

Bibbulmun NEWS

MAY'20 - AUG'20
ISSUE # 83
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Newsletter for the friends of the Bibbulmun Track

EROSION CONTROL ON THE SOUTH COAST IS UNDERWAY

In early March, four tonnes of materials and equipment were airlifted to areas of Track inaccessible by vehicle. This meticulously coordinated operation was the start of a project to stabilise eroded sections along the south coast.

At several locations, including the popular Conspicuous Cliffs, the Bibbulmun Track is badly eroded making the fragile ecosystem more susceptible to erosion. This spectacular section is very popular and it is important that visitors can continue to experience one of the highlight sections of the Track in an environmentally sustainable way.

The project outcome will be a well constructed, defined trail with good erosion management that will discourage walkers from creating alternative pathways and allow the vegetation to re-establish thus stabilising the dunes.

It has taken years of planning and preparation to get to this point starting with the trial and assessment of various materials in the dunes to see how they withstood the elements.

Assessment and recommendations were documented for seventeen areas along the coast. Stage one is to stabilise four sections where realignment is either not possible or undesirable. Techniques will include the installation of timber box steps, 100% recycled polypropylene grids and coir mesh.

The planning and coordination to date has been a collaboration between the Foundation and Parks and Wildlife Services. This strong partnership was instrumental in the project being supported by a \$34,040 grant from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program. Remaining cash contribution is from the BTF's 2019 raffle – so thank you members for your support!



Erosion control methods include installation of timber box steps, 100% recycled polypropylene grids and coir mesh.

Particular thanks to Peter Masters and team from DBCA's Frankland District for all their assistance – and to BTF volunteer Mark Davidson for coordinating the Foundation's activities.

Thanks also to Charlie Soord, Geoff Meates, Ross Simpson, Charmaine Harris, Alex Williams, Ian Rae, Sue Soord and other support volunteers who have, or will be involved with carrying out the work.

Thank you also to Nutkin Lodge who allowed access to their property for the airlift. This walker friendly business is close to this beautiful area so think of them when you holiday down south!



Four tonnes of materials and equipment were airlifted to remote sections of Track.



natural resource
management program



Enviro Night a big hit with Members

On Thursday 12 March, over 100 BTF members and guests came along to Rosie O'Gradies to hear two very interesting speakers who shared their knowledge and environmental



Members enjoying presentation by Thomas Wilson.

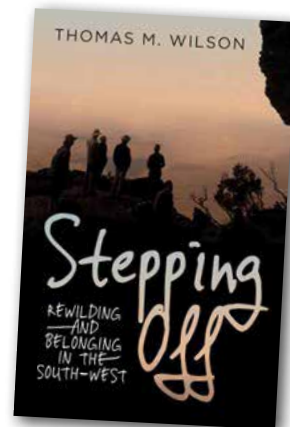
understanding of the Bibbulmun Track and the South-West of Western Australia.

Janet Patterson, aka the Walking Scientist, is a hiker, writer and scientist with an incessant curiosity about the workings of the natural world. In September 2019 Janet embarked on a solo hike of the Track sharing fascinating insights in her blog as she chatted to the extraordinary and unique animals, plants and fungi she discovered along her journey.

Our second presenter was Thomas Wilson, author of *Stepping Off: Rewilding and Belonging in the South-West*. Tom's presentation was full of interesting facts about the

environmental and social history of the region and an invitation to "reconnect with the land – and in doing so, to reconnect with ourselves".

Thank you to the presenters for sharing their knowledge, experience and photographs with us. We received lots of very positive feedback from the audience who were entertained and inspired and we look forward to catching up with more members at the next event.



Win a holiday for next year!
Buy a ticket today.
Winner drawn on 1st May 2020!

ADVENTURE RAFFLE

Enjoy a magnificent trip for two to Nepal including the Annapurna Sanctuary Trek

The Adventure Raffle is the Bibbulmun Track Foundation's major fundraiser for the year and we need your support today. You'll be helping to fund major maintenance projects on the Bibbulmun Track ensuring that it's still around for future generations to enjoy.

1st Prize - Intrepid's Annapurna Sanctuary Trek Valued at \$5,000

Witness the sheer beauty of the diverse Himalayan landscape as you hike through remote villages, fairy-tale forests, vast moorlands cut by cascading rivers and the blue-hued peaks of Annapurna base camp.

Choice of selected departures in 2020 or 2021.

2nd Prize - \$500 Sea to Summit gift voucher

Imagine all the latest high quality, high-tech and lightweight gear you could get.

3rd Prize - \$250 worth of merchandise

Bibbulmun Track branded merchandise and some cool gear to get you ready for your next trek.

What is the Noongar name for the red-tailed black cockatoo?

ANSWER - KARAK

Lots of members entered this competition from the last edition of Bibbulmun News. The five lucky winners were drawn by Thomas Wilson at our Enviro night event and each received a copy of his book, *Stepping Off – Rewilding and belonging in the South-West*.

Congratulations!

Gwen McNaught

Elain Reynolds

Lynn Austin

Wendy Porch

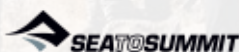
Trina Stapleton

"I attended the wonderful members night on Thursday. Both talks were excellent. But even more significant to me was Tom Wilson's book 'Stepping Off'. This is a wonderful book about our part of the world. I congratulate whoever suggested Tom speak at the event. I highly recommend it to anyone who feels connection to 'wild places' especially our south west.

Thank you again Bibb Track".

Angus King

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online
bibbulmuntrack.org.au/get-involved/adventure-raffle





FROM MY Desk

Welcome to the autumn edition of Bibbulmun News.

The year started off so well! Both our tours fully booked, lots of event bookings and walker enquiries, a full house at our members' event and the support volunteer team all set to start work on the south coast erosion project.

A few weeks later and everything is on hold. What a strange and stressful time we are living through. Just when a good long walk is what the doctor ordered – it has become hard to do so.

Fortunately, the Corona virus didn't hit WA during the peak walking season so the number of hikers from interstate and overseas was low. I really feel for those people who are travelling and trying to get home – either back to Australia or vice versa.

Our thoughts are with all our members, volunteers and Track Town communities who have been impacted in various ways. Particularly all the recreation, hospitality and tourism businesses who have been hit hard – and anyone who has recently lost their job.

We will be planning and preparing for a positive recovery when circumstances change and will stay in contact in various ways over the coming months. Look out for Bibbulmun Bytes in your inbox as we have an online challenge coming up – and connect with us on Facebook and Instagram to share your photos.

On a positive note, the bushfire season is coming to an end and the Bibbulmun Track made it through the summer relatively unscathed. As mentioned in *Eyes on the Ground* on page 8 we had a close call near Collie but thanks to the fire crews the damage was limited and has since been repaired by DBCA's team in the Wellington District.

You'll also see that major works were started at Waalegh Campsite and on the south coast. The airlift and materials for the latter project were part funded by last year's Adventure Raffle. If you haven't bought a ticket yet – please support this year's raffle. It's a great prize donated by Peregrine Travel WA – and you can travel right up until the end of next year!

Thank you for your continued support.

Stay positive, stay healthy - **and use the time at home to plan your next hike on the Bibbulmun Track!**

Linda Daniels
Executive Director

Join us on



COVID-19 FAQ's

Can I walk on the Bibbulmun Track?

It is still OK - and good for your physical and mental health - to go out for a walk – including on the Bibbulmun Track. But the current message from the government is to **stay close to home!**

- All shelters are now closed.
- Travel restrictions mean you can only access the Track if it's in your region (Perth and Peel [combined region], South West, Great Southern). Fines apply for travelling outside your region.
- No more than two people (i.e. you and a friend) – unless you are with the people you live with.
- Follow the social distancing rules.
- Don't touch anything while you are out if you can help it – take hand sanitiser and wash your hands thoroughly when you can.

Is the BTF still open?

Our office is closed to the public and staff members are working from home.

- Phone messages will only be checked occasionally so the best way to contact us is to email friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au
- Hire gear collection and return, while still possible for now, is by prior arrangement only.
- The website will still be updated with current Track conditions.
- Online orders are still being processed at this time. The coming weeks will be a great time to plan your future walks for when circumstances return to normal. If you require any maps, Guidebooks or any other merchandise, we strongly suggest you place your order sooner rather than later. Merchandise orders will be scaled down as further community restrictions are introduced.

What about events?

- All events up until the end of May have been postponed and you should have heard from us.
- We do not know how long this will continue for – so we are still aiming to run events from June onwards. If an event that you are booked on is postponed, you will be emailed directly at least 24hrs in advance.
- If you are in a position to do so – please consider a voucher for an event at a future date – rather than a refund.

As with all businesses in the recreation and tourism industries – our income has been severely impacted at this time. If you are in a position to do so please **POSTPONE – Don't Cancel.**

Thank you for your support!

YOUR LETTERS

Doing the Bibbulmun Track had been a distant idea for me for years. After leaving my job due to health issues I decided to try and do as much of the Track as I could and rushed to get everything together in two weeks.

I started alone never intending to walk with other people but ended up meeting Greg (England) at Canning shelter, and Aleksanteri (Finland) the next day just before Monadnocks. We are all quite different but got along so well and walked almost the rest of the trail together. Sometimes we'd split off and do our own thing but always managed to meet up.

Later on we met Romain (France) and finished the trail with him too, and my friend Lexi from home (Perth) joined us for the last stretch from Denmark.

I took a picture at every single shelter to remember how great and unique they all are and tried to do something different at each one and sometimes they got a bit silly! The one taken at Lake Maringup shelter was where somebody had left a ukulele and a songbook, which were such a treat! We spent a relaxed morning there having sing-alongs (Romain playing ukulele) after waking Aleksanteri up by playing happy birthday (it was his 27th).

I loved my Track family and think my Bibbulmun adventure wouldn't have been anywhere near as much fun without them.

Also just to mention, Now that I'm doing another long distance walk, the Te Araroa, I appreciate the Bibbulmun Track so much more. The track is so amazingly well maintained and marked, and the shelters were all so unique and wonderful. I had no idea how good I had it on the Bibbulmun. The Foundation also does an amazing job of keeping walkers informed of any changes going on.

Sian Mule, Bayswater

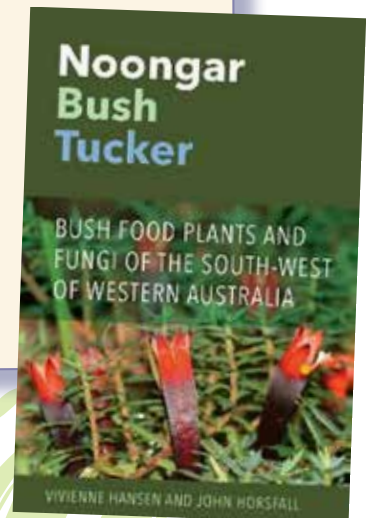
Thanks again for a very informative newsletter and to let you know how much I really appreciate getting a printed copy of it!

I have come across a great book that many of the members may be interested in, and thought you could recommend it in the next Newsletter. It is Noongar Bush Tucker - bush food plants and fungi of the south-west of Western Australia written by Vivienne Hansen and John Horsfall and published this year by UWA, (about 400 pages so lots of info).

