



## SWAMP OAK CAMPSITE

In August the support volunteers kicked off the first stage of increasing the capacity of Swamp Oak Campsite by building a 600mm high retaining wall to extend the floor area in front of the shelter.

Stage two will be to extend the roof over the new floor area, add outside tables and create more sleeping room. Lessons learnt from this job will be applied to other high use shelters identified in a three-year works programme for the Bibbulmun Track.

Huge thanks to the volunteers who contributed their project management skills, construction expertise and time; particularly sectional volunteers Lari McDonald and Hedley Amos whose



Brilliant team work!  
From L to R: Gordon Thomas, Ross Simpson, Ron Greenhalgh, Lari McDonald, Hedley Amos and Tor Clarke.

awareness of Swamp Oak's high use over many years caused them to recommend it as the first shelter extension.

They prepared detailed drawings and materials lists and liaised closely with other support volunteers on the

schedule, materials delivery and labour. DBCA Dwellingup was instrumental in the success of stage one with materials storage and transport including some large loads of fill for the extended floor.



Tor Clarke, Hedley Amos, Gordon Thomas, Ross Simpson and Ron Greenhalgh hard at work.



Completed retaining wall and floor.



Tor Clarke installing steps





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## FROM MY Desk

The Foundation's 20th year has brought challenges and change, both on and off the Track. Some challenges, such as losing more infrastructure to bushfires, were disheartening but not entirely unexpected whilst others, such as the closure of Mountain Designs, came completely out of the blue.

Mountain Designs was the Foundation's very first sponsor and integral to the stability of the organisation. We are extremely grateful to them for providing us with a home and supporting our fund raising and volunteer rewards for 20 years. It was a shock having to relocate within four weeks and we are thankful that the YHA offered us tenancy in their Perth hostel. It has taken a while to get settled but we are getting there and thank our wonderful team of office volunteers for riding the wave!

We have also had staff changes with Gwen Plunkett reducing her role to volunteer coordinator this year and Ce Kealley taking over the reins as office manager. Gwen has been with the Foundation from the very start and is retiring in December. I'm sure all our volunteers will agree that she will be sorely missed.

Looking ahead our major focus is on finalising the works programme for the next three to five years in line with our vision to ensure that the Track remains a quality experience for walkers. We are fortunate to have skilled and dedicated volunteers helping to plan, coordinate and carry out this work.

Thank you to all our members, volunteers and partners for your ongoing support. I wish you all a very happy festive season with loved ones and family and look forward to a positive 2019 for both the Track and the Foundation.

### Farewell Gwen – and THANK YOU!

After twenty years with the organisation our dedicated volunteer coordinator and (up until this year) office manager, Gwen Plunkett, is retiring.

In 1997 Gwen, along with her husband Chris, answered the initial call for maintenance volunteers and looked after the section including Hewett's Hill Campsite. A year or so later Gwen started volunteering in the office and was soon recruited for one a day a week to coordinate the volunteer maintenance programme. Over the years, as the number of volunteers grew and the office got busier, Gwen's role expanded to managing the office volunteers and to finally running the office.



*Gwen inducting our newest recruit - the Google Trekker*

Whilst busy, even frantic sometimes, Gwen has always found the time to chat, albeit briefly to many visitors and the emails and letters of thanks received over the years are testament to the patience and interest she has taken with every individual wishing to walk the Track.

She has been integral to the success of our volunteer programme and many of our 350+ volunteers have become good friends of Gwen over the years.

Thank you for everything Gwen. We wish you a very happy retirement with lots of time for family gatherings and travels around Australia and abroad.

Join us on



**Linda Daniels**  
Executive Director

## Season's Greetings

The office will be closed from:  
4.00pm Friday 14 December  
until  
9.00am Monday 21 January 2019.

**Thank you  
THANK YOU  
thank you**

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

<b>Paul Nieman</b>	<b>Ruth Maltby</b>
<b>Anne Hoskins</b>	<b>Valerie Jordan</b>
<b>Kaye Heelan</b>	<b>Derry Kingston</b>
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<b>Jo Shetliffe</b>	<b>Leon Harris</b>
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### 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.

## Adventure Raffle

We will be holding a raffle in 2019 to raise funds for upgrades to the Track including the extension of high use campsites in the northern half.

If you do NOT wish to receive a book of tickets in the post please let Ce know on 9481 0551 or email [friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au](mailto:friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au)



## Safety on the Track

This item totally bears out my belief that the only real danger that you will encounter on my beloved Bibbulmun Track is fellow human beings! I have walked the Track fairly extensively, always solo, including two end-to-ends. Unfortunately, intending to walk the whole distance again, I was cut short at Beavis with what turned out to be quite a serious stress fracture, so end of story, accompanied by buckets of tears! Whenever I rave about the Track people say with shock in their voices when I mention that I prefer walking solo, "aren't you afraid of the snakes/falling branches/river crossings/SNAKES/getting soaked in the rain/breaking a leg/SNAKES/getting lost/being attacked (what by?)/hurting yourself?" and so on and so on?

I have walked this amazing Track to find peace and quiet, beauty and adventure, challenges and accomplishments. I found all these things plus heaps more in terms of friends, stunning scenery, incredible mosses, lichens, fungi beyond belief, exquisite orchids, many flocks of red-tailed cockies, walking through a mini forest of wattle in full golden bloom, a nose to nose encounter with a daddy emu in charge of his family of four who all disappeared in a flash when he gave a loud grunt to warn me off! And then, the quixotic weather changes with some of the wildest cloud formations imaginable, my capacity to cope with things like having to walk a kilometre of beach in the teeth of a SW gale which stirred the sea like I'd never seen; seven rows of wildly crashing waves with mountains of foam and intermittent rogue waves which curl round and threaten to take you back with them into the raging sea, all much more scary than a snake and not a time to stop and take photos!

Indeed, my photos are all safely stored in two old-fashioned albums, with a brief account written alongside; no danger of modern technology letting me down any time.

Since the stress fracture I am not game to return and attempt another end-to-end, but walking the Track gave me more than I can say in terms of inner peace and calm, self awareness, greater self confidence, a sense of freedom, lots of excitement, joy and wonder and also a humility which cannot be explained.

So do not let the nay-sayers put anyone off if they want to walk the Track, alone or with friends. I say "give it a go, you won't be disappointed!" And if it proves to be too much, you can easily leave the Track, except for parts of the southern stretch where access to a road is not quite so simple.

Now at the age of 78, I don't see myself taking on the same challenge, but am so glad that I did it. These days I indulge myself by taking down the albums to relive one of the best things I ever did in my life. I think that the high it gave me will last forever.

My car wears a Walk the Bibbulmun Track sticker and I stay in touch by reading the monthly Bibbulmun Bytes.

Happy walking to one and all,

Annie Didcott, Canberra

*(Ed: This letter was in response to the media articles after two hikers were the unfortunate victims of an attack where the Track intersects a road in the Perth Hills)*

Hi Jim

I have finished my end-to-end and thoroughly enjoyed it. It is an amazing track and to spend 50 odd days out there in the bush is an amazing experience. You so get into that simple rhythm of just having to walk to the next hut - life on the track is so easy.

Hard to remember when you finish that you can't just pee on any old tree when nature calls!

Thank you for all your help with my planning. Your input and advice was very helpful and everything went off without a hitch.

Cheers Cliff

Hi

My sister, brother, sister-in-law and I have just completed a stretch of the Bibbulmun Track from Pemberton to Albany in twenty-three days, including a rest day in Denmark. We all live in Queensland.

The entire experience was absolutely top shelf. The maps, trip note booklets, the track signage, the actual track route, the shelters and assistance from people/ businesses along the way was so very helpful.

Our expectations were certainly exceeded and we all very much appreciate the fabulous work of the Foundation and all the volunteers.

Thanks very much.

Deb, Leanne, Alison and Pete - Queensland



At Gardner Campsite (from L to R) Alison, Deb, Peter and Leanne.



Retrieving a food drop on Broke Inlet Road.

Hello BTF

We recently walked the last few steps of the Track into Albany, feeling happy at completing our E2E but also wondering "Why did it take so long before we did the Bibb? Why didn't we do it earlier in our lives?" We first learned about the Track in 2002 in publications from CALM. We were on a trip around Australia and actually came upon some walkers ('oldies') doing the Track, which inspired us to think about doing it ourselves one day. Life gets in the way of inspiration and aspiration. Living in NSW it made sense for us to do the whole walk in one go, but work, family and other commitments made it difficult to find a couple of months that were free from obligations. Wait long enough, and eventually things happen! The kids left home, one of us retired, and 'one day' became a reality in August 2016 - we set off from Kalamunda, now oldies ourselves, and didn't reach Albany until May 2018! No, we weren't trying to set a record for the longest transit, but a broken leg along the way resulted in a 20-month interruption. It was a great experience overall, and we wish we had been adventurous enough to walk the track earlier in our lives. The practical aspects of planning the walk from afar were greatly helped by the Foundation's information and resources, including their website, updated guidebooks and maps. The one-on-one assistance provided by e-mail with a Bibb volunteer was especially useful for the many questions about supplies and accommodation along the way. The Track itself is well marked and maintained, and the long days of walking result in physical tiredness but mental freedom - just the opposite to our usual experience. The shelters were always a welcome sight at the end of a day's walk - providing cover, water in the tank, a dunny, a communal table, sleeping facilities 'indoors' or 'out', and frequently conversation with a wide spectrum of fellow walkers, diverse in age, background and motivation for doing the walk. On finishing our end-to-end, we've reflected on the beauty and variety of landscapes, flora and fauna, weather and fellow walkers that all form part of the Bibb. We've learned from both our own experiences and camp conversations that doing the walk makes a difference in your life. And all of this can be done for free - no fee to walk the Track and about 50 nights free accommodation - great value! The enthusiasm and energy of the maintenance volunteers is fundamental to the success of the whole enterprise, as is the funding from both public and private sources. We hope our own contribution to the Foundation will help keep the Track available to all. So, if you feel tempted, go out and buy some boots, wear them in (together with your body and feet!), and give it a go.

Peter and Sonja Chandler - Bywong, NSW

*Ed: Thank you for your very generous donation.*



Alcoans on Track - In August some staff and family members from Alcoa enjoyed a guided walk on the Track. The weather was fabulous and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Hi All

I completed my end to end in spring last year (a year ago and one day I started off from Kalamunda - Crazy how time flies!) It was such an incredible experience in so many ways, but especially for all the wonderful characters I met along the Track...but none quite up to Claus by the looks of it. Would have been quite the surprise I'd say!

My caption for this photo is... 'Ultralight hiking: The Purist' Hope that gives you a chuckle. Keep up the good work.

Cheers

Jess Mincham (aka Dot)

Ed: Well done on submitting the winning caption Jess! See below...

## Photo caption competition

We enjoyed the captions received for this photo of Claus in the last edition of Bibbulmun News!

*'Claus never hikes on Hike Naked Day without a pack on his back and his Norwegian walking stick firmly in hand.'* - Chelsea Herbert

*'Walking the Track as nature intended'* - P. Arcudi

## And the winner is...

*'Ultralight hiking: The Purist'* - Jess Mincham

Well done Jess - a Sea to Summit accessory case is on its way to you. The waterproof pouch is ideal for protecting your camera or phone from the elements so you can capture your own happy snaps!





