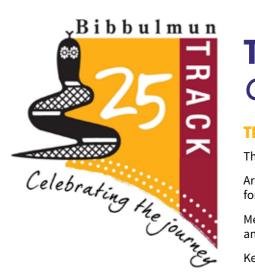
Bibbulmun APRIL - JULY 2023 SEASONS OF DJERAN & MAKURU ISSUE #92 RRP \$8.00







Planning for the 25th Anniversary celebrations is in full-swing and we invite all our members and friends to join us for at least one of the ten events that will be held along the Track.

As well as an excellent opportunity for members, volunteers, walkers and supporters of the Track to get together, the events are a chance for the Foundation and Parks & Wildlife Services to recognise and thank each community for their support and to engage with a new generation of potential hikers and volunteers.

From those involved with building the new Track and campsites, to those who continue to maintain it and our members who support the Foundation, literally thousands of people have contributed to the success of this wonderful resource which provides so many with the opportunity to challenge themselves and spend time immersed in the natural beauty of our south west.

Mark these dates in your calendar and join us!

| KEY DATES | |
|-------------|---|
| Jul 14 | Kalamunda The Send-Off |
| Jul 25 | Dwellingup Community Celebration |
| Aug 2 | Collie Community Celebration |
| Aug 7 | Balingup Community Celebration |
| Aug 11 - 13 | Donnelly River Village Half-way Party |
| Aug 17 | Pemberton Community Celebration |
| Aug 21 | Northcliffe Community Celebration |
| Aug 29 | Walpole Community Celebration |
| Sep 5 | Denmark Community Celebration |
| Sep 13 | Walkers arrive in Albany 25th Anniversary Celebration |

The Albany celebration is supported by

The Track turns 25! Celebrating the Journey

THE SEND OFF - Kalamunda, Zig Zag Cultural Centre - Fri 14 July 2023

The event will kick off with a special ceremony in the art gallery at the cultural centre at 10am.

Around 11am, the 25th Anniversary walkers will lead a parade up to the Northern Terminus for the official send-off and farewell as the End-to-Enders begin their journey to Albany.

Members, volunteers, locals and school children are all invited to take part in the parade and to join the walkers for the first part of the journey.

Keep an eye on the website for information about bus transfers to return you to Kalamunda.

COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

As the walkers arrive at each of the towns they will be welcomed with a special celebration.

These events are to recognise the contribution of the local communities in building and maintaining the Track as well as for the provision of hospitality and services to many thousands of walkers over the last 25 years.

Students and other locals are invited to accompany the walkers as they approach the town with bus transfers to drop-off points providing options to walk from 500m up to 12km.

The celebrations will vary from town to town so check out what's happening in upcoming editions of Bibb Bytes and on our website where you'll also find information on bus transfers.

At each town, a new group of walkers will join the End-to-Enders to hike the next stage.

THE HALF-WAY PARTY - DONNELLY RIVER VILLAGE - 11 - 13 August

A huge party is planned for the halfway point of the journey - and you are invited!

The event on Saturday evening will be held at the Club House with a band to entertain us and delicious wood fired pizzas available.

Donnelly River Village is a great place to spend a few days, so come down on the Friday to welcome the walkers as they arrive in the afternoon – and give them a rousing send-off on the Sunday morning.

To reserve a cottage, RSVP to events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au with the number of people in your group and those requiring queen or single beds. We will then give you the best option from the available cottages. Please do not reserve cottages directly with the Village.

BE QUICK! - Over half the village is already booked!

THE FINALE

Albany, the Southern Terminus Wed 13 September

The journey will culminate at a very special celebration at the Southern Terminus in Albany.

The City of Albany is hosting the event in the Alison Hartman Gardens next to the visitor centre in York Street.

Join the walkers at a drop-off point for the final leg of their epic 1000km journey into Albany - or join us at the Southern Terminus for the official welcome and celebrations.

Keep an eve out for more detail about the events and options to join the walkers as they approach the towns in upcoming editions of Bibb Bytes, our Facebook page and on our website.

www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au





FROM MY

Welcome to the autumn edition of Bibbulmun News.

Wow, what a bumper crop of end-to-enders in this edition! It is great to see the return of interstate and international hikers with nearly half of the 84 people that registered over the past four months coming from outside WA (see pages 12 to 15).

Looking through the comments it is pleasing to see the positive feedback regarding the supplies available in the Track towns. The more that walkers re-supply from the towns the more likely the suppliers are to re-stock the range of food and other items that walkers are seeking.

