

WAALEGH CAMPSITE BENEFITS FROM WESTERN WALKING CLUB LEGACY

Waalegh Campsite was constructed in 1994, during the Track redevelopment, by a prison crew that assembled timber and panels prefabricated in their workshop. Being in the best location one could hope for on the Track, Waalegh has experienced continued heavy use so the need for an extension to provide more undercover area was obvious and in keeping with member feedback from the 2017 Vision Survey.

Despite the pandemic and lockdown over the past few months, the Support Volunteers started 2020 on a high note by completing the Waalegh shelter extension.



Lari repaints the shelter sign

Waalegh is in the Disease Risk Area which requires a three-day period without rain before vehicle entry. Fortunately, but perversely, the expected autumn rains were late and sporadic so in early May a week's fine weather following showers allowed a Mundaring Parks and Wildlife crew to truck several tonnes of timber, concrete, hardware and roofing materials into the campsite.

With more fine weather forecast the nine-person SV team set up camp on the following Sunday and by that evening had demolished the front of the shelter ready for the next chapter in its life.

After six days the roof was bigger, the plumbing was upgraded, bunk space doubled, seating and tables vastly improved, floor sealed and all timber preserved. This project entailed 18 months of detailed checking, planning and coordination with some on-site modifications required to get around minor problems that happen with most jobs. The team was really happy with the result and hopes that walkers will enjoy the much improved campsite.



The shelter roof is extended.



Additional bunk space built in where the table used to be.



Tables installed under the extended verandah.

Special thanks go to Western Walking Club for a generous \$10,000 donation. A plaque has been installed at the Northern Terminus in memory of club member Cyril Brown who's bequest enabled the club to make the donation.



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WAALEGH CAMPSITE BENEFITS FROM WESTERN WALKING CLUB LEGACY CONT

Cyril Brown joined the Western Walking Club soon after moving from South Australia to Perth in 1953. He was a keen environmentalist and very active in the Tree Society, Wildflower Association and the Naturalists Club. He was known by many as an icon of bushwalking, and when he passed in September 1983 the Western Walking Club lost one of their most colourful personalities.

Sincere thanks also to P&WS Operations Officer, Rebecca Hamilton, Works Coordinator, Gary Doust and Recreation and Trails Unit Coordinator Kerstin Stender for their support.

And of course, a huge thanks also to BTF volunteers Charlie Soord and Mark Davidson for project managing the upgrade and undertaking the work along with a great crew of volunteers.



From L to R: BTF Board member and support volunteer Charlie Soord with Western Walking Club members David Foster, Jessica Wolff and Club President Karen Tyson.

Cyril Brown

Past member of the Western Walking Club Inc.

A donation from his bequest has funded improvements to the Waalegh shelter.

May all who walk this Track find peace and tranquillity in our beautiful Australian bush.



Great team work by the support volunteers L-R: Ron Greenhalgh, Ross Simpson, Lari McDonald, Peter Addenbrooke, Dave Scott (seated) Hedley Amos, Charlie Soord, Mark Davidson and Gary Ceriani.



FROM MY Desk

Welcome to the Spring edition of Bibbulmun News.

Firstly, many thanks for everyone’s continued support over the past few months. Nearly 1000 people joined our virtual Bibbulmun Track challenge (see page 14), we welcomed many new members and just about everyone was happy to postpone, not cancel, their events and tours. We also raised over \$8,000 in our raffle, which will buy materials for the next campsite upgrade.

A common question at our weekly online staff meetings during April and May was “who are all these people who have time to bake?”. Certainly not us as we dealt with the new reality of working from home, without the assistance of our wonderful office volunteers in processing map orders, memberships and the myriad of other jobs they do.

Events are once more underway and we have two fully supported tours departing in September and October. Unfortunately it looks as if the borders won’t be open by then, so we have places available for West Australians who are keen to join us and discover the Highlights of the Bibbulmun Track in comfort—please help spread the word!

Our maintenance volunteers hit the Track as soon as they could with nearly 4000 volunteer hours logged in May. The Support Volunteers also resumed activities with gusto and have since completed the extension of Waalegh Campsite and the first two phases of the South Coast Project.

It is fantastic to see the number of people out hiking. While this trend had been gradually increasing over the last few years, walking and running have now proved to be low cost and accessible activities to undertake while having to maintain social distancing. A whole new wave of people have started discovering trails and the WA State Hiking Strategy could not have been launched at a better time to support the hiking community and improve opportunities close to Perth and other population centres (see page 24).

Unfortunately, the rush to the outdoors also brings its challenges and we will have to up our game in promoting the Leave No Trace principles and getting the message out that the Bibbulmun Track and its campsites are for walkers only. If you see a vehicle please take a photo or write the number down so we can advise DBCA.

Finally, congratulations to Mike Wood on his well-deserved appointment as a Member (AM) of the Order of Australia. We are very proud of our former Chair and thank him for over 20 years of service.

Enjoy the Spring walking!

Linda Daniels
Executive Director

Join us on



Notice to members 2020 Annual General Meeting

The 2020 Foundation AGM will be held on -

- Thursday 29th October 2020, 5.00pm;
- at YHA Building, 300 Wellington Street, Perth.

Agenda -

1. Apologies.
2. Acceptance of 2019 AGM Minutes.
3. Chairman’s annual report.
4. Executive Director’s annual report.
5. Treasurer’s annual report.
6. General business including:
 - Appointment of auditor.

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

Election of Board Members

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

- Four positions are declared open for re-election.
- Members are invited to nominate for election. A member’s nomination must be in writing (form available from the BTF), signed by the member and be received by the Foundation before the close of nominations at 4.00pm Monday 28 September 2020.
- Should a poll be needed to elect a Board member it will be conducted during the AGM.
- The term of office of each person elected to fill those vacancies will be two years from, and including, the date on which he or she is elected.

The elections will be held because -

- The terms of Kathleen Broderick, Marielle Sengers, Charlie Soord and Patrick Tremlett will expire. Three members are seeking re-election.

YOUR LETTERS

Wow, thanks for the Stepping Off book!

I have been overseas for a month from mid March and I did so enjoy walking in Germany and Ireland. I came home early, while I could still get a flight, then spent two weeks in quarantine in a Sunshine Coast hotel. Sounds good, huh? But not every hotel has an ocean view! My room on the 16th floor had a glorious view to the west over the canals to the mountains. After fourteen sunsets, even that gets wearying! Unfortunately, quarantine meant quarantine—windows didn't open, no balcony, inside for 14 days.

The hotel staff were extremely helpful and friendly, the food was good, the police and army personnel were our best friends, but nothing beats a walk in your own backyard and sleeping in your own bed

I arrived home to a pile of mail which included the book and newsletter

Thanks, welcome home package!

Looking forward to walking the track next year. My two sisters and I have walked for two years, about three weeks each time. Had this September all booked, now will wait until next year probably.

All the best to everyone in the west, keep up the good work volunteers

Kind regards

Lynne Austin Northern NSW

Greetings from Queensland on Bin Isolation Day!

Can't walk the Track, but can keep in practice putting the bin out! I was just making sure I was heading the right direction to cross the road with the bin!

I'll be back soon.

Helen Turner, QLD

P.S. If this means nothing to you—an Australian started a Facebook group during the Covid lockdown that became a world-wide sensation! The idea was to dress up to take the bin out - as the bin was going out more than us!



Hi Steve, Ce and the BTF team,

I dropped the paddles off at the boat sheds on Irwin Inlet on Friday. I had a very pleasant hike and passed a solo hiker just after he had completed the crossing. Of course I had to have a little test paddle to ensure that they worked correctly ☺

I chatted to a couple of Ladies in Walpole who had just completed Northcliffe to Walpole and spotted a couple of other hikers during my stay so the Track is quite busy for this time of year.

Happy hiking
Malcolm

Ed: Thank you Malcom for donating new paddles - it is greatly appreciated! Great job writing Bibbulmun Track all over them - hopefully these ones won't stray.



Vale John Gledhill

I am writing to tell you that my old mate John Gledhill, who took over our section of the Track with me, has just died after being unwell for some time. He loved the bush and the Bibbulmun Track and put in a bit over ten years maintaining our section before he had to give it away.

Always a keen walker, John started as a maintenance volunteer in 2008, looking after our section just north of Driver Road along with his wife Heather, Rob and Pauline Gill, Mike and Jan Alexander and (later) Donald Nield. As now, that section was in the rapid regrowth stage after a burn, and John made a big contribution to getting it back into shape. He put in many hours and a lot of work over the years both on his section and during a number of working bees. He made a real contribution and will be sadly missed. Farewell John and thanks.

Robin Gill, Mt Helena

Dear Linda,

It is with regret that I have decided not to renew my Membership this year. I have loved following the Track News for years - and have been an ardent "going to get out on the Track Member", which rarely happened. However I share your Magazine all around the family and send it overseas to hiking friends. But I've decided I'm old—and past it. Best wishes to you all for continuing to protect that precious wilderness area.

Sincere apologies for not informing you earlier and thus receiving your latest magazine that I was not entitled to. I'll try and make up by giving Track Membership to various grandchildren this year for birthday presents.

Yours sincerely
Raewyn Lewer

Ed: What a delightful letter...and a lovely way to share the news and encourage the next generation!

Congratulations, Mike Wood AM

The Foundation is delighted that long-term Board Member, Mike Wood, was appointed as a Member (AM) of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday 2020 Honours List on 8 June 2020.

Mike was recognised for his long association with the BTF and his outstanding contribution to raising the profile of outdoor recreation and outdoor education in WA.

For over 30 years Mike has done an enormous amount to connect people with the outdoors and nature and inspire them to be a part of it. He is a passionate advocate for outdoor recreation and outdoor education and has been on numerous boards, panels and government committees.

"I am extremely honoured to receive this award in recognition for my work with the recreation and trails community in WA, and specifically for my great passion, the Bibbulmun Track," Mike said.



"Being recognised for my volunteer work also gives me a platform to draw attention to the amazing amount of work done by all trail volunteers and workers"

"It is my belief that if we provide the means for people to access our wild places they will learn to appreciate them and realise that they need protection. It is difficult for people to value things they have not seen and experienced for themselves. By encouraging people to access our WA wilderness, safely and sustainably through our trails network we are protecting and conserving the environment."