With one plant to a page, it has lots of pictures, lots of information: I found it so interesting and I've used it to help identify some of my plant photos that I have taken out on the Track. I'm in Qld so many are unfamiliar to me.

Thank you, have a great day.

Regards,
Helen Turner, Sunshine Coast, Qld.



Send us your caption!

PHOTO CAPTION COMPETITION

Come up with a caption for this photo of Sian Mule (see letter above) and Track family members Aleksanter (aka *Siesta*) and Romain (aka *Lettuce*) at Lake Maringup Campsite.

Send us your captions for this photo to be in the running for a prize from Sea to Summit.

Email to friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au or by post.

Strange day in a world turned upside down.
Departed on the Bib Track 13.03.2020 - END-TO-END

So much planning, anticipation, excitement and meaning to our journey.
Everything ticking to the very last minute before this journey begins. We are off!!!!

Two weeks later the world is in a different place.

On Thursday - decisions to be made. Go home / keep going. Tony is going home. I made some phone calls and decided to get to Northcliffe with Karl who supported my decision.

We headed out in the morning with a heavy heart. We shouldn't be out here? Maybe feeling low losing one of your track buddies (family).

Heavy rain the night before and it was glorious on the Track. We were in another world and quite removed from everything going on around us. Nature does that to you. We are so grateful to have one of the best hiking tracks in the world, which is supported by so many amazing volunteers. On the track you see their great work every day.

We get to Mt Clare and turn our phone on to check messages. We sit and have a snack enjoying the peace and nature's beauty.

My phone rings. It's Tony giving us the updated news about the Track. We both make more phone calls and come back to each other. Tony saying Tess will be here soon if you would like the ride home.

I made the decision to go home.
Not because I wanted to go back; BUT IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

Tony's call came in by so many things aligning at that moment. We are family and he was right. Time to go home and work together to get through what surrounds all our lives across the globe.

THE TRACK AWAITS US and we will be back for our END-TO-END another day.

Rosie Dixon
27 March 2020

Hi, as you can see, I live in Victoria but after reading about the track many years ago I have previously made a donation to your organisation and I enjoy reading your newsletter. I have never walked the track before or even seen it in person but I hope to one day be able to walk part or all of it. Until then, I'm happy to contribute towards its maintenance and development.

Cheers

Caroline Epstein, VIC

Thank you very much for my prize for membership renewal. This will be very useful for me on the Track.

The Bibbulmun Track provides the best experiences. I am very grateful for all the people (paid people as well as volunteers) who make the Bibbulmun such a great place to have the most wonderful experiences. I hope to be a member forever.

*Best regards
Louise Hinkley*

End-to-Enders Get Together

On Sunday 15 March, the Foundation hosted a picnic for walkers who had registered an end-to-end walk on the Bibbulmun Track since it was officially opened in 1979.

We were delighted that our Patron, Kerry Sanderson AC CVO, attended. Kerry, who is Chair of the WA Parks

Foundation, gave an informative update on their current projects, the importance of open spaces and the synergies between the Parks Foundation and the Bibbulmun Track.

Despite the ominous weather forecast, the rain held off, the sun came out and everyone spent a pleasant few hours sharing stories, catching up with old acquaintances and making new ones. Sadly, around 100 people didn't show up due to fears of the Coronavirus.

BTF Events Manager, Steve Sertis, handed out prizes to those who met certain criteria including our latest member, anyone who had walked or cycled to the picnic or had brought their fuel stove to make a cuppa!

A rogues gallery of End-to-Enders was on display, a selection of log-books and red registers saw many people searching for their entries during their walks, and some of the valuable archived documents of the history of the Track proved fascinating.

The real value of the event, however, was the personal interactions. Meeting up with people that some had only heard of, or maybe met out on the Track once. "Oh wow, it is you! I saw you walking out of Chadoora Campsite when it was bucketing" were some of the more typical comments.

Thanks to everyone that attended and made it such a great day.

Cheers
Steve



End-to-Enders Stan Barclay and David Hartley with BTF Chair Kath Broderick and our Patron Kerry Sanderson AC CVO.

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 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. Diversions are usually marked with Waugal trail markers attached to yellow metal posts. If you encounter these when walking, follow these temporary markers, not your map. The diversion will eventually return you to the main trail.

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:

<https://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/trip-planner/notice-of-intent-for-groups/>

Car access to the Track

Walkers are reminded that vehicles can only access the Track at designated points. These are marked on the maps and guidebooks as red or green car symbols. Other roads that lead towards the Track might be restricted or have locked gates as they enter disease risk areas. Attempting to access the Track at non-designated points can spread disease or damage wildlife. Please use only the access points marked on the maps and guidebooks.

Parks and Wildlife Contacts:

Recreation and Trails Unit

recreationandtrails@dbca.wa.gov.au

Ph: (08) 9219 8265

District Offices

Perth Hills District (Mundaring and Dwellingup)

Perth Hills District (Mundaring and Dwellingup)

Kalamunda to the Harvey-Quindanning Road

Map 1 & 2 and Guidebooks 1 & 2

Contact Rebecca Hamilton on (08) 9290 6100 or

mundaring@dbca.wa.gov.au

Wellington District (Collie)

The Harvey-Quindanning Road to Mumballup

(Donnybrook-Boyup Brook Rd)

Map 3 and Guidebook 3

Contact Nick Evans on (08) 9735 1988 or

wellington@dbca.wa.gov.au

Blackwood District (Balingup)

Blackwood District (Balingup)

Mumballup (Donnybrook-Boyup Brook Rd) to Willow Springs

(Gold Gully Rd)

Map 4 and Guidebook 4

Contact Andrew Sandri on (08) 9731 6232 or

blackwood@dbca.wa.gov.au

Donnelly District (Pemberton and Northcliffe)

Willow Springs (Gold Gully Rd) to Pingerup Rd

Map 5 and Guidebook 5

Contact John McKenzie on (08) 9776 1207 or

dannellyd@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

Albany District (Denmark and Albany)

Denmark River mouth to Albany

Map 8 and Guidebook 8

Contact Luke Coney on (08) 9842 4500 or albany@dbca.wa.gov.au

LEAVE NO TRACE TIP: PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

Now is a good time to be planning your next hike on the Bibbulmun Track!

Will it be your first overnight hike... or an end-to-end!

You'll find so many resources on our website – or request a one-on-one trip planning session with one of our awesome volunteers.

It's free for members!



leave no trace
AUSTRALIA





Kerstin Stender,
COORDINATOR RECREATION AND TRAILS UNIT

LOCKED BAG 104, BENTLEY DELIVERY CENTRE 6983
TEL: (08) 9219 8265
EMAIL: RECREATIONANDTRAILS@DBCA.WA.GOV.AU



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Recreation & Trails UNIT

Hi Bibbulmun Track Friends

I hope this finds you well.

We live in a changing world with the spread of COVID-19 and many of us are now working from home. Good hygiene practices and social distancing have been implemented across the department. Business meetings are taking place via virtual means where possible and practical, including with the Bibbulmun Track Foundation today.

The following is correct at point of writing this article, but conditions are likely to have changed by the time you read this edition of the Bibbulmun Track news.

Currently, parks and trails are mostly still open to allow recreation and relaxation by appropriate visitor groups and individuals within their neighbourhoods. The shelters on the Bibbulmun Track are closed at this point, but day-use may still be permitted subject to the regional travel restrictions.

Campground bookings and some tourist attractions have been closed. Bookings are refundable, including some extended park passes. For refund details and Parks and Wildlife Service updates about COVID-19 please visit the Explore Parks website and Park Alerts.

Volunteers who have concerns about COVID-19 are encouraged to self-assess their need to undertake volunteer activities. Volunteers should not feel obliged to provide their time and are advised to speak to their supervisor if they have concerns about their health and safety. Bibbulmun Track maintenance volunteers should seek advice from the Foundation before visiting their section.

On a positive note, I recently visited the new Sandpatch Campsite near Albany. As you may be aware, different building materials had to be used due to the conservation values of the site, preventing soil from being brought in for the rammed earth design. The fire-resistant fibre cement weatherboards were prefabricated off-site, which allowed for an easy on-site installation.



Due to Dieback restrictions, rammed earth could not be used at this site so the new shelter was built with fire-resistant fibre cement that looks like timber weatherboards. Let us know what you think.

I liked the combination of timber look-alike weatherboards, with stainless steel and timber frame. The limestone-look pavers keep the dust down. There are plenty of hooks and also attachment points to stretch a tarp over the window for when it is wet or cold. The campsite has been open, but some works are still to be completed, including the toilet ventilation pipe. It is nice to see the vegetation slowly recovering. I'm interested in your feedback about this design.

A quick update about staffing: Lorene Bennett has returned to her previous role with the Volunteer Unit. Stephen King has been confirmed as the new Trails Coordinator. Deborah Peachey has been assisting the Unit in the Recreation Officer role temporarily but will be returning to her district role shortly. Emily Ward continues and primarily looks after the public enquiries and alerts.

Stay safe.

Kerstin Stender



The new Sandpatch Campsite near Albany

Eyes on the GROUND



Painting during the Field Day at Grimwade Campsite

With the onset of autumn and the weather much more amenable to getting out on the Track, our maintenance volunteers have started to make their first inspection and maintenance visits for 2020.

We were very lucky that a significant bushfire north of Collie in December caused only moderate damage to Track structures. Two small bridges were damaged; the DBCA Wellington District staff repaired these as well as remarking the affected section. Yourdamung Campsite was under direct threat from the fire but was saved through the efforts of fire crews.

Meanwhile, the reconstruction of Sandpatch Campsite, destroyed by fire in May 2018, was completed by DBCA well before the start of the 2020 walking season. With features including a novel two-layered wall structure, internal paving and plenty of hooks, it will be interesting to get walkers' impressions of the shelter design.

The new year saw some changes in the maintenance team in the office. Support Volunteer Coordinator, Mark Davidson, has decided to work from the Recreation and Trails Unit (RTU) office at DBCA Kensington in order to better facilitate coordination of infrastructure and realignment projects. The general maintenance tasks in the BTF office—processing of maintenance inspection reports, correspondence with maintenance volunteers and walkers, and other aspects of maintenance program

management—will be completed with the assistance of office volunteer Christian Mau.

Field Day: Grimwade Campsite

The final District Field Day for 2019 was held at Grimwade Campsite in early November. On what turned out to be a very hot day, the Blackwood District volunteers were absolute troopers in trying conditions. Tasks included a campsite inspection tutorial, explanation of construction and maintenance of erosion control structures, construction of a new

section of trail to eliminate a short section of road leading into the campsite, painting of the drain pipes, installation of a new noticeboard in the shelter, oiling of the outside picnic table and general cleaning and tidying around the shelter.

This work tied in with some upgrades undertaken by the support volunteers and DBCA staff, including replacing gutter guard, enclosing the underside of the bunks, widening the internal table, applying Dustex™ to the shelter floor to stabilise it, moving the toilet and installing some steps to the lower level of the campsite.