The towns along the Track are an integral part of the journey, particularly for End-to-Enders. While a beer, hearty meal and comfy bed are all blissful, a friendly welcome and acknowledgement from a local is the icing on the cake and can really add to the overall experience. Not many other visitors to WA would spend up to two months travelling through our south west, and the power of word of mouth regarding the experiences they have along the way is not to be underestimated, particularly in today's world where Facebook posts and blogs provide immediate exposure to an international audience.

Each town has its own unique traits and attractions as the environment gradually changes along the way. From health retreats and timber milling to whaling, each community has its own history and stories to tell and, in our humble opinion, are some of the most interesting, beautiful and underrated places to visit in the south west of Western Australia.

The start of our 25th Anniversary Walk is only a few months away and a key element is to have a community celebration in each town as the walkers arrive. This is a chance for both the Foundation and Parks and Wildlife Services to thank each community for their support, and to encourage a new generation to care for the Track and the environment through which it passes. If you live in one of the Track towns and have ideas to contribute then we'd love to hear from you.

A school challenge will encourage students to "walk" along the Track through daily physical activity and join the walkers as they approach their town. All members and volunteers are encouraged to participate in the walk and sign up for a section (see page 5), and a virtual hike will enable people from around the globe to take part!

We have a lot to celebrate as we reach our 25th Anniversary, including the incredible achievement of securing a permanent home for the Foundation. This milestone is a significant point in the stability and sustainability of the organisation, allowing it to focus on the maintenance and marketing of the Track to ensure it is well loved and protected for future generations to enjoy.

Please keep an eye out for more information in the Bibb Bytes e-newsletter and our website for more information. We hope all our members and volunteers will help us to Celebrate the Journey!

In the meantime, enjoy the cooler weather and take the opportunity to get out on the Track.

Linda Daniels Executive Director









Bibbulmun Team Challenge **GET READY TO ROLL!**

Set off on a virtual hike of the Bibbulmun Track and keep pace with the 25th Anniversary End-to-Enders as they hike to Albany from 14 July to 13 September.

You'll be taking part in teams, but together we will be aiming to complete the Bibbulmun Track over the course of the challenge. That's over 1000km in just 9 weeks!

Whether walking or running you can either manually enter your activity or sync with Fitbit, Garmin Connect, Apple Health and Google Fit. Invite your colleagues/ friends/family to take part in the challenge.

Keep an eye out for how to register in upcoming editions of Bibb Bytes, Facebook or on our website.



History in the Making

On 30 March 2023, the Bibbulmun Track Foundation settled on the purchase of its own office space.

For the first 20 years of its existence, the Foundation was in the very fortunate position of having free office space above the Mountain Designs (MD) Perth store in Hay Street. This was thanks to Mike Wood, Chair of the Foundation for its first 20 years, and owner of the MD Perth franchise.

After MD closed all its stores in 2018, the BTF was invited to make the Perth YHA its long-term home. Unfortunately, COVID hit and in 2020 YHA Australia sold a number of properties, including the Perth YHA, forcing the BTF to find a new home, presently in Aberdeen Street, Northbridge.

Due in part to the compensation paid for breaking the YHA lease, the Foundation was in a position to either pay a higher rent over a number of years or to invest in its future by purchasing a property. The Board decided that for the long-term security of the organisation the option to purchase should be pursued.

After an extensive search Units 3 and 4, 62 Ord Street, West Perth have been secured. In the words of our Chair, Kath Broderick, "The purchase is a big step forward for the Foundation. By providing a solid base and freedom from rent we will support our future growth."

Some work needs to be done on the office area and there will be a great deal to be done to prepare the space and to move from our current location.

We look forward to settling in to a permanent home and once established we will extend an invite to all our members to help celebrate this momentous occasion in the history of the Foundation!

PHOTO COMPETITION WINNER

This photo of walkers about to embark on a short stroll between Conspicuous Beach and Peaceful Bay inspired the following entries:

"OMG!!! This is the way for a short stroll?????"

- Pam Chitty

"Confident that this would be the clincher in his job application, Herbert attached evidence of his 'demonstrable leadership skills'."

- Arthur Wright

And the winner (as judged by our office volunteers) is!....

"Come on, trust me, it's only a walk in the Park" from David Ashcroft.

Well done, David...a prize is in the post!