"One of the main reasons for the success of the Bibbulmun Track has been the relationship built between the community and the Parks & Wildlife Service of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions. We have shown that by working together we can deliver a world class trail that benefits the community, the tourism industry, regional centres and the wild places of WA. I applaud the management and staff of the Parks & Wildlife service for their commitment to work with the BTF volunteers and staff, from the executive level to the local rangers and teams in the regions."

Congratulations Mike on a well-deserved award.

Ed: You can find a more extensive article and a link to Mike's interview on ABC radio by visiting the News section on our website.

Thank you THANK YOU Thank you

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

Caroline Epstein
Catherine Cooney
Christine Kennea
Danny McKenzie
Dawn Bell
Didier Monot
Felicity Jackson
Fred McGlashan
Greg Calcutt
Holly Thomas
Joan Saleeba
John & Pamela Madden
Malcolm Kite
Martin Reeve
Mary McNulty
Meryl Alexander
Michael Patterson
Michele Payne
Patsy Roche
Ryan Carlsson
Tom Shenton
Tricia Howe
Troy Stronach
Valerie Jordan

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.

PHOTO CAPTION COMPETITION

Send us a caption for this photo from Helen Turner on a Bin Isolation Outing! (See page 4)

You could win a great prize from Sea to Summit! - Email to friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au or by post.

B e f o r e Y o u g o

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

Any groups 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

donnelyd@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: LITTER COLLECTION

Pack a spare garbage bag, or empty plastic shopping bag, and as your food bag gets empty and your pack lighter, pick up any litter you find and pack it out.





Stephen King,
 TRAILS 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

Dear Readers

By all accounts, the last couple of months have seen high user numbers on the Bibbulmun Track and trails generally, as the Covid-19 restrictions have eased locally, but interstate and overseas travel remains off the table. Many of the campgrounds across the state have been booked to capacity over the school holiday period, with West Australians eager to make up for Easter holiday cancellations. This is great to see, and I hope leads to people discovering, or rediscovering, an appreciation of our parks and trails, and perhaps developing an interest in participating in or contributing to the Bibbulmun Track.

We have been very fortunate in our workplace to get through the last few months with relatively minor disruptions related to the Covid-19 situation, and it has largely been business as usual, albeit with some working from home and lots of video conferencing. This financial year is shaping up to be a very busy and exciting one, with many significant projects on the cards. The new Southern Terminus is one big-ticket project that will definitely proceed, assisted by a \$30k grant from Great Southern Development Commission. With the Covid-19 cloud there may be a silver lining, and we are eagerly awaiting a response to the Department's Covid-19 investment proposal which included a long wish list of projects for the Bibbulmun Track.

I would like to congratulate the BTF volunteers on some outstanding work achieved over the last few months, that I expect will be detailed in other

sections of this newsletter. Although my trips to the field have been scarce recently, I was fortunate enough to visit the Waalegh Campsite, both during and after the extension and improvement work, and was most impressed with the capabilities of the Support Volunteers and the quality of the workmanship. The stabilisation work near Conspicuous Cliff was also a superb effort, particularly given the logistical challenges and exposure to the wild weather. Keep up the good work, it is much appreciated!

In late June the WA Hiking Strategy was released by Sport and Recreation Minister Mick Murray. The strategy is the first of its kind in Australia, focussed on traditional bushwalking and also the growing pursuit of trail running. It has a 10-year timeframe and is intended to increase community participation and guide government and tourism industry investment in hiking. I would encourage you to look it up on the websites of Hikewest or the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

A quick update on staffing within the Recreation and Trails Unit. The Recreation Officer position has now been filled, with Alison Pritchard

and Jamie Wright sharing the role. Both Alison and Jamie have hit the ground running and we are very fortunate to have their mix of skills and experience in the team. Jayson Puls is also working within the unit on some specific projects, notably a review of the signage guidelines for trails. Deborah Peachey has returned to her substantive position in Kirup, and we thank her for the valuable contribution she made in her time here.

Stephen King



This ultralight towel punches well above its weight. It absorbs up to three times its own weight, dries fast and packs down small.



12g (Small)



Eyes on the GROUND



Campfires in tent sites are a problem at Hewett's Hill Campsite

The sectional maintenance program was significantly impacted by the restrictions on personal movement and social contact from late March through to mid-May. As a result, many maintenance volunteers were unable to visit their sections.

Travel restrictions across regional boundaries also had an impact. For some parts of the Track, more than two thirds of sectional volunteers live in a different region to their section. Examples include sections in Frankland District (currently 68% of volunteers live out of region), Donnelly District (also 68%) and Blackwood District (71%). Even in the areas with a high number of regionally local volunteers—Perth Hills, Albany Districts - the primary precautions reduced volunteer activity.

Since the easing of restrictions our super-enthusiastic volunteers have been making up for lost time. Most of the Track has now been inspected, reported on and necessary maintenance carried out. The locations of fallen trees or major branches after the two big storms in late May were of particular concern, especially in the southern forests. Hopefully these have now mostly been identified and reported to the DBCA District offices for clearing.

Meanwhile, you are welcome to let us know about any issue you come across when walking. As in real

estate, the primary rule is “location, location, location”! The location is the most important detail to record accurately, ideally to within 100m, from an easily identifiable Track or landscape feature. A combination of reference to the Track notes/map, pacing distances, and/or accurate GPS coordinates can be used (use the Emergency + App – which is good to have on your phone). Photos can be used to demonstrate details such as the diameter and height above the ground of fallen trees. Having all this detail saves the work crew a lot of time and effort finding and addressing a problem, particularly when carrying heavy chainsaws into the forest on foot!

Issues should be reported on our website, in the Report a Problem tab of the relevant Track section (Trip Planner > Section by Section Guide) Photos can be emailed to maintenance@bibbulmuntrack.org.au.

Maintenance Field Days

The first Field Day for the year was held in the Perth Hills in early June. Support Volunteer Geoff Meates coordinated a group of volunteers installing erosion control modifications along a stretch of Track running through Jorgensen Park. There were lots of families and dogs out enjoying the fine weather and our team received some appreciative comments. insert space At Hewett's Hill Campsite the rest of the group spent the day giving the campsite and surrounds a clean-up, re-oiling the shelter and toilet cladding and picnic table, sanding



Putting erosion control techniques into action in Jorgensen Park

and varnishing the bed platforms, clearing tent sites and fixing some broken plumbing.

In early July, Yourdamung Campsite was given similar treatment by Wellington District volunteers at their Field Day.



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

Support Volunteers

Despite the restrictions the Support Volunteers have already made progress on projects big and small this year, with more in the pipeline. Recent work included the first two stages of Track stabilisation at Conspicuous Cliff, the completion of the Waalegh shelter extension, clearing overgrowth along the Murray River sections, remarking the Track affected by bushfire in the area of Mount Cuthbert, planning and executing the Field Days and initiating a campaign to tackle chronic erosion of the Track throughout the Perth Hills.

Helen Grimm Volunteer Manager



Our thanks to Alcoa for sponsoring our Volunteer Support team.



The cladding of Hewett's Hill shelter receives some fresh oil.

South Coast project back on track

After having to put the project on hold due to restrictions on both travel and social contact – the Support Volunteer team eagerly got back into the swing of things in late May.

A 12-person team assembled in Peaceful Bay and commenced Campaign One in fine weather that they couldn't have hoped for.



Newly stabilised track.

Two short trial sections constructed in late 2019 near Rame Head campsite provided valuable feedback and the team spent some time discussing improved methods on the first morning before walking to where the work started. Regular showers kept the team cool, the lucky ones being rewarded with a rainbow.

Over the following four days the team installed many metres of coir mesh, hundreds of 100% recycled polypropylene track pads, pine steps and star pickets.

The team, with a few new faces, remobilised in late June for Campaign Two, the aim being to complete Conspicuous Cliff before embarking on stabilisation in Quarram Nature Reserve and at Mt Hillier later in the year.

Thanks go to Peter Masters and team from DBCA's Frankland District - especially the crew who, in June, carried 20 large pine poles, each about 30kg, into stockpiles one and two for installation the following week.

Thanks also to Support Volunteers Hedley Amos, Gary and Sandra Ceriani, Tony Cole, Mark Davidson, Phil Lehman, Christian Mau, Lari McDonald, Tim McGrath, Geoff Meates, Nigel Pilgrim, Ian Rae, Gordon Roberts, Ross Simpson, Charlie Soord, Alex Williams and Paul Harris. Special mention must be made of Jing Xie who worked on both campaigns as well as cooking dinners for Campaign Two.

Special thanks to Peaceful Bay Chalets who provided accommodation at a generous discount.



Team rewarded with a rainbow.

Getting into Gear

How to Re-wax Your Canvas Gear

Re-waxing your canvas gear is good to not only keep the fabric waterproof, but continues to develop the well-earned patina that will inevitably be creeping in on your gear.

Waxing canvas fills the tiny holes in the canvas creating a waterproof membrane—a discovery we can thank sailors for. The wax will also keep dirt, dust and debris from your pack.

Just a few things before we get started. First, this method is for re-waxing, as opposed to applying wax to cotton canvas for the first time. For that process, I would go to YouTube, and set aside half a day as it's a lengthy process. This method can apply to any piece of gear you have as long as it is made of canvas and you understand that it does reduce breathability substantially.

You will need:

- Heat gun or hair dryer*
- Clean sponge or cloth
- Wax**
- Lint roller or brush
- Clean*** and dry piece of gear made of waxed canvas

1) Lay your clean and dry piece of gear out in the best way you can on a clean surface, I use my outdoor table, with a clean table cloth on top. I pull the liner inside out on my packs so I can wax the canvas that lines the pocket. Run a lint brush or roller over the pack and make sure it is entirely clear of any bits of fluff, or as in my case, dog hair.

2) Open your wax and begin to heat the surface so it goes slightly glossy, try to avoid liquefying it. Start heating the surface of the item with the heat gun or hairdryer (set on low). Use circular motions and keep it moving, you don't want to burn the fabric.

3) Take the sponge or cloth and apply the wax in even strokes across the surface of the fabric. I find it easier at this point to focus on section by section. I start at the top, and apply the whole upper third section in wax, then I move to the next section and begin heating the fabric again, before applying wax. I continue to move down the pack, heating first, then applying wax.

Once the whole pack is coated, it will look a bit messy. If you've got wax on straps or buckles don't worry, a bit more heat and a wipe with the clean end of the cloth will remove it easily.

