire assessments have been completed and we are expecting the insurance payouts in the near future. Plans are progressing for rebuilding the shelter and surrounding infrastructure, with works proposed for this spring. The Track has been re-opened, however a diversion remains in place to avoid a section of wandoo woodland, as wandoo are known to drop limbs for some time after a fire. Hikers will need to be prepared to hike through to either Ball Creek or Waalegh Campsites.

Most of you probably heard about the risky helicopter rescue of the hiker from the Helena Campsite during this bushfire. For those of you who missed it, check out the Department of Fire and Emergency Services Facebook page for the 15 January 2018, with footage of the helicopter rescue from the air. This hiker was very lucky to survive, as the fire engulfed the shelter minutes after he was airlifted to safety.

This is a stark reminder about the dangers of being on the Track during the summer bushfire season, essentially between December and March. To keep yourself

safe during this bushfire season, Parks and Wildlife recommend:

- Plan your visits for cooler periods of the year, avoiding the hot summer months.
- Check the Fire Danger Rating (at www.emergency.wa.gov.au, via phone 13 33 37 or on the EmergencyAus app). Do not go if the forecast is Very High or above.
- Do not plan extended multi-day trips as it is not possible to keep up with changing conditions (extremely limited mobile phone coverage) and it is difficult to self-evacuate from the trail at short notice.
- Avoid remoter sections of the trail where there is limited vehicle access.
- Abide by all trail closure signage, and any instructions from Parks and Wildlife and other emergency staff.

Trails and parks may be closed on days when the Fire Danger Rating is Very High or above.

The fire danger rating on the day of the Sawyers Valley fire was Very High and the temperature forecast was for 36°C. Despite this, two people stayed at the camp site overnight, ignoring the safety messages above. Ground crews attempted to check the Helena Campsite for hikers early in the

fire, but had to turn around as their vehicle started to burn. Keep in mind limited time and resources may prevent rescuers from reaching you during a bushfire. You are not just putting your life at risk, but also the lives of the rescuers.

On a more positive note, the maintenance and upgrade program continues. A planting project is planned for early winter at Ball Creek Campsite to define the tent sites and paths and restore the feel of a natural bush setting. The next campsite planned for upgrade is Swamp Oak, including floor and roof extensions. The department is greatly assisted by the Foundation's Support Volunteer team with this and other maintenance projects.

Major maintenance and repair works have commenced at the old River Road rail bridge south of Pemberton. Parks and Wildlife staff and volunteers are undertaking the first phase of treatment to extend the life of the bridge, while contractors will do the heavy duty work, such as replacing piles and cross beams. This is another collaborative project with the Foundation.

Enjoy the autumn bush walking season.

Kerstin Stender
Trails Coordinator

Dogs on Track

A question often raised is "Am I allowed to take my dog on the Track?" To be specific, there are no rules or regulations that relate to the legality of taking a dog on the Bibbulmun Track per se. However, as stated in our FAQ section:

Dogs, whether on or off the lead, are not permitted in drinking water catchments, National Parks, Conservation Parks or

Nature Reserves. Many campsites and a large proportion of the Track fall into these categories.

That is the legal situation. Information about the category of any part of the Track can be obtained from Parks and Wildlife Services. Apart from the legal aspect, the following information should be considered:

Fox baits are dropped periodically by aeroplane in State Forest and other areas along the Track. If the dried meat 1080

poison baits are picked up by a dog, it will lead to a long and painful death. Don't take the risk!

Thirdly, the etiquette of having your dog in the close proximity of others, especially at campsites, should be taken into account. I personally like dogs, but not everyone does and particularly walkers with young children may well feel intimidated by the presence of one. You wouldn't take your dog into someone's garden or house without prior approval!

Eyes on the GROUND



Volunteers and equipment were ferried up the inlet on the Department's boat.

With autumn here and the days shorter, hopefully we will have some cooler weather to allow our maintenance volunteers to enjoy visits to their sections.

The cooler than usual summer has provided reasonable weather for working and so we have had some reports coming in.

We were very sad to lose Helena Campsite in the fire which burnt out many hectares around Mundaring Weir and closed the Track for some time. The loss was particularly sad as it was only a few months ago that Parks and Wildlife Services (the Department) staff and Foundation volunteers completed an upgrade of the shelter and surrounds.

We are currently planning the 2018 Field Days—not always a simple task as we try to work out where our help is most needed.

The Support Volunteers (SVs) have completed many projects, most notably the construction of steps on the south side of Irwin Inlet. This required daily ferrying of volleys, tools and materials up the inlet and we are very grateful to Ranger, Chris Goodsell, for his support in providing the Department's boat. At the same time the canoe sheds were refurbished while another team surveyed eroded locations along the coast and prepared a detailed report of options for future remediation.

Special thanks to volunteer, Paul Harris, for providing meals and accommodation at his house for the six days and to Mark Davidson for organising our first major SV campaign, which was an outstanding success.

Albany SVs have been working with local volunteers at campsites and brushcutting in high regrowth areas.

A major upcoming project is the preservation and repairs to the historic River Road Bridge south of Pemberton. A team of eight SVs, along with a Department engineer have surveyed the bridge, assembled materials and specialised tools and undertaken Working at Heights training (see opposite page). The first phase was completed in March. Other timber bridges need similar treatment so the very valuable experience will no doubt be put to further good use.

We have recently farewelled some long-standing volunteers and we thank them so much for the many hours they have put into maintaining their section—and in some cases two sections. As a result I have had the pleasure of welcoming a number of new volunteers to the maintenance program.

Our marvellous team put in many voluntary hours to keep the Track a safe and enjoyable experience for all walkers, be they spending just one day on the Track or completing an end-to-end. We thank them all.

Gwen, Charmaine and Mark
Maintenance Programme Coordinators

NEWMONT.
Boddington Gold

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



The refurbished racks in the canoe shed make stowage and retrieval easier.



Box steps were built up the eroded slope from Irwin Inlet south side.



Our thanks to Alcoa for sponsoring our Volunteer Support team.

Support Volunteers Working at Heights

Six of our support volunteers recently completed a Working at Heights training course. "Working at heights?" you ask. "Why? Are we conducting map reading courses at the top of the Gloucester Tree? Has Get Lost with Steve become Get Lost in Space with Steve?"

No, nothing so exotic, but very important nevertheless.

The creation of the Support Volunteers team has meant that the BTF can offer specialist maintenance support to the Department of Parks and Wildlife over and above that previously possible.

In this instance support volunteers will perform restoration work on the River Road Bridge near Pemberton. The bridge is a 150m long timber rail bridge built

in the 1930s and is in need of major restoration. It is shared between the Bibbulmun Track and the Munda Biddi cycle track and at its highest point is approximately 5.0 metres above the Warren River.

Work undertaken by volunteers will include pressure cleaning the decking and bridge structure, applying timber preservative, installing steel banding to the support piers and a general strengthening of the bridge structure.

The course gave our volunteers the knowledge to work safely and efficiently at heights including how to check and care for the safety equipment, how to fit and wear it, how to select good anchorage points and suspension trauma.

Training was provided by Tom Price and Sons (TPS), a leading training organisation in Bunbury. TPS provided this one day training course pro-bono, and all the volunteers successfully completed the course.

Our sincere thanks to Tom Price and Sons for providing this training, enabling the Foundation's volunteers to make a significant contribution to the restoration of River Road Bridge.



Support volunteers surveyed areas of track erosion between Conspicuous and Parry Beaches



BF Bibbulmun

BF - BAG FREE. OR BEST FRIEND

Your Pemberton Bibbulmun Break made easy

The Pemberton Bunkhouse is centrally located and sleeps up to 12 in comfortable dorm style accommodation; with outdoor minigolf & BBQ. Track Transfers* can be included for an easy and comfortable way to walk - Bag Free; with your Best Friends (or family).

0427 133335

www.WAWilderness.com.au

*Pemberton Discovery Tours - Bibbulmun Track Transport Providers

Parks and Wildlife Services Profile

DAVE LATHWELL - PROJECT MANAGER, CAPITAL WORKS & ROADS UNIT

I have been with the Department in all its incarnations since joining the Forest Department in 1980. Currently a Project Manager with the Capital Works and Roads Unit of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, operating out of the Bunbury Office, I am involved in many and varied projects across the State. Prior to this I was the Parks and Visitor Services Coordinator for the now Blackwood District, starting my association with the Bibbulmun Track (BT) in 1993 as the Kirup District BT Coordinator, which was just prior to the commencement of the major refurbishment to the Track conducted from 1994 to 1998.

I found the refurbishment and realignment of the BT very interesting and developed a strong enthusiasm for the Track over this time. During this operation we were looking for the best alignment to select some top campsite locations, facilitate resupply and pick up some great features like the Preston Forest Block virgin jarrah stand and some classic Blackwood River views. My portfolio at that time included being Tourism and Recreation Officer (management of the District's recreation sites and operations) and for a few years I coordinated the District's Nature Conservation and Safety programs while also participating in fire operations throughout the years. You may have met me on one of Blackwood's annual vullie maintenance field days that Gwen Plunkett organised – always good fun and great cake. A few years later a focus on just tourism and recreation work enabled me to become very involved in the department's visitor risk management program, which led me to assist with the development of the training program in 1998 and participating in delivering it as a trainer through to the current day.

Over ten years of use saw the Track a little over loved and worse for wear and in 2009 I started managing the major upgrade project, which provided a vital injection of \$1.5M over three years. Working with Scott Hunter and Kerstin Stender of the department's Recreation and Trails Unit we refreshed, upgraded and repaired nearly three quarters of the campsites, numerous bridges, lots of other infrastructure and sections of trail.

Following the 2015 Boddington and O'Sullivan bushfires I took on project management of the fire recovery operation, replacing and repairing the hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of lost infrastructure on the Bibbulmun Track, Munda Biddi Trail (MBT) and other destroyed recreation sites. This included replacing the four completely destroyed BT campsites, Possum Springs, Brookton, Gardner and Dog Pool, and major repair of the MBT Yirra Kartta Campsite. We opted for more fire resilient construction materials for the replacement shelters, using rammed earth walls with steel roof framing. This was quite different for the department and made construction a very interesting task for me. Compliments to our design staff, as I think they have come up with an arguably stunning looking

shelter that should stand the test of time and survive most, if not all, bushfire events.

Of the entire infrastructure lost at this time, none impacted more on me than the loss of the Long Gully Bridge. A classic forestry-built timber trestle rail bridge, its uniqueness came from its length, height and curve at the northern end. Following some initial investigations by the Recreation and Trails Unit I took on the construction of the replacement bridge. With a need to relocate it, a focus on greater fire resilience and providing a river crossing experience to rival the old bridge, I am pleased with the outcome and feedback received from walkers after its completion in June 2017.