Newmont™

The Eyes on the Ground maintenance program is generously supported by our premier partner, Newmont Goldcorp Boddington



Grimwade Campsite maintenance volunteer Sue Della

Support Volunteers

Although there are less people walking during the off-season, the Support Volunteers have remained busy finishing off projects and planning for a jam-packed 2020.

A cool spell in early December saw a crew at Waalegh Campsite constructing an extended floor and retaining wall. This was preparation for work (scheduled for mid-2020) when the roof will be extended, bunk space doubled and more outside tables and fire rings constructed.



Waalegh extension earthworks



A satisfied team at Waalegh

A team returned to River Road Bridge in early March for more maintenance work. This was the fifth campaign at the bridge and the start of a two-yearly preservation maintenance schedule.

As reported on the front page, following a successful trial near Rame Head Campsite in late 2019, a large-scale track stabilisation project is underway on Conspicuous Cliffs.

Helen Grimm
Volunteer Manager



Our thanks to Alcoa for sponsoring our Volunteer Support team.

Rover Scouts Contribute to the Track

A team of Rover Scouts helped install signage from Eden Road towards Nullaki Campsite during their 2020 State Moot in Albany over the Labour Day long weekend.

Wilderness gate to just before Nullaki Campsite. The previous markers were replaced with more robust, painted timber posts and new Waugals.

The assistance of the Scouts was very much appreciated, and we look forward to future collaborations with them.

Coming from across the State, nearly 90 Rover Scouts gathered in Albany for a weekend of camping, adventure activities, competitions and community service. Rover Scouts are the oldest youth section in the scouting movement, with participants typically being 18-25 years old.

A group of nine Scouts fulfilled their community service element by assisting Albany District support volunteer, Wes Fokkema, in replacing marker posts from the Eden Road



A team of Rover Scouts helped install signage near Albany.

Getting into Gear

How to pack your hiking first aid kit

Injuries can happen anytime in the wild—and the best way to stop a mishap from becoming a catastrophe is to make sure you're prepared for the worst. That means you should never go on a hike without a well-stocked first aid kit.



THE ESSENTIALS

No matter where or for how long you're trekking, you won't regret packing these must-haves:

- A pack of adhesive bandages (or blister kit and hiker's wool)
- 3 x compression bandages
- 3 x butterfly bandages
- Irrigation syringe
- Some gauze and non-stick pads
- A tube of antibacterial ointment
- A package of antiseptic wipes
- Ibuprofen and/or paracetamol
- Antidiarrheal pills
- Eye drops
- Tweezers
- Disposable gloves
- Hand sanitiser
- Water treatment tablets
- SPF 50+ UVA/UVB broad-spectrum sunscreen
- Lip balm
- Bug repellent

THE COMPREHENSIVE KIT

For any trek longer than a day, you'll need everything in 'the essentials kit,' plus:

- Rolled gauze
- Additional roller bandages (lightweight cotton, crepe or elasticised crepe)
- Cleansing pads
- Blood-stopping gauze
- Triangular bandage (for slings)
- Splints (if you don't have one, you can always resort to a piece of wood)
- Rehydration tablets
- Blunt tipped scissors
- Sewing needle
- CPR mask
- Duct tape
- Pen and notebook (to write notes about vitals or progress)

Of course, a big part of being prepared for anything is keeping your vital supplies safe and accessible, which is why first aid dry sacks are the smart option. The best ones are waterproof, durable and highly visible.

For the full article, visit the Sea to Summit blog.
www.seatosummit.com/blog

SNAKE BITES

You're in snake territory. Don't forget to throw in three elasticated compression bandages—and learn how to use them.

EMERGENCY BEACONS

A PLBr or two-way GPS tracking device can be the difference between waiting a day or two to be found and getting help when you need it.

LIFESAVING APPS

Download the Emergency+ app and the Red Cross First Aid app on your phone before heading out on your hike. The Emergency+ app provides critical information to emergency services and the Australian Red Cross First Aid app is a comprehensive pocket guide to first aid and CPR.



Favourite Short Walk

COSY CORNER TO SHELLEY BEACH LOOKOUT

Map 8 Albany - Difficulty: Grade 3

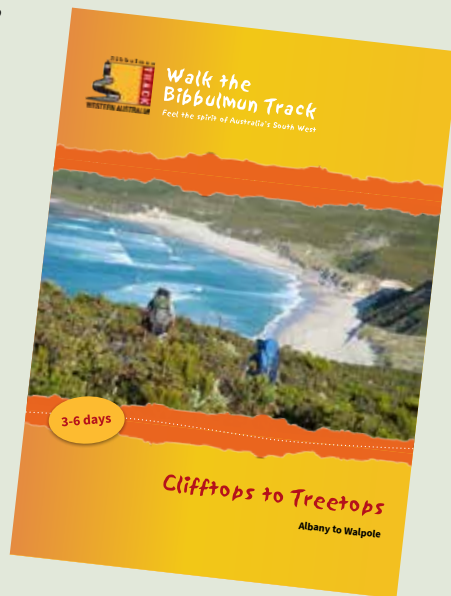
Distance: 16km return - **Starting point** - Cosy Corner picnic area (look for the wooden staircase heading up the hill), Cosy Corner Road, Kronkup. Look for the Bibbulmun Track signs to begin today's walk.

On this return walk you will cross large granite outcrops, thickets of coastal tea-tree and peppermints, and skirt karri and sheoak woodland.

At many points along the Track, you will have panoramic views over the whole of Torbay and across to Bald Head. At the halfway mark you will reach a lookout that overlooks the beautiful Shelley Beach in West Cape Howe National Park, which is also a popular launch point for hang gliders. To reach the lookout, turn left at a T-junction (where the Bibbulmun Track continues right) and continue 250m to the lookout.

Day Walk Itineraries

This is one of the walks in the Clifftops to Treetops itinerary which covers Albany to Walpole. You can find this and other itineraries on our website.



CLEAN,
COMFORTABLE,
AFFORDABLE
ACCOMODATION IN
THE HEART OF
DWELLINGUP



Bookings
9538 1395
admin@forestdiscoverycentre.com.au

THE PERFECT MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS

Some great ideas for that special mum!

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Yes, THEY DID IT!

The Track was very busy during the 2019 spring; a good wildflower season coupled with a lack of Track diversions meant many walkers were able to get out and complete a through end-to-end or walk the sections they've had to miss over the last couple of years. As usual, End-to-Enders are listed in chronological order of completion. Our congratulations go to all of them!

Stu Knox (57), of Bayswater (sectional, 08.11.16 to 23.09.18), was *StuK* as he completed the Track in four sections. He says solo sections were like a meditation punctuated by jaw-dropping scenery, views and wonderful experiences and people. The peaceful grandeur of the tingle forests was particularly enjoyed, as was the overwhelming scent of honey from the blossoms on top of Mt Cooke. Stu advises not to miss the spur trail to Boonerring Hill. He saw a lot of wildlife and had a very close encounter with a huge dugite—even posing together for a photograph!

Kip Cameron (25), of Walliston (N-S, 05.10.18 to 20.11.18), called himself *The Alchemist* on a hike that was a healing and life-changing experience for him, and which gave birth to a passion for eco-therapy. Kip is a big advocate for chia seeds—full of protein and Omega 3 fats for joint wear and tear, and magnesium for muscle recovery. They pack small and can be added to any meal. Kip found cold water immersion was very therapeutic for his mind and body, so took every opportunity to jump into streams or rivers.

Nelson Moore (19), of Greenwood (N-S, 22.06.19 to 08.08.19) walked with **Ethan Robartson** (see issue #82) on their first major long hike, and it's laid the foundations for future adventures. He says there was wonder in every step and he learned to take each day as it came, instead of trying to plan so far into the future. Walpole to Denmark was his favourite section, but there was a humorous highlight early in their walk. Without watches, they woke very early in the dark to start a big double-hut day. But it was still dark 15 kilometres later when they arrived at their designated "lunch stop" campsite...they have no idea what time they started walking!

Nelson has many memories that will be kept forever.

Brian Pickering (66), from NZ, (Sectional, 29.03.02 to 17.09.19) had some very enjoyable experiences and congratulates everybody who looks after a section of Track. The coastal sections were his favourite parts and climbing the Gloucester Tree was a highlight.

Justin Toop (45), of Kelmscott (Sectional, 03.04.19 to 23.09.19), was very grateful to all Track maintenance volunteers and also to his partner who provided support for him along the way. He did his own catering but says he probably carried too much food and never wants to eat another muesli bar! Justin enjoyed the whole trip, despite a lot of rain and flooding. Particular favourites included the south side of Mt Cooke, early morning on White Horse Hills and the south coast.

Mark Pybus (33), of Fremantle (Sectional, 11.09.16 to 25.09.19), says his end-to-end was a life-changing experience and he thinks the sense of community around the Bibbulmun Track is fantastic. Mark learned plenty of new dehydrated recipes for future walks. He found each Track section had its own character and his personal experience was different in all of them, making it far too difficult to nominate a favourite section. He advises taking your time, photographing the wildflowers and putting yourself in the best position to enjoy the experience.

Brian Cobb (71), of Warwick (Sectional, 14.07.11 to 01.10.19), loved it all. He walked with a group of friends who all cooked meals they enjoy and then dehydrated them...as Brian maintains it's all about the food! He enjoyed socialising around the fire at the end of the day and fondly remembers the

morning teas of scones with jam and cream.

Ryan Carlsson (38), of Kensington (Sectional, 05.05.18 to 04.10.19), passes on huge thanks to the Foundation and volunteers for making the trail possible. He urges everyone to take a camera, get out there, and experience it all for themselves.

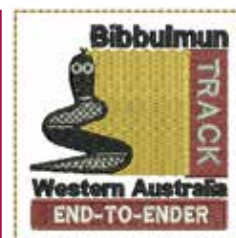
Donna Livingstone (44), of Margaret River (Sectional, 01.10.14 to 05.10.19), loved getting away from the busy-ness of work and home to enjoy the peace, space and beauty of the Track. She found home-dehydrated meals were the solution for food intolerances, but she'll always remember the mouldy jerky climbing out of Chinaman's Gully! (Ed: Brings an interesting image to mind!). Moving from one little eco-system to the next always brought new delights and even just learning to enjoy the varied weather was a delight. Donna felt like Superwoman after completing Peaceful Bay to Denmark in epic weather conditions...nothing could ever be so hard again!

John Colby (75), from NSW (N-S, 19.08.19 to 11.10.19), thought the Track was excellent, with stand-out facilities. He resupplied from the Track towns en route, but says he would post some food boxes next time to some of the towns.

Brad Walsh (56), of Doubleview (S-N, 13.09.19 to 12.10.19) had a great experience and met lots of other walkers as he was walking the "wrong" way. He thought it was well worth the effort in terms of preparation and time. Brad's favourite shelters were between Northcliffe and Pemberton and he particularly enjoyed the misty sunrise with much birdsong at Warren.

Do you have your End-to-End BADGE?

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Our CONGRATULATIONS to the following
61 walkers on completing an end-to-end!
13 from overseas, 20 from interstate and
28 from WA.