I am using quite a lot of wax because my pack has been heavily used for the past five years. I focus a lot on the seams as this is where I find leaks.

4) Start rubbing the wax coating into the fabric. I like to heat and treat at the same time, but if you cannot manage this then take it in turns. Heat first (circular motions remember), then rub the wax into the fabric in even strokes with your cloth. Continue to do this until the wax is fully rubbed in and any excess removed, especially from seam lines or strap attachments. The colour of the canvas may have changed and it will now have a sort of sheen to it. If you find you've overdone it and there's too much wax left on the gear just heat and continue to wipe, the excess will rub in or be removed on the cloth.

5) Once you're happy with how it looks, I recommend leaving it out to dry for a day. Some people say 48 hours minimum, however this is Australia, and a day in the sun will probably do it.

Try not to fold or crease the item if you can help it, use a coat hanger or clothes rack and hang it up to dry.

I would recommend re-waxing your canvas gear yearly depending on usage and the wax used. Most natural waxes will break down over time and will need to be reapplied to remain effective.

* You can pick up a heat gun from Bunnings or craft stores — alternatively a hair dryer will also work, but make sure either has a low setting.

** I use Martexin Original Wax but there are many choices on the market. Stay away from pure paraffin (candle, petroleum based) wax, you need to use a blend of some sort. You may find that whatever gear you have recommends a particular product—go for what they recommend. Otherwise you can pick up plenty of good options online, i.e. Otter Wax, Greenland Wax, Drizabone.

*** Never wash waxed canvas with detergents or soaps, this will remove wax from the item. To clean it after use, clean damp cloth or rinse it in cool or tepid water.

Katie Stevens



Favourite Short Walk

KARRI VALLEY RESORT TO BEDELUP CAMPSITE RETURN

Map 5

Difficulty: Grade 3

Time: 2 - 3 hours

Length: 7km loop

Starting point - Karri Valley Resort (a Walker Friendly Business and wonderful place to base yourself in the area. BTF members get a 10% Discount on accommodation - excluding peak periods.)

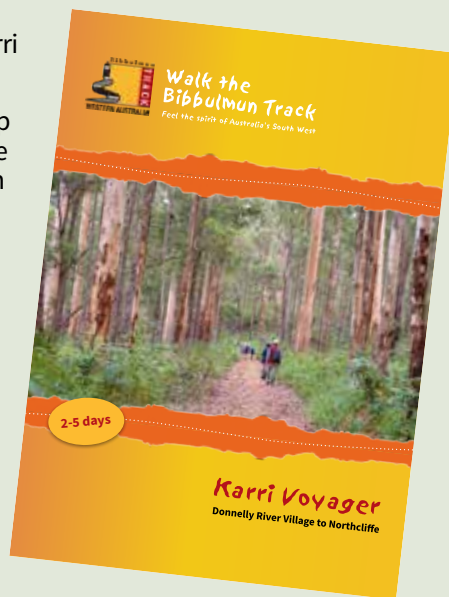
This is an easy walk in the beautiful karri forest countryside of the south west.

Walk clockwise around Beedelup Lake at Karri Valley Resort to the Beedelup Falls carpark and then follow the trail up to the falls.

Beedelup Falls are the focal point of Beedelup National Park and are a spectacular sight in the winter and early spring. View the Falls at close quarters from the suspension bridge, then take a short stroll to the Bibbulmun Track's Beedelup Campsite, a perfect, peaceful spot for a picnic lunch. On the return walk continue clockwise around the lake back to the resort.

Day Walk Itineraries

This is one of the walks in the Karri Voyager itinerary which covers Donnelly River Village to Northcliffe. You can find this and other itineraries - including family friendly options - on our website.



RAFFLE WINNERS!

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE MEMBERS THAT BOUGHT TICKETS IN OUR ADVENTURE RAFFLE.

YOUR SUPPORT WAS FABULOUS AND WE RAISED JUST OVER \$8000 NET.

1st Prize

Intrepid's Annapurna Sanctuary Trek, Nepal including flights for two.
Value \$5000:

**WINNER: Marcus Harris,
Ticket Number: #158**

2nd Prize

\$500 Sea to Summit gift voucher:

**WINNER: Michael Eyre,
Ticket Number: #233**

3rd Prize

\$250 worth of merchandise:

**WINNER: Stephen Heald,
Ticket Number: #1047**

Congratulations!

Thank you to everyone who bought a raffle ticket. Thanks also to our first prize sponsor, Peregrine Travel Centre WA



FATHER'S DAY!

Gifts for the World's Greatest Dads - Sunday 6th September

Father's Day is a day to show love to the father in your life. There is bound to be something to suit every dad with a wide range of Bibbulmun Track gifts, maps and events.

Quality time with the kids on a Walking with Dad event.

Head to our website to book online (under Walk the Track / Events Calendar).

Father's Day gift inspirations. Peak cap or number plate surround

Whether you are walking the Track or just out and about, this peak cap will help protect you from the sun, while our exclusive Bibbulmun Track branded number plate surrounds are great way to show off your love for the Bibbulmun Track. **RRP starting from \$22.00**

T-shirts, mugs and more from Redbubble

A variety of Bibbulmun Track products are available from the Redbubble website. Choose the style and designs you like and order direct from Redbubble.com.

If you're not sure what Dad might enjoy, why not buy him a Bibbulmun Track Gift Voucher (any amount) and leave the choice to him! View and order online at www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au or pop into our shop in the YHA Building on Wellington Street.



Yes, THEY DID IT!

Our CONGRATULATIONS to the following
16 walkers on completing an end-
to-end! 1 from overseas, 2 from
interstate and 13 from WA.

The advent of travel restrictions and the Bibbulmun Track closure due to the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in very few walkers being able to complete and register an official end-to-end journey over the last few months. As usual, new end-to-enders are mentioned in chronological order of finishing, and our congratulations go to all of them!

Felicity Jackson (40), of Willagee (N-S, 08.09.19 to 31.10.19), found her end-to-end was a great way to celebrate turning 40! Track towns were welcoming and supportive and she topped up her posted food boxes with town supplies. DRV to Pemberton was Felicity's favourite section and she loved following the Donnelly River where some of the walking was a challenge, but the scenery was amazing. She enjoyed meeting fellow walkers along the way, but it also gave her a chance to be at peace, with time to rethink and recapture her life.

Adrian Toye (51), from the UK (S-N, 25.09.19 to 05.11.19) was simply *Adrian T* on a walk that was really a thought-provoking spiritual journey for him. He liked taking his time to experience all the flora and fauna, and found the solitude was just exhilarating. But he also met many wonderful people en-route, more so as he was walking in the less common northerly direction. While Adrian enjoyed all the coastal sections with ocean noise and breathtaking views, he especially loved DRV which was so peaceful, relaxing, welcoming and steeped in local history and wildlife. Meeting an old army friend at Canning and sharing a day's walk was also memorable.

James Saville, from Queensland (S-N, 09.10.19 to 06.12.19), already has plans to return for more walks along

the Track. With some good planning, he found he was able to adequately resupply in Track towns. His favourite section was around the Valley of the Giants, but James enjoyed every single day, whether hard or easy. James passes on a huge thank you to the many volunteers who help to make an end-to-end so attainable.

Mark Gardener (51), from the NT (N-S, 31.10.19 to 04.01.20), called himself *Tree Man* while he spent "66 glorious days" on the Track. He found Track towns had excellent food supplies and his favourite sections were in the karri forests. Mark felt completely comfortable in this environment and highlights for him included walking amongst the majestic karris and tingles, the 150kms slog across the Pingerup Plains to end at the ocean, sharing Christmas Day with people from all over the globe at Peaceful Bay, and then walking the last week with his wife and daughter. Mark says he faced everyday fears by simply putting one foot in front of the other and feeling proud of his achievements at the end of every day.

Scotch College continues to produce a group of end-to-enders each year and this year's group (Sectional, 01.12.15 to 29.02.20) included **James Rex** of Wedgecarrup, **Zedd Garbellini** (17) of Scarborough, **Liam Gollam** (17) of Beverley, **Lachie Raffan** (17)

of Canna, **Hamish Gooch** (17) of Dandaragan, **Toby Humphris** (17) of Beaufort River, **William Graham** (17) of Popanyinning, **Angus Johnston** (17) of Benger, **Samuel Meecham** (17) of Quobba Station, **Beau Staines** (16) of Esperance, **Burke Carrington** (17) of Broome and **Tom Graham** (17) of Donnybrook.

It was an awesome, sometimes challenging, adventure that produced lifetime memories for Zedd, William, Samuel and James; became easier for Burke, Toby and Liam the further they went; and highlighted WA's natural diversity for Lachie. They all thought their food, planned by the school, was generally good with very few "duds".

A big highlight for most of the group was reaching the ocean for the first time. Angus thought this felt like a reward. Other highlights included various swims along the way, the awesome views, the variation in scenery and one of their group sliding down a hill! Zedd enjoyed seeing the changes in group members over the years. Beau and William found it frustrating and tiring at times but enjoyed the overall experience; Tom felt very satisfied at the end of each section; Samuel liked the high quality shelters and well-maintained Track; Angus was excited to have been given the opportunity and Lachie appreciated the open spaces away from the cities. Wildflowers were appreciated by Toby, and James liked the cool birds they saw.

Advice for others included being resilient, not giving up, and making the most of the towns along the way.

Compiled by Charmaine Harris (FOF#1)

BTF Volunteer and end-to-enders.

RRP \$12.50
\$11.25
FOR MEMBERS



Waugal cloth badge

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

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Walk Track Grading– what does it mean?

To help you decide whether a walk trail is one that you can enjoy safely and whether it offers the experience that you're looking for most trails on DBCA land have been classified according to the Australian Walking Track Grading System.

The grading system assesses a walk's difficulty based on several criteria, including: experience required, steps, gradient, path quality, signage and length. The walk's final grade is based on the most difficult of these criteria, rather than an average. So some walks will have criteria that meet an easier grade.

When you set foot on the Bibbulmun Track you are walking on a trail classified as Grade 4.

The technical description includes:

Quality of path:

- Generally distinct without major modification to the ground.
- Encounters with fallen debris and other obstacles are likely.
- Walkers may encounter natural obstacles (eg tides).