# 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 Section by Section guide on [www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au](http://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 complete a Group Notification online at [parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/know/group-notifications](http://parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/know/group-notifications).

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Julie Ewing on (08) 9840 0400 or**

**[frankland.district@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto: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](mailto:albany@dbca.wa.gov.au)**

# Recreation & Trails UNIT

With a beautiful display of wildflowers, we hope you've enjoyed the spring walking season as much as we did! As the warmer weather approaches, please remember to keep yourself safe throughout the summer bushfire season. Parks and Wildlife strongly recommend walkers:

- Plan your trip in the cooler periods of the year and avoid walking through the hot summer months.
- Always check the weather conditions and the Fire Danger Rating ([www.emergency.wa.gov.au](http://www.emergency.wa.gov.au)) and do not go out if the forecast is Very High or above.
- Do not plan extended or multi day trips as it is not possible to monitor changing weather and Track conditions and it is difficult to self-evacuate from the Track at short notice.
- Avoid the more remote sections of the Track where there is limited vehicle access.
- Abide by all Track closure signage and any instructions from Parks and Wildlife and other emergency staff.
- Be aware that parks and trails may be closed on days when the Fire Danger Rating is Very High or above.

The spring prescribed burning season is drawing to a close however we would like to remind walkers to pay close attention to and most importantly adhere to all Track closures and diversions. There have been a few recent incidents of walkers ignoring closures and walking through active burns, putting themselves in significant danger. Track closures and diversions are put in place for your safety and should not be ignored. Please remember to regularly check the Park Alerts website ([www.parkalerts.wa.gov.au](http://www.parkalerts.wa.gov.au)) for the most up-to-date track conditions, including closures and diversions.

Volunteers have been busy with maintenance and continue to do an outstanding job. Work has been completed at several shelters including Ball Creek, Blackwood, Beedelup and Muttonbird. A retaining wall was installed at Swamp Oak to extend the shelter footprint, in preparation for the roof extension.

In exciting news, the Google Street View Trekker has begun on the Bibbulmun Track. A huge amount of work was put in to the logistics of this project and we can't

thank Gwen Plunkett, Charmaine Harris and their team of volunteers enough for their assistance. We've captured some spectacular sights along the Track and can't wait to see it live on Google in the near future.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the Bibbulmun Track Foundation staff, volunteers and members for their commitment and enthusiasm to the Track. We hope you have a safe and happy Christmas and enjoyable New Year break.

Recreation & Trails Unit

**Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre 6983**

**Tel: (08) 9219 8265**

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



Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions



## Nominees for 2018 Outstanding Service Awards

Two Foundation volunteers were nominated for Outstanding Service Awards. Awards will be presented by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) at a function in December.

### Charlie Soord

Charlie has been a volunteer with the Foundation since 2011, a member of the Board since 2014 and has contributed over 2,000 volunteer hours. He is a maintenance volunteer and has been integral in setting up the Support Volunteers, a group that has extra training in equipment use and logistics, supporting the DBCA's Recreation and Trails Unit (RTU). Charlie is a proactive member of the Board and also volunteers two days a week at the RTU, facilitating communication between the department and the Foundation.



### Wes Fokkema

Wes has been a maintenance volunteer with the Bibbulmun Track Foundation since 2006 and a Support Volunteer since the introduction of the program four years ago. He is the Team Leader for two sections of the Bibbulmun Track in the Albany district. To date, Wes has contributed over 500 hours in volunteer time. Wes has developed excellent relationships with the district and recently met with them to discuss many aspects of Track maintenance and the rebuilding of the Sandpatch shelter. He has succeeded in negotiating district assistance for many of the more challenging maintenance tasks.



## LEAVE NO TRACE TIP: PACK IT IN - PACK IT OUT

- Carry a bag for your rubbish at all times.
- Minimise your use of canned foods.
- All wastes which cannot be burned should be carried out. Remember - foil, tin cans and glass do not burn and plastics and polystyrene foams produce noxious fumes when burnt!
- Don't bury waste at campsites - pack it out.





# Eyes on the GROUND



Realignment at bottom of hill



Spreading woodchips around the shelter and new stairs at Beedelup Campsite.

The second half of the year has been busy with Field Days and liaison with the department to develop a three-year works programme for the upgrade of the Track and extension of some of the high use campsites.

Field Days provide an opportunity for maintenance volunteers to meet each other and district staff, chat about any problems they may have on their sections and receive some training. They also provide a great opportunity to get some major work done at a campsite or section of Track with many hands making light work.

Thank you to all our volunteers who continue to care for their own sections of the Track. As the letters and emails reflect, your hard work is always greatly appreciated by other walkers.

Many thanks to volunteers Mark Davidson and Charlie Soord for coordinating and attending the Field Days and for project managing much of the work undertaken by the support volunteers. A special thank you also to Wes Fokkema who not only maintains his own section but contributes enormously to the planning and execution of maintenance projects throughout the Albany District.

## Donnelly Field Day, Saturday 8 September

The rain stayed away and 18 sectional and four support volunteers met Ranger John "Macca" McKenzie at Beedelup Falls. Morning tea was taken at the Falls allowing introductions, roundtable discussion and safety briefing.

Several vollies fixed chicken wire to a slippery foot bridge at the Falls as others set off for

the campsite armed with sandpaper and dust masks to start rubbing down the bed boards while the vehicles brought in tools and materials via the management road.

At the campsite the bed boards were sealed, shelter and toilet exterior, tables and new stairs oiled, three tent sites built, gutters checked, 30+ steps repaired, signs installed and lots of woodchips spread.

## Albany District, Saturday 20 October

New Albany District Ranger, Brendan Williams, was a welcome member of the team at Mutton Bird Campsite. The small but efficient team prepared and coated the sleeping surface, oiled exterior timber and tidied around the shelter in preparation for the fire season.

## Frankland District, Sunday 21 October

There was a great turnout of vollies at Deep River Bridge but the wind strength made for unsafe conditions and the field day was aborted. However, all was not lost and some vollies met up at Pioneer Park in Walpole to enjoy a cuppa and catch up with Ranger, Julie Ewing.

Dates for the 2019 Albany and Frankland District field days have been set for 18 and 19 May respectively, to take advantage of what should be more favourable weather and less water on the Pingerup Plains.

## Blackwood District, Sunday 11 November

Eight sectional and three support volunteers put in a tremendous effort at Blackwood campsite, oiling timber, slashing vast areas of wild oats and closing in the west side of the shelter to improve protection from the weather, and rehashing the water piping. Thanks to Parks and Wildlife for bringing a great salad lunch.

## Support Volunteer team

The rising popularity of walking and mountain biking has led to developments in durable trail design and construction and maintenance, which are being applied to the Track in a strategic programme of realignments or stabilisation.

Recent realignments in the Perth Hills District near Mann's Gully and Waalegh and Canning campsites were designed and constructed to cross the slope rather than go straight down as before, with the intention of eliminating erosion from rain.

While realignments using the new design principles might produce a more durable trail they do require a range of lengthy and sometimes costly approvals and might bypass some of those spectacular views for which the Bibbulmun Track is renowned. In such cases boardwalks or stabilisation of the existing route using plastic cellular pavers are options.

Earlier this year, a group of Bibbulmun Track Support Volunteers, trained by Parks and Wildlife staff, assessed sites of erosion and inundation between Conspicuous Cliff and

Parry Campground. The report recommended a mix of stabilisation and realignments some of which will be constructed over a number of years.

## Farewell and thank you...

It has now been over 21 years since my first involvement with the maintenance of the Bibbulmun Track, from looking after the Northern Terminus in 1997, then being among the first group of maintenance volunteers and allocated the section from Fern Rd to Hewett's Hill Campsite, to taking on the job of Volunteer Coordinator for the Foundation. Over the years I was involved in the introduction of a quarterly newsletter for maintenance volunteers and later I worked with Annie Keating from (then) CALM to run an annual Field Day in each of the six districts.

These Field Days have changed considerably over the years from giving basic training and information to very busy days working on campsites, bridges or other infrastructure as required. This progress has been made possible in part by the introduction of the Support Volunteer Team, which has been a great success, allowing the Foundation to better assist Parks & Wildlife Services with ongoing maintenance of the Track.

I have really enjoyed my role as Volunteer Coordinator and I have enjoyed working with both district staff and Foundation volunteers, I would very much like to thank both current and past maintenance volunteers for their great commitment to the Bibbulmun Track. My retirement plans do include some more regular walking on the Track and helping with maintenance again.

Gwen Plunkett



Blackwood Field Day



Donnelly District Field Day briefing.

## Volunteer Profile John Murphy

John joined the BTF in 2002 and first used the Track as therapy by walking end-to-end after the death of his wife. He met up with Track legend Jim Freeman prior to the walk and also with the then office manager Gwen Plunkett, who first enrolled him to assist at community events and then persuaded him to become a maintenance volunteer, a position he has held for 15 years, currently as a Team Leader responsible for a section of the Track in the Perth Hills.

John has taken part in many Track and campsite upgrade projects over the years and was a member of the team of end-to-enders who walked the whole Track in 2008 to commemorate the 10th Anniversary.

More recently John, volunteer David Hovell and others built and installed a footbridge to replace a bridge destroyed by fire on the Track to the south of Abyssinia Rock. David, a retired school teacher, had been involved with taking school groups out on the Track and was only too willing to volunteer for the project.

The design was based on that provided by Nick Evans (DBCA Wellington) scaled to suit the crossing. It was reviewed, approved (with changes) and funded by RTU, prefabricated in John's carport and transported to site for installation.

This successful project is a testament to John and his team's commitment to the Track and their can-do approach.



John Murphy installing his bridge.



Our thanks to Alcoa for sponsoring our Volunteer Support team.



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



# Getting into Gear - HOW TO LOOK AFTER IT

Walkers are always discussing what gear to use, what's the latest gear on the market, how to keep the weight down—but it's also important to think about how to look after the gear you have, how to maintain its efficiency and to prolong its life.

## When do you do that?

- Before you go: Check everything you are taking a week before you start. Better to make sure it works than find out it doesn't in the middle of nowhere.
- As soon as you get back: Don't throw your gear in a storage bin and forget about it until the next time.

## How do you do it?

There are three fundamental equipment items that must work for you on overnight trekking, no matter how short or long—your sleeping gear, your footwear and your backpack. There are other important considerations but you must have these three basics correct. So how do we look after these, as well as clothing and tents?

## Sleeping Bags:

While most of the following points apply to down sleeping bags, using the same principles for synthetic bags will keep you in good stead.

### Do

- Use a sleeping bag liner to minimise dirt and grime from the trail impacting on the bag.
- Wash the sleeping bag by hand or on a gentle cycle in a front loading washing machine.
- Use a detergent specifically designed for down products.
- Dry the bag in a dryer using a gentle cycle. Add a couple of clean tennis balls in with the bag to minimise clumping of the down.
- Air dry the bag before storage
- Store loosely, not in a compression sack

### Don't

- Dry-clean as the chemicals used in the dry cleaning process can ruin a bag
- Wash in a top loading machine
- Handle a sopping wet bag as you can you can tear the internal baffle system and reduce the efficiency of the bag. Wait until the bulk of the water is out of the bag.