Veronique Girard-Madoux (70), from France, was *Bab on the Bibb* (N-S, 31.08.19 to 13.10.19), and says walkers are just so spoiled on the Bibbulmun Track as it is done so well! She carried only a 5.5kg pack and had no problems resupplying in the Track towns. Highlights for her included the tall karri and tingle forests. Veronique thought the wildlife was awesome—she fell in love with the kangaroos and was lucky enough to find three echidnas.

Michael Zenz, from Germany (N-S, 16.08.19 to 16.10.19), loved the Track and said if he had time enough, he would do it all again! He resupplied in the Track towns and his highlights included the wildflowers and the birds. Michael was glad he had a warm sleeping bag as the nights around Collie were below freezing.

Jayn Lindholm (54) and **David Butler** (42), from Victoria (N-S, 31.08.19 to 16.10.19), had a wonderful walk and thanks all those who maintain the Track. Their town experiences were great and David says the Bibb compares favourably with the Appalachian and has better campsites and shelters than many other trails. Sending food boxes to town Visitor Centres worked well in coping with strict dietary requirements. Jayn loved the amazing wildflowers, especially the spider orchids, while David also liked the Pingerup Plains—despite having wet feet for five days. A wildlife highlight was having an echidna walk into Jayn's foot!

Richard Nield (73), of Boyup Brook (Sectional, 14.07.11 to 18.10.19) shared a fabulous adventure with his friends and says it was one of the best things he's ever done. He loved the trail along the Donnelly River in July with mist in the tops of the trees at sunrise. Highlights included the flowers, the rugged south coast, seeing whales and simply walking with friends. Richard admitted there were some challenges, but conquering them made it all so much the better.

John Taylor (60), from Qld, walked with **Lindsay Walton** (61), from NZ (N-

S, 02 and 03.09.19 to 19.10.19) on a hike they rated as excellent and world class. Walpole to Denmark was the favourite section for both of them and Lindsay says he will never forget the amazing tingle and karri trees. John found the people they met were exceptionally friendly and he loved the trail magic at Parry's Inlet. Friendships made on the Track were special for Lindsay.

Nigel Joshua (67), of Ascot (Sectional, 28.09.18 to 20.10.19), was *Old Josh* as he showed determination to finish a walk that was initially marred by a fall on Mt Cooke that fractured his leg and ankle—but he continued on to North Bannister. After healing, he returned to the Track to complete his end-to-end. His favourite section was the long puddle between Northcliffe and Walpole. He had all this section to himself and walked through a torrential thunderstorm and bright lightning before Long Point. Nigel was the sole occupant of many shelters and discovered he enjoyed the solitude immensely.

Sue Marsh (66), of Bull Creek, and **Trina Stapleton** (56), of North Coogee (Sectional, 15.06.07 to 21.10.19), were collectively *TSM* as they made a big push to finally finish their end-to-end. They both loved walking in the tall, dense forests south of Pemberton with the leaf litter, the moss and the green tunnels. The Pingerup Plains was another mutual favourite. Sue says the stunning wildflower display in spring made every day so beautiful and colourful. Trina loved the misty sunrise at Warren campsite, and falling asleep to the sound of water and noisy frogs.

Aernout Nieuwkerk (51), from the UK (N-S, 09.09.19 to 24.10.19) called himself *BIRDMAN!* as he hiked the Bibbulmun after completing the Larapinta. This was his first visit to Australia so almost all the flora and fauna were new to him, making the hike more interesting and enjoyable. This was one of his easiest long-distance walks so far, and the Bibb stood out with its excellent trail quality, top-notch shelters and ease of resupply along the way. Favourite

sections included the granite hills of the Darling Range and the beach walks and dunes in the south. Other highlights included being woken by laughing kookaburras, recording 117 different species of birds, seeing lots of snakes and not getting bitten, seeing the wildflowers and orchids, smelling the forest, reaching the southern coast and being chased by a huge goanna!

Bronwyn Wells (32), of Shenton Park (N-S, 24.08.19 to 24.10.19), aka *Bonny*, now has an even greater concern for the southwest environment, a deeper understanding and knowledge of the weather patterns and ecosystems, and a huge appreciation of the Track and the community that supports it. Bronwyn's highlights were many and included walking through the wandoo woodlands near Waalegh, the dawn bird chorus at Warren, night-hiking through the tingle and karri forests to Frankland, the fish and chips at Peaceful Bay, staying up late on cold clear nights, watching incredible sunsets and meeting interesting people while sharing campsites and experiences with them.

Debbie Woodhouse (64), and **Melonie Melville** (64), both from Qld (N-S, 26.08.19 to 26.10.19) were simply *Deb and Mel* on a walk that exceeded their expectations—the Track was stunning, signage good, infrastructure great and the scenery and flora outstanding. Deb found it was a test of endurance but not a particularly tough walk. Mel loved every day and felt a huge sense of achievement and privilege after walking the Track. Highlights included the wildflowers, the karri and tingle trees, the rock pools on top of the granite peaks and eating lots of food in the Track towns. Resupply in the towns was easy and a food-drop in the northern section was arranged via the Facebook page.

Yes, THEY DID IT! (CONT.)

Steve Willems (41), from NSW (Sectional, 21.09.09 to 26.10.19) had originally planned a through hike, but had to leave after only a few days for life-saving surgery. Since then, he's returned several times to complete both a through end-to-end and to finally complete this sectional one. Balingup to Pemberton was his favourite section and a highlight was meeting fantastic people all along the way. Included in his gear was 8kgs of film equipment. Steve says he will return...again! (ED - You can read his story on page 22.)

Jodie (38) and **Derek Perkins**, from Craigie (N-S, 26.08.19 to 27.10.19) finally realised their dream of completing a through end-to-end after hiking short sections of the Track for many years. Jodie was known as *Ambling Rose*. Home-dehydrated food worked well for their dinners and they picked up extras in the towns— like fruit, cake and chocolate. Walpole to Peaceful Bay was a favourite section with its giant tingle trees and Balingup to DRV was special with its farming countryside. Sighting the coast for the first time was a milestone and the wildflowers were amazing. The canoe crossing was a real highlight as something fun and different. They loved the diversity of each day and say the Bibb compared favourably with their walks in NZ.

Helle Jensen (48) came from Denmark (Sectional, 04.10.16 to 28.10.19) and called herself *Big Spoon* on her hikes. She had no trouble resupplying in towns and was also given food by other hikers who were over-supplied. Seeing the ocean for the first time

was memorable and other highlights included the beautiful orchids and meeting friendly people. The Bibbulmun will be remembered as her best holiday, ever!

Anthony McMeniman (64), from NSW (06.09.19 to 30.10.19), was simply *Tony* on his walk that he largely shared with Linda and Felicity. He says the Track was well maintained and the shelters were good, especially the new rammed earth ones. Tony liked the south coast sections the best.

Linda Van Duynhoven (55), from Victoria (N-S, 08.09.19 to 30.10.19), called herself both *Linda Van* and *Hiking High n Dry* on her first long-distance walk which was harder physically and mentally than she had anticipated— but she loved it and wouldn't have changed a single day. The quality of the trail plus the high commitment of the volunteers will be hard to beat anywhere else. She couldn't wait to see the ocean and became very excited at Mt Chance when the Broke Inlet could be seen. Reaching Mandalay Beach was a true highlight!

Stephen Chambers (67), from Victoria (N-S, 26.08.19 to 01.11.19) hopes to return some day for more walks on a Track that he describes as wonderful, well maintained and with great shelters. When he finished, he wanted to turn around and walk back. He loved the spectacular countryside and thought Northcliffe to Peaceful Bay produced the most varied landscapes. Highlights for him included the wild storms and walking sections with family members. Stephen thought the black cockatoos

were very special and says he'd been promised lots of snakes— but only saw eight the whole time.

Manja (36) and **Konrad Schwarz**, from Germany (N-S, 13.09.19 to 02.11.19), were *Safari* on one of the best experiences of their lives. They were blown away, not expecting it to be as great and enjoyed everything from the first to the last step. Resupplying was easy, with no need to send food parcels ahead. The karri and tingle trees were highlights for both of them and Konrad thought the first sight of the ocean was special. Manja loved the many orchids, the birds and the whales. A clever improvisation was a lid with holes in it screwed onto a water bladder for taking a shower.

Chris (48), **Hayden** (15) and **Logan Anders**, from Victoria (N-S, 21.09.19 to 02.11.19) enjoyed some great family time and Chris felt very privileged to be able to share the adventure with his boys. They were very appreciative of the way the Visitor Centres assist walkers, especially at Dwellingup. Hayden loved the tingle trees and the sections to the south and along the coast were favourites for all. Logan liked finishing! They enjoyed meeting like-minded people and having the opportunity to spend time together. The Track was timeless... "there was only today, how far will we walk tomorrow, when will we get to the next town for town food, a bed and a shower?"

Alec Bruce Hale (62), of Inglewood (Sectional, 06.04.12 to 06.11.19), loved his walks so much that he is now planning a through hike. The whole Track was his favourite, but he especially liked seeing Chatham Island for the first time, and appreciated being able to walk across Long Gully Bridge before it was sadly lost to fire.

Glenn Jones (69), from NSW (N-S, 12.09.19 to 06.11.19), said this end-to-end was a totally different experience to his first, being much drier between Northcliffe and Walpole, and the flowers were far better in the northern sections. There was also much better availability of freeze-dried meals in the towns. His favourite sections were along the coast, but he also liked

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Donnelly River Village in the middle of the forest. Chris enjoyed taking rest days in the towns to help support the local economies.

Caroline Grandjean-Thomsen (35), from NSW (N-S, 15.09.19 to 08.11.19), says she learned on her journey that life can be simple, as she slowed down and learned to appreciate the little things, just taking one day at a time. She found the walk could be a tough challenge, both mentally and physically, but acknowledging her emotions was very cathartic. Caroline found a strong sense of community on the Track. Highlights were many, and included the unique Donnelly River Village, dancing in the pouring rain, an amazing sunset at Mt Chance, the majestic tingles and karris, climbing Gloucester Tree and having the best ever birthday celebration on the Track!

John Ladyman (72), of Dalyellup (N-S, 22.09.19 to 10.11.19), who called himself *John L* and, later, *Skin and Bones*, found the shelters and water supplies were excellent. He largely resupplied in Track towns and was generally able to source what he needed. The south coast was John's favourite section and he liked meeting other walkers and seeing the bush from a different perspective. He liked advice that was freely given, very useful and made his walk more comfortable.

Aleksanter Siikjarvi (27), from Finland (N-S, 26.09.19 to 14.11.19), was *Siesta* on his end-to-end. He found the Track well maintained and very convenient to hike as there was no need to worry about water supplies or getting lost, and information was very easy to find on the website. Hitting the coast for the first time was such an amazing experience. The ocean was raging in a thunderstorm and the wind was so strong it ripped the buttons off his poncho! The Australian wildlife was one of the main reasons for Aleksanter's hike, and he was pleased to see nearly 70 bird species and around 20 snakes, in addition to kangaroos, echidnas and plenty of other animals.