Gradient:

May have arduous climbs and steep sections. May include long steep sections exceeding 1:10.

Quality of markings:

Track head signage and route markers.

Experience required:

- Users require a moderate level of specialised skills such as navigation skills.
- Users may require maps and navigation equipment to successfully complete the track.
- Users need to be self-reliant, particularly in regard to emergency first aid and possible weather hazards.

There certainly are lots of days or sections of Track where you'll find rough, steep sections with signage limited to a Waugal trail marker every few hundred metres –hence the Grade 4 classification that relates to the Track as a whole.

However, there are many day walks that would be a Grade 3 or even Grade 2. You'll find a range of these walks in our Bibbulmun Break itineraries. Ranging from two to six days, each itinerary includes suggestions for day-walks, graded in accordance with the above. See: <https://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/walk-the-track/bibbulmun-walking-breaks/>

Alternatively, the detailed information in the Guidebooks for each section of the Track will help you to select the walk that suits you.

Use this guide and before your next adventure ask yourself “is this walk suitable for me?”



Introducing newly arrived youth from refugee and migrant backgrounds to the wonders of the Australian bush on all-expenses-paid hiking and camping adventures.

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If you would like to get involved as a volunteer, hike sponsor (corporate or private), participant or just have a suggestion, please send an email to: contact@firsthikeproject.org.au

www.firsthikeproject.org.au



Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5
No bushwalking experience required. Flat even surface with no steps or steep sections. Suitable for wheelchair users who have someone to assist them. Walks no greater than 5km.	No bushwalking experience required. The track is a hardened or compacted surface and may have a gentle hill section or sections and occasional steps. Walks no greater than 10km.	Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Some bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may have short steep hill sections a rough surface and many steps. Walks up to 20km.	Bushwalking experience required. Tracks may be long, rough and very steep. Directional signage may be limited.	Very experienced bushwalkers with specialised skills, including navigation and emergency first aid. Tracks are likely to be very rough, very steep and unmarked. Walks may be more than 20km.

Figure 1. Australian Walking Track Classification System (based on AS 2156.1-2001)

Note: Class 6: Very experienced bushwalkers only, able to navigate in unmarked terrain cross-country without a track. Fully self-sufficient in all aspects.

Take a Hike on the Virtual Bibbulmun Track

It was mid-March and the state, country and world had been slowly going into lock down, borders closing, flights being cancelled, shops, offices and schools shutting and everyone being told to stay at home, isolate and only go out for essentials.

Food and cleaning products shortages and toilet roll madness spread through suburbs, towns and states. There was a lot of things we could not do or change. With social distancing mandatory, there were not many options for exercise or activities outside of your local suburb with restrictions of no more than an hour.

Finding ways to distract from the boredom of self-isolation, the pain of missing a comforting hug from a loved one or feelings of financial insecurity were hard to find. The Foundation felt the need to assure hikers and walkers that the Track would always be there waiting. A virtual hike was a great way for people to exercise, stay connected, staying local, but with a purpose.

The event was held through the Get on Track Challenge website hosted by Diabetes WA. You could sign up in teams of up to four or join in a team already created, making new hiking buddies along the way – much as you would on the Track.

The Challenge started on Monday 27 April and ran for six weeks—and what an epic six weeks it was. We started with over 300 teams and 925 participants. By the end of the challenge we had 280 active groups and 406 participants who all “walked” (ran, cycled, kayaked, SUP’d or hiked) 248,901kms.

The Foundation kept teams motivated and up to date with images of scenery, campsites, history, and tips for each section along the Track via social media posts and e-newsletters – and of course teams could see their progress along the Track online.

We also shared information to help people plan a walk on the “real” Track when restrictions were lifted.

Participants joined in from the UK, Netherlands, Canada, USA and across Australia, with some funny team names, including; The Hairy House Wives, The 4 Captives, Winoletics, E2E from home, Corona Fit, Happy

ISO feet, Stimulus Runners, No more Cake, Pandemic Pandas, Team L.N.T. (Literally Nothing To Do), Coronas Loners and Hike-orona. The Wanneroo Fire Support Brigade signed up three teams, Whiskey, Foxtrot and Sierra.

In the end ...

125 teams completed a full end-to-end, 29 completed two, five teams completed three, three managed four end-to-ends and one unbelievably achieved five.

Well done to all who took part!

Ashley Gibson
Marketing Manager

We received many messages thanking us for running the virtual hike... here are just a few!

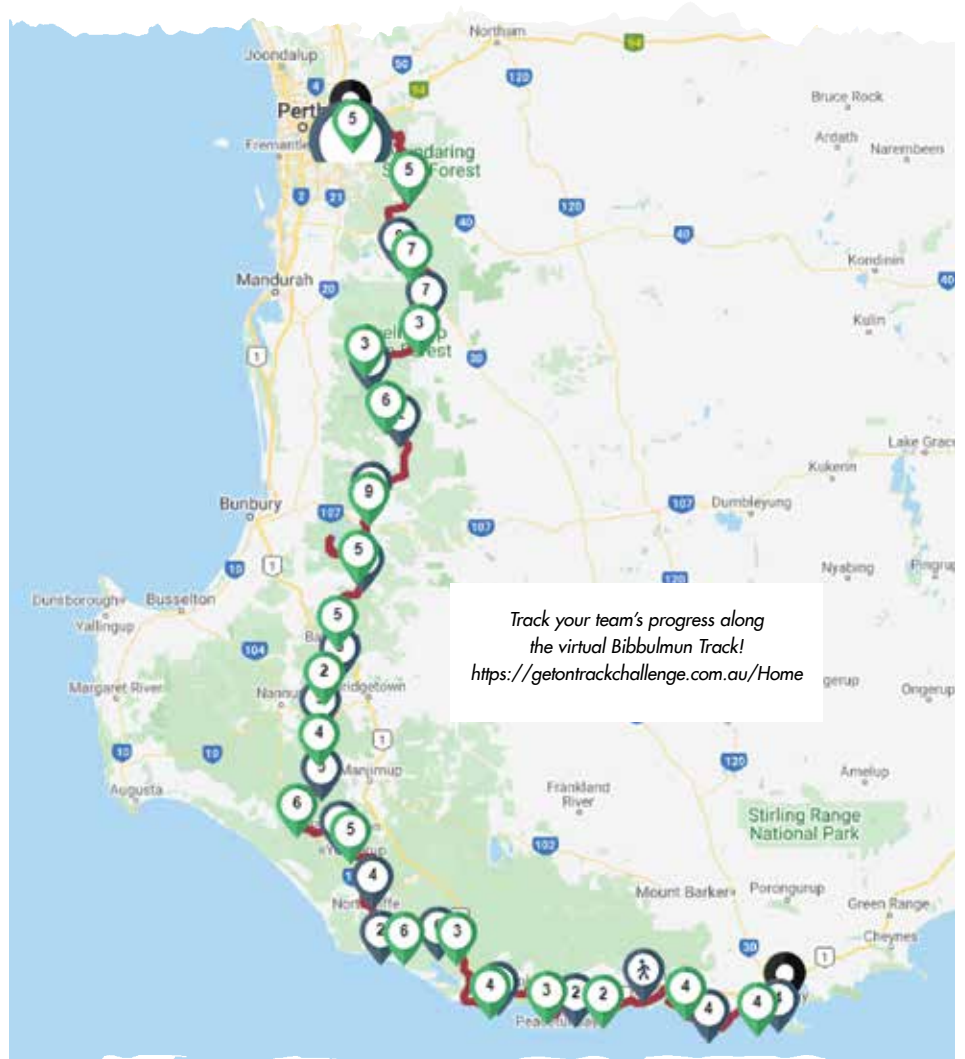
I am so excited that our team came second place in the challenge. What a wonderful adventure I had walking, cycling, kayaking and Paddle boarding in so many different locations during the Lockdown period, I will never forget it!

I have included a photo of myself that my daughter took.

Thanks again for hosting such a wonderful event!

Emily Elsasser
Team The Oarsum Foursum

The winners were Team Dark—Anne, Kelly, Doug and Robyn
Second place went to The Oarsum Foursum—Dorte, Emily, Chelle and Trace
Third place were Four Phat Chicks—Bernadette, Jane, Anita and Liza.





Emily (Oarsome Foursome) on her SUP

I can't believe we made it... This challenge came to me as a Lifesaver, during the lockdown I felt more isolated than ever, borderline depression and of course inherent anxiety due to the situation we all went through together in different ways.

Keeping focused in moving forward in every way possible kept my mind busy and in addition it was a welcome personal challenge overcoming some major physical challenges I have been subject to for some time. Staying in touch over internet regularly with my new friends here in WA helped me to keep my chin up and moving.

What a GREAT opportunity to make the best out of what we were confronted with.

Cheers and eternally thankful for this lovely initiative!

Dorte Muller

Team The Oarsum Foursum



The Oarsum Foursum

This is a great way to motivate us all in these tough times... We all in the Wanneroo Fire Support service are really enjoying the trek and having 3 teams in it together makes it competitive... while having a great laugh on the way....

Bradd Farrell

Team Foxtrot



Brad Farrell - member of Team Foxtrot

With the current climate I am self-isolating at our farm in the Wheat belt region. It's a little different to the Bibbulmun Track, just a different kind of beauty. I'm taking the opportunity to exercise my puppy, keep physically active with farm work and enjoy stunning sun rises whilst running around the endless paddocks, checking the lambs. Thank you for providing a great challenge. I had plans to complete my sectional end-to-end run starting April 8. I only have Irwin inlet to Albany to run. Given the current climate that has been postponed. The challenge came at a great time for me and I look forward to completing the Track once regional restrictions are lifted.

Jane Snowden

Team Four Phat Chicks

We absolutely loved the challenge, and look forward to doing it again - it certainly motivated us to get out and exercise way more than I think we would have. Especially for me working from home - made me take breaks and get exercise into my day.

Kel Scott

Team Dark



Team Dark - Robyn, Anne, Kel and Doug

Thank you so much Bibb Track team, the Virtual Challenge was super fun. Our team included two of us running an Australia wide orienteering challenge. But most importantly our other two

teammates Shendelle and 'Smokey' had been in three lots of two-week quarantines (South America, Sydney, Perth), then were hugely appreciative of the ability to be out walking and running.

Also we met hiking the Track in 2019!