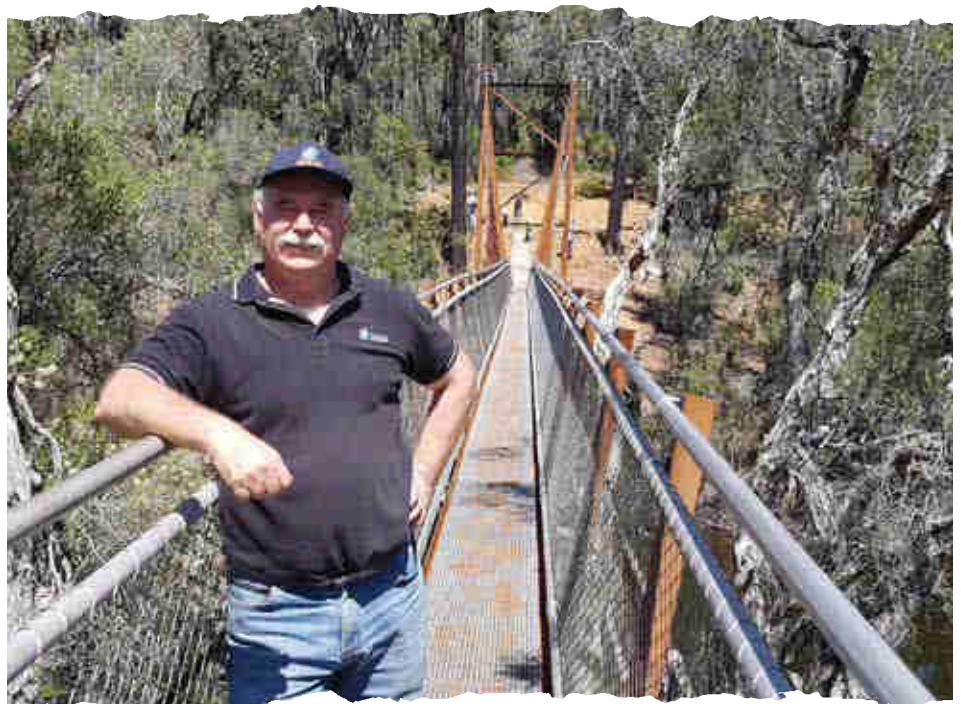
The devastating Waroona bushfire in 2016 resulted in new fire recovery works—talk about keeping a bloke busy!

Whilst working on the above tasks I have been involved in many other projects, from roading to drafting departmental policy documents such as for parks closure due to fire risk (which is designed to manage the risk to visitors in the event of bushfire threat), to advising on risk information messages for visitors to the department's recreation sites and long trails. These messages inform visitors about the risks from bushfires, so they can make better informed choices about how they can keep themselves safe during the bushfire season.

Life as a Project Manager with the department is not without its challenges but is very rewarding nevertheless, made even better by those folk associated with the Track that I have been fortunate enough to meet along the way.

Keep up the great work Bibbulmun Track Foundation and vullies and I might see you on the Track sometime in the future.

Dave Lathwell



Dave Lathwell at Bilya Djena Bidi spanning the Murray River.

Getting into Gear

TENTS ON THE BIBBULMUN TRACK



One of the questions we are often asked at the Foundation office is “Why should I take a tent if there are shelters at the campsites?”

It is true that the shelters are designed to sleep between 8 and 16 people- but many people choose to put up their own tents rather than share the shelter.

There are many reasons why. Some people prefer the privacy of their own tent and the solitude of sleeping away from the rabble. One restless night listening to someone else really enjoying their sleep while you suffer, wide awake on your self-inflating sleeping mat, is enough to make you go out the next day and buy a lightweight tent!

When choosing a tent it is important to remember the climate you are in. While it can get cold in WA it is not a 4-Season environment—i.e. it doesn't snow! In WA I prefer tents that have good breathability; structures that allow good airflow to reduce the build-up of condensation which can then drip on to me all night!



However, the most important aspect is the weight. It must be as light as possible and still be able to perform in the weather that you may encounter. So in the end it's all about compromise, weight for performance. It is possible to find a 3-season tent that weights around 2kg in total.

Most tents are made up of two skins, an outer waterproof flysheet and a breathable inner which is attached to a waterproof floor. There are single skin tents but they are very specialized and generally used for mountaineering rather than bushwalking.

In choosing a tent you firstly have to ask yourself how you plan to use it. Do you want it to be self-supporting? That is do you want the tent to stand up on its own without the need for pegs in the ground to hold it up. This can be done by creating tension in the poles. This is a particularly useful feature if you plan to use the inner on its own erected as a mosquito net inside one of the shelters. (Just be mindful not to do this if it prevents others from accessing the shelter.)

Then do you need a tent for one person or two, do you need vestibule space (that is space under the flysheet) for packs and smelly boots? A vestibule space for storage is very handy, particularly for wet or damp gear.

When I first came to WA back in 1986 the brand Wilderness Equipment came to my notice. I had started working with Mountain Designs and we were selling their products. Ian Maley, the owner, was at the forefront of design, innovation and manufacturing in our industry in WA. In fact he still is.

Now led by eldest son, Henry, the Maley family is still developing cutting edge, thoughtful designs.

I recently had a good look at their new Space 2 tent and was really impressed with a number of aspects about the design. I particularly liked the utilisation of volume and space by the tent walls, which are steep-sided with large angles to the floor so a tall person can sit up without hitting the roof but also leave plenty of space inside to not feel cramped.

To make this happen they designed some very clever hubs that hold the lightweight aluminium poles, with the sleeves angled so the poles aren't under any undue pressure.

Another innovation is to provide two bags to pack the tent away. One for the fly and one for the inner. That way you can prevent a wet fly from soaking a dry inner. The Space 2 was fast and easy to pack away and the two bags easier to compress making the packed size of the tent smaller. Plus it's easier to split the tent up with your walking companion.

There are many technical aspects about this, and the other tents in the range, that will elicit lots of discussion. Henry maintains that the seams of the fly sheet don't need to be tape seamed because they use a high quality silicone to waterproof the fly fabric and that silicone also permeates the stitching to seal up the seams.

The weight of the fabric is another point, Henry maintains that they've had great success with a 30d cloth even though they attempted to go lighter with a 20d one in the design stage. It seems that the slightly heavier cloth holds the silicone coating better and allows it to waterproof the fabric properly. They can silicone the fly fabric on both sides then, getting a better seal on the fly seams at the same time.

This is a self-supporting tent that if used in windy, wet conditions on the Bibbulmun Track will stack up against any tent made overseas. It is not a tent designed for snow storms, which we don't get on the Track—but even if we did, I reckon I could ride one out in this tent anyway.

Well done Wilderness Equipment on creating some great gear designed for a specific end-use.

Mike Wood
BTF Chair



Yes, THEY DID IT!

Walkers are continuing to take the opportunity for through-hikes with the reopened Track and rebuilt shelters after a couple of years of various sectional closures due to fires. Here are the latest walkers to register their accomplishment and achieve End-to-End status. As usual, they are featured in chronological order of completion.

Our **congratulations** go to all of them!

Allan McKechnie (75) of Albany, and **Bruce Seligmann** (78) of East Fremantle walked with Peter West (71) of North Fremantle (edition #76) as *The Gourmates* when they completed their end-to-end (Sectional, 16.04.02 to 03.05.16). You can read two of the 19 poems penned by Allan along the way on page 22.

Anne Vanderbijl (55), of Denmark WA, was *Dragonfly Annie* on her walk (S-N, 15.06.17 to 15.08.17). She loved the cool breezes in the south, was in awe of the tingles and karris, enjoyed the undulations between Murray and Swamp Oak, thought the roller-coaster between Beavis and Boarding House made for a great ride, and will always remember Mt Cooke in torrential rain! Other highlights included regaining her fitness, building her confidence during the solo part of her walk, being surprised with a birthday cake at Canning Campsite and finally ringing the bell at Kalamunda.

Mark Hopkins (73), from the ACT (Sectional, 03.09.10 to 30.09.17) says the Track is a walk with its own special character that draws him and his friends back again and again. It's up there with the best walks in the world. Mark enjoyed the forest walks which were shaded, cool and relatively free from flies. Sections between Northcliffe and Balingup were favourites and Mark says a highlight was arriving at Balingup, seven years older, and knowing he didn't have to walk any further!

Tereena Goodwin (49), of South Lake called herself *Dory* or *Tereena* on her walks (Sectional, 19.07.14 to 22.09.17). She is very grateful to all volunteers who make it possible for walkers to enjoy the Track, and throughout her walk she felt privileged to have access to so much nature. She prepared her own dehydrated meals after attending the BTF event *Food in a Fuel-stove*. Northcliffe to Walpole provided a diversity of environment that was memorable—from granite outcrops to the flats, wading and then on to the ocean and sand dunes.

There were so many wow moments! Other highlights included meeting people who continue to inspire her and just being able to soak up the beauty around her.

Jonathon Lee (54), from Queensland, was *Coochin Jon* on his enjoyable adventure (N-S, 12.08.17 to 27.09.17). He says everyone should find time to experience the Track, even if only for a day or two. Jonathon used commercially dehydrated meals supplemented by pub meals in towns, and confirms that Peaceful Bay still has the best fish and chips on the Track! The Pingerup Plains with amazing wildflowers and walking amongst the beauty and ruggedness of the south coast while getting hammered by wind and rain were all special memories for him. Jonathon lost 9kgs in weight on his walk, and found the mental challenges to be greater than any physical ones. He says his many solitary nights allowed for some very intelligent conversations and some surprising responses!

John Colby (73), from NSW, was known as *John C* on his long walk (N-S, 19.08.17 to 14.10.17). He had no trouble resuppling at the Track towns and maintains the Bibbulmun Track has the best facilities of all the tracks he has walked. John says the variety found in different sections helps make the Track.

Nikki Pretorius (68), of Bunbury, signed in as *Owly Hoots* or *Nikki P* on her many walks (Sectional, 06.10.11 to 19.10.17) which she found were a great way to recharge the soul, reflect on life and get fitter as well. She loved the slow pace of the Track and getting back to basics. Each section had its spectacular moments - the wildflowers, Frankland River Campsite, a wild lightning storm, friendships made on the Track and seeing the green roof of the shelter at the end of the day. Another special memory was watching a tiger snake shed its skin. She advises others not to leave it too late to start their walking life.