Sian Roberts (29), of Bayswater (N-S, 25.09.19 to 14.11.19), was *Siandon* and says this walk was the best thing

she's ever done for herself, and loved seeing her own state from a different perspective. She was very grateful for the well maintained shelters and having a cosy place to sleep each night and fresh water every day. Sian found the Track towns were fine for resupplying. Highlights included meeting trail friends (*Siesta*, *Old Greg* and *Lettuce*) and sharing the adventure, and body surfing at the Torbay Inlet just after it was opened. She saw many animals for the first time and even reunited a baby mardo with its mother.

Greg Harries (25), from Tasmania (N-S, 27.09.19 to 14.11.19) was *Old Greg* and found the *Bibb*, while being a world-class trail, was a more relaxed experience than some other Tracks. He didn't use food drops and so ate lots of plain rice and oats on the first section to Dwellingup and doesn't recommend this! Walpole to Denmark was his favourite section and highlights included a sing-a-long with a ukulele at Lake Maringup, river and ocean swims, climbing the Gloucester Tree and sharing the experiences with his "trail family" of *Siandon*, *Siesta* and *Lettuce*.

Romain Louvet (31), from France (N-S, 30.09.19 to 14.11.19), was *Lettuce* and really enjoyed his first long distance Australian trail. It was challenging in parts, he was able to do a lot of thinking but also had a lot of fun and discovered some amazing places and people. Highlights included the majestic trees, diverse landscapes, amazing biodiversity, crossing the inlets, wildflowers and the history of the trail towns. A special experience was meeting fellow hikers and sticking together as a family until the end, as he had been expecting the walk to be quite solitary.

Megan Clarke (31), from Victoria (N-S, 22.09.19 to 15.11.19), was *Muesli* on an adventure that far exceeded her expectations. She loved the wildflowers, diverse fauna, towering forests and wild oceans. Megan was able to overcome challenges and celebrate her achievements. She supplemented her home-dehydrated meals with supplies from the Track towns and this worked well. The diversity in landscapes between Pemberton and Walpole

was amazing, and Megan's highlights included seeing an eagle at Boonerring Hill, a Lake Maringup sunrise, walking through hailstorms on the Pingerup Plains, standing inside the giant tingle tree and meeting wonderful people all along the way.

Jennifer Dobner (61), of Bicton (Sectional, 13.08.17 to 18.11.19), started walking the Track to celebrate her 60th birthday and loved being joined in several sections by family members who came from all over Australia. She put into practice what she'd learned at a Food in a Fuel Stove event and also enjoyed some luxuries at Track towns. Walking the Pingerup Plains produced mixed feelings; she disliked wading through water and prickly vegetation while being drenched by rain, but loved the feeling of being in a wilderness area. Highlights included unexpected vistas of wildflowers after emerging from dark, sodden forests, and meeting people from all over the world. Jennifer is looking forward to getting out there again.

Erika (48) and **Rene** (55) **Junker**, from Switzerland (N-S, 24.09.19 to 19.11.19), were the *TC's* or *Thirsty Camels* on their walk. They had a wonderful experience, loved WA's natural environment and thank all the volunteers who make it possible for others to enjoy. Highlights included the sunset at Waalegh, arriving at Mandalay Beach, the wildflowers and the black cockatoos.

Ross James (65), of Kingsley (Sectional, 15.02.19 to 22.11.19), walked with his wife until she had to withdraw through injury, but there are plans to re-do the journey together again next year. They loved their home-dehydrated meals. Balingup to Pemberton was Ross's favourite section and he also enjoyed the dry Pingerup Plains in April! Waalegh campsite was memorable and he enjoyed meeting hikers from other countries and seeing their different approaches to handling the walk. Ross liked the Track camaraderie and community feeling, but would love to see the development of a suitable Noongar greeting or phrase to be used by walkers along the Track.

...continued on page 26

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Popular drop off points include Yarragil, Driver Road and Harvey Quindanning Road.

Contact us for a quote for all of your transport requirements.

Thank you THANK YOU Thank you

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

- Amanda Payne
- Angela Louciades
- Carolyn Riordan & Lung Foundation Australia
- Caroline Epstein
- Chu-Han Wang
- Daniel & Susanne Eisenegger
- David Calton
- Deborah Lehman & Michael Alpes
- Jane & Mike Hall
- John Steward
- Judith Webster
- Leonie Kirke
- Lesley Moon
- Lindsay Walton
- Milo Barham
- Nathan Reynolds
- Prue Fairbrass
- Simon Hill
- Talison Lithium Greenbuses
- Tanya van Sittert
- Timothy Walsh
- Wendy Payne

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.

Vollie Corner



Helen Grimm

In early March I attended a presentation by Dr Jen George, an academic and consultant who is passionate about facilitating community-led governance of green infrastructure.

Jen presented a summary of her PhD research, which included the Bibbulmun Track Foundation as a case study of a successful, resilient and sustainable organisation. Although I was aware of the evolution of the organisation and our relationship with The Department (CALM/DEC/DPAW/DBCA)*, it was fascinating and inspiring to hear it described from her perspective.

When there is a community of citizens passionate about and wanting to participate in management of green infrastructure, community governance can result in an effective, productive and economically sustainable working relationship between the community and the government (or other managing institution).

Community governance is about empowering and enabling community management. As described by Dr George, it “challenges the usual paradigm (where) it is assumed that citizens can’t take a direct role in delivery of services or management of projects”.

In the case of the Bibbulmun Track, the concept originated in the community; from the beginning of the concept of the “New Track” there was a community of supporters passionate about the idea

and keen to make it a reality, and fairly soon there was acceptance from all concerned that ongoing community involvement was essential for sustainability. The Bibbulmun Track Foundation (formerly the Friends of the Bibbulmun Track) is the necessary interface between the government and the community. The role of the BTF is to enable and strategically guide the effort of the community.



In this context, it’s useful to ask “Who are this community with a personal investment in the Track?” It’s the walkers, particularly those who have a personal attachment to the Track and see it as sufficiently worth supporting to take out financial membership. It’s the volunteers, whose contribution

comes in the form of time and effort (as well as some out-of-pocket expense, sometimes not insignificant). It’s our staff – only about four full time employees – and the volunteer Board, who contribute their time and professional skills to an organisation they believe in.

The take home message for me was that I have a significant responsibility as the coordinator of Foundation volunteers in enabling our volunteers to gain optimal job satisfaction while meeting management goals. According to Jen George, the BTF has got many things right over the years, but let’s not rest on our laurels!

I can see that for all our volunteer roles— maintenance, office, guiding, data entry and collection, marketing and promotion, and community events— we can look at identifying and facilitating the elements of the roles that are most satisfying for volunteers. We can also continue to improve training and administrative aspects to optimise volunteer engagement. I hope to survey all our volunteers later this year to build on the picture of volunteer satisfaction received from the last survey in 2017.

Helen Grimm
Volunteer Manager

*If interested, you can read about the stages of development of the Track on our website under The Track/History, and a description of how the Foundation got started at Get Involved/About the Foundation/How it all got started.

Jen George is a founder and director of Comcorp. They work with organisations to develop strategies and action plans for positive partnerships and best practice community governance. Find out more at www.comcorp.com.au



From L to R: BTF Executive Director Linda Daniels, BTF Chair Kath Broderick, Dr Jen George, DBCA Recreation & Trails Unit Coordinator Kerstin Stender, BTF Board member Patrick Tremlett.

Thank you to our volunteers

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 417 VOLUNTEERS - WE TRULY COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

Whether looking after a section of Track, helping in the office, guiding, entering log book data, making a contribution to the Support Volunteers, distributing brochures, checking Track user counters, and more...the Track and the Foundation couldn't be in better hands. Huge thanks to all of you for being part of the team!

At the end of 2019, Volunteer Manager Helen Grimm rounded out her first year on the job at thank you functions in Perth, Albany and Peaceful Bay. All volunteers were invited to the main function in Perth, while the events on the south coast were attended by maintenance volunteers for the Albany and Frankland Districts. Presentation of volunteer rewards and Long Service Awards were made at these events.

Long Service Awards

Long Service Awards recognise the commitment and loyalty of our long serving volunteers, regardless of how many hours they are able to volunteer annually. Volunteers who have been with the Foundation for 5, 10 and 15 years were recognised.

15 YEARS

Jim Baker
Colleen Clayden
Charmaine Harris
Ce Kealley
Hal Levison
Dora Marinova
Kelvey Pearson

Elsbeth Weatherstone
Niall Weatherstone
Alex Williams

5 YEARS

Robert Allen
Beryl Allen
John Beard
Marilyn Beard
Liz Browning
Andrew Burbidge
Merilyn Burbidge
Sandra Ceriani
Gary Ceriani
Terry Coumbe

Dianne Easton
Cameron Hobson
Bill Hollingworth
Jan Howie
Teresa Hughes
Ann James
Tim Jones
Natalie King
Mochtar Mukmin
Patricia Pope
Terry Ryan
Deb Spiden
Michael Spragg
Volker Storig
Kathi Storig
Lindsay Vibert

10 YEARS

Robert Butler
Mark Davidson
Barry Goldsmith
Jaromir Kulir
Fiona Noble
Valerie Preston

Annual Volunteer Rewards

These rewards recognise volunteers who contribute 100, 300, or 500+ hours in the financial year. In total 33,456 hours were contributed by our volunteers in the 2018-19 year.

500+ HOURS

Hedley Amos
Isabel Busch
Mark Davidson
James Freeman
Colin Gee
Elsie Grygiel
Paul Harris
Charmaine Harris
Lari McDonald
Graham Murdoch
Ross Simpson
Charles Soord
James Young

Bill Shaw
Susan Soord
Patrick Tremlett
Peter Whittle
Jing Xie

100+ HOURS

Robert Allen
Jenny Arnold
Greg Arnold
Barry Bastow
Trish Bird
Robert Bortot
Karen Boyce
David Bridger
Richard Brook
Jack Busch
Derek Callow
Gary Ceriani
Sandra Ceriani
Sylvia Cheung
Andrew Chiswell
Richard Clare
Richard Clayden
Colleen Clayden
Alan Compton
Garry Connell
Malcolm Cooper
Mike Cosson
Dave Currell
Wes Fokkema

Donald Hill
Cameron Hobson
Jan Howie
Sue Lee
Phil Lehmann
Margot Lowe
Murray Maisey
Michael Marsh
John Murphy
Margaret Pierce
Nigel Pilgrim
Chris Plunkett
Gwenyth Plunkett
Andrew Poli
Suzanne Poli
Ian Rae
Gordon Roberts
Glenn Rowan
Terry Ryan
Anthony Schlink
Steven Siddons
Stephen Smythe
Deb Spiden
Guy Spouge
Alex Williams
Rob Willis-Jones
Jessica Wolff
Alan Barker
Lorna Saunders
Raelene Watters
Barbara Bechter

300+ HOURS

Peter Addenbrooke
Maryanne Addenbrooke
Jim Baker
Janine Batger
Tor Clarke
Anthony Cole
Terry Coumbe
Susan Freeman
Ron Greenhalgh
Bill Hewitt
Ce Kealley
Chris Lee
Tim McGrath
Geoff Meates



Volunteers at the Thank you day in Frankland District.