## Inflatable Sleeping Mats:

Sleeping mats will often take on more dirt than your bag will. Wipe the mat down with a damp cloth and warm soapy water to remove the majority of the dirt and grime, rinse and leave to dry outside. Always store the mat deflated with the valve open and the mat flat, not rolled up.

## Backpacks:

Because they get damp, and are often dumped unceremoniously on the ground during and at the end of a day of walking, backpacks usually pick up a lot of dirt. To clean a pack at the end of a trek firstly go through all the pockets very carefully to remove any stray items, particularly food scraps and dirty clothes that may be hidden away, turn the pack upside down and give it a good shake. Then hose it down and give it a good soak in a tub of clean water. Drain off as much water as possible and then hang the pack up to dry.

Remember pack fabrics contain waterproofing materials, so avoid using commercial soap or detergent in the wash. If the pack is very dirty, wash it in clean water first and then use a commercial product designed for washing waterproof materials such as *Nikwax Techwash*.

## Footwear:

Boots and shoes are the items that collect most dirt, especially when sloshing through mud or walking in areas where farm animals are in attendance. Usually though it is sufficient to scrape off excess dirt, give the boots a good scrub, hose them down and leave them to dry thoroughly before putting them away. It's a good idea to take out the laces and check for any fraying or signs of weakness and replacing them if necessary before your next walk.

## Clothing:

All forms of clothing of reasonable quality will have a care label that states the manufacturer's instructions with regard to washing and drying the clothes. Sticking to these instructions will extend the life of all items.

Pay particular attention to waterproof items such as rain jackets and pants, as washing these with unsuitable materials will affect the waterproofing. The lifetime

of wet weather gear can be extended by treatment with specialist products such as *Nikwax Techwash*. Dry wet weather gear in the shade, not in direct sunlight. Always ensure the gear is absolutely dry before storage, otherwise it will be ruined by mould.

## Tents:

Care and maintenance of a tent is very similar to looking after wet weather gear. After using a tent, shake out the shell to remove any rubbish from the floor and give the floor itself a wash down with warm soapy water using a sponge. Rinse off and hang up to dry, out of direct sunlight.

Check for any holes in the floor by holding the tent up to the light. The fly-sheet will rarely need treatment unless it sustains any rips or tears. Again the waterproofing life can be extended by treatment with specialist products

There are a whole host of repair kits for tents available on the Internet.

Most importantly, be sure the tent is **absolutely dry** before storing it away.

Like most things associated with trekking, the maintenance of equipment comes down to common sense.

Happy Walking!

**Wrong Way Jim**



# The downside of digital

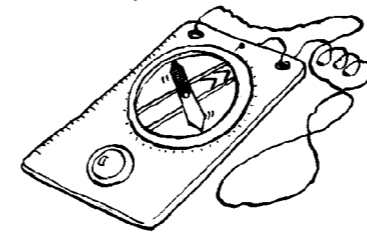
Over the past decade or so the influence of the electronic world has increased as people forgo printed publications in favour of reading online; and this includes the download of digital maps. Increasingly walkers forgo paper maps and guidebooks in favour of downloading the digital coordinates to a tablet or smart phone.

But a word of warning if you decide to take this path; the Bibbulmun Track alignment has changed over the years and some of the routes available online may be seriously out of date.

The only official source for the GPS coordinates of the Bibbulmun Track is at <https://parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/know/downloadable-route-files>. Even these files do not include any temporary diversions that may be in place.

That apart, there is always the possibility your electronic device may break down, run out of power or be lost—mobile phones have been found lying on the Track in the past. Yes, you can carry spare batteries and a solar charger, but that won't help if you become totally lost in a region with no signal to your device.

So please, carry hard copies of maps along with a compass that you have learned to use - and take the guidebooks as well if you need, or like, additional information including directional walk notes. And always check the current Track conditions before heading out so you are aware of any diversions in place. It's better to be safe than sorry!



# FAVOURITE SHORT WALK PERTH HILLS DISCOVERY CENTRE TO GOLDEN VIEW LOOKOUT

**Distance:** 12.4km (or 8km) return

**Difficulty:** Grade 3 (Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Some bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may have short steep hill sections a rough surface and many steps.)

**Time:** Half-day

**Starting point:** Walk toward the amphitheatre surrounded by the buildings. Keeping the animal enclosure on your left and amphitheatre on your right, follow the trail markers.

Starting from the Perth Hills Discovery Centre, this return walk leads you through the beautiful jarrah forest of Beelu National Park, across the dam wall and up to the Golden View Lookout for a fantastic view over Mundaring Weir and Lake C Y O'Connor.

On the way there or back, visit the No. 1 Pumping Station (entry fees apply) at the base of the dam wall, where you can learn about the history and controversy of the construction of the weir and its pipeline, which transports water all the way to Kalgoorlie

This section of the Track passes the historic Mundaring Weir Hotel, where you can enjoy a delicious pub lunch and a drink or two in the beautiful gardens. (For a shorter 8km walk you can start and finish at the hotel).

This is one of a dozen Bibbulmun Track day walks now uploaded to the Trails WA website [www.trailswa.com.au](http://www.trailswa.com.au).



# PHOTO CAPTION COMPETITION

Come up with a caption for this photo of our Events Manager and Lead Guide, Steve Sertis, checking out the dunny at Helena Campsite recently.

The winner will receive a prize from Sea to Summit. Submit your entry by email to: [friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au](mailto:friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au) - or by post.

P.S. The rebuild of both Helena and Sandpatch Campsites is planned to start in February next year.



Send us your caption!



# Yes, THEY DID IT!

Our CONGRATULATIONS to the following  
39 walkers on completing an end-to-end!  
5 from overseas, 10 from interstate and  
24 from WA.



While all the locals acknowledge that the Bibbulmun Track is one of the world's great walking tracks, it's also confirmed by the huge number of walkers, from all over the world, who enjoy the experience of completing an end-to-end. And now a milestone has been reached—the **2000th registered End-to-Ender on the Bibbulmun Track!**

Here is our latest group of End-to-Enders and, as usual, they are featured in chronological order of completion. Our **congratulations** go to all of them!

**Shannon Keller** (33), also known as *Jukebox Lion Killer* and **Jamie Lyon** came from the USA for a Bibbulmun Track journey (N-S, 03.04.14 to 10.05.14). Shannon says the walk was an absolute treasure and when she thinks of Australia, this experience comes to mind and when she thinks of long walks, the Bibbulmun Track will always be one of her favourites. They loved Australia's cans of flavoured tuna, but discovered they couldn't cook as usual in our plastic zip-lock bags! Jamie loved the tingle forest but Shannon preferred the karri forest, and still keeps picturing the trees. Highlights included the conversations with other hikers, including a memorable night of singing and dancing at a campsite. Walking through landscapes where new growth thrived after a bushfire was remarkable and they appreciated the availability of water at every campsite. They both loved their unique, life-changing journey through a tiny portion of WA.

**Annette** (63) and **Peter** (66) **Kerp**, of Beelie, admit it took a long time for them to complete their end-to-end (Sectional, 17.07.04 to 27.07.17), but they did it and are very happy. Highlights for them were the people they met, the stars at night, and the variety of wildlife they saw along the way.

**Alissa** (30) and **Donovan** (31) **de Souza**, of Bateman, were known as *The Long Way's Better* on their walks that enthused Donovan about hiking (Sectional, 10.05.15 to 17.09.17) and he was very happy to complete an 18-year dream. A mix of commercial and home-dehydrated food worked well for them and they suggest carrying whiskey rather than

wine! Walpole to Denmark was superb with its diversity and wild coastal scenery, and the forests between Balingup and Pemberton were also enjoyed, but they weren't quite so keen on some of the long road-walking near the Pingerup Plains. They say the south-west's beauty really comes into its own in late winter and early spring with waterfalls and creeks flowing and the wildflowers in bloom.

**Corey Dennis** (27), of South Lake, was *Earth Mage* on his walk (N-S, 10.04.17 to 27.05.17), which has given him inspiration to attempt to **run it** end-to-end—look out 2019! He felt his vegan lifestyle proved to keep him stronger than many other hikers he met along the Track.

**Helen Bromage** (31), from Queensland, was just *Helen* as she explored a beautiful part of our country (N-S, 13.08.17 to 28.10.17) and was astounded at the efforts and dedication of the BTF's many volunteers. She felt good supporting the Track towns and thought that she could have managed without food drops. Balingup to Pemberton was a favourite section and her highlights were numerous—fellow hikers, kind locals, climbing the Gloucester Tree, hot showers in towns, tingle trees, wildflowers and an icy dip in the Beedelup stream! Lots of wildlife was seen, with special memories of an emu near Dog Pool, a red-back at Chadoora and an echidna near Murray. This hike infected Helen with the Thru-hike bug and she's since completed the Te Araroa in NZ and wants to re-do the Track again.

**Shane Johnstone** (31), of Caversham, has indeed run an end-to-end (S-N, 14.04.18 to 25.04.18) and enjoyed the

adventure! This was the culmination of a very intensive training program and some amazing assistance from a great support team along the way. His running buddy, James, had to pull out at Pemberton so Shane continued solo. A favourite section for him was a fast descent from Mt Wells which he found was fun, especially with the excitement building toward the finish. Shane thought the coastline between Albany and Denmark was spectacular even though the sand was relentless. In comparison to other walks, Shane says the Bibbulmun Track is world class and that more West Australians need to experience it.

**Catherine Aspinall** (59), from NSW, was *JRT Sister* on her end-to-end (Sectional, 14.10.07 to 10.05.18). She says on each visit she looked forward to meeting some of the regular Track walkers she had met on previous walks, and she enjoyed the strong sense of camaraderie that exists. Dwellingup to Balingup was a favourite section and the Mumby Pub was special. Once her initial difficulties of coping with a heavy pack and sleeping rough each night were overcome, Catherine enjoyed the simplicity of Track and campsite life. A huge variety of wildlife was seen over the years, but her favourite remains the motorbike frogs at Maringup campsite. Catherine and her walking friends appreciated being able to walk such a long distance on a well-maintained trail with good facilities each night—and all at no cost!

**Jean Menzies** (67), of South Fremantle, and **Lisa Bryant** (60), of Fremantle, enjoyed their walk (N-S, 08.04.18 to 04.06.18). Jean gives thanks to the BTF and its volunteers for the grand job they do in maintaining the Track as a world class track. Lisa says they fell into a happy routine with cracker and cheese lunches followed by home dehydrated dinners, supplemented by many cups of tea, coffee and milo. She thought the rugged south coast was wonderful and they loved spending time with fellow walkers, and

hope to keep in touch with many. Lisa felt privileged to have such a special buddy who helped to make it all possible.

**Gerlinde Sammer** (51), from Austria, (N-S, 24.04.18 to 01.07.18) was another walker who acknowledged the great facilities on the Track, the work put in to maintain its standard and the fact that it is free for walkers to use. She used the Track towns for re-supplies and thanks everyone she met along the way as they were all so supportive. The coastal sections were her favourites, but other highlights included seeing the treeless sand-dunes after so many weeks in the forest, canoeing the Irwin Inlet, and ringing the bell in Albany. Gerlinde was happy to see only one snake among the wildlife but was also very mindful about bushfires and prescribed burns.