Lynda Frewer, of Mt Lawley, called herself *Elle Hummingbird* on her walks (Sectional, 05.05.12 to 19.10.17). Some sections were difficult and tested her endurance but overall her improved self-confidence has provided the foundation for her to tackle many other hikes locally and overseas. She is very grateful to have such a wonderful, free facility that is maintained by volunteers. Lynda felt a huge sense of achievement with each day hiked and she liked the solitude, the Track's beauty and knowing her personal fitness was improved. Donnelly River to Pemberton was her favourite section and she had a very interesting encounter with a fully grown feral pig!

Tony Warrilow, from Margaret River, was *The run of the wilderbeest* on his best physical and mental challenge ever (N-S, 20.08.17 to 20.10.17). The features of the Track were far beyond what Tony expected and he liked the healthy head space. Donnelly River to Peaceful Bay was his favourite section and highlights included walking the Pingerup Plains with lots of water and finishing in Albany.

Ron Greehalgh (74), of Dianella, found his walks (Sectional, 06.09.13 to 21.10.17) were challenging in some places and beautiful in others, with all campsite locations being excellent. His favourite sections were along the south coast but he says, overall, it was a great adventure. A special memory was a three course meal, with Baileys, supplied by a friend at Big Brook Dam. Ron urges walkers to get out there because you're never too old for it!

Mary Adams (64) walked with **Catherina Reynold** (N-S, 01.09.17 to 25.10.17). Both are from Victoria and were *Rene and Mary*. They had their own track angel who kept them resupplied with fresh fruit and vegies along the way, to the envy of some fellow walkers. Mary loved the Track's variation and constant surprises- a highlight was seeing her first kangaroo-paw in the wild. A wonderful feeling of freedom was enjoyed while experiencing the beauty that nature provides. She says the Bibbulmun Track stands alone, with its shelters, trail care and maintenance and the readily available water supply.

Leonie Nagle (52), of Attadale (Sectional,

Our CONGRATULATIONS to the following
50 walkers on completing an end-to-end!
8 from overseas, 15 from interstate and
27 from WA.



28.04.15 to 27.10.17), was hooked soon after her first walk and eventually set herself a personal challenge to complete the Track in 2017. It was an awesome and rewarding experience for her, and she was very excited and proud to reach Albany. Walpole to Peaceful Bay was a special section with its tall forests, Frankland River shelter, the Tree Top Walk, then walking out to the coast and finishing with fish and chips at Peaceful Bay. Another highlight was reaching the coast at Mandalay after tackling the tough sections of walking and wading alone and being very wet! Leonie was lucky enough to see an echidna on her walk, but unlucky to have a hole chewed in her shorts pocket overnight by a treat-seeking rodent!

Danny Joyce (63), of Coo loongup, says his walk (Sectional, 07.09.2000 to 28.10.2017) was a great experience and he is very pleased to have undertaken it. There was always something different every day and the memories will stay with him forever. The southern coastline was his favourite section and he also enjoyed meeting other walkers and exchanging stories. He says there is no comparison with other walks—the Bibbulmun Track is the best, and it's free!

Bob Bode (57), of Dawesville, liked having all the campsites back in place again on his long hike (N-S, 12.09.17 to 29.10.17). The south coast was his favourite section and he also enjoyed the wildflowers, especially the orchids. Meeting other walkers and getting to know them, even if only for a short time, was always good.

Laura Waters (47), from Victoria, was *Soul Trekker* and loved her walk (N-S, 06.09.17 to 30.10.17) which she says was much easier, both logistically and trail-wise, than Te Araroa but it was nice to know there was a shelter, water and toilet at the end of each day. A mix of food drops and town re-supplies worked well. She loved the granite domed peaks and incredible wildflowers between Kalamunda and Dwellingup, saying the flowers were almost overwhelming at times!

Laurie Ernst (71) and **Cath Reiher** (58), from NSW, were simply *Loz 'n Cath* during their walk (N-S, 31.08.17 to 31.10.17). The excellent facilities provided for walkers

were appreciated, as were the efforts of all volunteers. Resupplying in towns rather than using food drops worked for them. Special highlights were reaching the ocean and meeting characters on the Track. They say they were much leaner and fitter at the end and felt prepared for anything.

Glenn Jones (67), from NSW, was simply *Glenn J* as he hiked, quote, "the best organised and managed trail I've been on" (N-S, 29.08.17 to 01.11.17). He says the good maps, guide books, trail markers and campsite facilities make the Bibbulmun Track suitable for those with little bushwalking experience. Glenn loved the south coast and would have liked the trail to take in more of the Torndirrup National Park. Wildflowers on the south coast were spectacular and he has special memories of some very inquisitive emu chicks at Gregory Brook Campsite.

James Walker (69), of the USA, called himself *Reset* on his hike (N-S, 16.09.17 to 5.11.17). He found resupplying in towns was quite adequate and he loved the whole experience through the scenic and diverse environment. James says the Track has an outstanding, world-class infrastructure with easier and better shelters than either the Appalachian or Te Araroa.

Thorsten Brocke (41), from Germany, (N-S, 01.10.17 to 06.11.17) was impressed with the unique community spirit that exists in volunteers and walkers on the Bibbulmun Track, and hopes this culture remains alive into the future. He has never encountered such a well maintained trail with good facilities and free access. It was too hard to choose a favourite section, saying instead the Track has a beauty that must be enjoyed in its entirety. Highlights included meeting other walkers at the campsites, crossing rivers and creeks on tree-log footbridges and arriving at the south coast in a storm. He has special memories of the steak dinner at the Dwellingup pub and almost being run over by a dugite at Boat Harbour shelter!

Lisa Robertson (49) and **Armin Azad** (46), of Osborne Park, walked as *Snail and Waugal* (N-S, 06.09.17 to 07.11.17). They felt very fortunate to have the shelters and to see so many amazing orchids and

wildflowers. It was Armin's second end-to-end, but Lisa's first long walk and she can't think of a better way to have spent her Long Service Leave. They found it was best to dehydrate their meals and they used nuts for energy. Walpole to Albany was their favourite section and the first view of the ocean was a major highlight.

Richard Arndt (29), from Germany, called himself *Burger* (N-S, 11.09.17 to 07.11.17) as he sampled the Track town burgers along the way—and found the best was at the Mumby pub! Northcliffe to Denmark was his favourite part with the transition from the Pingerup Plains to the Southern Ocean, and he particularly enjoyed the walk from Woolbales to Long Point. The views, spring flowers and wildlife were all awesome and he saw a breaching whale, a big dugite, an eagle and some 'roos all on the same day! This was Richard's first long distance hike and it was an incredible experience for him, learning that he was capable of walking over 1000km.

Joshua Iles (40), from Tasmania, was just *Josh* on his great adventure (N-S, 23.09.17 to 08.11.17). He thought the wildflowers were simply awesome and he enjoyed meeting other walkers and sharing the experience. Josh resupplied in the towns, finding the selection very average in some towns, but adequate as he wasn't fussy. He loved the tall trees and the beaches, enjoying some beach swims and some whale watching at Mandalay. Sitting around the campfire on a chilly night was another pleasure as some of the cooler spring nights proved a little too chilly for Josh's sleeping bag!

Daryl Crane (42), of Meadow Springs, has registered his end-to-end (N-S, 05.10.17 to 09.11.17) but provided no other details.

Tim Griffin (66), of Wellard, was simply *Griffin* (N-S, 26.08.17 to 10.11.17). He's very appreciative of the BTF, volunteers and

Do you have your End-to-Ender BADGE?

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



Yes, THEY DID IT! (CONT.)

rangers who maintain the Track. Tim says all sections have their own highlights but he particularly enjoyed meeting people from all over the world with their positive attitudes and warmth on meeting fellow travellers. After finishing each section he always looked forward to the experiences yet to come.

Jess Mincham (27), of Ferndale, called herself *Dot* on her walk (N-S, 11.09.17 to 10.11.17). She found the whole south coast was special, with spectacular views, dips off secluded beaches and watching whales breaching at sunset. A highlight was seeing the coast for the first time, even though it was in gale force winds and heavy rain! Home dehydrated meals worked well on Track, but Jess admits to getting “IGA-excitement” in towns. She experienced some trail-magic along the way and says “the Track always provides when you least expect it”. A big variety of wildlife was seen including dolphins surfing below the windfarm. She urges other walkers not to rush because there is so much to see along the way.

Jim Vos (57), of Heathridge and **John Vos** (60), of Connolly, walked together as *The Foxtrotters* in their return to the Track for a through-hike (N-S, 17.09.17 to 11.11.17). Back Country Cuisine meals were used between Kalamunda and Dwellingup and after that they re-supplied in the towns. Neither of the brothers could pick a favourite section, but Jim says “The swampy section was a hoot!” John found the sheer variety of landscapes and natural environments was awesome and he also liked the karri and tingle forests. Jim loved the forest scenes with mosses and fungi and the beautiful wildflowers. High viewpoints were always special as were the pristine coastal beaches.

Sue (64) and **Lloyd** (64) **Ferguson**, along with **Tracey Coleman** (56), all from NSW, were collectively *The Eastern Greys* on their adventure (N-S, 19.09.17 to 12.11.17) which Lloyd described as a “transformational experience not to be missed”. Sue found she was tougher than she thought as she conquered the hilly terrain and Tracey loved the serenity of the forests. Sections in the tall timbers were favourites for all, and the profusion of wildflowers and birds was special. The company of fellow hikers was enjoyed and they all appreciated the excellent campsite facilities that set the Bibbulmun Track apart from other walks that require bookings and fees.

Selene Moonbeams (60), of Mahogany Creek, signed in as *Moonbeams* as she became totally immersed in the Track (N-S, 06.09.17 to 17.11.17), calling her hike “an exceptional chapter in the daring adventure of my life”. It was a journey of mindfulness, tenacity, discovery, resilience and countless rewards. She also spent three days exploring the Wellington spur trail. Dehydrating her own meals worked well and Selene always carried an extra emergency day’s food. While enjoying the karris and tingles in the past, this time it was the coast from Denmark to Albany that was best.

Jenny (59) and **Richard** (61) **Orme**, of Kallaroo were known as *RJO Rich&Jen Orme* (N-S, 27.09.17 to 19.11.17). They say that while the fires may have temporarily diminished the Track’s beauty, the people they met added to their walk. The impressive facilities left them feeling amazed that it’s free....”where else in the world?” Dehydrating their own meals worked brilliantly and portioning and vacuum-sealing snacks also worked well, but they’ve had quite enough quinoa for a while! Donnelly River to Northcliffe was favourite, but wildflowers and orchids everywhere were truly amazing. The coastal scenery and the diversity of fabulous people they met remain special memories. They urge walkers to take all the diversions to look-outs, no matter how tired you are.