Volunteer Thank you day in Perth.



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

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

Notice board

FOR SALE

OBBERON BACKPACKING TENT

One person tent with fly. Weight 2.25kg. Single telescopic pole. Tent is in excellent condition; some signs of wear on seams of fly - \$100 negotiable.

Contact: Nicola

0412 033 219

Email: n.ridsdill@gmail.com

Want to advertise on our notice board?

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

Non-members, please phone or email us to arrange your adverts.

Cost is \$5 for 3 months.

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

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

HAVE YOU CHANGED ADDRESS?

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

Not sure how?

Visit our Website Help page under Contact Us at
www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

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

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.



PHOTO COMPETITION RESULTS

We received some great entries for this photo of 'Steves' around the campfire in the last edition of Bibbulmun News!

"Steve Sertis amazingly completed 10 simultaneous end-to-ends. He registered this feat with photographic evidence but did report that his chin was always itchy." - John Beard

"May I have your attention? Will the real Steve Sertis please stand up." - Trina Stapleton

"The many faces of Steve!" - Pam Chitty

And the winner is...

"Goodness gracious me...10 Steves. I will be in therapy for years!"
- Alex Williams

Well done Alex - a Sea to Summit cutlery set is on its way to you!

TRACK TOWN - PEMBERTON

Pemberton, known affectionately as “Pemby”, has become famous for the towering karri forests that surround the town, diverse national parks and the freakishly large fire lookout trees.

The town— known by its Noongar name of Wandergarup (meaning plenty of water)—lives up to its name. Tucked away in the southwest corner of the state, the town boasts many swimming holes and stunning waterfalls including the year-round Beedelup Falls and incredibly peaceful Cascades. Pemberton has a rich saw-milling



Climbing the Bicentennial Tree

history, of which evidence still exists around the town, despite growing into a thriving tourist town.

The Pemberton Pioneer Museum is a fabulous place to have a glimpse of what life in Pemby used to be like. Even a walk through the streets showcases the gorgeous old timber houses that still remain intact and very much lived in. Pemberton Visitor Centre is a great place to start exploring, selling maps and guides, souvenirs and local gifts and offering a free booking service for accommodation and tours. Aside from the Bibbulmun Track which goes directly through town, there are a huge number of surrounding trails, some of which leave from the Visitor Centre. The Pemberton Forest Park Walks are a network of trails totaling three kilometers that meander through a magnificent reserve packed with mature karri trees. You can also tackle some of the longer trails around the Gloucester Tree if you're feeling like some extra leg work!

There are two fire lookout Trees close to Pemberton, and these giant beauties are not to be missed. For the first fifty years of the forestry industry in Western Australia, an early warning system for bush fires depended on a network of lookout towers. These towers were built about 40 km apart on prominent hills in the forest and were staffed continuously in summer. But the karri forest posed a special problem. With few peaks, and giant trees towering 70-80m about the ground, the task of building a tower to overlook the forest was formidable. Then in 1937 young forester Don Stewart (who later became Conservator of Forests) suggested using the trees themselves as lookout towers. The first tower was built on a large marri tree at Alco near Nannup. Eventually 13 towers, some of them built on trees, watched over the karri forest. Today, only the Gloucester, the Diamond and the new Dave Evans Bicentennial tree towers remain.

Pemberton's temperate climate and rich soils make for an abundance of locally grown produce. From truffles and avocados and the sweetest berries in the west, to finger limes

and hazelnuts, the town boasts an impressive agricultural industry. The area also contains more than 40 vineyards, many of which have a cellar door if you're feeling like a well-earned Pinot Noir. The many surrounding streams, rivers and dams make it a perfect area for catching trout and marron, both of which have become somewhat of a local delicacy.

There are many accommodation options for walkers in the town of Pemberton, some bringing country charm at an affordable rate and some offering forest extravagance. As we are well into autumn now, remember Pemberton is usually wet and cold at night so if you're planning a sectional walk here, pack your best thermals. Autumn and winter are wonderful times to visit despite the inevitable rain, as the forest seems sing to magically with the uptake of moisture.

Fact file:

Pemberton Visitor Centre is open 9am - 5pm daily

pemtour@karriweb.com.au
(08) 9776 1133
29 Brockman Street, Pemberton,
WA 6260
www.pembertonvisitor.com.au

Please support our Walker Friendly Businesses in the area

Forest Lodge Resort
(08) 9776 1113

RAC Karri Valley Resort
(08) 9776 2020

Life's An Adventure
(02) 9975 4553

Pemberton Discovery Tours
(08) 9776 0484

People & Parcel Movers
0448 544 784

Rainbow Trail Chalets
0438 561 664



BTF member and two times End-to-Ender Steve Willems set out last year to make a documentary about the Track and ran into trouble very early on! Read Steve's account below to find out more:

Ever since my first end-to-end I've felt the need to make a documentary and share the Bibbulmun Track experience. After years of plotting I finally came back in 2019 with my friend Caroline, who walked with me filming the Overland and the Hume and Hovell Tracks. We chose to start in September for the wildflower season, which fills the bush with life and colour.

To get the best results we carried four cameras. Caroline had two small ones for vlogging, selfies and close-ups, while I carried the main camera and a drone. To keep everything powered we had a solar panel, spare batteries, chargers and several power banks. Along with sixteen kilos of food and equipment I also had eight kilos of film gear and a three-kilo camera.

We left the Northern Terminus excited by what lay ahead, but the first challenge hit us sooner than we expected. After leaving Hewett's Hill I began to struggle and fall behind. I worried it might be the extra weight, but that night at Helena I was hit by severe chest pains, so intense we set my tent away from the shelter so I wouldn't disturb anyone else. I spent a sleepless night in agony. The next morning it was clear I couldn't continue. Caroline managed to call an ambulance, which picked me up with the help of the Department of Parks and Wildlife and took me to hospital. I had a one-inch gallstone stuck in the tube of my gallbladder, which was severely infected. They operated that day while Caroline found a hotel nearby. I was depressed. I'd been planning this trip for years and now it was already over.

It didn't take much to agree that Caroline should keep going—she'd made too many sacrifices to be there. But it wasn't that simple. I had introduced her to overnight hiking just a year before and she'd never been out alone. This would be a personal challenge. The next day Caroline was dropped back on the Track and set off nervously to navigate by herself while filming everything she could. It didn't take long to develop trust in her own abilities and enjoy walking alone. Even though the Track is well marked you still need to be careful, but with enough

preparation and confidence anyone can do it. And she wasn't really alone, meeting a variety of people including other solo women, some who became our hiker family, most notably Lisa and Rujo who walked with us to the end.



There's plenty of wildlife about.

Three days in hospital thinking about the Track made me determined to keep going; I just needed to heal. I found a cheap hotel and filled my days maintaining fitness, walking around the city and doing laps of Kings Park. My drama turned out to be good for both of us. It made me change to a healthier diet while giving Caroline the confidence to hike on her own. Personal growth is all part of the journey. Two weeks after my operation I caught a bus to Collie and re-joined Caroline back on the Track.



Caution, hikers ahead near Greens Pool, Denmark.

"Don't lift more than 5kg for eight weeks" the doctors told me. "You don't want to risk opening your wounds and getting a hernia." Lifting my pack without straining my abdomen took some getting used to. Caroline would help, hauling it up so I could put my arms through the straps. The hiking was good and I didn't struggle, but it did make filming a challenge.

Filming adds a lot more effort to the walk. We couldn't simply leave camp; we had to film our departure. We couldn't experience ordinary moments the same way as other hikers, like finding ourselves walking



Half way! Now we're veterans.



Caroline has fun wading through the Pingerup Plains

deep in hypnotic thought. The magic was constantly broken as we had to think, assess, react, stop, start, shoot. Caroline had to wait for me to get ahead or catch up. And then I had to wait for her as she got close-ups of flowers or vlogged her thoughts. We also had to walk a lot more. Caroline would cross the same bridge several times to get different angles or walk the same section over and over. She climbed the Gloucester Tree four times and crossed Irwin Inlet six times. We'd be out all day, taking ten hours to walk

what others did in six. That meant long days on our feet and less time in camp. We were always the last to arrive and we were always tired.

Sometimes filming spoiled the experience, and not just for us. We tried not interfering with other hikers in camp but that couldn't be helped. Luckily, everyone was not only patient, but supportive, and our main hiking family put up with us like a true family does. Lisa, Rujo and Fi threw a birthday party for Caroline at Mount Chance,



Filming on Parry beach.



Steve climbs the Gloucester Tree in Pemberton.

where section hikers we met at Schafer had left her a treasure hunt leading to a bottle of wine.

Unlike the quiet Hume and Hovell or Alpine Trails, it's the community of walkers on the Bibbulmun Track that makes it extra special. Not just sharing meals in town, but chatting in shelters over hot tea, or a friendly face passing by to give support on a hard day. It's a solitary yet shared experience that surprises many walkers and can't be understood until you live it.

We had twenty SD cards which would last about a week. We also sent a bounce box from town to town with hard drives and a laptop. In town we'd clear the cards onto hard drives, including a backup I carried. Each card would take half an hour to copy, so the more we filmed the longer it took. Then we'd pack up the box and mail it to the next town. By the end of the trip we had over 120 hours and six terabytes of footage.

The walk was everything we hoped for—beauty, wildlife, storms and sun. Emotional freedoms, spiritual revelations, personal challenges, peace, community, adventure. Despite the work it was a magical journey. Arriving at the Southern Terminus didn't feel like the end. There was no sense of triumph or relief. It felt like the next day we'd simply pack up again and keep going.

Instead we had to go home...

Our walk was part of a bigger project documenting the experience of long-distance hiking. Check out www.gwotw.com and drop us a line if you'd like to know more.

Steve Willems

DBCA Volunteer Awards

Several BTF volunteers were included in the annual recognition of all volunteers engaged in DBCA projects.

Among the recipients of Outstanding Service Awards were Jim Freeman, Charlie Soord, Graham Murdoch,

Charmaine Harris, Maureen Potter and Chris Lee.

Maintenance volunteers Sue Palmer and Maureen Potter were among those recognised for Long Service Awards.

In a wonderful surprise, Mike Wood – retiring Chair of the BTF Board – was announced as the 2019 DBCA Volunteer of the Year. Congratulations Mike – a well-deserved honour indeed.



Environment Minister Stephen Dawson congratulates Mike Wood on receiving the prestigious Volunteer of the Year Award. This was a well-deserved honour in recognition of more than 20 years of contribution to the Bibbulmun Track and the Foundation.



Award winning BTF volunteers included (from L to R): Jim Freeman, Charlie Soord, Graham Murdoch, Mike Wood, Charmaine Harris and Chris Lee.



Walk the best of Tasmania in comfort! 10-Day Pack Free, Lodge Accommodated Walking Tour

This tour is jam packed with the best day walks Tasmania has to offer including spectacular hiking on the Overland Track, Maria Island, Three Capes Track, Wineglass Bay and more. Returning to comfortable lodge style accommodation each night, enjoy pack free hiking, knowledgeable guides, healthy and scrumptious meals and a small group of fellow like minded hikers.