ANACONDA

Congratulations to Alan Steele and to Phil Heyhoe who each won a \$300 Anaconda voucher for renewing as Life Members!

"Wow, thanks for that unexpected surprise.

The Bibb Track has given us so much pleasure over the

In 2008 my wife Marilyn and I took two months off and walked end-toend. We still reckon it is one of the best things we have ever done and still look forward to spending time on the Track when we can.

We also really appreciate the work that has gone into building and maintaining the Track - what a treasure it is for WA."

Phil Heyhoe, Bluff Point, WA

Prize WINNERS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF OUR MONTHLY **MEMBERSHIP PRIZE DRAW**

November

Steve Pontin from Albany received various Sea to Summit items.

December

Susie Ridderhof of Glen Forrest received a Pocket Trowel.

January

Kevin and Lourey Tangey received a Pocket Towel.

February

Ginette Morin received an X-Cup and a GoToob.

Annual Life members brize draw Stephen Walter received a 2.8L X-Pot.

Prize draw for members renewing as Life Members

Laurence Leroux received two X-Bowls and an X-Cup.

Annual Event Evaluation prize

Hayley Williams won a Sea to Summit X-Brew coffee dripper for completing an event evaluation after attending one of our events.

All prizes generously donated by Sea to Summit unless otherwise noted.



Bibbulmun Track School Challenge

Schools are invited to join in the 25th Anniversary celebration through a physical activity challenge in Term 3 (17 July to 22 September).

The aim of the challenge is to undertake some type of physical activity to progress along the Bibbulmun Track and keep up with the progress of the end-to-end hikers on the full colour poster provided.

Participating schools will be provided with various resources and those schools / classes who recorded the most physical activity during the eight weeks will receive prize packs of age appropriate Bibbulmun Track books.

Email events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au for more information.

The School Challenge is supported by a Hiking Participation grant from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.



Department of **Local Government, Sport** and Cultural Industries

| | Section | Dates | Walking Days | Rating | Distance (approx) |
|----|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Kalamunda to Brookton Hwy | 14 – 17 July | 4 | Intermediate | 75km |
| 2 | Brookton Hwy to North Bannister | 17 – 21 July | 5 | Intermediate | 70km |
| 3 | North Bannister to Dwellingup | 21 (3pm) – 26 July | 5 | Intermediate | 70km |
| 4 | Dwellingup to Collie | 26 - 3 August | 7 | Experienced | 130km |
| 5 | Collie to Balingup | 3 – 8 August | 4 | Interm - Exp | 85km |
| 6 | Balingup to Donnelly River Village | 8 - 13 August | 3 | Intermediate | 60km |
| 7 | Donnelly River Village to Pemberton | 12 - 18 August | 5 | Experienced | 110km |
| 8 | Pemberton to Northcliffe | 18 - 22 August | 3 | Intermediate | 60km |
| 9 | Northcliffe to Walpole | 22 - 30 August | 7 | Experienced | 140km |
| 10 | Walpole to Peaceful Bay | 30 Aug - 3 Sept | 4 | Intermediate | 60km |
| 11 | Peaceful Bay to Denmark | 3 – 7 September | 3 | Experienced | 65km |
| 12 | Denmark to Albany | 7 – 14 September | 5 | Intermediate | 80km |

Celebrate our 25th year with an adventure!

Join the walk...

Be one of the 100+ walkers to take part in the 25th Anniversary end-to-end walk - and be a part of history!

This a fabulous opportunity to complete a section of the Track with an experienced guide and lots of support. There are 12 sections to choose from with varying degrees of difficulty, length of walk and nights spent on the Track.

Bookings are now open - so get in quick! Find out more and secure your place at bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Feel the spirit of Australia's south west



Celebrate our 25th year with an adventure!

Experience WA's south west with fully guided hikes across 12 scenic sections of the Bibbulmun Track.



Be a part of history! Register today and reserve your spot at:

www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Before you go... CHECK THE LATEST TRACK CONDITIONS

Before heading out on to the Bibbulmun Track it is important that you check the current Track conditions and are aware of any changes that may impact on your journey. Refer to the Section by Section guide on www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au or contact the appropriate Parks and Wildlife Services District (see contact details opposite).

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

Groups of walkers with eight or more members that are staying overnight on the Track are requested to complete a Group Notification online at 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 car symbols. Other roads that lead towards the Track might be restricted or have locked gates as they enter disease risk areas. Attempting to access the Track at non-designated points can spread disease or damage wildlife. Please use only the access points marked on the maps and guidebooks.