Susan Thompson, from NSW, has registered her end-to-end (N-S, 30.09.17 to 19.11.17), but provided no other details.

Annette Bryant (36), of Queen’s Park (Sectional, 15.07.17 to 21.11.17) had been promising herself to walk the Track for over 20 years before she finally found the time to do it, even though it meant going back

to work for a week each month, and she finished her walk on her 36th birthday! A lot of miso soup and countless Aldi mountain bars were consumed along the way. The karri trees around the Donnelly River made up a favourite section and paddling across the Irwin Inlet was memorable. A special highlight was walking the last few kilometres into Albany with family members who had flown in from Canberra to join her. Beautiful birds and spectacular wild flowers are already calling Annette back to the Track.

Vicki (68) and **Neil** (68) **Anderson**, of Woodvale, walked as *The Andos* (N-S, 06.09.17 to 24.11.17) and both experienced a great feeling of pride and satisfaction as they completed their walk in Albany. It was another project to tick off their bucket list! They supported the Track towns along their walk by purchasing supplies in each town. The south coast was the best part for both and they enjoyed meeting other walkers along the way. Vicki also loved the shelters. At times she found the walk was very challenging on both mind and body, and Neil thought it was a hard 1000km, but he loved it all. He advises, during the planning stage, to have a coffee with an end-to-ender!

Teresa (38) and **Leigh** (48) **Sillence**, of Iluka, were *T and Leeroy* on the longest walk they have ever completed (S-N, 08.10.17 to 25.11.17). They loved the well maintained trail, the easy navigation, had no problems managing food drops and resupply, and had a fantastic time. The tingle trees around Giants made their favourite section and they also enjoyed whale watching between Albany and Denmark. Other wildlife included the seals near Peaceful Bay and a python.

Waugal cloth badge

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FOR MEMBERS



Be reminded of your journey on the Bibbulmun Track with our latest cloth badge embroidered with the Bibbulmun Track Waugal trail marker.

PERFECT FOR YOUR BACKPACK, T-SHIRT OR BIBBULMUN TRACK HAT!

Par Eliasson (58), from Sweden (N-S, 20.10.17 to 29.11.17) thought the Track was fantastic and says it has the best facilities of any trail he's walked. He found it was so easy to resupply in towns that he often carried too much food! The General Store at DRV was a delight. Par had no idea there was so much wilderness area in south-west WA, going for five days without seeing another person. He particularly liked the majestic karris and tingles, the flowers and the huge variety of wildlife. Seeing the Southern Ocean for the first time was special.

Michael Schulze (56), from Germany returned to the Track, this time for a double end-to-end (N-S-N, 14.09.17 to 08.12.17). He resupplied in towns along the way in addition to food parcels at Dwellingup and DRV. His favourite section was between Giants and Rame Head, which he experienced on a beautiful sunny October day amongst all the wildflowers. The abundance of black cockatoos along the Track was also special. When he arrived in Albany, he thought it just wasn't enough,

so turning around was an easy decision. The heat, the flies and his increasing tiredness made the second leg so much harder in the northern sections. But he wasn't to be beaten and successfully made it back to Kalamunda.

Tabea (32) and **Stefan** (33) **Dross**, from Germany, walked as *Taste on Tour* (N-S, 14.10.17 to 10.12.17) as they made a return to the Track. They had a wonderful time, loving the nature, the big forests, the rivers, the Pingerup Plains and finally the ocean. For them, dried tomatoes, olives and mashed potato made a gourmet dinner on track! Highlights for both included the awesome wildflowers seen every day, and the stunning views from Mt Cuthbert and Mt Vincent. They enjoyed meeting other people along the way, but didn't enjoy the company of a hungry bush rat at Frankland shelter.

Roger Moir (59), from Queensland, was simply *Roger* on his end-to-end (N-S, 23.10.17 to 10.12.17) which he says was a wonderful experience and just what

he expected. The Track and the towns were great and he enjoyed meeting other hikers. Re-supplying with food was never a problem, but he says maybe fly nets should be more readily available! Roger's favourite sections were along the south coast, and reaching Mandalay Beach was a highlight.

Christian Cote (58), from Canada, says his walk (N-S, 29.10.17 to 15.12.17) was a life experience for the soul. He had many favourite sections but the Valley of Giants area was a standout and he enjoyed Blackwood and Schafer Campsites, but every section had its own highlights. Christian was always happy to wake up to a new day full of discoveries and to finish each day's walk in campsites with such excellent facilities. Routine was important for him and he stuck by his 5,6,7 rule -- wake up at 5am, leave camp at 6am and be asleep at 7pm.

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



Nornalup Inlet, Walpole by Tom Saunders

Ultra Series WA Sets a High Standard

Ultra Series WA is a unique ultra running competition in which runners earn points by running in six events in WA, the first of which was the Feral Pig series on 11th and 12th November 2017 on the Bibbulmun Track.

Huge thanks to Shaun Kaesler for donating \$3364 to the BTF from the Ultra Series WA event held in November.

Despite the hotter than average weekend, resulting in only nine of the 25 starters for the 100 miler completing the run, the event was a great success, attracting entrants from around Australia and overseas.

BTF Board member and keen trail runner Louise Yeaman supported the event by volunteering at one of the aid stations.

"The 23km short course had around 50 entrants. Starting only 7.5km away at Jorgensen Park, the field was incredibly spread out by the time the runners came through the Camel Farm. The short course leaders were spread out and running at an easy, relaxed pace," she said.

Louise also mentioned that the competitors were typical of those competing in these events in being very courteous and respectful, always organising themselves so that nothing was left behind, using bins and not dropping litter. In dismantling the aid station, Louise said there was not the tiniest bit of litter to pick up after the event.

Ultra Series WA organisers have set an excellent example at a time when the BTF and Parks and Wildlife Services are still considering the increasing popularity of trail running and associated events. An upcoming State-wide strategy for bushwalking and trail running will provide organisations and individuals the opportunity to learn from other regions and develop strategies to meet the needs of all trail users.

In the meantime, we greatly appreciate event organisers engaging with the Foundation prior to an event, enforcing the Leave No Trace principles and supporting the maintenance of the Track.

Linda Daniels
Executive Director

Accommodation, Tours and Services



Please support the Walker Friendly Businesses that support the Track.

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

BUSINESS NAME	TOWN	TYPE OF BUSINESS	PHONE NO.	WEBSITE	DISCOUNT OFFERED TO MEMBERS
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ALBANY HARBOURSIDE APARTMENTS	ALBANY		(08) 9842 1769	albanyharbourside.com.au	10% Discount on accommodation
CAMP KENNEDY BAPTIST YOUTH CAMP	ALBANY		(08) 9845 1040	albanybaptist.com.au/camp-kennedy.html	
DUNMOYLEN HOUSE B&B	ALBANY		(08) 9842 5235	dunmoylen.com.au	
WALK INTO LUXURY	ALBANY		1300 662 452	walkintoluxury.com.au	
YOHO PIZZA	BALINGUP/ DONNELLY RIVER		0403 734 814	yhopizza.com.au	
HARRIS RIVER ESTATE	COLLIE		(08) 9734 4042	harrisriverestate.com.au	10% off accommodation for stays of 2 nights or more
MANDIA B&B	COLLIE		0417 179 260	mandia.com.au	
MUMBLES	COLLIE		0429 322 038	mumblesboutiquestays.com.au	20% discount after 2nd night
THE COLLIEFIELDS	COLLIE		(08) 9734 2052	colliefields.com	
WHISPERING PINES B&B	COLLIE		(08) 9734 3883	whisperingpinesbandb.com.au	
BLUE WREN TRAVELLERS' REST	DENMARK		(08) 9848 3300	denmarkbluewren.com.au	5% discount on accommodation
CAPE HOWE COTTAGES	DENMARK		(08) 9845 1295	capehowe.com.au	10% discount on accommodation
CASA LIBELULA	DENMARK		0403 154 764	facebook.com/CasaLibelula6333/	10% discount on accommodation
DENMARK RIVERMOUTH CARAVAN PARK	DENMARK		(08) 9848 1262	denmarkrivermouthcaravanpark.com.au	
PELICANS AT DENMARK	DENMARK		0413 122 176	pelicansatdenmark.com.au	
PEPPERMINT HOUSE	DENMARK		0408 935 405	pepperminthouse.webs.com	
THE COVE	DENMARK		(08) 9848 1770	thecovechalets.com	10% discount on accommodation
WINDROSE B & B	DENMARK		(08) 9848 3502	windrose.com.au	10% discount on accommodation
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DWELLINGUP ADVENTURES	DWELLINGUP		(08) 9538 1127	dwellingsadventures.com.au	
JARRAH FOREST LODGE	DWELLINGUP		0402 615 235	forresterheritagecentre.com.au	
KALAMUNDA CARRIAGES & 3 GUMS COTTAGE	KALAMUNDA		(08) 6293 1902	perthhillsaccommodation.com.au	10% discount on accommodation
VILLA DU LAC	KALAMUNDA		08) 9293 2906	villadulac.com.au	10% to Bibbulmun Track members
MUNDARING WEIR HOTEL	MUNDARING		(08) 9295 1106	mundaringweirhotel.com.au	
KARRI COUNTRY GOOD FOOD	NORTHCLIFFE		(08) 9271 2869	karricountrygoodfood.com.au	
WATERMARK KILNS	NORTHCLIFFE		(08) 9776 7349	watermarkkilns.com.au	Discount on application
NUTKIN LODGE	PEACEFUL BAY		(08) 9840 8650	nutkinlodge.com.au	10% discount on accommodation
KARRI VALLEY RESORT	PEMBERTON		(08) 9776 2020	karrivalleyresort.com.au	10% Discount on accommodation (excluding peak periods)
MARRI HOUSE	PEMBERTON		0438 447 795	marrihouse.com.au	
PEMBERTON CAMP SCHOOL	PEMBERTON		(08) 9776 1277	pembertoncampschool.com.au	
PEMBERTON CARAVAN PARK	PEMBERTON		(08) 9776 1800	pembertonpark.com.au	10% discount to members
PEMBERTON DISCOVERY TOURS	PEMBERTON		(08) 9776 0484	pembertondiscoverytours.com.au	
PEMBERTON OLD PICTURE THEATRE APARTMENTS	PEMBERTON		(08) 9776 1513	oldpicturetheatre.com.au	
SILKWOOD WINES	PEMBERTON		(08) 9776 1584	silkwoodwines.com.au	
PUMP HILL FARM	PEMBERTON		(08) 9776 1379	pumphill.com.au	10% discount on accommodation in non-peak periods
ADVENTUROUS WOMEN	PERTH		1300 388 419	adventurouswomen.com.au	
DISCOVERY PARKS - PERTH AIRPORT	PERTH		1800 626 677	discoveryholidayparks.com.au	10% discount + free Discovery Park membership
DOWN UNDER DISCOVERIES	PERTH		0408 428 923	downunderdiscoveries.com	
INSPIRATION OUTDOORS	PERTH		(08) 6219 5164	inspirationoutdoors.com.au	
CHE SARA SARA CHALETs	WALPOLE		(08) 9840 8004	chesarasarachalets.com.au	
COALMINE BEACH HOLIDAY PARK	WALPOLE		(08) 9840 1026	coalminebeach.com.au	10% discount on accommodation
NATURALLY WALPOLE - TRACK & TRAIL TRANSFERS	WALPOLE		(08) 9840 1019	facebook.com/Naturallywalpole	
WALPOLE LODGE	WALPOLE		(08) 9840 1244	walpolelodge.com.au	
ALBANY VISITOR CENTRE	VISITOR CENTRE		(08) 9841 9290	amazingalbany.com.au	
COLLIE VISITOR CENTRE	VISITOR CENTRE		(08) 9734 2051	collierivervalley.org.au	10% on souvenirs
PEMBERTON VISITOR AND TOURIST CENTRE	VISITOR CENTRE		(08) 9776 1133	pembertonvisitor.com.au	
PERTH HILLS VISITOR CENTRE	VISITOR CENTRE		(08) 9257 9998	experienceperthhills.com.au	
SOUTHERN FORESTS WA	VISITOR INFO		(08) 9771 7777	southernforests.com.au	