Let us take care of everything so you can just walk and relax!

“This trip was a great way to experience the walking highlights of Tassie from West to East. With easier and harder walking options on a number of days, this is manageable walking for most people and I highly recommend it.” Trip Advisor, Joanne, 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.

inspirationoutdoors.com.au walk@inspirationoutdoors.com.au

THE WAUGAL SONG

BY STEPHEN CHAMBERS



BTF member and End-to-Ender Stephen Chambers enjoys composing poetry while walking in the bush.

He has written the following poem in honour of the Waugal, which has become a true symbol of the Bibbulmun Track:

Let Waugal be your hero, let Waugal be your friend
when walking on the Bibbulmun, as on your way you wend.
Whether in the forest tall or on a windswept beach
you have such a lot to learn and Waugal much to teach.

As well as watching Waugals that we tick off on the guide,
turn left, turn right, go straight ahead, you cannot let it slide.
Be wary of those boot marks though, they can lead you astray,
'cause other hikers do go wrong and then you'll take all day.

Some hikers pinch the Waugals and stow them in their pack,
causing other hikers to sometimes lose the Track.
So if you are a Waugal thief then please just mend your ways,
and go and put the Waugals back, so we don't go astray.

Some Waugals are on power poles and some fixed to a post
others nailed on trees, that's where you'll find the most.
But neither post, nor tree nor pole on Mt Cooke will do
and so they're stuck on to the rock with a dob of glue.

Before the hikers came here, before the early settlers,
before the loggers, farmers and the railway fettlers,
the ancient Noongar people gathered food and hunted game,
Knew the sacred Dreamtime serpent, called it Waugal as its name.

Some hikers eat just porridge, some dine on gourmet grub,
some hikers carry tons of stuff and some not quite enough.
What e'er our style of hiking, the one thing we all do
is follow Waugals faithfully, until our hike is through.

You have to watch for Waugals, they won't leap out at you.
Sometimes they are hiding, but always in plain view.
I walked right past a turnoff and fell into a trap,
but then I saw a reference tree and found it on the map.

Vollies put the Waugals up and tend them with such care.
They come and check them regularly to make sure they are there.
They carry out their task all year, never are they pikers.
They make sure Waugals are in place to guide the weary hikers.

There is other signage you will see along the Track.
But you are neither horse nor cyclist, just a hiker with a pack.
So do not follow bridle paths or the Mundi Biddi Trail.
Just stick to your Waugals and you will never fail.

If seeing Waugals on the Track for you is not enough,
the Bibbulmun Foundation will sell you a Waugal buff.
A Waugal magnet for your fridge will suit you to a tee.
Or if you're an End-to-Ender, the Waugal comes for free.

Let Waugal be your hero, let Waugal be your friend,
when walking on the Bibbulmun, as on your way you wend.
But you must make your choices, how far, how fast, which day.
The Waugal's like a lighthouse. It simply shows the way.

Prize WINNERS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF PRIZE DRAWS

Website Survey

Ian Chapman won a titanium spork.

2019 Event Evaluations

Maryann Evetts won a titanium cutley set.

Monthly Membership Draw

October

Louise Hinkley received a GoToo

November

The Hubery Family received an XBowl

December

Sandra Braithwaite received an XBowl

January

Wayne Vernon received a lightweight
Dry Sac

February

Joscelyn Jones received a Waterproof
Smartphone case

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



Stephen at the end of his journey on the Bibbulmun Track.

Yes, THEY DID IT! (CONT.)

Diana Ritschard (45), from Switzerland (N-S, 30.10.19 to 25.11.19), decided to come back and walk a through end-to-end after many diversions and closures on her 2018 walk. Mentally it was a lot easier the second time around but physically it was just as hard. The south coast was her favourite section and she enjoyed sharing many more campsites than on her previous walk. It was good to see the upgrades completed on some of the campsites and great to see Sandpatch being rebuilt after she'd walked the burnt area last year. Diana was thrilled to see her first echidna on the Track.

Trent Critchley (33), from NSW (N-S, 05.10.19 to 25.11.19), found it was easy to resupply with food and gas in towns along the way. Walking through varied and mostly pristine country was rejuvenating and the increased fitness was a bonus! Trent felt the world-class infrastructure, especially the water tanks and the trail maintenance, makes the Bibb unique and so achievable for everyone. Walpole to Denmark was his favourite section and he also liked Mt Cooke in an eerie cloud-mist, birdsong at Warren and the sunsets over the Pingerup Plains and ocean.

Nancy Lindon (66), of City Beach (Sectional, 10.05.19 to 29.11.19), completed the Track in two sections and says she will be back again.... She loved the Track community and meeting all sorts of like-minded people. It was so good to catch up with walkers ahead of her, and being caught up herself by walkers from behind her, as this enabled everyone to share their experiences.

John (64) and **Shauna Parsons**, of Esperance (N-S, 08.10.19 to 06.12.19), thank the volunteers for their amazing job along the Track. Their favourite section was between Walpole and Giants. A huge variety of wildlife was seen along the way but by far the most prolific were the flies and march flies—unbearable at times!

Jean-Guy Tarin (69), from France (Sectional, 10.02.19 to 08.12.19), loved the silence and peace of the Track, respecting it as a spiritual journey. He enjoyed the whole walk and was impressed by the spirit of the volunteers. Jean-Guy advises walking solo to experience the beauty in silence.

William Taylor (51), of Hamilton Hill (N-S, 07.10.19 to 12.12.19), called himself *bilbo taylor* on his amazing journey. He feels blessed to have such a well maintained, cost effective and beautiful trail on his doorstep, and gives thanks to the volunteers for their dedication. His walk was such a life-affirming experience for him that he's keen to go again! His favourite sections included the rugged rock formations, views and wildflowers of the Darling Range, emerging from forests to the Pingerup Plains, followed by the coast and beaches.

Colin Valentine (65), from the UK (N-S, 17.10.19 to 13.12.19), liked the spacing of the campsites, the reliable water supply and being able to adequately resupply in the towns along the way. Kindness of strangers and friendliness of locals were also appreciated. Colin found the walk wasn't too demanding, but highly enjoyable and within the scope of anyone with reasonable fitness. The forest sections were his favourites where he enjoyed the morning bird chorus and the evening frog chorus. Wildlife included a wedge-tailed eagle eating a meal on the track.

Lynne Freeman (62), of Carnarvon and **Vicki Wakefield** (62), of Scarborough (N-S, 30.09.19 to 24.11.19), were the *Crazy Cousins* when they shared a walk with **Karen Dowling** (60) of Mandurah (N-S, 29.09.19 to 23.11.19), better known as *Track Crakar*. Karen initially joined them for a section, but was enjoying it so much that she just kept going! Lynne found it mentally and physically challenging, but worth every step. She enjoyed great company and

remembers the kookaburras laughing most days. Vicki was happy to survive her first long walk, very pleased with her achievement and thought every section had something different to offer. Karen enjoyed seeing all the new shelters and all three enjoyed real food each time they reached a Track town.

Michael Bourke (34), from Victoria (N-S, 13.11.19 to 19.12.19) was *Burko* as he built up a treasured collection of memories on a walk that showcased the beauty of WA's south west. He loved the transitions in the landscapes and the flora, and woke up every day feeling on top of the world. Michael walked into a wedding celebration at DRV and found it a bit tough walking out after seeing loved ones and friends. After five weeks in the bush he now has greater empathy and compassion for the little things. Highlights along the walk included sharing Chadoora with a dad emu and his 13 chicks, and seeing an echidna at Murray. A scarier highlight was stepping only ten centimetres away from a dugite before he, and the dugite, slowly retreated away from each other.

George Lee (18), of Wembley Downs (N-S, 18.11.19 to 22.12.19) recognised that this walk "*was longer than the walk to school!*" He says the Bibb is a great trail and gives thanks to all the volunteers and others who put time into the trail.

Compiled by Charmaine Harris (FOF#1)
BTF Volunteer and end-to-ender.

Upcoming Events

Will we, or won't we be able to go for a walk (with others) by June?

That is the question!

These are just a couple of the events we had planned. Check our website to see if there are others and whether or not they are still going ahead: www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au.

(If you are already booked on an event and it has been postponed we will be in touch.)

Walking with Dad Weekend

Kids grow up so quickly and before you know it, they have flown the nest! Savour this time by creating as many wonderful memories together as possible. Our Walking with Dad and Walking with Mum weekends have been thoughtfully considered so they are enjoyed by parents and kids (8-13yrs) alike. Together you will enjoy two walks through the magnificent jarrah forest and camp overnight at a Bibbulmun Track campsite. Here you will learn bush and camping skills from our experienced guides and perhaps enjoy some marshmallows

roasted over the fire. These events are guaranteed to be fun, fun, fun with long lasting memories for you all. The perfect opportunity to get outdoors with your kids.

Includes trained guides, map, comprehensive planning night, trip preparation manual and equipment hire. BYO food. We have organised return transport for from Murdoch Park'n'Ride rail terminal.

Date: Saturday June 13th at 9:00am to Sunday 14th June at 2:30pm.

Planning night: Thursday June 4th at 6:30pm, city location.

Where: Murdoch Park'n'Ride

Rating: Beginners

Cost: \$200 members (for 1 adult & 1 child)

Women's One Night Escape

Time for a fun weekend on the Bibbulmun Track. Gain confidence, outdoor skills and new walking friends as you don a backpack for a weekend escape on the Track. We walk 11km on both days, spending Saturday night at the newly rebuilt Helena campsite perched over the stunning Helena

valley. Finish the next day with a chance to have a relaxing afternoon at the local pub. Includes experienced guides, comprehensive planning night, trip preparation manual, map and equipment hire. BYO food. Own transport to Mundaring.

Date: Saturday 20th June at 9:00am to Sunday 21st June 2020 at 2:00pm

Planning night: Thursday 11th June 2020 at 6:30pm, city location.

Where: Mundaring Weir

Rating: Intermediate

Cost: \$140 early bird members



Join us on one of our events!

Social Sunday walks

Free for members. See booking conditions online.

WALK RATINGS: BEGINNERS INTERMEDIATE EXPERIENCED

DATE	DETAILS	RATING
7 June 2020 @ 9:00am	16km return walk from Cosy Corner (Torbay) to Shelley Beach Lookout	
14 June 2020 @ 10:30am	11km return walk from Mundaring Weir to Ball Creek Campsite	
21 June 2020 @ 9:00am	17km return walk from Brookton Hwy to Canning Campsite	
5 July 2020 @ 9:00am	15km return from Mt Cooke Pines to Nerang Campsite	
19 July 2020 @ 8:30am	23.5km return walk from Perth Hills Discovery Centre to Helena Campsite (Fit and experienced walkers only!)	
2 August 2020 @ 8:30am	20km walk from Kalamunda to Hewett's Hill Campsite (Fit and experienced walkers only!)	
16 August 2020 @ 8:30am	21km return walk from Brookton Hwy to Mt Dale Campsite	

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

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



Hello Fellow Walkers!