**Gabrielle** (64) and **Ian** (64) **Baker**, from Queensland, called themselves *The Dozen* on their long hike (S-N, 04.05.18 to 05.07.18). Thanks are given to the volunteers for the upkeep of the Track and its campsites, which they loved reaching at the end of each day. Their self-catering worked well with Gabrielle dehydrating meals and museli bars, some food drops in towns and a Track Angel visit at Brookton Highway. Demark to Walpole was their favourite section and they enjoyed meeting other people, including some of the better-known Track characters. Both say they still can't believe they did it!

**Cathryn Salinovich** (68), of Lathlain, was simply *Cathryn S* as she experienced a wonderful break from her normal life (N-S, 20.05.18 to 11.07.18). She enjoyed the physical demands of the walk while being immersed in the natural environment. Some supplies were bought in Track towns to supplement her dehydrated meals and, being winter, she was able to carry nutrient dense foods like butter, cheese and cream. She found DRV to Pemberton to be breathtakingly beautiful and enjoyed walking on the many rail formations. The amazing fungi around Pemberton were also highlights for her.

**Ben Dickinson** (28), of Mosman Park, discovered during his end-to-end (Sectional, 21.06.16 to 14.07.18) that WA is definitely not the boring place he thought it was as a teenager. He thanks the Track for "one hell of an adventure!" The variety between Walpole and Denmark was amazing and he was thankful for less sand than on the Cape to Cape. Ben found that dehydrated hummus works a treat, whereas dehydrated scrambled eggs do not! Keeping food in mind, his highlights included the steaks he sampled along the way in Track towns. The red-tailed cockatoos were a favourite with Ben, but he is yet to see an echidna on the Track.

**Twynam Cunningham** (60), of Cranbrook, has been recorded as the **2000th registered Bibbulmun End-to-Ender** (S-N, 07.06.18 to 27.07.18) as he walked from his Mum's place in Albany to his sister's place at Cottesloe, via the Bibbulmun Track. (Ed: See Page 22) Along the way he also celebrated his 60th birthday and lost 10kg in weight, which he described as an unexpected bonus. Twynam resupplied in the towns, improvising where necessary. Undoubted highlights for him included walking into a dry shelter out of the pouring rain and anticipating the big steaks, hot showers and soft beds in the Track towns. He thought the unusual geology was quite spectacular in the Monadnocks, and he loved the raw beauty of the Track overall. He claims his Guthook app was a lifesaver for keeping him on Track.

**Elsa Cabanie** (29) of Nedlands, was *Elsa Annica* while on the Track (N-S, 31.05.18 to 25.07.18), having amazing experiences. Sending food parcels of dehydrated food worked perfectly for her. A favourite section was Northcliffe to Walpole with its diverse scenery and Elsa loved the red tingle trees. It was therapeutic for her to be alone for up to seven days at a time, but she also enjoyed meeting people and sharing their thoughts, tips, stories and smiles. On her last day Elsa saw whales for the first time in her life and found it was a great way to finish her walk on a high.

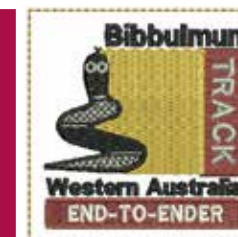
**Chris Boyling** (47), of Brabham, was simply *Chris B* on his amazing, life-changing experience (N-S, 03.06.18 to 29.07.18). He loved being immersed in the beautiful forests and landscapes of the south-west and felt empowered by accomplishing such a significant achievement in walking solo for over 1000kms in two months. He thinks the Track and its campsite facilities are second to none. Chris used a combination of home and commercial dried food, food drops, added lots of spices, ate loads of snacks and chocolate, and ate big in the towns, but still managed to lose around 9kgs in weight. Northcliffe to Walpole was his favourite part and highlights included walking over Mt Cooke in a huge storm, seeing the ocean for the first time, encountering an echidna and being given a big red juicy apple by a Northcliffe farmer while waiting for cattle to cross the road. He advises taking lots of photos and keeping a journal.

**Matthew Higgs** (34), of Forrestfield, enjoyed his "great walk through so many amazingly different bio-diverse areas" (N-S, 06.06.18 to 07.08.18) and particularly liked the southern coastal views between Denmark and Albany. Matt didn't see any snakes but enjoyed the birdlife and winter wildflowers. He advises not to feel pressured to walk as far, or as fast, as other walkers you meet on the Track if you don't feel ready.

**Mark Hopkins** (73), from the ACT, (Sectional, 03.09.10 to 30.09.18) says the Bibbulmun Track is a walk with its own special character that draws him and his friends back, again and again. Over the years they've had no problems resupplying in towns and using the suggested food parcel drop points. Northcliffe to Balingup

Do you have your  
End-to-Ender  
BADGE?

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







was a favourite section and Mark enjoyed the forests which were shaded and cool and relatively free of flies. A highlight at the completion of his end-to-end was walking into Balingup, being seven years older, and knowing he didn't have to walk any further.

**Conor Rawlins** (31), of Bassendean, had wanted to walk the Track for many years and so is happy that he chose to take time from his busy life to do it ((N-S, 04.06.18 to 20.07.18), and is grateful to everyone who makes this amazing walk possible. He dehydrated his own food and found there was nothing better than a satisfying dinner on the Track, particularly in the cold. DRV to Pemberton was a favourite section and he loved walking the roller coaster though the hills! Conor's highlights included whale-watching at Long Point and seeing a pod of dolphins playing in the waves on his last day. He advises walkers to be aware of cold winter nights and is glad he upgraded his sleeping bag along the way.

**Peter Stannard** (52), of Thornlie, claims his end-to-end (Sectional, 07.11.16 to 19.08.18) was the best experience of his life. He had never been hiking before nor camped in a tent—and now knows what he's been missing! He thanks fellow walker, Jennifer (see edition #78), for all the delicious home-dehydrated meals. His favourite parts were between Pemberton and Albany and he particularly liked the beach hiking. A great night of dancing and fun with a group at Tom Road campsite will also be forever memorable. Peter admits feeling rather scared and nervous at the start, especially about walking sections on his own, and about snakes. But he slowly relaxed and enjoyed being on his own, but never felt really relaxed re the snake issue!

**Joel Malcolm** (50), of Denmark WA, was better known as *Soggy Sandals* on an end-to-end (S-N, 01.07.18 to 31.08.18) that he enjoyed so much he didn't want it to finish. Joel dehydrated his own meals and delivered food drops which he then supplemented with town supplies along the way. He loved the whole Track, but particularly the swampy plains, because there were less hills! Meeting other people on the Track and sharing laughs and fun

chats with them added to the experience. Joel started off wearing trail runners, but very soon changed to sandals plus socks and ended up walking most of the Track in sandals. He says you don't need fancy gear, just the inclination and enthusiasm to do it.

**Debbie Robinson** (54), of Pearsall, aka *Soggy Possum*, thanks her fellow hiking buddies for helping to make her end-to-end (Sectional, 05.04.15 to 01.09.18) so enjoyable—it was worth every minute. And they also enjoyed their families' support with food drops, lifts and morning teas. Debbie loved the forest sections with a firm trail underfoot and also liked the views across the ocean in the southern sections. Every time she arrived at a campsite was a highlight with its routine of cuppa, sitting down, and laughing and joking with her buddies as they prepared their food. Meeting wonderful, interesting people was also good. Their scariest wildlife encounter was with a huge feral pig that had them standing up on a log waiting for it to move on!

**Katelyn Dobbie** (25), from NZ, signed in as *Mango* on her Bibbulmun journey (N-S, 22.07.18 to 02.09.18). She says the Bibbulmun Track is better planned than many trails in other countries and it has a more laid back culture about it. Katelyn loved the lack of competitiveness between hikers. She resupplied in towns along the way and, even as a vegetarian, had no trouble buying food. Walpole to Denmark was her favourite section and reaching the coast was made more beautiful by having to walk so far to get there. She was blown

away by the magnificent karri trees and also loved meeting other people on track, and seeing the abundant flowers in the bush.

**Tim Savage** (56), from the ACT, was *Australian Hiker* on his end-to-end (S-N, 09.08.18 to 13.09.18) which he described as a great trip and says it felt just right starting in the south. He posted food drops to post offices and accommodation and this worked well for him. Tim loved the tingle forests in the south and the section just north of Collie. Given how wet this winter was, he also says any day that wasn't rainy was a definite highlight as well! He enjoyed a good mix of both solitude and interaction with other hikers and was happy to see no snakes on the entire journey.

**Marita Johnson** (56), of Winthrop, was *Skeeta* on her latest end-to-end (N-S, 26.07.18 to 16.09.18) which she largely shared with Packmate (see below). Home-dehydrated meals for food drops worked well. Walpole to Frankland was her favourite section and she loved the tingle trees and her first sighting of the ocean. Seeing whales along the south coast was also a "Wow" moment! Marita really hates wading, but bad memories always fade, and she's already considering another end-to-end...

**Kerry Richter** (69), from South Australia, was *Kezza* on her walk (N-S, 01.08.18 to 26.09.18) which became a lifelong unforgettable experience. Conditions were generally wet, but snakes were on the move as she neared Albany. Kerry met some fantastic people along the way

and always found them very helpful. Various mixes stored in zip-lock bags worked a treat for her. Due to the huge variation in landscapes it was too difficult to pick a favourite section—it was all just "different".

**James Michalek** (25), of Sorrento, called himself *JMchief* on his first long-distance walk (N-S, 07.08.18 to 26.09.18) which he was glad to finish no later than September due to increasing numbers of mozzies. He found he could re-supply quite adequately in the towns. Walpole to Denmark, with its great variety of landscapes, was his favourite section. James experienced highs, some lows, met some great people, learned some life lessons, felt the shelters were "home" and readily accepted advice and help when it was offered. He says not to focus on the end goal, but to take it one step at a time. He loved the whole experience, wants to return to it, and would also like to become a Track volunteer to give something back.

**Luke Adorni-Braccesi** (59), from Victoria, described his walk (N-S, 13.08.18 to 28.09.18) as "great Track, experience and achievement". He had no trouble resupplying at towns along the way. Northcliffe to Giants was a favourite section with the tall forests and giant trees, as well as the open expanses of the Pingerup Plains. Luke met very few other walkers but managed to make new friends as well. He saw a wide variety of wildlife including a raven that stole his food.

**Jacob Taylor** (25), from the USA, was Sojourner as he hiked the Track (N-S, 17.08.18 to 28.09.18). He says it was a fantastic hike, the trail well maintained and it all helped him to focus on the little things in life with plenty of time to stop and smell the wildflowers. Nothing made him feel more like being in Australia than seeing a kangaroo hop away into the bush. He resupplied in the Track

towns, but had to be a little creative in Balingup! Jacob particularly liked the southern sections of the Track and always enjoyed reading the green and red books in the campsites. His rest day at DRV was a highlight, as well as the massive karri and tingle trees which simply awakened his soul.

**Zach Lawler** (27), from NSW, signed in as *Matrim* (N-S, 03.09.18 to 28.09.18). He loved the first view of the ocean at Mandalay Beach as well as the section between Walpole and Denmark. Walking amongst the karris and tingles was a highlight for him. Zach resupplied in Track towns and found most towns were okay as his hiking food needs are fairly basic. He provided some quotes to depict his Track adventure: "Oh boy, rain again!", "I never knew my entire toe could be a blister", "Survived another day of the snake gauntlet" and "Wow, I just hiked 1000kms, what an amazing experience!" While the Bibbulmun Track is not the most dramatic walk Zach has undertaken, he appreciated the great campsites, facilities and towns that help to make it a luxury hiking experience that is accessible to everyone.