Gary & Michèle invite you to come and stay with us in our friendly, Hotel & Backpacker rooms to suit all budgets, from our twin and 4 Bed Backpacker Rooms, to our lovely Hotel Ensuite Rooms and all with luxurious rain-fall showers. Comfy Guest Lounge for all to relax.

Discounts for Track Members &/or free upgrades (when available) for walkers. Beds from \$39 sharing Single Rooms from \$58. Packages held & shopping, pick-up or drop-off available on request.



Free WiFi & use of washing machine. Hearty continental breakfast included in all tariffs.

Show a pic of this ad and enjoy a free cup of coffee in our friendly Coffee Shoppe / Tea House with our awesome home made cakes and hearty meals.



WALKING HOLIDAYS EXCLUSIVELY FOR WOMEN

Bibbulmun Track WA
Flinders Ranges SA
Cape to Cape Track WA
Kangaroo Island SA
Three Capes TAS
Snowy Mountains NSW
Camino SPAIN & PORTUGAL
Kimberley & Pilbara WA
Great Ocean Walk VIC



For more information call Sue on 1300 388 419 or visit www.AdventurousWomen.com.au

VOLUNTEER AND LIFE MEMBER PROFILE

DIANE EASTON

My friend Erika and I completed an end-to-end on the Bibbulmun Track, south to north, in 2014.

I cried every day for the first week—sore feet, heavy pack—“Why was I doing this?”

If it hadn't been for Erika egging me on, and bumping into a track maintenance volunteer who was very positive and who had some wonderfully encouraging tales, I would have ended my journey at Parry Beach. Throughout the trek we were impressed at how well kept the Track was (for the most part), how well signposted it was (for the most part), and how safe we felt (for the most part).

Walking the Bibbulmun Track was the best thing that ever happened to me, and I say “happened”, because it changed me. It gave me a sense of “I can do anything I put my mind to”, that prior to the end-to-end walk was not the case. When I returned to the real world after completing the walk I felt that I wanted to give something back. I knew the Track was maintained in part by volunteers, so I registered to become one. I cajoled my husband and my brother into also registering as volunteers and we look after section 58, south of Collie. I get the opportunity to care for the Track, and ensure that all walkers on our section are able to find their way safely, which is something Erika and I were so grateful for when we were walking. It is as good a reason as any to get back out there in the bush—as if I need a reason! I have since become a Life Member of the BTF as I want to continue to be a part of the Foundation and the Track for many years to come. It gives me a feeling of great satisfaction to be able to contribute something in return for the wonderful memories I have.



The Forest Heritage Centre and Jarrah Forest Lodge

Linking the forest to fine art and a relaxing place to enjoy, explore, and experience the Forest Heritage Centre and Jarrah Forest Lodge is a 10-min walk, or short drive, from Dwellingup town centre.

We offer a range of hands on activities and learning experiences for adults and families, and clean, comfortable, affordable accommodation at the Lodge.

Ph: 9538 1395
www.forestheritagecentre.com.au



Down Under Discoveries is a Bibbulmun Track Walker Friendly Business providing nature based experiences, walks, hikes and adventures on the Bibbulmun and around Western Australia.

Phone: 0408 428 923
chelle@downunderdiscoveries.com





Office GOSSIP

When we closed for the Christmas break no-one thought that we would not be reopening as planned due to the loss of our office space in the city.

Packing up the three offices, front vestibule and store room in three weeks was achieved only through the detailed and well thought out exit plan set up by Steve and his great organisational skills meant we knew what was in every box and where it was to go when unpacked again.

Most of the packing up was done by our office volunteers and a lot of time was spent

going through files to decide if the contents should be retained, shredded or archived. But with all our hire gear, merchandise, event equipment and furniture etc. we still ended up with three shipping containers in storage until our move into the YHA. Our Marketing Manager, Ash, arranged the removalists and storage facilities as she was moving house at the same time!

Assisted by another small army of volunteers, the move into the YHA was done over a weekend with Steve and Linda sorting everything into the correct location, Ce coordinating the layout and unpacking in the office space whilst Ash set up our new reception area.

A huge thanks to all the volunteers who helped us with the move – we honestly couldn't have done it without you.

We have made some changes to the office staff for 2018. After 19 years I have given up my role as Office Manager to concentrate on my role as Volunteer Coordinator and so will be dealing with the

management of our wonderful volunteers, working only Monday and Tuesday.

I have really enjoyed my time looking after the office as well as volunteers but the time has come for me to slow down a bit. The slowing down has been rather rapid as I started 2018 with an early morning walk on New Year's Day that turned into a visit to Murdoch ED with a broken leg and sprained ankle. There was much hilarity when I arrived in ED with my boot and crutches from the same injury in NZ in 2010.

Ce has taken over from me as Office Manager and Linda, our ED, Steve and Ash make up the rest of the office staff. We are joined by our very supportive team of Office Volunteers— Alan, Charmaine, Colin, Deb, Edith, Elsie, Gayle, Hugh, Isabel, James, Jim B and Jim F, Lorna, Mark, Mike, Peter S and Peter W and Vicki.

We look forward to settling into our new home and you will always be welcome to come to say hello.

Gwen Plunkett
Volunteer Coordinator



*Unpacking, unpacking and unpacking!
Don, Steve, Mark, Jim, Simon and Rob were part of the small army of volunteers who helped us with the move.*

Just some of our fantastic vollies at the volunteer Thank You event in Kalamunda.



Thank you to our volunteers

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 376 VOLUNTEERS - WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT YOU!

Whether looking after a section of Track, helping in the office, guiding or entering log-book data –the Foundation and the Track could not be in better hands. A huge thank to you all for being part of the team!

Volunteer rewards and Long Service Awards for 2017 were presented at functions in Kalamunda, Peaceful Bay and Albany.

Long Service Awards

Long Service Award recognise the commitment and loyalty of our long serving volunteers – regardless of how many hours they are able to volunteer annually.

This year was rather special as for the first time we had volunteers who have been with the Foundation right from the beginning—20 years. This is a great achievement and we thank them for their dedication and enthusiasm as they helped the Foundation to grow into the marvellous organisation we now have.

20 YEARS

John Chellew
Simon Holthouse
Bruce Manning
Chris Plunkett
Gwen Plunkett
Steve Sertis
Jim Sharp
Mike Wood

15 YEARS

Phil Dufty
Lesley Kerr
Ed Martin
Maureen Quirke

10 YEARS

Alan Barker
Michael Burns
Mary Gray
Stuart Gray
Gayle Kealley
Lari McDonald
Wendy-Lee Pittick
Patrick Tremlett

5 YEARS

Hedley Amos
Timothy Andrews
Derek Callow
Alex Campbell

Janine Carter
Sylvia Cheung
Andrew Chiswell
Teresa Eldridge
Bill Koster
Grace Lamont
Michael Marsh
Martin Murphy
Pat O'Leary
Robyn Rogers
Judy Wade
Daniel Wade



Steve Sertis and Chris and Gwen Plunkett with the Honour Board recognising those volunteers who have given 20 years of service - made and donated by Jim Freeman

Annual Volunteer Rewards

These rewards, given to volunteers who contribute 100, 300 or 500+ hours in a financial year, were generously provided by Mountain Designs. 28,196 hours were recorded last year.

500+ HOURS

Jim Baker
Isabel Busch
Mark Davidson
James Freeman
Colin Gee
Elsie Grygiel
Charmaine Harris
Ce Kealley

300 - 499 HOURS

Peter Addenbrooke
Hedley Amos
Alan Barker
Gayle Kealley
Geoff Meates
Graham Murdoch
Ian Rae
Charles Soord
Sue Soord
Vicki Squires
Kathi Storig
Peter Sweetman
Edith Thomas
Patrick Tremlett
Peter Whittle

100 - 299 HOURS

Maryanne Addenbrook
Robert Allen
Greg Arnold
Jenny Arnold
Barbara Bechter-Wuthrich
Trish Bird
Karen Boyce
David Bridger
Jack Busch
Derek Callow
Gary Ceriani
Sandra Ceriani
Colleen Clayden
Richard Clayden
Anthony Cole
Mal Cooper
Mike Cosson
Peter Dear
Teresa Eldridge
Ted Evans
Mary Gray
Stuart Gray
Paul Harris
Cameron Hobson
Jan Howie

Tony Jennings
Caro Knight
Sandra Maley
Dora Marinova
Michael Marsh
Lari McDonald
Dolly Meates
Mukmin Mochtar
John Murphy
Yvonne Noble
Mary Oates
Kerry Ovens
Chris Plunkett
Maureen Potter
Vaughn Pownall
Gordon Roberts
Terry Ryan
Lorna Saunders
Ross Simpson
Deb Spiden
Guy Spouge
Volker Storig
Ron Sweeney
Annie Van Poppel
Henk van Poppel
Alex Williams
Jessica Wolff

Frankland Volunteer Thank You Day



Prize WINNERS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
WINNERS OF OUR MONTHLY
MEMBERSHIP PRIZE DRAW

November

John & Marilyn Beard won a Life Straw Personal Water Filter, kindly donated by one of our life members, Graeme Johnstone

Lindsey Kevan won an Ultra-Sil Toiletry Bag

December

Michaela Rauscher won an Ultra-Sil Toiletry Bag

Tim Law won a cutlery set and GoToob

January

Dr Jennifer Tudehope won a set of Bibbulmun Track Guidebooks

Brian Gallagher won a Trangia Kettle

Both prizes were kindly donated by walkers

February

Janette Philip won a Trangia Kettle

Jan Cummings won a RFID protection card wallet

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



ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

Support the Bibbulmun Track Foundation

Pre-order your NEW 2018 | 2019 Entertainment™ Book or Digital Membership now

Get access to hundreds of valuable offers for everything you love to do and support the Bibbulmun Track Foundation at the same time.