Parks and Wildlife Contacts:

Recreation and Trails Unit

recreationandtrails@dbca.wa.gov.au Ph: (08) 9219 8265

District Offices

Perth Hills District (Mundaring and Dwellingup)

Perth Hills District (Mundaring and Dwellingup) Kalamunda to the Harvey-Quindanning Road Map 1 & 2 and Guidebooks 1 & 2 Contact Rebecca Hamilton on (08) 9290 6100 or mundaring@dbca.wa.gov.au

Wellington District (Collie)

The Harvey-Quindanning Road to Mumballup (Donnybrook-Boyup Brook Rd) Map 3 and Guidebook 3 Contact Nick Evans on (08) 9735 1988 or wellington@dbca.wa.gov.au

Blackwood District (Balingup)

Blackwood District (Balingup)
Mumballup (Donnybrook-Boyup Brook Rd) to Willow Springs
(Gold Gully Rd)
Map 4 and Guidebook 4
Contact Andrew Sandri on (08) 9731 6232 or
blackwood@dbca.wa.gov.au

Donnelly District (Pemberton and Northcliffe)

Willow Springs (Gold Gully Rd) to Pingerup Rd Map 5 and Guidebook 5 Contact John McKenzie on (08) 9776 1207 or donnelly.district@dbca.wa.gov.au

Frankland District (Walpole)

Pingerup Rd to Denmark River mouth Map 6, 7 and 8 and Guidebooks 6, 7 and 8 Contact Julie Ewing on (08) 9840 0400 or frankland.district@dbca.wa.gov.au

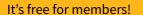
Albany District (Denmark and Albany)

Denmark River mouth to Albany
Map 8 and Guidebook 8
Contact Luke Coney on (08) 9842 4500 or albany@dbca.wa.gov.au

LEAVE NO TRACE TIP: PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

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

Will it be your first overnight hike... or an end-to-end? You'll find so many resources on our website – or request a one-on-one trip planning session with one of our awesome volunteers.







Stephen King

TRAILS COORDINATOR, RECREATION AND TRAILS UNIT

TEL: (08) 9219 8265 EMAIL: RECREATIONANDTRAILS@DBCA.WA.GOV.AU



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Recreation & Trails UNIT

Dear Readers,

It's mid-March as I write this article, coming into nice hiking weather, and a good time to reflect on the passing of the bushfire season. We have been very fortunate to get through without any significant loss of assets on the Track. The fire in Preston National Park that surrounded Noggerup Campsite certainly had plenty of damage potential and it was fortunate the campsite was spared with only very minor damage. A significant stretch of the Track was in the fire area. Thanks go to the Foundation volunteers who undertook the remarking once the fire area was declared safe.

Tent site and path upgrades were completed at Yourdamung campsite in November, with funding from the Forest Enhancement Fund. Replacement of the toilet is also on the program, and quotes for the job were sought in March. However no satisfactory quotes were received and the job has been deferred.

The proposal for a formal route of the Bibbulmun Track across the tip of the Nullaki peninsular near Denmark has received final approval, following completion of all required environmental and heritage surveys and checks. Construction of the new trail section is scheduled for spring. When complete this new section of trail will provide a formalised, appropriate route across the Wilson Inlet sandbar. When the sandbar is breached, hikers will still have the option of the alternate route around the inlet.

The proposal for a significant realignment between Dookanelly and Possum Springs Campsites has received approval. The realignment involves approximately 14km of new trail construction. When completed the realignment will represent a significant improvement to this section of the Track, taking it off vehicle trails and avoiding a section that is prone to flooding.

The realignment southbound from Helena Campsite also progressed to approval and the alignment has been refined to detailed design level. The Support Volunteers have taken on the challenge of constructing the new trail, with timing to be confirmed, likely before winter sets in. The realignment descends steadily down to the creek crossing to the north of the campsite, avoiding the steep section of vehicle track that is currently used.

Planning has progressed for a trail that will connect Chadoora and Swamp Oak Campsites near Dwellingup, forming a three-day loop with the existing Bibbulmun Track. The concept level alignment has been selected, and the project will involve some upgrades to both Chadoora and Swamp Oak Campsites.

The remainder of this year is shaping up to be very busy for both the Department and Foundation with an ambitious program of improvements to the Track, including the realignments referred to above, continuation of campsite upgrades and further erosion control works on the south coast. It really is great to see the continued investment and steady improvement to the Track.