Sophie Giles

Team Los Marchadores

Well done to all competitors. Just a bit of info on our team, Gippybunny, our team captain John Ladyman is 73 (and is a legend). I am 49 and my sons are 13 and 15. We met on the Bibb Track while doing an E2E last year. Thanks for the great challenge.

Chris Anders

Team Gippybunny

Tina D (Team Walkaholics)

Here is (a pic) of me somewhere between Collie and Balingup, where our team is currently located in the challenge. It was my third time through here, but now I'm in Japan. The rest of our team is in the NT and VIC. To complete the challenge I have been exploring my neighbourhood and seeing some great stuff from really old Japanese houses, to the beach, places to eat once Corona is over, etc.



Tina when she was on the 'real' Track near Balingup.

Yesterday, I went and bought a Japanese style 'mamachari' bike. I had been meaning to, but the challenge encouraged me to finally do it. I can't wait to get out on that now too. I'm in Japan for the year as an exchange teacher but am now in my 3rd month from working from home. The challenge has been great as it is making me get out and not be lazy. I have a section on the track planned for next April as I'm filling in gaps to complete a 3rd E2E, the second sectional.

Accommodation, Tours and Services

Please support the Walker Friendly Businesses that support the Track.



ACCOMMODATION CATERING TRACK TRANSFERS EQUIPMENT SUPPLIER

BUSINESS NAME	TOWN	TYPE	PHONE NUMBER	WEBSITE
Albany Bayview Backpackers YHA	ALBANY		(08) 9842 3388	bayviewlodge.com.au
Albany Harbourside Apartments	ALBANY		(08) 9842 1769	albanyharbourside.com.au
Dunmoyle House B&B	ALBANY		(08) 9842 5235	dunmoyle.com.au
Lewana Cottages	BALINGUP		(08) 9764 1016	lewanacottages.com
Southampton Homestead	BALINGUP		0412 229 564	southamptonhomestead.com
Woodlands of Balingup	BALINGUP		(08) 9764 1272	balinguptourism.com.au
Time Travel Tours & Transport	BALINGUP/DONNELLY RIVER		0417 099 268	facebook.com/TimeTravelToursandTransport/
Mandia B&B	COLLIE		0417 179 260	mandia.com.au
The Colliefields	COLLIE		(08) 9734 2052	colliefields.com
TraaVerse	COLLIE		0417 654 426	traaverse.com.au
Whispering Pines B & B	COLLIE		(08) 9734 3883	whisperingpinesbandb.com.au
Glen Mervyn Lodge	COLLIE (MUMBALLUP)		0428 395 328	glenmervynlodge.com.au
Boddington Retreat	BODDINGTON		0422 441 973	boddingtonretreat.com.au
Blue Wren Travellers' Rest	DENMARK		(08) 9848 3300	denmarkbluwren.com.au
Cape Howe Cottages	DENMARK		(08) 9845 1295	capehowe.com.au
Denmark Forest Retreat	DENMARK		0438 938 798	denmarkforestretreat.com.au
Nutkin Lodge	DENMARK		0419 953 780	nutkinlodge.com.au
The Cove	DENMARK		(08) 9848 1770	thecovechalets.com
Windrose B & B	DENMARK		(08) 9848 3502	windrose.com.au
Donnelly River Holiday Village	DONNELLY RIVER		(08) 9772 1244	donnelyriver.com.au
Blue Moon Forest Lodge	GLENORAN (DONNELLY)		0488 321 470	bluemoonforestlodge.com
Dwellingup Adventures	DWELLINGUP		(08) 9538 1127	dwellingupadventures.com.au
Dwellingup Retreat	DWELLINGUP		0422 441 973	dwellingupretreat.com.au
Dwellingup Transfers	DWELLINGUP		0473 924 680	facebook.com/dwellingup
Jarra Forest Lodge	DWELLINGUP		0402 615 235	forestdiscoverycentre.com.au
Mundaring Weir Hotel	MUNDARING		(08) 9295 1106	mundaringweirhotel.com.au
Karri Country Good Food	NORTHCLIFFE		0455 628 097	karricountrygoodfood.com.au
Karri Hill Cottages	NORTHCLIFFE		(08) 9776 7349	karrihillcottages.com
Forest Lodge Resort	PEMBERTON		(08) 9776 1113	forestlodge.com.au
Pemberton Discovery Tours	PEMBERTON		(08) 9776 0484	pembertondiscoverytours.com.au
People & Parcel Movers	PEMBERTON		0448 544 784	peopleparcelmovers.com.au
RAC Karri Valley Resort	PEMBERTON		(08) 9776 2020	parksandresorts.rac.com.au/karri-valley
Rainbow Trail Chalets	PEMBERTON		0438 561 664	rainbowtrailchalets.com.au
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Che Sara Sara Chalets	WALPOLE		(08) 9840 8004	chesarasara chalets.com.au
Coalmine Beach Holiday Park	WALPOLE		(08) 9840 1026	coalminebeach.com.au
Naturally Walpole - Track and Trail Transfers	WALPOLE		0429 784 924	facebook.com/Naturallywalpole
GUIDED TOURS & EVENTS				
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Walk into Luxury			1300 662 452	walkintoluxury.com.au
Adventurous Women			1300 388 419	adventurouswomen.com.au
Didier Walks			0410 756 065	didierwalks.com.au
Inspiration Outdoors			(08) 6219 5164	inspirationoutdoors.com.au
Life's An Adventure			(02) 9975 4553	lifesanadventure.com.au
The Hike Collective			0413 173 794	thehikecollective.com.au
Simply Trekking			0427 058 866	simplytrekking.com.au
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Vollie Corner - Guiding



Helen Grimm

Our events give the public a chance to walk, with support, at whatever level they are comfortable, and help to promote our wonderful Track.

All events are led by one or more of our volunteer Guides who donate their time, knowledge and energy to optimising the experience for participants. There are currently 24 volunteers in the Guide program, leading 60+ events over the course of the year. They undergo a period of training which includes supervised walks, revision of leadership and decision-making skills, first aid and navigation; it usually takes 6-12 months to complete all elements.

Our Guides consistently receive excellent ratings from event participants. But what are their own experiences? I thought I'd ask some of them...

Why did you want to be a Guide?

"After walking on the Track for a number of years, I thought it would be good to give something back"

"I realised that what I see as an easy overnight hike can be a life-changing experience for a beginner"

"Actually, being a guide was the last thing on my mind! I was happy volunteering in the office one day a week. Then Steve persuaded me to 'volunteer' when he needed

an extra guide for an event. After helping on several private walks with older people, I discovered I loved helping people get the most out of the experience and showing them, by example, how easy and exhilarating walking on the Bibbulmun Track can be."

"To share my passion for the Track with others"

"I like helping people discover a love of the Track, the amazing beauty of the south-west forests and landscapes, and seeing them gain enough confidence to take on end-to-ends, or even become guides themselves"

What is a standout memorable moment for you on an event?

"On one 'Over the Hill' walk, I was chatting to a lady about my solo end-to-end. She decided to come into the office for a trip planning session, and went on to complete her own end-to-end the following year"

"Showing a lady from Singapore, on her first ever camping trip, how to collect firewood"

"Being caught with my pants down in an emergency; I thought I was alone!"

"On the walk from Mundaring Weir Hotel to Ball Creek Campsite with a group including three American tourists, I made a comment about C.Y. O'Connor. They then wanted to know the whole history of the Goldfields water supply scheme. We tend to forget how interesting our history really is"

"At Helena Campsite; we heard a haunting, mystical sound floating through the early morning mist, and discovered one of our ladies had brought her flute with her and was sitting playing it at the top of the spur trail. Absolutely magical!"

"Walking from Inglehope to Chadoora Campsite through continuous, torrential rain. We had fun splashing along the Bibbulmun River and were all so wet that we just had to laugh about it!"

"On the Bibbulmun for Beginners walk, getting the participants to take over the lead of the group and their amazement that there suddenly seem to be a lot more waukals than they thought!"

"Using my training and knowledge of the Track to help a participant with a medical condition finish an event"

What part of the Track do you look forward to getting back to regularly as a Guide?

"Not so much a section, but an event; I love Walk with Mum, watching the children enjoy getting out into nature, learning that they can walk the distance, and also seeing the mums learning about the simple lifestyle"

"The Mt Cooke circuit: it never fails to amaze people how beautiful it is, and that they managed to climb it!"



Keeping skills updated in a First Aid course

"I always look forward to walking through the tall timbers of the karri forests... the majesty of the forest, its dense undergrowth, green tunnels, and colourful fungi never fail to awe me"

What question have you most commonly been asked?

"Have you walked the whole Track?"

"Are there snakes?"

*"How much further?"
("It's just around the corner...")*

*(To Jim, The Mad Axeman)
"How did you get your Track name?"*

What is the best part of being a Guide?

"Getting to meet lots of people who enjoy the bush"

"Seeing many of the participants go on to walk further on our Track, at least in some part due to my influence"

"Helping contribute to their enjoyment of hiking by the advice you can give"

"Seeing people gain confidence in their ability to hike the Track and experience nature"

"Bumping into someone a year or more later, doing a major section or end-to-end"

"I love meeting up with the people who return again and again to walk with groups I lead"

"Sharing our wonderful Track with people who aren't confident to get out by themselves"

"Having a great time and lots of laughs - I wouldn't do it if it wasn't enjoyable!"

As one Guide commented, each volunteer brings different strengths to an event. We are very lucky to have such an enthusiastic bunch of volunteer Guides, and we thank them all.

Helen Grimm
Volunteer Manager

Prize WINNERS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF OUR MEMBERSHIP PRIZE DRAWS

Monthly Membership Draw

March

Jenny Ashbolt received some Rocktape

April

Helen Higgon received an XBowl

May

Jennifer Endersbee
received some Rocktape

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



Track Tucker - Nasi Goreng

This recipe was first published in Bibb News in 2000!
20 years later it still sounds like it would hit the spot after a day's hike.

- 1 dessert sp nasi goreng paste
- 1 tsp oil
- 2 tbsp dehydrated vegetables
- 1 cup dried mushrooms
- 1 tsp dried garlic
- 1 cube fresh ginger, chopped
- 1 strip dried chili beef
- 1 tbsp fried shallots
- 1 cup basmati or quick cook rice

While cooking the rice, soak the dehydrated vegetables, meat and mushrooms. When the rice is cooked fry the oil, paste, rehydrated vegetables in another pan. Add the cooked rice and stir.