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation will receive 20% of the proceeds, which will go towards Track maintenance and improvements.

For more information or enquiries, please contact us on friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au or purchase directly online at <http://www.entbook.com.au/835a11>.



Thank you for supporting the Bibbulmun Track!

FREE Trip PLANNING ADVICE
GOING ON AN EXTENDED WALK OR END-TO-END?

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

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

HAVE YOU CHANGED ADDRESS?

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

Not sure how?
Visit our Website Help page under Contact Us at www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

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

WEEKLY EQUIPMENT HIRE PRICES

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

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

- \$150.00 for basic equipment
- \$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 - BALINGUP

"HISTORIC TOWN OF THE BLACKWOOD RIVER VALLEY"

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

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

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

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

To spend time in Balingup is to enjoy the experience of the ever-changing seasons.

The winter valley mists, spring blossoms, glowing sunsets and the russet red tinting of the autumn leaves are all part of the magical Balingup experience.

With a small but vibrant community, Balingup is acknowledged as a leader in staging festivals and events. The major events are the Balingup Small Farm Field Day (April), Balingup Art Affair (May), Telling Tales in Balingup (Children's Writers Festival in July) and the Balingup Medieval Carnivale (August). In addition to these events you will find there is always something happening and plenty of things to do.



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

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

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



Fact file:

Balingup Visitor Centre

Phone: (08) 9764 1818

Email: balinguptourism@westnet.com.au

www.balinguptourism.com.au

Open daily 10am to 3pm



Please support our Walker Friendly Businesses in the area

The Post House
(Balingup Budget Accommodation)
(08) 9764 1049

www.posthouse.net.au

Yoho Pizza
(Balingup and Donnelly River Village)
0403 734 814
yoho.com.au



Walker Story

A WALK TO LAST A LIFETIME

Allan McKechnie, Bruce Seligmann and Peter West (The Gourmates) recently completed their sectional end-to-end after some 14 years. Allan composed poems for 19 of their 39 walks. The following verses describe their first walk, In the Beginning and their final walk, Sandpatch Sojourn. For clarification readers need to know that Bruce is referred to as "BP"—his nickname is Black Pud.

In the Beginning...

*It was a bold suggestion
that BP made one day
for he and me and Pete
to walk "the Track", one way*

*"The Track" of which he spoke
the Bibbulmun by name
only 1000 ks or so
"sure, we were game"*

*We'd start down near Collie
where Pete he had a place
as good as any so we thought
it wasn't to be a race*

*But the day we chose to set out
wasn't too blooming flash
the rain it was pelting down
the thunder it did crash.*

*Not an auspicious start indeed
to our great outdoor adventure
but we were hardy for our part
so a little rain we could endure*

*Lo and behold the rain has gone
we were eager to be on the Track
so into the bush we ventured
a weak sun on our back*

*We arrive at Yabberup Campsite
before one could enquire,
and there were Mike and Buddha
huddled around a roaring fire*

*They had started in the rain
and were well and truly wet
looking about as miserable
as one could really get*



The Gourmates - In the beginning

*Right from the outset
we did enjoy our food
and BP set the standard
as we knew he would*

*Curry soup and pasta
with Kit Kats to go
while Pete's smooth Shiraz
rounded off the show*

*But to round it off, I must confess
and to add a bit of class
it would have been much better
to be drinking out of glass*

*Our first night out revealed some flaws
in BP's sleeping stuff
but that will surely be rectified
for sleeping in the rough*

*After a hearty breakfast
of porridge for the road
we set out once again
shouldering our heavy load*

*The track down to "Mumby"
by way of Glen Melvyn dam
was through the jarrah forest
and the weather now was calm*

*We came across a barbed wire fence
no doubt to impede our progress
but the Mumby pub it was in sight
so a beer would relieve any stress*

*Our first foray it was over
with a modicum of success
whether we would continue
was anybody's guess*

Sand Patch Sojourn...

*It had been a long time coming
Over fourteen years in fact
For the three likely lads
To reach the terminus of the track*

*Certainly no lack of commitment
Of that there was no doubt
That's what the ks of travel
Was surely all about*

*So here may there be a record
I think certainly there may
To average it all out, we only walked
one fifth of a k per day!*

*But it does not dent commitment
No it does not indeed
The Gourmates kept right at it
Certain they would succeed*

*The views were stunning as we went
To sea or on the land
It made the walk much easier
For our little band*

*Met a couple going North
Doing end to end
All agreed just not for us
Our backs were starting to bend*

*Frenchman's Bay Road soon in sight
After some misdirection
A call to base from the distillery
The end had some attraction*

*From here the walk was flat and smooth
Until we hit the hill
What an impediment to hit us with
When we felt we'd had our fill*

*At the top Bruce stopped to chat
To a chap who got it wrong
Thought we'd been walking straight for
fourteen years
And still going strong*

*Here is the end, it is in sight
The banner held gloriously high
The Gourmates we had done it
Of 1000ks just shy*



The Gourmates - Southern Terminus

*So ends a great adventure
The rounding of we three
Such that we're not likely
Ever again to see.*

FAVOURITE SHORT WALK

MONKEY ROCK FROM LIGHTS BEACH ROAD

MAP 8 DENMARK/ALBANY. 4KM RETURN

Monkey Rock is a magnificent rock formation high over Lights Beach. The walk is moderately steep taking around 30 minutes one way.

The spectacular views from the top, east over the Wilson Inlet, Ocean Beach and Nullaki Peninsula as well as the views west over William Bay National Park make the climb well worthwhile.

This 4km walk follows a section of the Sheila Hill Memorial walk. The pretty, uphill track meanders through the trees, then winds around the bottom of massive granite rocks. Keep a close eye out for the trail marker indicating the side trail to the peak of Monkey Rock. Steps assist with a narrow section, then it's an easy stroll over the rock.

Take care and don't get too close to the edge. This is a popular rock climbing and

abseiling area and there are no safety rails. I wouldn't take children under ten up to this spot.

If you have time and you're feeling energetic you can continue further up the trail to the peak of Mt Hallowell (a steep 4km return from Monkey Rock) for even more expansive views!

Start of walk: Take Ocean Beach Road out of Denmark Town and turn right on Lights Road. You will see the Sheila Hill Memorial Walk sign and carpark on the right before you arrive at Lights Beach. If you've reached the Lights Beach turnoff you've gone too far.

Linda Daniels



Notice board

FOR SALE: SEA TO SUMMIT SPECIALIST SOLO TENT & SLEEPING MAT

TENT – 2-MONTHS OLD, USED APPROX 20 NIGHTS. AS NEW OTHER THAN A PATCH OVER A SMALL HOLE IN THE FLOOR, INCLUDES THE GROUND SHEET (WHICH IS A LITTLE WORN) AND ONE BENT PEG. WEIGHS JUST 625 GRAMS! CAN BE PITCHED WITH A PAIR OF TREKKING POLES. RED/BLACK – \$250

INCLUDING GROUND SHEET – \$350

SLEEPING MAT – S2S ULTRALIGHT SLEEPING MAT, REGULAR LENGTH; NON-INSULATED (R-VALUE 0.7), WEIGHS JUST 395 GRAMS! USED FOR 40 NIGHTS – AS NEW, A LITTLE BIT DIRTY. INCLUDES STUFF SACK AND REPAIR KIT – \$80
TENT AND MAT COMBINED – \$400.

Contact: Joshua
0439 867 656

e: Joshua.iles@gmail.com

FOR SALE: ELECTRIC BIKE

FOLDABLE; INCLUDES HELMET, SECURITY CHAIN, VEST, GLOVES AND FOOT PUMP – \$1200.

Contact: Gwen
0438 802 588
E: g.mcn@bigpond.com

FOR SALE: MACPAC ESCAPEDE SLEEPING BAG

ESCAPEDE WOMAN'S 500 LENGTH DOWN SLEEPING BAG. 600 LOFT DUCK IN A MICROLIGHT SHELL, COMFORT RATING OF 7°C; TESTED LOWER LIMIT OF 2°C. SEMI RECTANGULAR SHAPE; SIDE AND FOOT ZIPPERS, LH ZIP. RRP \$450. SELL \$200.

THIS ITEM WAS KINDLY DONATED TO THE FOUNDATION TO SELL.

Contact: Bibbulmun Track Office
(08) 9481 0551
E: g.friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

WANTED: WALKING COMPANION

Planning an End to End in May/June. Am a fairly slow walker. One campsite per day.

The exact date is flexible.

Contact: Phil Lehmann
0477 330 034
e: pillehmann@inet.net.au

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**



NATURALLY WALPOLE TRACK & TRAIL TRANSFERS
For Munda Biddi Cyclists & Bibbulmun Track Hikers
0429 784 924
www.naturallywalpole.com.au

NEED A PICK UP?
LEE and KAREN
of
NATURALLY WALPOLE—TRACK & TRAIL TRANSFERS
are fully insured and licensed operators providing all your transport needs in and around the Walpole region.

Our local knowledge and warm welcome will help you plan and enjoy your adventure while our comfortable 4WD vehicle and fully enclosed bike trailer will ensure you and your valuable gear arrive safe and sound.

For some friendly advice or quote please email or give us a call.