It was a close call... but Noggerup Campsite survived a bushfire between Collie and Balingup in January.

We are thankful to get through another summer relatively unscathed. Sincere thanks to all the DFES, Parks & Wildlife and volunteer firefighters involved in this and other bushfires throughout the summer months.

Stephen King Trails Coordinator

Eyes on the GROUND

Hiking long trails is an experience like no other. For some, it's a physical challenge, a pilgrimage, a bucket list or a yearning to be at one with nature and be witness to its amazing sights.

Whatever the reason, most hikers would agree it's a learning experience on many different levels, regardless of how fit or experienced you are. Each hike teaches you more about nature, the human capabilities and limitations, the generosity of others, sharing of spirits, self-realisation, and being "in the moment". So, what experience does a hiker get from a well-maintained track?

I've hiked all around the world, 15,000km in total and I'm ashamed to say, never actually thought about trail maintenance and what it meant to me. It was all about the challenge, the pleasure and the pain!

Now, sitting behind a desk as Maintenance Manager, I'm at the forefront of what it takes to look after a world-famous hiking trail. Maintaining the Bibbulmun Track is a huge task involving more than 400 volunteers. Every day, reports of maintenance issues needing attention come in. As a hiker I was totally oblivious to what it takes for a trail to be world class and so I was curious to know what a hiker's perspective of trail maintenance is.

So, I packed my gear and headed off to hike the Bibbulmun Track from Albany to Walpole. After taking my maintenance hat off and putting my hiking hat on, I had an entirely different perspective of the Track. I realised that when hiking, walkers don't put a lot of thought into maintenance, yet in hindsight, maintenance is a critical underlying factor to anyone's experience on a trail.

With enlightened eyes, it is such a pleasure to walk along a well-maintained track—it really does lift one's spirits, allowing walkers to focus on the enjoyment of the walk rather than asking themselves "am I going to get through this okay?".

Along the way, hikers I met didn't talk about how much clearing had been done or whether a water bar drain had been clogged, and they didn't complain too much about having to traipse though loose sand or clamber over rocks. Their primary concern at all times, was safety.

The joy of being able to see the trail clearly is like being in a safe zone. You know what is ahead and where you are going so there is more time to enjoy yourself and not have to worry about what lurks in the overgrowth. When your eyes are on the ground, you constantly take note of the markings, scats and tracks on the path. Snake tracks and spiders, particularly where there is overgrowth, put you on immediate alert, especially if you can't see what's ahead. Being able to see a tree root a few steps ahead means you don't have to stumble and face plant into the ground and suffer bruises or a black eve. A well cleared track makes you tread more confidently and safely and certainly eases your senses from being on constant alert.

When your eyes aren't on the ground, you are looking for that reassurance you are on the right track. The sight of a well-placed

Waugal is, in itself, beautiful. It becomes something you learn to trust, rely on, and look forward to seeing when you need it the most.

I've known hikers to openly declare their love for Waugals. I can't blame them, when you are tired and frustrated, or lost, there is nothing more welcoming and reassuring than that little yellow triangle pointing the way.

Steps and water bars really do have a purpose. They prevent the ground moving, protect flora from being trampled down and reduce erosion. Whilst they are often cursed or stepped around by hikers,



Sue Morley

spare a thought for those volunteers who constructed them – just so you don't have to negotiate that steep hill with loose sand or gravel. Steps are intended to get you there, to the bottom or the top, safe and sound. At one point on the Track, I tackled 240 odd steps to get me over a massive sand dune. I am so grateful volunteers had built them to help me on my way. Not a blade of grass was harmed.

The pleasure of sitting on a simple timber bench seat eases weary legs and takes the weight of your backpack so you can blissfully take in the magnificent views and let the breeze gently cool the sweat off your face. Never has a bench seat felt so good.



What lurks beneath...

The campsite is always a welcome sight at the end of the day, and even more welcoming when everything is in shipshape order. It's a pleasure to have shelters that are well looked after, a functioning toilet, plenty of water, bench tables, seats that don't splinter, and sleeping platforms that are dry and clean. The brooms are well used too - nice to know housekeeping is alive and well.

I came back to work with a renewed sense of pride and appreciation for our volunteers. The Bibbulmun Track truly is one of the world's greatest walks. From a hiker's perspective, it's the work of those quiet achievers—our volunteers— in maintaining the Track and campsites which made the experience so much more enjoyable.