**Angela Stokovic** (36), of Cooloongup, called herself *Stokko* on her hike (Sectional, 06.08.18 to 03.10.18) which she had to break for three weeks due to an ankle injury. The Pemberton area and all of the karri forests were favourites with her, and she used Visitor Centres for food drops with no problems. Angela is very appreciative of all staff and volunteers involved in maintaining the Track.

**Nelson Di Pardo** (23), of Karrinyup, was *Son of Neil* on his end-to-end (N-S, 13.08.18 to 03.10.18). He enjoyed all sections of his hike and thanks the Foundation for making it possible. Food was oats, oats and oats!

**Martin Norris** (61), from Victoria, aka *Onward* (N-S, 07.09.18 to 03.10.18), thinks the Track is unique as a long-distance walk in the quality of its facilities, signage and daily reliable water source. He was impressed that he could resupply in the Track towns and felt he needn't

have bothered with his food drops. His favourite section was Kalamunda to Mt Cooke with its wildflowers, rocks and occasional open sky! Road walking and the green and black "tunnels" were a bit draining at times, but Martin enjoyed the mental challenge of ploughing through them. Highlights for him included meeting friendly helpful people, the hot shower at the Collie VIC, reaching the end of the forest sections to see open space and sky, and watching a sea eagle fly past carrying a fish in its talons!

**Henry Evans** (21), of West Leederville, was known as *The Hobbit* on his first long walk (N-S, 28.08.18 to 11.10.18) which he threw himself into with no training. The first couple of weeks were tough but he ended up having such an incredibly enjoyable experience that he didn't want to get off the Track. Henry also proudly raised money for the ICEA Foundation and the BTF. Lack of experience at the start was a burden and he quickly learned that carrying tins of baked beans was a bad decision! Every section was special but he loved the spectacular coastline and being able to end the day with a swim. People he met along the way became highlights of his trip and he also kept a snake tally—23!

**Peter Addenbrooke** (66), of Mirrabooka, was *Packmate* on an end-to-end (Sectional, 26.07.08 to 12.10.08) that he largely shared with Skeeta (see above). Hiking in the colder months created a few issues, as Peter hates being cold, but the wonderful wildflower display made up for it. He says campsites take on a whole new persona compared to the drier months. Dwellingup to Collie was his favourite section, and a highlight was eating fire-roasted potatoes with butter and garlic, brought in by a friend at Dog Pool campsite. Wildlife he saw included small marsupial food thieves!

Compiled by Charmaine Harris (FOF#1)

## Waugal cloth badge

RRP \$12.50  
**\$11.25**  
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!**



# 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
ALBANY BAYVIEW BACKPACKERS YHA	ALBANY	🏠	(08) 9842 3388	bayviewbackpackers.com.au	Discount on accommodation
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	
DOG ROCK HOTEL	ALBANY	🏠	(08) 9845 7200	info@dogrockmotel.com.au	Discounts off rack rate. Long term parking available on request
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	
MANDIA B&B	COLLIE	🏠	0417 179 260	mandia.com.au	
MUMBLES	COLLIE	🏠	0429 322 038	mumblesboutiquestay.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
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
DONNELLY RIVER VILLAGE	DONNELLY RIVER	🏠	(08) 9772 1244	donnellyriver.com.au	From \$25 pp
DWELLINGUP ADVENTURES	DWELLINGUP	🏠	(08) 9538 1127	dwellingupadventures.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
MUNDARING WEIR HOTEL	KALAMUNDA	🏠	08) 9295 1106	mundaringweirhotel.com.au	
MANJISHUTTLE	MANJIMUP	🚗	0457 356 177		Track dropoff and pick up transfers in South West
TIME TRAVEL TOURS & TRANSPORT	NANNUP	🚗	0428 302 370	thenannupclocktower.com.au	
KARRI COUNTRY GOOD FOOD	NORTHCLIFFE	🍴	(08) 9271 2869	karricountrygoodfood.com.au	Track dropoff and pick up transfers in Donnelly River Village area
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
RAC KARRI VALLEY RESORT	PEMBERTON	🏠	(08) 9776 2020	karrivalleyresort.com.au	10% Discount on accommodation (excluding peak periods)
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	
ADVENTUROUS WOMEN	PERTH	👥	1300 388 419	adventurouswomen.com.au	
DIDIER WALKS	PERTH	👥	0410 756 065	didierwalks.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	
PERTH CITY YHA	PERTH	🏠	(08) 9287 3333	yha.com.au/hostels/wa/perth-surrounds/perth-backpackers-hostel/	10% discount with code: SPORT
CHE SARA SARA CHALETs	WALPOLE	🏠	(08) 9840 8004	chesarasara chalets.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
DWELLINGUP HISTORY & VISITOR INFO CENTRE	VISITOR CENTRE	📍	(08) 9538 1108	murray.wa.gov.au/tourism/about/visitorservices-2/	
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 \$38. 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.

**Our self-guided supported tour range lets you travel at your own pace on your private adventure. Book the Dwellingup Holiday House for your weekend and get discounts on our range of services.**

**Paddle 'n' Picnic** half or full day canoe tours let you explore the Murray River with us doing the logistical support for you. Try our overnight walk out to Swamp Oak Hut on the Bibbulmun Track. We meet you the next day with your canoe and take your pack backs. We pick you up at the tour end and bring you back to Dwellingup. Our overnight canoe tour is for those with a bit more canoe experience packing in your canoe all you need for a true expedition style experience.

**Munda Biddi Explorers**  
Dwellingup Holiday House provides a central Dwellingup location with all amenities. Sleeps up to 6 persons. Guests get 10% discount on our range hire equipment and self-guided tours.

**Charter Service** vehicles are fully licensed and ideal for your local charter needs. Our bus takes up to 21 passengers and our 4x4 carries up to 4 passengers. Popular local drops off for walks back Dwellingup along the Bibbulmun Track include Chadora, Yarragil Form, Driver Road and Harvey Quindanning Road.

www.dwellingupadventures.com.au  
dwgupadv@westnet.com.au  
t:08 9538 1127

- Albany at your doorstep  
- Welcoming Bibbulmun Track walkers with a 10% discount  
- Excellent facilities, great locations

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on a pack free, comfortable camping, small group walking tour!

Adventure awaits around every bend on this tour! Enjoy scrambling in and out of ancient gorges in the remote Karijini National Park, relaxing by tranquil jade waterholes and stargazing on the iridescent Ningaloo Reef. In the evenings, sit back under a star filled sky as your guides prepare a delicious meal.

Ex Paradisus. All inclusive. Every essential large tent and comfortable stretcher beds.

"What a delightful adventure! Karijini National Park and the Pilbars are places to be experienced through all senses. On this trip you are not a passive observer as the country passes by your window. You see the landscape from multiple perspectives: climb the high peaks...travel over spirifer covered plains and clamber into the earth itself. Become enrobed in the ancient banded iron formation and immerse yourself in hidden pools. Great camping, good gear, fantastic food and enjoyable company." Arjan, 2018

Call us today on 08 6219 5164 for a brochure or check out our website for other guided walking and cycling tours around Australia.  
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# YHA and the Bibbulmun Track

In early 1979, at the office of YHA WA, we got wind of the proposed opening of the Bibbulmun Track, including a ribbon cutting event at the Northcliffe fire lookout tree, which at that time marked the southern end of the Track. The YHA has its origins both worldwide and in WA in hiking and bushwalking. It was a YHA member, Geoff Schafer, who came up with the original idea for the Track back in 1969.

We probably should have made contact with the Forests Department, but being young and headstrong we decided to organise an independent relay walk down the Track, starting at Kalamunda and ending at Northcliffe, in time for the opening.

In those days, other than the YHA Activities Club, there were three bushwalking clubs in Perth. Bushwalking was not a mainstream activity but about 30 walkers were recruited and a scroll to be passed from hand to hand was prepared. We had the topographical maps but little idea about food and water supplies or best camping spots. A support driver was recruited in the form of one of the Perth folk music scene's great characters, octogenarian Harold Pryor, who had a fine old V8.

We set off from Kalamunda on Sunday, 7th October and the moment was captured by a photograph published in The West Australian. The timing was good, the wildflowers were out, the weather was fair and we enjoyed some long days heading south. However sections of the original alignment of the Track were somewhat unimaginative and included lengthy stretches along fire trails.

The starting group of six handed over to subsequent teams and the logistics went quite well, although map reading skills were tested. Sometimes either Harold or the walkers were in the wrong spot and link-ups were delayed. A couple of weeks later we congregated at the Pemberton YHA hostel (in those days at Pimelea) for

the final section to Northcliffe. I remember outstanding walking through the giant karri forest and wildflower understorey while keeping a wary eye out for the occasional tiger snake.

We made it to the official opening fitted out in matching green T-shirts and added to the occasion. We met coordinator Peter Hewett and the official party, who were about to set off walking as a group from south to north. They did so successfully and were featured on the front page of The West Australian on their arrival in Kalamunda. It turned out that we had ruffled a few feathers by not announcing our intentions but no harm was done and I think we contributed in our small way to the grass roots community enthusiasm for the Track that has endured to this day.

The following year I went on my first rogaine and later became an organiser in the sport and I was very pleased to see the West Australian Rogaining Association becoming involved in supporting the Track by building shelters. Some years later I moved on from being the Executive Officer of YHA WA to a similar position in NSW. Later again, in order to make better use of resources we consolidated the separate state YHA organisations into a single national entity and as CEO I am very pleased to find myself once again responsible for the YHA network in WA.

In recent years YHA has developed two outstanding hostels in WA, one at 300 Wellington Street in Perth that now houses the BTF office and a second one in the



Julian Ledger

former women's prison in Fremantle. We were very pleased to make space available at the Perth YHA on discounted terms to the Foundation. We support its purpose and we hope synergies will arise where interstate and international walkers who are coming to walk the Track and who need accommodation before and after will stay with YHA.

On the Track further south YHA hostels are to be found at Pemberton, Walpole, Denmark and Albany and are all recommended as good value accommodation for walkers.

Over the years I've had the opportunity to do my fair share of long distance hikes, including the Hadrian's Wall Path, the Haute Route in Switzerland, the Kokoda Track, the Everest Trail and most recently the hardest—the Snowman Track in Bhutan. Walking is a lifelong activity and long distance walking in particular is good for mind and body. I wish every success to BTF in all of its good work.

Julian Ledger  
CEO YHA Australia



## Office GOSSIP



It is hard to believe that seven months have passed since we moved into our new office and we are still settling in.

Renovations to the YHA have resulted in changes to our reception area and we are still refining the layout to make it a welcoming and useable space for both

office volunteers and visitors. If you haven't been in for a while, please do call in to say hello.

This year has been a year of change, not only with our office space but with our office team as some of our long-standing volunteers have retired and we have welcomed a number of new recruits. We were sad to say farewell to Edith who had been with us for 15 years and became indispensable as my right-hand lady as my workload increased over the years. (See article on this page.)

After nearly 20 years in the office I have finally decided to retire at the end of the year to enjoy extra time with my family. I joined the very small office team in March 1999, spending just a few hours, one day a week. That soon became a day and a half, then two days and so on until I found myself on the staff working five days a week as the Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator. During that time I had the pleasure of meeting or being in phone/email contact with many of our members, watching the number grow from just a few

hundred to over 2500.