E: naturallywalpole@reachnet.com.au

Karri Country Good Food

13 Wheatley Coast Road Northcliffe
Ph. 08 97766707 Mob. 0455628097



Opening Hours
Monday: 9am to 4pm
Tuesday: 9am to 4pm
Wednesday: 9am to 2pm
Thursday: 10am to 4pm
Friday: 10am to 5pm
Saturday: 10am to 3pm

Fresh, locally grown fruit and vegetables
Fresh local milk, honey, eggs and olive oil
Freshly baked bread, including sour dough, multigrain, wholemeal and fruit loaf
Many cheeses including from *Half* and others
Locally made sauces, chutneys, pickles and jams
Vast range of dried foods including flours, legumes, seeds, nuts, fruits etc. etc.
Almond, soya, coconut, macadamia wafers etc.
Gluten-free, sugar-free and dairy-free foods
Food for bushwalkers and travelers, the Bib Track and the Munda Biddi Trail
Eco-friendly cleaning and personal hygiene products

All welcome to shop at KCGF
For an annual \$15 fee, members can sell through the shop and receive a 10% discount on purchases over \$30
Please note that as the KCGF shop is run by volunteers, opening hours may vary without notice

www.karricountrygoodfood.com.au



This is the second of a mini series of articles designed to tackle first aid questions and problems that might crop up on the Bibbulmun Track. Of course, mostly things don't go wrong, and we don't want them to, but it's best to be prepared...

Tip 2: Get past the myths and deal with the facts: antiseptics, blisters, hydration, dehydration and nutrition

Health, medicine, sport, and the outdoors are as much a playground for the commercial marketing menaces as any other aspect of modern life. So...

Myth one: you need antiseptics in your first aid kit to wash out those nasty wounds. Pointless, and worse still there is emerging evidence that antiseptics can interfere with wound healing. The simple truth is that water is all you need. If it's good enough to drink, it's good enough to wash a wound with. Take a look at: http://www.cochrane.org/CD003861/WOUNDS_the-effects-of-water-compared-with-other-solutions-for-wound-cleansing.

Myth two: you need to buy special blister kits to treat blisters. All you need is some tape – it doesn't matter which type—my preference is Hypafix or Fixomull—stretchy, breathable sticky sheets that come in various widths and have a hundred and one uses. Stick it on with a generous margin so it doesn't come off easily, and then leave it on until you have finished your hike—several days to a week is fine.

Myth three: you need special branded foods and sports drinks to perform properly and avoid fatigue and dehydration.

Walk into an outdoor store, sports shop or health food store and you get the impression that you need a heap of fancy powders, power bars and supplements. I had the good fortune a few years ago to listen to a lecture from the head nutritionist for the British Olympic and Team Sky cycling teams. These professional cyclists generally eat homemade rice bars and drink watered-down fruit juice when training, and drink milk in the recovery phase. They only use proprietary sports drinks, gels and bars because it provides them with income from sponsors.

Edie Albert is a doctor with the RFDS based in the Kimberley, a senior lecturer in remote and polar medicine at the University of Tasmania and runs courses in expedition and wilderness medicine. Over the last 30 years his love of the outdoors has taken him all over the world either to work or play, or better still, both. He can be contacted on edi.albert@hotmail.com.

Then there is a current fad about preventing dehydration. Of course dehydration is to be avoided, but there is no magic formula of how much to drink. The maxim is drink to thirst.

So, what should you drink? The answer is pretty much whatever you fancy. Isotonic sports drinks are illogical as sweat is hypotonic (a weaker solution) and research shows that they do not provide any benefit. The same can be said for ORS (e.g. Gastrolyte or Hydrolyte). However, if you like them, go ahead and drink them, just don't expect anything magical.

Drinking too much (i.e. a forced hydration strategy) can actually be harmful – indeed even fatal—due to Exercise Associated Hyponatraemia—as has been reported a few times on the Kokoda Track in the past few years.

Find out more about EAH at http://wildernessmedicine.com/1041/articles/1041/eah_pg_epub.pdf and get a full overview of exercise and hydration at <https://extremephysiolmed.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/2046-7648-3-18>

What about food? Same answer really. Eat pretty much what you want, with consideration of how much weight you are happy to carry. When we exercise, our bodies release various hormones that reduce blood flow to the digestive system, so it makes sense not to load ourselves up with big meals before or during exercise. My preference is for muesli bars, dried fruit and nuts; mainly because I'm too lazy to make nice rolls filed with tuna and mayo and tomato – but if you offer me one I'll eat it happily. I keep a few bits handy and snack little and often.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Autumn is upon us and we have some exciting events on offer.

The weather is getting cooler offering perfect walking conditions.

So join us on one of our walks, meet new folk and enjoy the Bibbulmun Track.

All events can be booked online at bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Poetry of a Mad Axeman

If you have heard Jim Freeman recite his colloquial and colourful poetry before, you will know that it reflects communal attitudes and traditional Australian culture, while giving inspiration and at times making you laugh.

Bush poetry has been instrumental in the emergence and development of the Australian identity.

Join Jim, aka the Mad Axeman, on a 5km return walk for a relaxing summer evening with a glass of wine (BYO) and the setting sun in the forest as he recites his own poetry of the Bibbulmun Track and many well-known bush favourites.

Sunday 15 April, 4:45pm

Where: Near Kalamunda

Rating: Beginners

Cost: \$10 members. \$20 non members

Camp Cooking for Kids

A 4km return walk to a typical Track campsite during the school holidays. In a beautiful bush setting children will learn camp cooking through hands-on experience! Just bring refreshments, snacks for kids and lunch for adults. Ages 6 to 12yrs. Includes ingredients for cooking and experienced guides.

Saturday 28 April at 9am OR 12pm

Where: Near Kalamunda

Cost: \$35 kids (ages 6-12 years) Adults: members free, non members \$5

Dr Dolittle Goes Bush

Walk 2km to a typical Bibbulmun Track campsite to meet the friendly native creatures from Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre. Ideal for kids 5 – 12 yrs. Watch their faces light up as they interact and learn about our native animals. Return following the Waugal trail markers. All children must be accompanied by an adult

Date: Saturday 28 April 2018 at 3:30pm

Where: Near Kalamunda

Rating: Beginners

Cost: \$35 kids ages 6-12 years Adults: members \$5, non members \$20

Balingup Weekend Adventure

Leave your worries behind as we transport you to the picturesque Blackwood area. On Friday night we stay in Donnelly River Village before starting our two-day walk north. Spend two glorious days walking through karri/jarra/marri forest finishing with views across the Blackwood valley. Stay at a typical campsite and enjoy the serenity of the forest. Experienced guides are on hand to offer guidance and support. Freshen up on Sunday afternoon with a hot shower before boarding the bus back to Perth.

Planning night: Friday 11 May at 6:30pm

Date: Friday 18 May to Sunday 20 May

Where: Murdoch Park'n'Ride

Rating: Intermediate

Cost: \$260 members, \$280 non members

Blackwood Day Walk

A day walk in the magnificent Blackwood area of our South West visiting a campsite for lunch. Great for beginners!

If you live in our south west and have always wanted to have a taste of walking the Bibbulmun Track but never managed to get out there and do it, this is for you. Your guide on this 13km walk near Balingup will answer any questions you have about getting out on the Track and walking any of its sections. Includes trained guide. Own transport to Balingup but transport from Balingup to the walk start and back is organised for you.

Date: Saturday 19 May, 10:00am

Where: Balingup

Rating: Beginners

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

Ramble and Paddle

Two adventures wrapped up in one weekend! This is one of our favourite events. A fantastic walking and paddling weekend escape in Dwellingup. Includes accommodation in town with late check out, two continental breakfasts (other meals not included) guided POW tour, experienced guides, canoe equipment and instruction.

Date: Friday 25 May to Sunday 27 May

Where: Murdoch Park'n'Ride

Rating: Beginners

Cost: \$295 members. \$320 non members

DRV to Balingup Bus Service

To assist walkers with transport where there is no public bus service, the Foundation is running a bus service in conjunction with the Balingup Adventure weekend from Donnelly River Village (DRV) to Balingup. The services allow people to walk from Pemberton to DRV or Balingup to DRV and then be transported

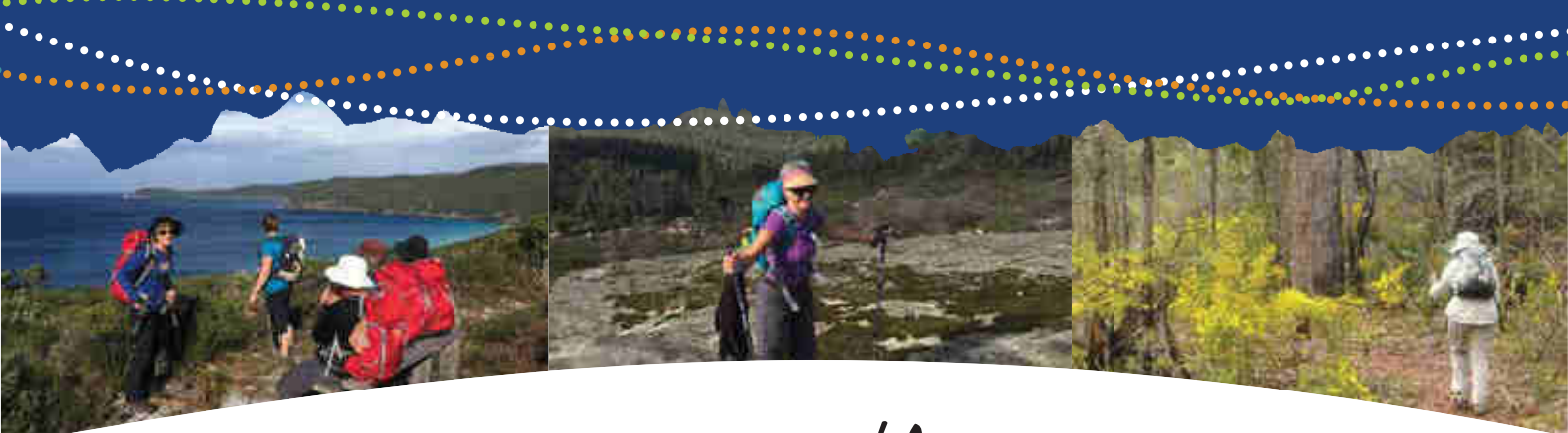
to Balingup where there is a TransWA bus service. Walkers can also drive to DRV, leave their car there and be transported to Balingup to begin their walk back to DRV.

Date: Saturday 19 May 2018

Where: Dwellingup

Cost: Members \$15;
Non-Members \$25





Bibbulmun 8-day Highlights Tour

Book your seat today! 10 - 17 September 2018

Join our lead guide, Steve Sertis to experience the best of the Bibbulmun Track. Carefully selected full and half-day walks will take you past giant boulders and through jarrah forests in the northern section; through the magnificent karri and tingle forest and on to the spectacular ocean views and coastal heathlands of the Great Southern region.

Cost: \$2,510 twin share. Includes accommodation, meals, transfers, experienced guides and more!

Visit the **website** or contact the **Bibbulmun Track Foundation** for a dossier.

“The whole experience was seamless with professional, enthusiastic, friendly and well organised guides.”

P: 9481 0551 E: friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au W: www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Social Sunday walks

Free for members. See booking conditions online.