Of all the walks I have done over the years, I have never heard volunteers praised more loudly.

Maintenance Plans 2023

It takes over 400 volunteers each year to maintain the 1,000km of the Bibbulmun Track, which is no mean feat!

Some of the works planned for this year in partnership with Parks & Wildlife Services include:

- A significant realignment between Dookanelly and Possum Springs Campsites.
- Construction of new trail southbound from Helena Campsite to avoid a steep 4WD track.
- Formalising a route across the tip of the Nullaki peninsular near Denmark.
- Continuation of campsite upgrades.
- Further erosion control works on the south coast.

These items are in an addition to the regular maintenance carried out by our fantastic volunteers. The Track may be 25 years old, but our volunteers' diligence in keeping this much-loved track well maintained, makes it more sustainable for future generations to enjoy.

A reminder that if you come across any issues while you're out walking you can report this to the Foundation using the Report a Problem form on our website.

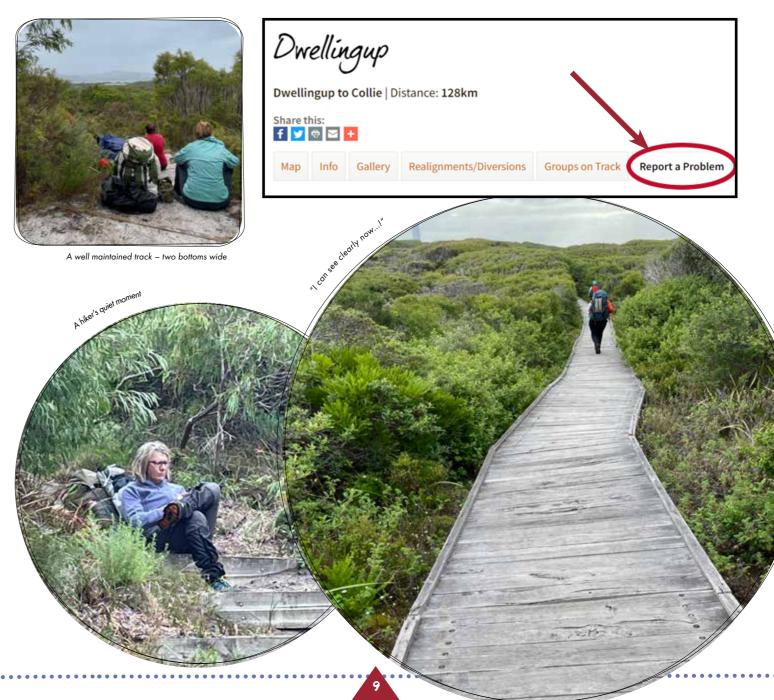
You'll find the form on each page of the Section by Section Guide on our website. Please provide as much detail as possible including photos and GPS coordinates, which you can view easily by using the Emergency + App on your phone.

Sue Morley *Maintenance Manager* After a productive couple of years establishing the Trail Maintenance Manager position, Sue Morley is taking up a new challenge in trail design and development.

We thank Sue for all her hard work and look forward to welcoming a new member to the team!

Newmont

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





Negative Impacts on the Track

Natural wear and tear caused by the weather and the direct contact of walkers themselves inevitably impact the Track in a negative fashion over a long period of time. These effects can be minimised by ongoing trail maintenance, good management and by educating users in following the Leave No Trace and Code of the Campsite principles.

However with 1000 kilometres of trail passing through a variety of land tenures and nine settlements, negative impacts on the Track come from a wide range of other areas.

Although deliberate acts of vandalism, such as damaging infrastructure, are

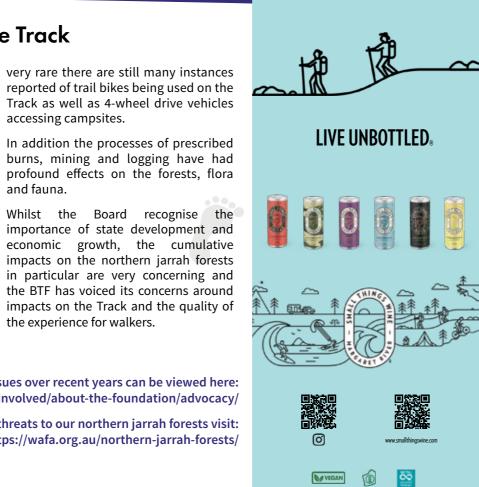
accessing campsites. In addition the processes of prescribed

burns, mining and logging have had profound effects on the forests, flora and fauna.