Well, the quiet season is still with us, with not a huge amount of activity on the Track during the hot days of summer. As I write this at the end of February, we have had only one fire impinging on the Track itself and no serious damage to infrastructure, so fingers crossed! We still discourage walkers from undertaking extended walks during the summer; apart from the discomfort from the heat and the flies the dangers of sunburn, dehydration and the fire risk are very real.

Strangely enough though the only people I have ever encountered with severe dehydration and sunburn problems were three Australians on the Coast to Coast Walk in the north of England. I'm sure there's a moral there but I'm not sure what it is. I would imagine they felt the English climate could never demand sun cream and lots of drinking water, which may have something to do with the myth that Poms have discovered cold beer, hot showers and decent coffee! It was a bit like finding trekkers with altitude sickness on the UK Norfolk Coast, maximum level 103 metres.

So, I've been lazy for a while, doing little walking and spending more time telling people about the Track through our trip planning advice service for BTF members. More and more overseas walkers seem to be opting for this, which can lead to a certain level of misunderstanding with those whose

Track Trivia

first language is not English. I had a recent message from a walker from Barcelona who said that he had heard there were many dangerous animals on the Track, that swimming on the Track was very hazardous and there were



Mandalay Beach

lots of refugees along the way. Having removed his fears about dangerous animals I explained that while swimming on the Track was not really possible (although it has to be said it has sometimes been feasible between Gardner and Lake Maringup) there are a number of options in rivers, lakes and the sea. Then it was the question of the refugees. I was on the verge of calling Peter Dutton about the problem when someone told me a Spanish word for shelter is refugio...

Coming back to the dangerous animal question, I am often asked about pigs on the Track—four legged ones, that is, not the ones who leave piles of litter in campsites. Thankfully these are few and far between. Certainly, there are feral pigs around and I have seen them, but is there anyone reading this who has actually been attacked by a pig on the Track? There seem to be many tales in the style of “my uncle once met a bloke who knew another bloke whose brother was attacked by a pig”, but I have yet to find anyone

to whom it actually happened. Come to think about it, my experiences with pig hunters have been much more frightening!

Even more frightening was being woken in the early hours of the morning by the screeching racket of two enormous feral cats doing battle over food scraps left on a table in front of a shelter.

One of the great pleasures of the Track is of course seeing the wildlife, although I have the sense, reading walkers' comments about their experiences on the Track, sightings are becoming less common as time goes



Crossing the Irwin Inlet

by. Snakes are always a big topic and it would appear they are thriving, and there is certainly no reduction in the tic and fly populations! The mammals are not doing so well, and this is certainly a result of many factors outside the control of individuals. What you can do is follow the simple rules; please—don't feed wildlife, don't leave food at campsites, don't contaminate the environment. We are immensely fortunate in having this wonderful wilderness track to enjoy and it is important that it be kept in pristine condition.

I was very fortunate to take my first walk on the Track shortly after it was opened, and to do my first end-to-end in 2001. I'll leave you with a couple of pictures from those early days—it always gives me great pleasure to go back through my diaries and photographs of my various sojourns on the Track—happy memories!

Happy Walking
Wrong Way Jim



The Blackwood Valley

REFLECTIONS FROM THE REGISTERS

Boarding House

The hills are alive with the sound of agony and for some dumb reason I'm carrying on to Beavis...Dazza, if you find me dead on the Track I bequeath you my chocolate.

Twiddlesticks 23/10/2017

Yet again a beautiful campsite and shelter. I'm all psyched up to face that hill that is my nemesis, heading to Beavis. 46 years ago it ruined my knee, but let's see how things stack up now that I have walking poles! Hah!

Anon 02/09/2018

Tom Road

We are so lucky that the Bibbulmun Track is part of our beautiful State. Out here you see Australia and you feel fully a part of it. All the native trees, wildflowers and beautiful native animals. More people should walk to experience Australia for what it is, naturally wild and wonderful. This campsite is great, it has all you need for an overnight stop and a lovely river running close by.

Trailblazers 2016. 15/09/2016

Drawing from the Monadhocks register

William Bay

Delightful solitude, peaceful heart, a fun red book to read and that's my little end of year walk for now. The Bibb never fails to weave its spell has been joy and solace, giving me time for a few tears at the end of a difficult time. I am so grateful to all those who make it possible for me to come out here and walk. Thank you and love and greetings to the great sprawling Track community. May your feet and hearts remain light and may your walking be everything it should be.

Wildgoose 14/12/2015

Hello my name is Freya and I'm going on a big adventure with Rachael and Gill. Yay!

I hope we're not lost.

24/07/2016



Mount Cooke

Today the year 10 ODE students ventured on their first ever hike. 80% of the students made it out here, the others died after their voice boxes broke from complaining! Off to the group site.

One happy/tired teacher from Corpus Christi 06/11/2017

Benefits of having a campsite to yourself:

- Checking out the view while on the dunny
- Having a flannel bath by the water tank and drying in the sun
- Not worrying if you snore
- No-one questions you going to bed at 5pm
- Spreading your stuff across the whole table
- The peace and quiet apart from the sound of the wind in trees—and here, unfortunately the traffic on the Albany Highway!

Sacha D from NZ. 04/04/2016

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.

NEW ZEALAND by Chris Lee

Lake Rotoroa, Sabine Hut Jetty

BTF volunteer guides, husband and wife Chris and Sue Lee and their friend Jing Xie, got together recently for a tramping holiday in New Zealand. This is their account of the ups and downs, both figurative and physical, that they experienced

Misguided Adventures

The intrepid trio met up in Nelson, which is a lovely port city in the north of the South Island. The hikes chosen were the Heaphy Track, the longest of New Zealand's "Great Walks", and a circuit walk in the Nelson Lakes National Park called the Travers Sabine Circuit.

We were all a little concerned about some of the elevation profiles for the walks. The first day of the Heaphy Track is up hill all day to pass over the Perry Saddle. Walking up to an elevation of approximately 800m was tough, however it was achievable within the guide time of five hours.

Our first hut, Perry, seemed like the Ritz compared to the Bibbulmun Track shelters we are familiar with but some common elements included a drop toilet and people snoring. Gas cooking rings, stainless steel benchtops, tables by lovely windows with views, a slow combustion heater and separate dormitories almost seemed over the top until we remembered the price non New Zealanders pay for these privileges. Some quirky positive differences between hiking in New Zealand and WA were not having to look for snakes on a warm day, a habit hard to kick, and the availability of stream water along the way.

At Saxon Hut we were lucky enough to encounter two Takahe birds, which had been released into this area along with several other pairs. With only several hundred left in the world we felt quite privileged. The Takahe were thought to be extinct until rediscovered in the

Murchison Range, west of Te Anau, in 1948. In the 1980s a program to translocate birds to predator free islands was put in place to increase the population. The birds were then translocated from the breeding programs into places like Kahurangi National Park.



Sue navigating some of the Travers Sabine Circuit

Like Australia, New Zealand has a poor history of introducing non-native species for commercial or other reasons and upsetting the natural balance of nature. Stoats were introduced to control introduced rabbits. Australian possums were introduced in the 1830s for the fur trade and along with rats they have wreaked havoc on the native bird species. They have no natural predators and there are many programs in place to try to redress this situation. Those most obvious to trampers are the placement of stoat and rat traps along walking trails, cleared and rebaited by volunteers. They are designed to minimise impact on native species and to dispatch the target species humanely. Possum traps are also plentiful in areas where no native species are at risk of being trapped.

From MacKay Hut there were magnificent views down to the mouth of the Heaphy River where Heaphy Hut was located. The final day took us to Kohaihai along a magnificent forest walk along the coast line.

The Heaphy Track is about 80km long, however there is a sense of being in an isolated wilderness. To travel by road from one end of the Track to the

other means a drive of approximately 465km. The only way out, other than walking, is by helicopter. This results in a wonderful connection to the wilderness, albeit in the company of 28 or so fellow trampers each night. The trail seemed to have a bit of everything; mountains, rainforest, tussock plains and coastline.

Our second walk was the Travers Sabine Circuit, which is not listed as a "Great Walk". Located in the Nelson Lakes National Park, it offered lakeside walking and a sub alpine saddle, which at 1787m was above the snow line. A significant section of the trail is on the Te Araroa Trail (TA), so it is a well-trodden path. The TA is a journey from the tip of the North Island to the very bottom of the South Island. The TA south bound trampers we saw were very fit. We would arrive at a hut tired and ready to settle in only to find TA trampers having a quick bite before setting off again.

There are many side trips that can be incorporated in this circuit. We chose Blue Lake which was nothing short of spectacular. It is a small tarn that reportedly has the clearest fresh water in the world. (Ed: this is fascinating. Go



The first day of the Heaphy Track

to <https://media.newzealand.com/en/story-ideas/blue-lake,-nelson-worlds-clearest-lake/>

At the beginning of the walk trampers can choose which side of Lake Rotoiti to follow and we decided upon the west side, on the less travelled route, and joined the TA part of the Track on



Sue, Jing and Chris on Travers Saddle (1787m)



A Takahe at Saxon Hut on the Heaphy Track

day two. The junction has a challenging swing bridge which was impossible to resist—so impossible to resist that we walked past two signs directing us not to cross it. Hmmm, a valuable lesson learned... again! (Ed: Wrong Way Jim salutes you!)

The difference between a “Great Walk” and what transpired to be a “Not so Great Walk” soon became apparent. The scenery and remoteness was similar but the trail was not so well defined, foot placement was critical amongst the roots of beech trees and rocks. This was quite challenging for us but not so much for the trail runners and TA hikers who zoomed past us. We also met several volunteer wardens who walk the trail

doing basic maintenance, checking the huts and ensuring trampers are paying their way.

Ups and downs? Magnificent scenery, challenging hiking and new friendships were enjoyed by the three of us. Sound like paradise? Well, the weather is changeable and must be catered for with appropriate clothing and an extra food just in case. Last but not least, the sand flies deserve a special mention. They were ever present whenever you stopped in the daylight and their bites would return to haunt you at night. We all found they needed to be managed to avoid restless nights of scratching. Covering up or using 40% DEET repellent worked well. A more natural Tea Tree / Eucalyptus oil products was also used with some success.

While the “Great Walks” have so much to offer, there are many “Not so Great Walks” that are also fabulous and more affordable. Chris and Sue went on for a further four walks. All three of us would not hesitate to return to the “Land of the Long White Cloud”.

The Intrepid Trio



Travers Falls

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THE BIBBULMUN TRACK FOUNDATION

OFFICE LOCATION:

Perth YHA Building
300 Wellington Street, Perth, WA 6000

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Friday 9am - 4pm

Phone: (08) 9481 0551

Email: friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Website: www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

CONTACTS:

Executive Director – Linda Daniels

Office Manager – Ce Kealley

Volunteer Manager – Helen Grimm

Marketing Manager – Ash Gibson

Events Manager - Steve Sertis

Tourism Assistant - Katie Stevens

Bibbulmun News Editors

Linda Daniels & Jim Baker



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