WALK RATINGS: BEGINNERS INTERMEDIATE EXPERIENCED

10 June 9.00am	29 July 9.00am
16km return walk from Cosy Corner (Torbay) to Shelley Beach Lookout	15km return from Mt Cooke Pines to Nerang Campsite
17 June 10.30am	19 August 8.30am
11km return walk from Mundaring Weir to Ball Creek Campsite	18km return walk from Dale Rd to Beraking Campsite (Fit and experienced walkers only!)
24 June 9.00am	
17km return walk from Brookton Hwy to Canning Campsite	
15 July 8.30am	
20km walk from Kalamunda to Hewett's Hill Campsite (Fit and experienced walkers only!)	

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

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



Track Trivia

Hello Fellow Walkers!

Still untrue, as the condition of my foot (see issue #76) has shown little improvement and my walking is currently restricted to strolls along the river. Not that I am inclined to walk in the heat of the summer—the recent incident at Helena with the loss of the campsite and the very fortunate walker who was lifted away from the inferno by helicopter in the nick of time provided a lesson in why bushwalking in summer is not a good idea.

So I've decided to indulge myself (and I trust not bore you too much) with some of my memories of walking the Bibbulmun Track and working as a volunteer in the BTF office, now in my fourteenth year.

I had never heard of the Bibbulmun Track when I first came to live in Perth, and it was a chance remark at a dinner party that kindled my interest. Things moved very rapidly from there and a year or so later I had set up an end-to-end walk to raise money for the then Cancer Foundation (now the Cancer Council). I walked the Track solo in 38 days and raised \$20,000. I was lucky to find many generous sponsors; the Track and all the infrastructure were in pristine condition and I had a lot of support along the way, especially from my wife Sylvia. It was also while in training for this walk I walked 10km in the wrong direction out of Collie, thus earning myself the Track name Wrong Way Jim!

Strangely I can recall virtually every detail of that end-to-end walk, whereas I find it hard to recall a great deal about more recent treks.

The most vivid memory was arriving at the West Cape Howe Campsite and looking down at the huge fire ravaging the National Park. I phoned the Ranger in Albany who gave me details of a route around the fire. I had already walked from Denmark and by the time I reached the Torbay Campsite I had covered about 53km. I was later quoted in the Albany Advertiser, who covered the charity aspect of the walk, as saying, quote: "There's nothing like a bushfire up your arse to keep you moving."

That was when I found out that walking the Bibbulmun Track is addictive, and this is certainly proved by the number of people who come back again and again to walk it, from as far away as Europe and North America. I became aware of the "Friends of the Bibbulmun Track" (now the BTF) through reading the Newsletter at a campsite. An advertisement asked for volunteers to work in the office to provide trip planning advice for potential end-to-enders.

And I've been there ever since!

As a volunteer in the office my job was to give advice to walkers who had the intention of doing an end-to-end walk. Since then with the evolution of the whole concept of the Track, its events, workshops and other activities, all the office volunteers have become ambassadors for the Track.

What is it like to work in the BTF office? Fun! A lot of laughter. Times of stress—things can go wrong, just like in any workplace. But having lived and worked in seven different countries on five continents, I would rate this the best!

Why do people walk the Track, often over and over again? These pictures give three very good reasons indeed, adding weight to the adage; "a picture is worth a thousand words".



Jarrah forest in the early morning mist



Spring!



Southern Ocean from West Cape Howe

But it's not just the physical beauty, nor its bird and animal life, nor the physical achievement of walking hundreds of kilometres through the bush that draws people to the Track. Many walkers draw mental strength through the solitude of the bush, its glorious silence, the isolation—added to by the camaraderie around the campfire, the willingness of walkers to help one another and the many yarns and anecdotes shared.

So, after working for 14 years as an office volunteer, walking four end-to-ends and writing a book about the Bibbulmun Track, what have I learned?

- *Look at your compass, idiot, when leaving Collie.*
- *Do not expect sympathy from other office volunteers about anything unless it is truly catastrophic.*
- *Don't go home with the mail-box key in your pocket.*
- *You have achieved recognition in the office when they let you use the vacuum cleaner.*
- *As a recycled Pommie, never admit to supporting England against Australia at any sport.*

It has already been a tough year for the Track and the BTF. However the Board, the staff and volunteers are a tight-knit and strong bunch. We'll win through and look forward to seeing you in our new office and out on the Track!

Good Walking!

Wrong Way Jim

Reflections

FROM THE REGISTERS

Mount Cooke

A kangaroo came over and stole the Mars bar I left on the table when I went to get the register. Who do I see about claiming a refund?

Stephen 22/09/1999

First walk on this wonderful Track. It is real credit to WA and those who created it. Let us hope we can maintain it to this standard for a while.

Dave & Ross 23/05/1998

Had the shelter to myself last night, stretched out in my hammock and admired the stars. How come the sounds of nature are so tranquil?

Richard 15/09/1997

Ball Creek

When I was 20 years of age I could have walked the Track but I didn't. When I was 30 years of age I should have walked the Track but I didn't. When I was 40 years of age I would have walked the Track but I couldn't. Now I'm 50 years of age I can walk the Track! (So I'm here).

Mal C 25/11/2015

Just out for a few hours to re-acquaint myself with the Track—totally different experience without a 20kg pack on the back! It's so peaceful out here. It's only been a couple of weeks since I finished my end-to-end, my feet are still a bit shocked and sore but I feel 100%. I'll definitely be doing some more long stretches; I'm hooked!

Ralph 10/10/2005

Long Point

It revived my flagging spirits to see the sea! Glad to be out of the swamp. Going to push on to Mount Clare now, as I want to wake up tomorrow morning amongst the tingle trees. Then it will be a short walk to Walpole and the rest of the day off—and a feast. I'm starving!

Spring Heel Jim 04/09/2011

Like a stunned mullet I gazed at the glorious breaking waves. Swam, or rather paddled at Mandalay beach in the cold drizzle. So nice to meet up with my old friend the ocean again. The flowers are putting on a top show—the change to coastal vegetation is truly something special. I'm down to a miserly portion of oats, so Walpole is a welcome destination to aim for. Salutations!

Gum Nuts (n-s/e-e) 24/09/2014

The white sands of Mandalay, the opalescent blue of the ocean, heathland ablaze in colour, cockatoos crunching banksias, roos and snakes galore—what a magical day of walking. Sunny, breeze blowing (sometimes more like a gale), which cooled the body and kept the fly army at bay. The expectation of seeing the ocean at last was fully realised in all ways. Progress was slow, but what the heck—arriving at this wonderful shelter and making a brew made a great end to a memorable day! On, on...

Terry 05/11/2006

From the karri, the marri, the swamps we broke free

Over the sand dunes and down to the sea
Mandalay Beach with its breakers so white
We've waited so long just to see such a sight

Straight down to the water and into the spray

The sun's shining brightly as the clouds blow away.

Red Dog & Chunky Monkey (12/11/2008)

Leave a lasting legacy...

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

WADJEMUP BIDI, ROTTNEST ISLAND WA



Trail marker on the Warden Nara Bidi.

Bibbulmun Track walkers, the breathtaking walking trails of the Wadjemup Bidi await you on Rottnest Island!

Why not combine a glorious holiday on the Island with some unique day walks?

The Wadjemup Bidi is a 45 km network of trails linking visitors to the varied natural, historical and cultural landscapes of Rottnest Island. Wadjemup is the Noongar name for Rottnest Island while Bidi is the Aboriginal Noongar word for track, or path.

Consisting of five unique sections complete with wayfinder and interpretative signage and audio stations, the Bidi is a conservation and sustainability masterpiece, managing visitor impact on the Island’s natural features while taking walkers on a cultural and historical tour along stunning inland and coastal vistas.

The fifth and final section of the Wadjemup Bidi, known as Ngank Wen Bidi, opened to the public in February this year. This is perhaps the most

exquisite section of the trail network, taking visitors on a tour of spectacular coastline of the West End, where a colony of New Zealand fur seals play in the waters at Cathedral Rocks.

If getting up close and personal with nature is your thing, the trail offers ample opportunity for sightings of seals, whales, dolphins, ospreys, snakes and seasonal birds. There is something for everyone, be it photography, swimming, diving, bird-watching or simply enjoying the beautiful sights.

Wadjemup Bidi is designed for day walks and there are no facilities provided for camping overnight in the outer reserve. All sections are within easy reach of the many accommodation options on the island and provide a way to explore the island, catering for all ages and fitness levels.

The maps and trail markers provide easy wayfinding for all levels of walkers—just look for the symbol of the osprey, a medium-size raptor, or bird of prey that inhabits Rottnest Island’s coastline.

The trails are supported by new and improved beach access points to the main bays around the island, providing safe and easy access to stunning beaches via steps and boardwalks.

“Nature has spared nothing to render this Isle delightful above all I have ever seen.”

Willem De Vlamingh
Dutch Explorer, 1696

The Wadjemup Bidi also links visitors to cultural and historical landmarks. Interpretive signs and audio stations along the trails provide a deep insight into Aboriginal history and culture. Sculptures created by local Western Australian artists add another dimension for visitors.



Mamong Djoororts Sculpture by artist Peter Farmer.



Walking along the Karlinyeh Bidi.

The development of the Wadjemup Bidi has been a major focus for the Rottneest Foundation, which has been working in partnership with the Rottneest Island Authority for seven years to bring the trail to completion. A range of grants and fundraising activities have supported this endeavour, enabling the Rottneest Foundation to contribute \$1.15m to the delivery of the project. The major funding contributors include BHP, the Commonwealth Government working in partnership with Tourism WA, Lotterywest, Department of Sport & Recreation, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, and the WA Planning Commission's Coastwest Program. Every year since 2014 Rottneest Express has sponsored up to 500 free ferry tickets for volunteers working on the project.

Rottneest Island is a unique mix of stunning natural landscapes and Aboriginal, colonial, maritime and military influences, now accessible to all through the magical Wadjemup Bidi.

The five trail sections are now open - so what are you waiting for?!

Article by Denise Hilsz

Photos courtesy of Rottneest Island Authority



New beach access to Marjorie Bay (West) along the Ngank Wen Bidi.

FACT FILE:

Rottneest Island sits 18km off Perth's coastline.

Ferries take approximately 25 minutes from Fremantle, 45 minutes from Hillarys Boat Harbour, or 90 minutes from Perth's Barrack Street Jetty.

Trail info sheets can be collected from the Rottneest Island Visitor Centre or downloaded from rottneestisland.com/wadjemupbidi.

You can also view all the sections on the Trails WA website www.trailswa.com.au



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