Send us your favourite recipe - we're compiling a Track Tucker book.

If your recipe is selected you will receive a free copy!

Email with a great photo of your dish, or cooking out on the Track, to friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au



*Dinner at Warren Campsite.
Photo by Pelusey Photography*

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

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

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

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

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.

Notice board

FOR SALE

4 x Li-ion 3.8V 2600 Ah Phone Batteries

Samsung G2 Phone & Cover

Batteries for Samsung G2 phone – provide 4+ days power with phone on all day. Total weight 172 grams.

Phone weighs 164 grams; cover weighs 102 grams.

\$50 – which will be donated to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation.

Contact: Mike - 0427 850 883

WANTED

OVER 50's LADY HIKERS

Over 50's lady who is a keen hiker and love the outdoors and the bush. Looking for like-minded over 50's lady hikers to do either day/or sometimes overnight hikes.

Contact: Elaine - 0404 347 074 - Email: hkuhn@iinet.net.au

Want to advertise on our notice board?

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

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

Cost is \$5 for 3 months.

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

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



PHOTO COMPETITION RESULTS

We loved this photo of Sian Mule playing the ukulele to the 'crowd'.

Pam Chitty's "AC/DC thunderstruck at Lake Maringup!" was a good entry.

And the winner is...

"I may not be a rockstar but I'm definitely a bush-star!"

- Josephine Ferstat (age 10)

Well done Josephine - a Bibbulmun Track Headsox is on its way to you!

TRACK TOWN - WALPOLE

Whalers and sealers were among the early Europeans to set foot on the coast near what is now Walpole and their glowing reports of the area revealed sheltered coves inlets, giant trees and deep rivers.

Further exploration in the area was carried out in 1837. Many years later the Western Australian Government declared much of the land around Walpole as National Park, and this pristine pocket of the South West Coast enjoys a thriving and ever-growing tourism trade.

Walpole over the years has become famed for being home of the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk, and rightly so. This fantastic experience it is a journey 40 meters up into the luscious canopy of the tingle forest and spans across six 60 meters of a lightweight bridge. If heights are not your thing this will probably make your knees



Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk

shake, since it is designed specifically to sway to replicate the movement of the canopy below.

However, Walpole is not all about the Tree Top walk. Only 412 kilometers south of Perth, Walpole is an excellent option for a weekend break and is full of fantastic hidden gems.

The Bibbulmun Track section between Walpole and Denmark (Map 7) passes through some of the most spectacular scenery of the entire Track. Highlights include sprawling views of the Southern Ocean, pristine beach vistas from Conspicuous Cliff and Mandalay Beach, Sappers Bridge Crossing, the Giant Tingle Tree, and a handful of highly rated campsites.

The Walpole-Nornalup Wilderness region has a variety of other trails, including some family friendly options. Stand-out hits include the Harewood Forest Walk (1.2km return), Mount Pingerup Walk Trail (5km return), and Conspicuous Beach to Rame Head Campsite (6.6km return). There are also some very good camping options for drive-ins, including the stunning Fernhook Falls (which also boasts a wooden platform walk up to the falls), Crystal Springs and Banksia Camp (4WD only).

Mount Frankland National Park surrounds the northern section of the Walpole-Nornalup region and is well worth a visit. The Mount Frankland Wilderness View Lookout is accessible without a 4WD, only a short walk from the carpark and offers 360-degree views of the Walpole Wilderness. For those who prefer more of a challenge, take the 1.2 kilometer Mount Frankland Summit Trail, a strenuous but rewarding climb to the peak from the carpark.

Just south of the national park is Circular Pool, a beautiful natural pool in the Frankland River. This area is just as popular in winter when the water is raging to summer when its more tranquil and a great spot for a picnic.

The Walpole region's clean, crisp air and extraordinarily fertile and well-watered soils mean 365 days of growing a year.

Local produce including some stunning local honey is available everywhere and often showcased at local cafes and restaurants. Try out some of the local wineries call in to Boston Brewing for an exceptional meal accompanied by craft beer.

The Walpole-Nornalup Visitor Centre is in Pioneer Park in the centre of town and sells a variety of useful and interesting books, handmade and local gifts and snacks, walker supplies, maps and guidebooks, and much more. They also have a Bibbulmun Track register at the entry and the staff have a huge amount of local knowledge on the area. They can even arrange a scenic day itinerary for you.

August, although cold, is a spectacular time to visit the region—expect plenty of rain, cool crisp mornings and the wonderful smell of damp forest floor. You might even be lucky enough to spot a whale; humpbacks are usually seen between June to October, southern rights from August to October.

Fact file:

Walpole Nornalup Visitor Centre is open 9am - 5pm Mon - Fri and 9am - 4pm Weekends

info@walpole.com.au
www.walpole.com.au
(08) 9840 1111
Pioneer Park, South Coast Hwy

Please support our Walker Friendly Businesses in the area

Che Sara Sara Chalets
(08) 9840 8004

Coalmine Beach Holiday Park
(08) 9840 1026

Naturally Walpole Track & Trail Transfers
0429 784 924

Nutkin Lodge
0419 953 780



Aernout Nieuwkerk (aka The Birdman) is a BTF member and avid bushwalker and bird watcher. He completed an end-to-end walk in 2019 and, incredibly, spotted 117 species of birds along the way. This is his story.

I'm a Dutchman living in the UK and I had never been to Australia before, so walking the Bibbulmun Track was going to be the centrepiece of my first Australian adventure!

Walking the Bibbulmun Track end-to-end had long featured high on my wish list. When I started in Kalamunda, I instantly found the Track beautiful and exciting, with flora and fauna I had never seen before. For me, the grass trees gave the trail an exotic vibe and I loved the scent of the flowers and eucalyptus trees. The birds too were fantastic; on the first day I saw some West Australian endemics, such as the western whistler, western thornbill and western spinebill. Fortunately I had studied some field guides before I came to Australia, otherwise the amount of new bird species would have totally overwhelmed me.

As I continued my walk I became acquainted with the bobtail lizards that I spotted frequently on the Track itself and ornate crevice lizards basking in the sun on the beautiful granite hilltops. Twice I came across Gould's goannas, which didn't want to let me pass. One of them even chased me briefly, after I made a great effort to bush-bash in a wide circle around him!

Spring was in full force—so many wildflowers as well as birds. As I took a lunch break, a striated pardalote collected nesting material right in front of my feet. The forest was filled with birdsong, and I often struggled to make progress walking because there was so much to see.



Striated Pardalote, collecting nest material on the trail

Fortunately, the shelters are not too far apart, so I had ample time to enjoy the beauty around me. Also the campsites themselves are wonderful places. At Monadnocks Campsite, a rufous treecreeper foraged around the shelter and in many places I enjoyed observing family groups of red-winged fairy-wrens. Often at night I heard southern boobooks, and sometimes barking



Tawny-crowned Honeyeater

owls—and in the morning I was woken by wattlebirds and kookaburras. Most conspicuous perhaps were the three black cockatoo species, (red-tailed, Carnaby's and Baudin's). I struggled to tell the last two apart, but I kept trying...

Flora and fauna kept changing during the walk. A few hundred kilometres in, sightings of emus became quite common and I even saw a wild pig. When I was relaxing near the stream at Beedelup shelter, the alarm call of a white-breasted robin drew my attention. It turned out the robin had spotted a tiger snake on the riverbank, and he kept following the snake and making his alarm call. It happened quite frequently on the Track that a bird gave me an early warning of the presence of a snake.

Beyond the Gardner Campsite I found myself walking through partly flooded areas for a few days. In places the water was knee-deep, but I didn't care. I came across some new birds such as a pair of sacred kingfishers, swamp harriers, brown falcons and a pair of collared sparrowhawks doing display flights. Nice flowers too!

Finally reaching the sea was a great milestone. I really enjoyed walking in the dunes and the lonely beach walks were like a dream. The bright sunlight made all the colours so vibrant—the white sand, blue sea, pink and yellow flowers. In the afternoon I pitched my tent at Long Point Shelter and enjoyed the sunset.

New habitat meant new birds. At beautiful spots, I just dropped my backpack and spent time taking it all in. The absolute highlight for me was spotting southern emu-wrens in the dune scrub, both the male and the female!



Red-winged Fairy-wren



Western Rosella

As the trail moved back inland, I entered the magnificent tingle forest. Much of the time there I was walking in pouring rain, which made it more difficult to spot things. But hey, the tingles only survive there because it rains so much in that area, so I should not complain!

Returning to the dunes and beaches yielded many new bird species such as terns, cormorants and oystercatchers. Nankeen kestrels, swamp harriers and square-tailed kites are frequently spotted above the dunes. Ospreys

and white-bellied sea eagles patrol the shoreline. One of the highlights for me was the beach walks on the white sand, where often the only footsteps I saw were my own. Several times I came across hooded plovers that must have been breeding somewhere on the beach. Lovely!

In the dunes, kangaroos foraged amongst the flowers, and tiger snakes were abundant! I saw about three snakes per day on average. I enjoyed the wildflowers here, including some



Western Whistler

stunning orchids and I was very excited to see a rock parrot at William Bay!

Near Denmark, the Nullaki peninsula was another highlight. It's a fantastic place to see shorebirds such as hooded, red-capped and greater sand plovers, red-necked stints and sanderlings.

While camping my last night on the Track at Mutton Bird, I felt slightly melancholic. One more walking day to Albany and then it would all be over. I had a wonderful time and hope to walk the Track again someday!

In total, I spotted 117 species of birds on the Bibbulmun Track itself and 139 if I include the Perth and Albany area.

Aernout Nieuwkerk "Birdman!"

View more of Aernout's beautiful photos on his blog: www.hikingbirdman.com



Red-capped Parrot



Aernout Nieuwkerk "Birdman!"

WA Hiking Strategy is Launched

On 24 June Sport and Recreation Minister Mick Murray released a 10-year WA Hiking Strategy.

This is the first of its kind in the country, focusing on bushwalking and trail running, and will guide industry in the funding and development of hiking and trails for the next decade.



Minister Murray and Mike Wood AM demonstrate the new 'handshake' at the launch of the WA Hiking Strategy.