It has been a great privilege to work with all of our marvellous volunteers, many of whom started in 1997 as I did. During this time the number of active volunteers has varied according to our needs but has consistently been between about 300 and 450. I have had the pleasure of meeting nearly all of our volunteers over the years and many have become friends.

I have enjoyed bringing you regular news of the activities in the office and it does seem strange that this will be my last Office Gossip.

Thank you all, members and volunteers, for your support of the Foundation and thank you particularly for your friendly contact with me—the postcards from all over the world, cheery phone calls, visits to the office and emails—especially those bringing photos of their walks, holidays, roses or even maintenance problems!

Gwen Plunkett  
Volunteer Coordinator

### Farewell Edith

In September we were very sorry to farewell Edith Thomas, who had been a most important member of the office team for more than 15 years. She was indispensable as Gwen's right-hand-lady and was always happy to assist when extra help was required.

Edith came in two days a week and looked after many of the admin duties including end-to-end registrations, Bibbulmun News mail outs, stationery supplies and other tasks related to the smooth running of the office.

Edith is a great walker and for much of her time with us was President of the Western Walking Club and most Sundays of the year

she would be off walking with the club, often as the leader. More recently she has suffered badly with knee problems and we hope these can be resolved so she can again enjoy the activity she loves the most. We will miss Edith greatly and wish her all the very best.



Gwen and Edith worked closely together for 15 years

## Bush Walking Slang

**The BTF's lead guide, Steve Sertis, re-wrote the track notes for the latest editions of the guide book.**

Here are his tips on how to interpret some of the common terms used:

**"This section has amazing views"**  
- climb up a hill until you are completely out of breath and bordering on a heart attack and don't have either the energy or inclination to look at the view.

**"Descend into valley"**  
- steeply ascend first and then cautiously descend on wobbly legs ignoring the views in an attempt to stay upright whilst roller skating on honkey nuts.

**"Follow rail formation"**  
- flat walking yippee!

**"Cross creek"**  
- dip into a depression which hardly ever has any water in it

**"May require wading in winter"**  
- bring your snorkel and goggles!

## Bibb Track Packs Overseas

BTF member, Sharon Hitchens, enjoying the view from one of the World Expeditions campsites in Nepal's Annapurna region. Sharon joined our trip to Nepal in May this year.

Has your Bibbulmun Track backpack travelled overseas? Send us your photos!

These superb Deuter packs are available to purchase from the BTF office or online.

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN OUR TEAM OF OFFICE VOLUNTEERS?

*Love the Bibbulmun Track? Enjoy interacting with people?*

*Available for one day per week (in between your own adventures)?*

We are seeking volunteers to join us in our busy office in the city to help provide a friendly service to people interested in the Bibbulmun Track.

We receive enquiries from individuals and groups, from novices to experienced hikers from WA and around the world.

If you think you would like to join our amazing team; have a reasonable knowledge of the Track; are somewhat IT literate; and can commit to one day per week (9am to 4pm Monday to Friday), then please contact Ce at [admin@bibbulmuntrack.org.au](mailto:admin@bibbulmuntrack.org.au) or phone 9481 0551.

For successful applicants, we will be running an orientation program over one week in February 2019.





# Prize WINNERS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF OUR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP PRIZE DRAW

## June

**Raelene Watters** received a Large Xplate  
**Sandy & Russell Jones** received an UltraSil Daypack.

## July

**Tony Woodgate** received a Medium Drylite Towel  
**Jessica Miller** received an Ultrasil Dry Sack.

## August

**Damian Wallis** received an 8 litre lightweight Drysack  
**Graeme and Angela Robertson** received a waterproof map case.

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



## 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.

## Help us reach our fundraising goal!



## Discover the most “entertaining” way to help The Bibbulmun Track Foundation raise funds...

### Support the Track.

Help us to rebuild, maintain shelters and the Track by buying an Entertainment Book and have it delivered FREE to any address in Australia OR purchase a Digital Membership to enjoy hundreds of great value offers now!

Can't decide which is right for you? Both contain hundreds of valuable offers for everything you love to do, but the Digital Membership gives you the convenience of the traditional Entertainment Book on your Apple or Android device so you can redeem on the go.

Order now so you don't miss out!  
[fundraiser.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/835a11](http://fundraiser.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/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](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au)

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

# TRACK TOWN - DWELLINGUP

Dwellingup, in the Shire of Murray, is the focus of strategic tourism product development, set to harness the adventure town's untapped potential and transform the locality into a tourist town of national and future international significance.

Situated only 90-minutes south of Perth, Dwellingup is the perfect destination to reconnect, explore, play and learn.

A \$4.5 million investment is redeveloping the Dwellingup History and Visitor Information Centre into a Trails Centre, a meeting place for all trail users, comprising upgraded toilet facilities including hot showers, gift and bike shop, café, laundry, lockers, an operator and tours hub and RV vehicle dump point.

The Trails Centre component enhances other projects including a skate park and pump track, an adventure playground, entertainment stage and additional barbeque and picnic facilities. Project efforts will also better incorporate Dwellingup's rail trails into the town's trail offering, through the Hotham Valley Tourist Railway Rail Relocation project.

Hotham Valley Railway has relocated an 80ft turntable from a Pinjarra depot to a prominent location in the project precinct. The turntable will establish a unique advantage for the town, allowing users to view the trains as they pass by and turn on the turntable.

The Shire of Murray has collaborated with the Shire of Collie and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions to submit a Regional Growth Fund grant application to support the Dwellingup-Collie Tourism and Trails Initiative. If successful, a \$9.2 million investment will develop trails infrastructure in Dwellingup. This initiative is anticipated to create 80 full-time jobs, and bring over \$9 million of new economic activity to the town and \$15 million to the Peel region.

The Dwellingup National Trails Centre project is proudly supported by the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund, the State Government through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries



## Dwellingup History and Visitor Information Centre

*Dwellingup History Visitor and Information Centre is located in the historic town of Dwellingup within the beautiful state forest of the Darling Ranges, and sits between the South Dandalup and Murray Rivers.*

*It is one of the few places that the two trails intersect, which explains the tag line for Dwellingup "Where Trails Meet". Dwellingup is also home to Lone Poole Reserve.*

**Toilets and hot shower facilities**

**Charge bar, FREE WiFi and lounge area**

**Back Country dehydrated food, protein bars, drinks, ice creams**

**Bibbulmun Track sign in book**

**Trail information and maps**

**Historical displays**

**Souvenirs**

**Walker Friendly Business Member**



**DWELLINGUP**

*where trails meet*

**Open 7 Days a week - 9am to 3.30pm - (Closed Christmas Day)**  
**@dwellinguptourism #dwellinguptourism**  
**P: 08 9538 1108 E: DHVIC@murray.wa.gov.au**  
**W: vc.murray.wa.gov.au**

- Sport and Recreation, Lotterywest, TourismWA, Alcoa, Shire of Murray, Hotham Valley Tourist Railway and Dwellingup Community Association. For further information visit [murray.wa.gov.au](http://murray.wa.gov.au).

An ideal location to begin your Dwellingup adventure is the Dwellingup History and Visitor Information Centre which is open daily from 9:00am to 3:30pm. Visitors can learn more about the redevelopment and utilise the adjacent ablution facilities inclusive of hot showers.



Artists impression of the promenade.



# Walker Story

CELEBRATING MILESTONES...  
OUR 2000<sup>TH</sup> REGISTERED END-TO-ENDER!

In the 20th year of the 'new' Bibbulmun Track the Foundation is delighted to congratulate the 2000th individual to register an end-to-end!

To put this in perspective, we must emphasise that this is the 2000th registered end-to-end walker. We are well aware that many people walk the whole Track and never register their achievement. If you are one of these people – it's not too late! Download the forms from our website and send them in to claim your End-to-ENDER status and badge.

Huge congratulations to Twynam who not only walked the full length of the Track but actually started at his mum's house at Middleton Beach in Albany and finished at his sister's house in Cottesloe, celebrating his 60th birthday along the way.

Here is his story...

I had wanted to walk the Bibbulmun Track for years however the vastitudes of farming life meant I'd always been too busy to contemplate even a week away. This all changed when our son Theo arrived home to the farm hell bent on changing everything and taking over. I gladly took a step back.

So it came to be I set off in the half dark in June from my mother Rosie's place at Middleton Beach to walk around the boardwalk to the Bibbulmun Track's southern terminus at the old Albany Railway Station. I met up with an old mate Mike Batchelor who had agreed to walk five days with me.

It turns out in hindsight my pack was a bit on the heavy side. The trouble was my wife Elizabeth had loaded me up with things I might just need, then my mother added a bit more, then for good measure I thought a bottle of whiskey might help keep the cold at bay.

We staggered out of Albany going about 200m before losing the Track completely, an omen of things to come. We walked along the railway line for a bit until we spotted a Waugal which brought us back on track. I grew to be very grateful for the sight of Waugals along the way.

First night was spent eating everything and drinking everything to lighten the load, then trying to get comfortable in the dark on a 2cm mattress on a wooden floor...another portent of things to come. Having done absolutely no pre-training I was surprised how easy the walking became. Walking 20km a day was a breeze, it was only when the ante was raised and a few double huts were done that the pressure came on.

Double hutting from Giants Campsite to Walpole was possibly not such a clever move. I arrived with a set of blisters the size of dinner plates on my feet. The pain and shame of it all; fortunately I was introduced to a product called Fixomull so I was able to hobble on.



Following the Waugal trail markers

Some may call it *Beginners Luck* but in my opinion June is the perfect time to walk the Bibb. All the inlets running into the sea were barely flowing, the creek crossings were easy, I didn't see a single snake and there were more fine days than wet. However when it rained, it rained, particularly along the coast. I was a bit disappointed my wife wasn't keen to end-to-end with me but when I was trudging along in horizontal rain punctuated by rapid fire hail I thanked my lucky stars she wasn't with me, I would never have heard the end of it! Another lesson learned,



At the halfway point



Down on his luck

umbrellas are great, best used in the forests, but not so great in the open on the coast; my first umbrella blew itself to bits.

But what a joy the walk was, I usually met someone walking south each day, we were all kindred spirits, pretty much all solo walkers...all determined, and very much into the spirit of the Bibbulmun Track. Towns were great, nice to sleep in a proper bed, a large steak a welcome change to noodles and pasta. And I can't tell you how appreciated a long hot shower was, not to mention washing some fairly smelly items of clothing. I always felt the people in the Track Towns viewed me with some reserve for being a Bibbulmun walker but they were always generous and I was able to restock with most things to be able to continue on to the next town.

Every day was of great interest from the sea to the karris to the Darling Scarp. I found myself constantly puzzling as to the foresight of the planners of the early Track. And the shelters, so basic but always so clean and welcome after a

day of walking and situated in the most picturesque spots. I was particularly grateful on occasions walking out of pouring rain into instant dryness and protection of a shelter.

So after 47 days I arrived at Kalamunda. I wasted far too much time in the Mundaring Weir Hotel soaking in the ambience of the place along with a couple of beers so that I arrived in Kalamunda in the half dark in solid rain. A delightful lady called Gail of Villa du Lac B&B gave a wet, bedraggled walker a warm bed.