In launching the strategy the Minister remarked that, "There has never been a better time to launch this strategy, now that COVID-19 restrictions are easing. Our hiking trails experienced record levels of participation over April and May and we want to make sure Western Australians continue to enjoy hiking and trail running." The State Government has allocated \$250,000 over the next three years to encourage participation.

The strategy was developed by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), along with significant community input. Linda Daniels, the Executive Director of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation,

was on the project management committee and will continue on the sub-committee, convened to prioritise the recommendations and develop an implementation plan.

The recommendations are designed to maximise participation, grow the visitor economy, support sustainable trail development and maintenance and improve governance and advocacy in the hiking sector.

A priority is to develop fit-for-purpose half and full-day loop trails near population centres adjoining long distance trails.

At the launch, Mike Wood was congratulated by the Minister on his recent appointment as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) and presented with a copy of the strategy.

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08 6219 5164

Restarting life in a new country is always going to be a daunting experience. Imagine being in an unfamiliar location, in a different culture, with few if any connections and no choice but to learn a new language. Now, picture having to do this after fleeing your home because of violence or persecution. You have nothing more than the clothes on your back. For most of us this is inconceivable but for 25.4 million refugees worldwide it is their reality.

In 2015, while hiking in Western Australia, Neil (himself an immigrant from South Africa) proposed a little idea to his mate. "Do you reckon we could take these refugee kids out on a hike with us?"

With that simple idea, First Hike Project (FHP) was born.

Within months they had hustled up enough volunteers, gear and donations to take 15 kids out to one of their favourite spots along the Bibbulmun Track. Each participant was kitted out with a backpack, tent and food. They hiked for a day, spotting kangaroos and avoiding snakes and then experienced their very first overnighter in the Aussie bush.

Fast forward to 2017 and FHP has enough gear and experience to regularly take groups of newly arrived friends out on bush adventures around the Perth area. The concept worked, and it was time to make it national. Neil's plan was to activate groups of like-minded people to kickstart their own hike and before long FHP had satellite groups in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Brisbane.



It was amazing...super glad there was no-one else at the camp as it was not a quiet affair. We would have shut it down earlier had there been but it was nice to let them shout, dance, sing and act like, well, kids I guess!

Sharing these spectacular and breathtaking experiences in the Aussie bush is our way of welcoming new arrivals into Australia.

To many of the diverse cultures arriving in our country, hiking and camping are not activities they have any experience with, so we have created events which provide a safe, cost-free and fully catered experience. We provide the transport, food and drinks, hiking and camping gear as well as park entry fees (where applicable) in the hope that afterwards, armed with their new-found understanding of what lies beyond the suburbs, the participants will feel more at home in Australia. We want them to experience for themselves the breathtaking beauty of the Australian bush.

And so late last year First Hike project had a hike planned along the Bibbulmun Wellington Spur Trail, over the weekend of October 12-13. The notice of intent form was in and approved, our volunteers had their instructions of who to collect and where to meet the group, the support vehicle knew the routes to be travelled, the Bibbulmun Track Foundation had loaned us all the extra gear we needed to accommodate this larger group and all was set.

...but the best laid plans...

Unfortunately for us, the conditions were just perfect to conduct some prescribed burns in exactly our proposed hike location so we were informed on Wednesday that the trail was being closed to hikers. In addition repairs were being made to the toilet block at the other group campsite on the Spur

trail, so we had to find a solution before Saturday. Nothing like a challenge, huh?

A quick call to our friends over at Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions led us to meet up with Nick Evans (we like to call him Super Nick!) who took the time out between fighting fires, fielding calls from Perth office and washing out the cobwebs from his long-service-leave to show us a trail which, not only did we not know about before then but also was perfect for our purposes.

The new Wiilman Bilya Trail mostly follows the water line from the north western tip of Wellington Dam just west of Collie all the way to Potters Gorge, 19.7km away. There is a group campsite one kilometre into the trail called Nyingarn where we set up base and from where we conducted our walks.

Nick drove us to the start of the trail, talked us through the ins and outs of the location and then agreed to meet us on the side of the road on Saturday morning with the gate key! You're starting to understand the Super Nick part?

Normally, we would have the participants laden up with backpacks, sleeping bags, mats, rain gear, camp cookers and food, and hike our way into the campsite, exhausted, for a night of storytelling and dinner. This time our lucky group walked one kilometre unencumbered to the camp where we set about putting up tents, mats, sleeping bags, cooking areas and generally having a good look around... and what a pretty campsite it is!

All the sites are up on the hill to the back of the shelter on levelled ground, in among all the plants under the canopy of trees. The shelter itself looks over the dam and there is heaps of space at the front to enjoy the water.

The hikes we did were amazing, the forest was old and accommodating and the rain stayed away until we left on Sunday afternoon! We would like to thank everyone who made this hike possible and DBCA for protecting us from runaway forest fires by conducting prescribed burns...we really couldn't do any of this without you. Cheers!

Neil McCulloch
Founder, First Hike Project

Upcoming Events

Bibbulmun Birds

Encounter the birds of the jarrah forest on a 16km walk in the hills with Viv Read, amateur ornithologist, volunteer and experienced bushwalker from Birdlife WA. Includes Common Birds of the South West Forests bush book.

Don't forget your binoculars!

Date: **Sun 4th Oct at 8:00am to 2:30pm**

Where: **East of Armadale**

Rating: **Beginners**

Cost: **\$35 members**



L-plates Pub Plod

Are you a first timer or do you just occasionally dabble in bushwalking? This is a great way to learn about what the Track has to offer you. The walk (approx. 12km with some hills) takes you through mixed jarrah forest with views over the Mundaring Weir to a Bibbulmun Track campsite. Your guides will be on hand to talk to you about walking the Bibbulmun Track and share with you their personal experiences. We finish near the walkers' favourite local haunt, the Mundaring Weir Hotel. An all-round fun day and great introduction.

When: **Sun 4th Oct at 8:30am to 2:30pm**

Where: **Near Mundaring Weir**

Rating: **Beginners**

Cost: **\$25 members**



Bibbulmun Bush Survival

Join us for an overnight walk packed with a range of theoretical and practical exercises to keep you safe when bushwalking.

Run by the Foundation's lead guide, Steve Sertis, this event focusses on a wide range of subjects relating to bush survival and walking the Track. There are a number of theoretical as well as practical exercises conducted over the course of the event.

We only walk 2km each day carrying our overnight packs (food, clothing, stove, tent etc). The distance is short to give us the maximum time to focus on our activities on Saturday which include:

- Map and compass reading with a night walk, off-track night navigation, a longer off-track day time navigation exercise and finding emergency exits
- First Aid basics and poison plant identification
- Water procurement methods
- Bush fire survival
- Fuel stove use
- Tent siting and more.

Participants will require a sound level of fitness and be prepared to walk through the bush, off-track in the night in a small group.

We finish early on Sunday morning.

Includes trip preparation notes, map, experienced guides and equipment hire.

BYO food. Own transport to walk start.

When: From 9:00am **Sat 7th Nov to**

9:00am Sun 8th Nov 2020

Where: **Near Kalamunda**

Rating: **Beginners**

Cost: **\$145 members**

"I learnt so much and the information and skills taught are so useful. Everyone should do this. I will recommend this course to my friends!"

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.

When: **Sat 31st October to Sun 1st Nov**
Planning night: **Thurs 22nd Oct, 6:30pm.**

Where: **Murdoch Park'n'Ride**

Rating: **Beginners**

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





Experience the best of the Bibbulmun Track in Comfort

Join us and discover diverse landscapes on our all-inclusive, fully guided 'Best of the Bibbulmun' Tours exploring the highlights of the Track.

- Selected full and half day guided walks
- Spectacular coastal, forest and wilderness areas
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Bibbulmun & Beyond 9-day Tour: 12th - 20th October 2020
8-day Highlights Tour: 14th - 21st September 2020
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Just Bring Your Boots, Your Camera And A Sense Of Adventure!

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WA RESIDENTS WANTED!

If the borders remain closed spots on our Spring tours will be available!

Send in a registration form no deposit required.



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

Social Sunday walks

Free for members. See booking conditions online.

WALK RATINGS: BEGINNERS INTERMEDIATE EXPERIENCED

DATE	TIME	DETAILS	RATING
6th September 2020	9:00am	16.2km return walk from North Bannister to the Serpentine River via the Gringer Creek Campsite	
6th September 2020	9:00am	11km return. Lights Beach carpark to William Bay campsite	
13th September 2020	8:30am	23.5km return walk from Perth Hills National Parks Centre to Helena Campsite (Fit and experienced walkers only!)	
20th September 2020	9:00am	16.3km return walk from Sullivan Rock to Monadnocks Campsite	
4th October 2020	9:00am	18km return walk from Sand Patch to Mutton Bird Campsite near Albany	
11th October 2020	9:00am	18.4km return walk from Dale Road to Beraking Campsite. (Fit and experienced walkers only!)	
18th October 2020	9:00am	16km Mt Cooke circuit walk via Mt Cooke Campsite	
8th November 2020	4:00pm	6.4km return sunset walk from Camel Farm to Hewett's Hill Campsite	

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

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



Hello Fellow Walkers!

Well, what is there to trivialise about? One thing I will promise you, I will not mention the “C” word in this article. By now, you will have all read enough about it.

No, crapulosity will not get a mention. Some of you may have experienced it.

So, where are we now? The hills are alive with the sound of hikers on the Track. The desire to escape to the outdoors has been enormous, and we have seen a huge increase in memberships and merchandise sales as people plan walks out in the bush. How incredibly lucky we are to live in a State that offers so much opportunity to get outside—live outside—and experience nature.

Nature has had a bit of a bonanza recently. Maintenance volunteers are now able to get out to their sections of the Track after a long enforced wait and many comment on how quickly nature has taken advantage of their absence. The bush has a marvellous capacity to regenerate after fires, or to reclaim its own after having a path cut through it to allow access to walkers.

Leave the Track alone and it will disappear very quickly—nature will take it back. Many of us have battled through overgrown sections and cursed as we clambered over fallen trees—but the Track is a living entity, which is part of its magical appeal. Maintenance Vollies, Support Vollies and the Department of Parks and Wildlife all work together to keep it walkable.

Speaking of nature’s bonanza, I hear that African penguins stroll around in Cape Town, wild boars are eating in the gardens of Corsica and sea lions wander the streets of Buenos Aires.