Next morning I woke up to brilliant sunshine and walked down along a creek in full flood through the Kalamunda Park which gave the most spectacular view over Perth city. It was at this stage the realisation of the enormity of the walk was starting to sink in. Walking down to Perth was easy, up over the Causeway, down St Georges Terrace to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation office in Wellington Street then across to the Parmelia Hotel where my wife had booked a room. Just accommodation in another Track Town

really, a long hot shower, a big steak followed by a comfortable bed!

Next day up early, a bit sad it was all ending, up St Georges Terrace, marched through Kings Park, a bit like the Bibb... drizzling rain, umbrella up and out onto Stirling Hwy and down onto Cottesloe Beach. A few beers at the OBH and onto my sister Annie's place, the journeys end. It had taken me 49 days but I had walked from my mother's place in Albany to my sister's in Cottesloe!

But what a fabulous walk; I take my hat off to the people who had the vision to plan and instigate the Track through the beautiful unspoiled wilderness of our south west. And thank you to all the people who work so tirelessly to maintain the Track and shelters along the way. While walking I turned 60 so I had quite some time to reflect a bit on the fortunes of life. I have loved every minute of the Track, I've had a ball and I would do it all over again in a heartbeat.

Twynam Cunningham

Freeze Dri  
**BACK COUNTRY**  
*Cuisine*  
Fast, nourishing  
food for  
adventurers.



# Notice board

## EQUIPMENT

**SLEEPING BAG:** KATHMANDU PATHFINDER GOOSE DOWN .720KG WEIGHT 0 DEGREES, LEFT ZIP PERFECT AS NEW CONDITION, USED ALWAYS WITH A LINER.

COST \$499 SELL \$400 OR NEAR OFFER.

**MATTRESS:** SELF-INFLATING "MOUNTAIN DESIGNS" WOMEN'S 168 X 51 X 3.8CM WEIGHT 654G- \$50 ONO

**PILLOW:** SELF-INFLATING "BLACK WOLF" \$20

**BACKPACK:** DEUTER FUTURA (HAS BIBBULMUN LOGO) 32 LT. EXCELLENT CONDITION. IDEAL FOR 1 - 2 DAYS, OVERNIGHT OR DAY TRIPS. \$100 ONO

**JACKET:** DUCK DOWN KATHMANDU LADIES SIZE 18 (PINK) \$150

**WATER BLADDER:** 3 LT \$10

### VARIOUS OTHER EQUIPMENT:

COMPRESSION BAGS, STUFF SACKS AND GAITERS. ALL ON OFFER OR POSSIBLY FREE WITH MAJOR PURCHASE.

**Contact: Elaine Ellard - 0409 099 189**  
E: [johnelaineellard@hotmail.com](mailto:johnelaineellard@hotmail.com)

## FOR SALE:

### MERREL LADIES HIKING SHOES

MERRELL LADIES HIKING SHOES, SIZE 6. IN EXCELLENT CONDITION AND ONLY WORN ON THE THREE CAPES TRACK IN TASMANIA BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, THEY ARE TOO SMALL.

BOUGHT FOR \$180, SELL FOR \$90.

**Contact: Kathi**  
**0412 666 264**  
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# WILDERNESS FIRST AID TIPS



**This is the fourth 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 4: Know what needs to be dealt with quickly, and what doesn't.

The modern world in which we live bombards us constantly through various forms of media and creates drama and hype out of anything and everything—even a cooking show on television becomes a matter of life and death! The false impression is often given that all injuries and illnesses are catastrophic and require immediate skilled attention.

So, do they—and how do you tell which do and which don't? Take this scenario—someone is sick, it's nearing night time, getting dark, and evacuating your patient is going to be a big deal.

Well, if the mere appearance of someone makes you feel physically sick, scares the hell out of you and starts alarm bells ringing, those bells are worth listening to. A really sick or severely injured patient will look awful and make you feel awful too.

If you want something a little more scientific, take their pulse (at the neck not the wrist) and count their breaths over the space of a minute— if the patient is at rest, the pulse is over 100 and the number of breaths over 20 then this signifies something that could well be serious.

Chest pain is a tricky one: even for health professionals. If your patient is over 40 and the cause isn't obvious, such as a fall, you'd be best to err on the side of caution.

Events involving asthma, diabetes and anaphylaxis should prompt urgent evacuation.

Otherwise a bit of tummy pain that comes and goes, a sore wrist, a cut leg or a "sprained" ankle can wait until the morning, by which time things might be much better.

*Edi 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](mailto:edi.albert@hotmail.com).*



# TRACK TUCKER

## Wrong Way Jim's Chicken Stew (Serves four).

This is a good basic recipe that can be adapted to personal taste by the addition of any favourite seasoning for chicken, such as paprika, dried tarragon, garam masala, etc.

1 tablespoon olive oil.  
1 kg chicken breast, minced.  
2 red onions, sliced.  
2 red bell peppers, cut into thin strips.  
2 green bell peppers, cut into thin strips.  
1 can diced tomatoes (400g).

1 cup chicken stock.  
Salt, to taste.  
2 cups cooked rice.  
1 or 2 tablespoons of your favourite seasoning for chicken.  
1 cup mixed fresh herbs (cilantro, flat parsley, basil), finely chopped.

- Heat the olive oil in a large pan.
- Add the chicken and cook until browned.
- Add sliced onions and cook, stirring until soft.
- Stir in bell peppers, tomatoes and chicken stock.
- Bring to a boil and add the seasoning
- Reduce heat to low, put a lid on and leave to cook for a further 15-20 minutes.
- Add the cooked rice and chopped herbs. Stir well and simmer for a couple of minutes together.
- Remove from the heat and let cool thoroughly.
- Spread the chicken stew on fine mesh dehydrator trays.
- Dehydrate thoroughly (depending on your dehydrator, between 4-8 hours).
- Divide the dried meal into four equal portions and pack into separate zip lock bags or vacuum sealed bags.

**Ed - If you have a favourite recipe please email it to us at [friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au](mailto:friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au) along with a photo if you have one.**

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Whether you are a club, a family or group of friends, the Pemberton Lodge is right on the track and accommodates a private group of 4 to 12, fully self contained.

Track Transfers\* and supported walks can be arranged for an easy and comfortable way to walk - Bag Free.

\*Pemberton Discovery Tours - Bibbulmun Track Transport Providers



Treat yourself in 2019 and complete a whole section of the Bibbulmun Track, without carrying a heavy pack or camping out!

All tours include accommodation, meals and transport and are run and guided by our local partner Inspiration Outdoors. Whether it's your first Bibbulmun Track section or one of many that you've done, you're sure to enjoy the fresh air, exercise, great accommodation, delicious meals and the rejuvenating time away from home.

### Albany to Denmark

**Dates:** October 4th - 10th 2019  
 & October 19th - 25th 2019  
**Days:** 7 day tour, 5 days walking  
**Accommodation:** The Cove, Denmark  
**Cost:** \$1,900pp twin share

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

You'll have time to explore the fascinating town of Denmark as well as enjoying the serenity of the forest chalets. This relaxing escape offers the perfect blend of activity and rest.



### Pemberton to Northcliffe

**Dates:** April 7th - 10th 2019  
 & September 6th - 9th 2019  
**Days:** 4 day tour, 4 days walking  
**Accommodation:** Warren River Cottages, Pemberton  
**Cost:** \$1,150pp twin share

Escape to the forest! We will take you on a magical four day walk from Pemberton to Northcliffe. Each day you will walk between 11 and 19 km, taking in the rivers, forests and farms that typify the

area. Let the cool and quiet forest work its magic on you. Turn your face up to the mighty karri trees, close your eyes and you may hear the chanting of long ago as you breathe the deep earthy smells of the forest.

### Walpole to Denmark

**Dates:** March 29th - April 5th 2019  
 & October 11th - 18th 2019  
 & October 26th - November 2nd 2019  
**Days:** 9 day tour, 7.5 days walking  
**Accommodation:** The Cove, Denmark  
**Cost:** \$2,550pp twin share

This stretch of the Bibbulmun Track This section holds its own as the most scenic and varied section of the Bibbulmun Track. It takes in majestic forests, deserted beaches, magnificent bays and spectacular cliffs. You'll visit the Valley of the Giants near Walpole and see the beautiful rock formations and tranquil waters of Greens Pool and Elephant Rocks near Denmark with much in between.

It is a challenging walk, with hills and beaches to conquer, but the beauty and variety of the walk will make it all worthwhile.

### Northcliffe to Walpole

**Dates:** March 7th - 15th 2019  
 & November 15th - 23rd 2019  
**Days:** 9 day tour, 8.5 days walking  
**Accommodation:** Northcliffe Hotel, Northcliffe & Bayside Villas, Walpole  
**Cost:** \$2,375pp twin share



This section of the Bibbulmun Track offers some of the most diverse walking experiences in Australia with towering karri forest, pristine rivers, grasslands, wetlands, beaches and dramatic coastal cliffs. Visit one of the most inaccessible parts of the South West of Western Australia without compromising on comfort.

### Collie to Balingup

**Dates:** September 1st - 5th 2019  
**Days:** 5 day tour, 4.5 days walking  
**Accommodation:** Balingup Hill View Retreat  
**Cost:** \$1,340pp twin share

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

These tours are offered in partnership with Inspiration Outdoors



### Rivers and Boulders Expedition

Join us at Easter walking one of the more remote sections of the Track

Discover jumbled granite boulders, see a bush regenerating after the devastating Northcliffe fire in 2015, follow tranquil rivers, camp by one of the largest freshwater lakes in the South West, and feel the thunder of crashing waves while walking from Northcliffe to Walpole over 8 days of walking. We also camp at two of the newer rammed earth shelters.

**Date:** Sat 13th Apr to Mon 22 Apr 2019  
**Where:** Northcliffe to Walpole  
**Rating:** Experienced  
**Cost:** Members \$510;  
 Non-Members \$535



More events and all bookings are available online at [bibbulmuntrack.org.au](http://bibbulmuntrack.org.au)

### Dandy Dwellingup Dames

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

Meet us down in Dwellingup on Friday afternoon at our accommodation set by the banks of the Murray River. On Saturday we spend the day walking on the Track (7km) and then come back to wonderful neck and shoulder massage. Relax in the afternoon with views over the Murray River and enjoy a delicious meal. The next day we walk a different section of the Track (9km). After freshening up, we pack our bags and return to Perth. Includes two nights shared accommodation, two packed lunches, two continental breakfasts, BBQ dinner and restaurant dinner, massage, foot balm, guided walks, Track transfers within Dwellingup. Own transport to Dwellingup.

**Date:** Fri 24th May to Sun 26th May 2019  
**Where:** Dwellingup  
**Rating:** Beginners  
**Cost:** \$400 Members;  
 Non-Members: \$420



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## Social Sunday walks

Free for members. See booking conditions online.

**WALK RATINGS:** BEGINNERS INTERMEDIATE EXPERIENCED

24th March 2019 @ 4.00pm

6km return sunset walk from Camel Farm to Hewett's Hill

14th April 2019 @ 9.00am

14km return walk from Albany Hwy to Boonering Hill

28th April 2019 @ 9.30am

13km return from River Rd to the Murray River via Swamp Oak Campsite return (Dwellingup South)

5th May 2019 @ 9.00am

10km return walk Lowlands Beach to West Cape Howe Campsite (near Albany)

12th May 2019 @ 8.30am

19km return walk from Dale Road to Beraking Campsite. (Fit and experienced walkers only!)

19th May 2019 @ 9.00am

12km return walk from Kinsella Rd to Canning Campsite

26th May 2019 @ 8.30am

20.4km return walk from Kalamunda to Hewett's Hill Campsite. (Fit and experienced walkers only!)

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

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





## Track Trivia

### Hello Fellow Walkers!

Though, sadly, it will from now on be more like "What-ho fellow strollers!" Despite my previous optimism, the combination of osteo-arthritis and tendonitis in my feet and legs has brought me to the reluctant decision that walking long distances with a full pack is no longer for me. From now on it will be day walks on the Bibbulmun Track and some longer walks in the UK from pub to pub, carrying a much lighter load. It's called getting old. Sucks!

To mark this critical change in my lifestyle I have taken the momentous decision to sell my dehydrator—the equivalent, although admittedly not so newsworthy, of Rickie Ponting burning his bat. This marks the end of an era of my long distance overnight trekking and, thank the Lord, eating dehydrated food!

I was fortunate in discovering the Bibbulmun Track in the year 2000 and walking it end-to-end in one hit in 2001. The Track was relatively new, in pristine condition and the shelters in perfect order. It is a journey I will never forget. I set out with absolutely no clue of what to expect, with a lot of support from my wife and friends. I arrived at the Southern Terminus in Albany six weeks later, 11kg lighter, feeling a great sense of achievement and very happy—but at the same time sad that it was all over.

Since then I have walked sections of the Track many more times, clocking up three sectional end-to-end walks. I will still spend some time on the Track, but sleeping on the floor, hauling my stiff, aching body upright on cold mornings and struggling into cold, clammy clothing

in preparation for a twenty kilometre trek through the rain will be things of the past. Do I regret leaving it? Of course I do. Will I miss it? Yes! There are many reasons why people go trekking, walking miles through the Australian bush, tramping through the mud of New Zealand and Tasmania, taking on the snow, ice and thin air of the Himalayas and enduring other harsh environments. Every individual has his own motives; for me it has been in part to prove to myself that I could do it, to accept the deprivation that tough conditions can bring and then enjoy the simple pleasures of hot showers, good food and drink at the end of the journey.

There has been the experience of solitude—the utter silence of the bush can be awe inspiring—and conversely enjoying the camaraderie of other



walkers. Most of all, perhaps, has been the opportunity to appreciate the beauty—the birds, animals, trees, flowers, beaches, sea, sky...the list is endless.

The two pictures need no captions, they speak for themselves.

Enough of this waffle and back to business.

On page 11 Steve Sertis has listed some Track slang. This reminded me of a trek I did in Nepal some years back with a group headed up by BTF Chairman, Mike Wood.

Our Sirdar for the trek was a wonderful

character called Dorgee. The Sirdar is a Sherpa who takes responsibility for obtaining the porters and other means of transport, dealing with the local people along the way, buying food, organising accommodation and dealing with all the logistics of the walk. Dorgee not only ensured the smooth running of the whole trek, he found time to entertain us in the evenings with stories about Yetis and also explained a great deal about the history and the politics of Nepal.

After dinner each day Dorgee would explain the format for the day to come... how far, how high, the weather, what to wear etc. However, we soon got to understand that his interpretation of time and altitude didn't quite match ours. For example, "we'll be there in two hours" usually meant "for the really quick guys, allow four". "Tomorrow will be a little bit up and down" meant "get ready for a semi-vertical slog" and "a bit more up" translated as "if you think yesterday was tough..."

Then we got to the last day of actual trekking. I should explain that due to adverse weather conditions

we had decided to fit the last four days into two. The first of these meant an ascent of about 1200 meters in the day, including traversing a pass at 5300 metres. We then camped on the shore of the highest glacial lake in the world, in the snow, at 5000 meters. The final day would require going over two more passes, each above 5000 meters. We gathered, a little weary, for the evening briefing.

Dorgee looked at us, took a deep breath and announced, "tomorrow will be a bit hard." If a simple phrase could put the fear of God into anyone, that did!

Hard it was, trekking in a blizzard in a gale force wind and eventually descending on ropes down a precipitous snow covered slope before eventually arriving below the snow line and collapsing, exhausted.

I asked Mike later to sum up the two days. He thought for a bit and said, "Nobody died."

Good Walking!  
**Wrong Way Jim**



# Reflections FROM THE REGISTERS

### Monadnocks

Wet, raining and foggy. Five children, all under 10 enjoying the cabin in the woods experience. Marshmallows melting by the fire—yum! Apologies to the lone German backpacker who was hoping for a tranquil time.

*The Jorgensens 06/07/2015*

Tonight's forecast—dark.

*The Mad Axeman 13/07/2015*

Happy to hit the Bibb all the way from the USA! Happy to be hiking with my girl and sooo happy to be thousands of miles away from Donald Trump!

*Anon 13/06/2016*

### Murray

Today was the day I went hiker mad. I glimpsed an echidna just disappearing into the bush after it crossed the Track about 25m in front of me. I screamed, "stop!" and went flying off down into the bush, throwing aside my pack, stick, sunglasses and hat. I spent the next ten minutes searching, wandering aimlessly around and whispering, "sorry I shouted, please

come out and say hello." Alas the echidna escaped me and found myself a good 100m off the Track, which I found again by sheer chance. Lucky I didn't get lost forever.

Echidna 1—Jess 0.

I am a wildlife biologist and an echidna is one thing I have never really seen on the Track. Can't be that hard, surely? Ah well, there's always tomorrow.

*Jess 05/11/2015*

### Beedelup

Hi y'all! Great day to be out, perfect weather, beautiful scenery. Enjoying every minute on this fantastic Track!

*Leslie G (Banff Canada) 02/11/2016* It just

occurred to me that I've said nothing negative for the last six days—well, except for a muttered curse halfway up that bloody hill between Boarding House and Beavis! Six days of introspection and enjoyment of the magical bush. My thoughts on day 7 (tomorrow) will likely be more of hot showers, food and glorious red wine. A magical week with a slice of paradise to myself. That's about 900km of the Track done, with just the bit between Collie and

Dwellingup left for me to complete my sectional end-to-end. I love the karris, but my hands down favourites are the mighty red tingles down Walpole way. First light tomorrow and into Pemby for lunch, then goodbye for now to the beautiful Bibb Track!

*Daniel M 06/06/2017*

"Walking in summer  
In theory is nice  
No need to worry 'bout  
Rain, hail or ice  
Occasional rain  
You might think is great  
It can be refreshing  
But humidity I hate  
Buckets of sweat  
From each little hill  
It's a challenging walk  
When it's hot, wet and still  
But time at the shelter  
Is a whole different story  
And brings out the best of all nature's  
glory!"

Sorry, readers, it's back to poor poetry!  
Afraid you'll have to suffer it for a while longer.

*B Man and Big Dan end-to-end 17/02/2018*



## 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.



# THE HEYSEN TRAIL

by Sophie Giles

*BTF member Sophie Giles and her eleven year-old son Hunter recently took a five day walk in the Flinders Range from Parachilna Gorge to Wilpena Pound. These are reflections from their walk:*

The prevalence of rock was the single constant in our recent five-day walk from the northern trail-head of the Heysen Trail in South Australia. At the end of the trek we learned about the beliefs of the local Adnyamathanha (the rock people) from Ringo Coultard at Wilpena Pound. Beliefs relating to the rocks and the sky continue to prevail deeply in this land.

Having walked the Larapinta Trail in its infancy, the Overland Track and the Bibbulmun Track we were well prepared, but unsure of how rapidly the terrain might change from spinifex and shale to woodland, interspersed with twisting fertile gullies of river red gums.

After a ten hour bus trip courtesy of Genesis Transport, punctuated by tiny Australian towns, listening to a sound track of Slim Dusty and enjoying the lifelong collegiality that a ten hour bus trip engenders we joined Dave at the Parachilna Siding for the short drive through the gorgeous Parachilna Gorge to the trail-head. In fading light we were grateful that the first camp with a full



Hunter, with the Heysen Range in the distance

water tank was only 400m away along a rock tumbled creek bed.

Surprised by a head torch a few hours later, we were fortunate enough to share the camp with Jeff Ellis, who was on the last night of his 1200km end-to-end, as we were just beginning. Conversations concerning goats and weather, water-tanks and food transpired.

The walk has some highly visible settler history and an invisible, immense indigenous history, now believed to be at least 50,000 years old. Goats are the mobile and destructive remnants of the settlers, leaving their multitudes of goat paths through this ancient land.

We were able to enjoy a diverse environment over the five days and stayed in remarkably different huts—the Merino stamped corrugated iron of the Yanyanna Hut, with the luxury of an outside timber platform donated by the Friends of the Heysen Trail. The Aroona Hut, which was a pug and pine settlers hut, now really just the pine, a remarkably sturdy but relatively open structure. Some of

Parachilna Gorge in the early morning

the largest wind gusts we'd ever heard blasted our tent, suggestive of those on Everest, but thankfully not as cold!

The landscape is constantly amazing. The trail follows the Brachina and Enorama Creeks, both abundant in fascinating rock types, evidence of glaciation, with a Golden Spike marking the Ediacarian period. (Ed: Golden Spike is a very specific geological term, Google it!). This appeared close to a wild dog lair, empty but for a kangaroo carcass.

Of geological significance are the 600 million year old marine cyanobacteria evident in forming the Precambrian stromatolites of the Trezona Range. These rocks are just adjacent to the trail, stripped of all colour and life, a reminder that the land is so, so old, that wind, rain, life and sore legs are just mere moments in geological time.

The large landforms in this northern section are the ABC Range, so named for the innumerable hills named alphabetically, through to the Heysen Range. The rim of Wilpena Pound and the Heysen Range were apparent in the far distance and the vestiges of the ABC were visible through the bluish haze.

We met a large number of drive-in campers at Trezona campsite, where there was a water tank dribbling out its last few millilitres, but another tank closer to the trail and away from the



Heysen Trail Marker



Spring clean at Yanyanna Hut

campground was thankfully full. Besides the car campers, we met just one cyclist who was on the Mawson Trail (both Trails occasionally align), one end-to-end, one pair of sectional end-to-enders and one trail runner. Conversely our sightings of emus and wallabies, including the rarer yellow footed rock wallaby, were beyond counting. Other wild life included eagles, goats, sheep and a dead feral cat. Walking toward a resort is a well-honed wisdom, as thoughts of a full buffet breakfast can sustain anyone for days through jagged hills and rocky



View towards the Heysen Range



The author being a pack horse!

descents. Thus we made our arrival at Wilpena Pound Resort, within the Ikara-Flinders National Park and delighted in the extravagances of showers, food, Adnyamathanha guided walking tours, and three days of huge hilly day walks without a pack!

This is a remarkable ancient land in which we were so lucky to have the opportunity to set foot.

For more information see: <https://heysentrail.asn.au/heysen-trail/>



# Bibbulmun & Beyond 9-day Tour

Monday 29th April to Tuesday 7th May 2019

Join our Lead Guide, Steve Sertis to experience the best of the Bibbulmun Track and the majesty of the Stirling Ranges.

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.

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## THE BIBBULMUN TRACK FOUNDATION

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### OFFICE HOURS:

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