Track Trivia

We’re not likely to see any of these on the Bibbulmun Track, although people still swear there are black jaguars roaming the bush in Jarrahdale!

Speaking of wildlife I had the pleasure in participating on-line with the DBCA’s Western Shield Project.

Western Shield is one of the biggest wildlife conservation programs ever undertaken in Australia and aims to return the balance and mix of native animals in selected areas of WA to levels comparable to pre-European settlement. It has a particular focus on threatened species.

As part of the project, remote cameras have been set up in the bush to monitor wildlife. Triggered by motion, thousands of pictures have been taken and volunteers recruited to identify what triggered the camera. Sample pictures of the many species of wildlife were provided to assist in the identification and I spent several hours fascinated by the array of creatures observed and identifying each of them.

Mostly the cameras were triggered by kangaroos, wallabies and emus, and occasionally by DBCA staff changing the memory cards! However there were also fascinating shots, especially at night, of echidnas, possums and some creatures I had never seen in real life such as woylies and chuditch. Several species of birds were seen and of course feral pigs and the predators, foxes and feral cats.

The behaviour of different species was interesting—most seemed indifferent to, or unaware of, the cameras. Cats however displayed their inherent curiosity, coming close and peering intently into the lens as did species of crows and ravens.

The value of this programme is that it allows the Department to determine the distribution of wildlife in the bush and especially to see if the programmes to eradicate predators are having effect. Happily statistics show that, within the programme areas, the level

of predators has dropped considerably and the population of native wildlife is increasing.

So the next time you spot a quenda or an echidna on the Bibbulmun Track spare a thought for all the effort that is going into the preservation of our wild creatures.

I will leave you with a few pictures of wildlife I have experienced on the Track. The last was a bit of a surprise, encountered just outside Collie.

Happy Walking

Wrong Way Jim



Blue-tongued Skink



Ent



Unknown species, native to the Collie area

REFLECTIONS FROM THE REGISTERS

Chadoora

So I see I'm not the only 80 year old on the Track. I thought we were supposed to get wiser as we got older?

Martin 07/09/2015

I am out of cheese!
Disaster!

But tomorrow I will have lots of cheese. Tonight I will just dream of cheese. Dwellingup! Yea!

Mike 12/09/2015

Hidden Valley

Last full day on the Track, it's been a lot of fun and I've met a lot of good folk along the way, both on the Track and in the towns, which is what I will remember longest. My thanks to all you West Australians who followed up on the original dream and produced the Track and who keep it in such good order. You have every reason to proud of the Bibbulmun Track and of the way in which it is managed.

Thanks!

Bob Graham (Kiwi Bob) 08/10/2004

Today is our first day, we are over 50 and unfit but have dreamed of doing this for over two years.

Marty and Gloria 04/12/2004
(Ed: We think they are still out there!)

One day away from closure of a 15 year old dream! I have pounded the ground for 47 days. It has been the trip of a lifetime, just like growing up again. Climbing mountains, sloshing through mud, marching over sand dunes—exploring the great outdoors. I faced my fears, set my goals and achieved them. I have met many wonderful people on the Track that I will remember—goodbye and good luck to you all, we may meet again somewhere, somehow. The flies drove me crazy and right now I just don't know how I really feel—a huge mixture of sadness because something so good is ending and happiness because I have made it to the end. Most of all I feel enlightened—the Bibbulmun Track will always remain a part of my life.

Take care everyone.

Rosie D (Hobbit) 17/12/2004

We must come back to the Track again,

To this vagabond way of life,

To the hikers way, the dreamers way,

Where days are free of strife.

All we ask is a merry yarn,

From a laughing merry rover,

A rowdy meal and a frothing pint,

When the long trip is over.

Batty and Babu 29/10/2005
(Ed: These guys did an end-to-end and left some great poetry along the way!)

Rame Head

An amazing skyscape today, with sheets of rain passing over the bay and the inlet. The heath land is wet and fragrant. I'm one of those lucky West Australians who has grown up with these kinds of landscapes. I both take it for granted and am blown away by it. Today I feel very lucky, may it grow and last. Luck and happiness to all who pass this way

Andy 09/11 2001

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.

NATIONAL TRAILS OF THE UK - THE RIDGEWAY

by Jim Baker

Site of Ivinghoe Beacon



Coombe Hill Monument

“The Oldest Road in Britain” is how the 140km of the Ridgeway is often described. In truth it is the mid-section of an ancient series of tracks stretching some 500km from the Dorset to Norfolk coasts. 5000 years ago much of England was either swampland or thickly forested and people choose the higher, drier ridgeways to move themselves and their animals across the land. It was declared a National Trail in 1974 and more than 40 years later BTF vollie Jim Baker and a couple of his mates took it on:

Most of the UK National Trails are steeped in history and the Ridgeway more so than most. Everyone from Neolithic Man, Iron Age Man, the Romans, the Vikings and the drovers who moved their sheep from the West Country and Wales to the massive sheep fairs in Berkshire used the high ridge country.

One of the curious things about the Ridgeway is that it starts and finishes in the middle of nowhere, unlike most UK National Trails that start and finish in towns. The official start point is in a car park beside the busy A4 Bristol to London road, where the only landmark is a collection of three ancient burial mounds. However a track of about 3km connects this spot back to the village of Avebury, home of one of the largest Neolithic stone circles in the world. (Note 1). Most walkers start their trek by exploring this fascinating historic site.

From there we trekked to Ogbourne St George along an easy stony trail. The first landmark is Banbury Castle, an Iron Age fort (c.500AD) covering 11 acres and ringed with double ramparts and deep ditches. From there the track follows grassy gallops until turning off into Ogbourne.

From the excellent Sanctuary B&B in Ogbourne we climbed back up on to the ridge and followed an easy grassy walk past the Iron Age fort of Liddington Castle. The track then crosses the M4 motorway, and after leaving the noise and fumes of the 21st century behind follows a quiet woodland path to the eerie pre-historical site of Wayland’s Smithy. This is a Neolithic long barrow and a strange place indeed! (Note 2).

A quick break for lunch and then on to one of Britain’s iconic historical treasures—the Uffington White Horse. This stylised representation of a horse is carved into the chalk hillside and is believed to be more than 3000 years old. (Note 3).



Trail map

The track passes directly above the Horse and the day we arrived volunteers were working on a maintenance programme, so unfortunately we couldn't walk around the monument itself.

A short side trip to the village of Kingston Lisle to The Blowing Stone Inn for much needed refreshment was followed by an easy walk to the B&B at Hill Barn Farm, where we received excellent hospitality and food.

Day 3 was hot and long (30km)—probably the least interesting of the walk—through open country with fine views across the Thames Valley to the north and the Chilterns to the east, then dropping down to the village of Streatley, on the River Thames. We stayed in the Swan Hotel and after a good meal in the 15th century Bull Inn took advantage of the long hours of daylight by relaxing with a bottle of wine by the edge of the river.

From Streatley the path follows the Thames through the villages of South and North Stoke. This is a pretty walk



Barbury Castle

alongside the river, past many grand houses with their grounds coming down to the water's edge.

Beyond North Stoke the track leaves the river and continues through woodland and farmland to the village of Nuffield, largely following the course of Grim's Ditch, which is believed to have been constructed in the Iron Age as a boundary marker—Grim is an Anglo-Saxon word for the Devil.

On a more contemporary note, one section of the track runs directly along a path left through the centre of a large field of corn (See picture below). Under the UK Right to Roam Act (Note 4) in certain circumstances farmers are obliged to maintain trails across agricultural land.

From Nuffield and its 11th century St Botolph's church, famous for its graveyard's spring carpet of snowdrops, we walked through the Ewelme Park Estate before turning off to the town of Watlington, the smallest town in England, and the hospitality of the Fat Fox Inn.

The penultimate day of the walk, mostly along broad, grassy tracks in open countryside took us from Watlington to Wendover, about 25km, through the town of Princes Risborough. The town is steeped in history and probably goes back to the Roman times. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book and the Black Prince had a palace here in the 14th century, hence Princes. Signage here was lacking and we got completely lost, eventually taking local



The Long Barrow

advice and clambering out along a very steep slope into the Whiteleaf Nature Reserve, where a large cross on a triangular base is cut in the chalk on the side of the hill. The origin of this monument, the Whiteleaf Cross, is obscure, but it was first recorded in the 1740s.



The Thames at South Stoke

Back on track we joined a popular section of the Ridgeway through the nature reserve, with steep ups and downs affording wonderful views of Chequers, the country residence of the British Prime Minister. The track drops down and cuts across the driveway to the country house, then climbs steeply to the summit of Coombe Hill, overlooking Wendover. More history—on the summit of the hill is a monument to the men of Buckinghamshire who were killed in the Boer War.

From there it was an easy downhill stroll in to the town, to the 16th century Red Lion Hotel, which provided an excellent dinner and a further opportunity to enjoy a long light evening with wine in the garden.

So the final day dawned, the weather stayed fine and we left Wendover, walking through the houses and parks before undertaking a long climb



Part of the Avebury stone circles

continued on next page



The Right to Roam

through woodlands to the village of Wiggington and a very good lunch at The Greyhound. From Wiggington the final 8km stretch to the end of the track, at Ivinghoe Beacon, passes through the small town of Tring, crossing the Grand Union Canal into open countryside with the Beacon in sight, way up ahead, and the final steady climb brings you to the cairn that marks the site of the Beacon itself. The views of the surrounding countryside are magnificent.

And so we arrived at the end-point—also in the middle of nowhere. Like every other artefact on the trail, the Beacon has historical significance. It was the site of an iron-age fort and has been used as a signal point for centuries—it was one of the beacons used to announce the arrival of the Spanish Armada in 1588.

All that remained was to get back to Tring for a celebratory dinner and a sound night's sleep.



End of the Road!

The Ridgeway is a fairly easy walk through some quintessentially beautiful English countryside, and is especially appealing to those with an interest in history. It doesn't have the remoteness or dramatic appeal of, for example, the Coast to Coast path, but it is a very enjoyable walk.

Jim Baker.

Note 1 See: www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/avebury/history/

Note 2 See: www.ancient-wisdom.com/englandwaylands.htm

Note 3 See: www.ancient.eu/article/229/the-white-horse-of-uffington/

Note 4 See: www.inbrief.co.uk/agricultural-law/right-to-roam/

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