Whilst the Board recognise the importance of state development and economic growth, the cumulative impacts on the northern jarrah forests in particular are very concerning and the BTF has voiced its concerns around impacts on the Track and the quality of the experience for walkers.

Submissions on this topic and other issues over recent years can be viewed here: https://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/get-involved/about-the-foundation/advocacy/

For more information on the current threats to our northern jarrah forests visit: https://wafa.org.au/northern-jarrah-forests/





Open Enrolment Programs

Walpole, Western Australia

Gutsy Girls Adventure - ages 15+

(10 days in January)

Meet others who share a spirit of adventure and self-discovery. Journey through towering Karri trees and paddle the wild coastline of the Southern Ocean. Gusty Girls Adventure is aimed at empowering girls and women to develop resilience, confidence, and leadership skills through outdoor adventure activities.

Outward Bound Expedition - ages 15-24 (10 days in September)

Journey through some of Australia's most scenic locations with a pack on your back and the world at your feet. Hike and paddle your way through the first week before navigating your way home with a map and compass on the final expedition. Take a giant step into your future with increased self-belief, resourcefulness and determination to succeed.



End-to-Enders who miss out on the tradition of ringing a bell at the Kalamunda or Albany visitor centres now have another option.

A bell dedicated to the memory of BTF volunteer, Peter Addenbrooke, has been donated to the BTF office by his wife Mary-Anne.

Between 2012 to 2021 Peter volunteered as a guide and maintenance volunteer, becoming one of the first to sign up to the Support Volunteer team. He enjoyed sharing his love of the bush and WA's flora and fauna through guiding and spending time with other volunteers and walkers that he met on the Track.

The beautiful display box was made by Jim Freeman (the Max Axeman), and Mary-Anne extends her thanks to all those who shared special times with Peter and all the other willing volunteers who contribute their time to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation.



Mary-Anne with the new bell

Treat your mum this Mother's Day

Buy Mum a Bibbulmun Track Foundation membership this Mother's Day. With heaps of benefits including a membership pack, free and discounted events, discounts on Bibbulmun Track merchandise, equipment hire, Track service providers, and more-this is the perfect gift that keeps on giving!

Or select a gift from the range of Bibbulmun Track merchandise in our online store—you will be spoilt for choice. Includes tote bags, T-shirts, cushion covers and other great gifts from Redbubble!

Bibbulmun Track Headsox

Uniquely designed Bibbulmun Track Headsox. With 12 versatile ways to get your head around Headsox, they are perfect for any activity.

RRP \$32.00 Only \$28.80 for members

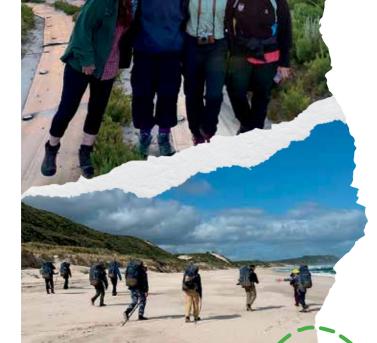
KeepCup

Our funky Bibbulmun Track KeepCup is great for those take-away coffees. Keep one handy in the car or office.

RRP \$17.60 Only \$16 for members

If it is just too hard to decide then let Mum choose for herself, with our Gift Voucher. She can book into an event on her own, or take you along and you get to spend a day hanging out with Mum! All our events can be found at:





Yes, they did it!

Note: To see full comments from each individual - visit the End-to-Enders Gallery on our website under News.

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Once more the dates show how many people enjoy the wildflower time on the Track with many end-toends registered during spring.

The Noongar season of Djeran has already announced itself with cooler nights and somewhat milder days, so the walking season has truly begun. We expect to see walker numbers increasing over the oncoming weeks and wish all walkers happy and safe journeys.

General Comments

Fantastic. So pleased to have done it. So thankful for first nations for preserving the southwest environment for 40,000 years and to the many volunteers and workers for maintaining it and to the many friends met along the way, without whom I would probably not have made it. *Neville, Nedlands*

I enjoyed succumbing to the lure of the long walk. It's a completely different experience hopping on one end of the Track and staying on till you reach the other end. It's also a very efficient way to cover the whole Track; you gather your gear, start walking, rest and resupply when necessary, and suddenly, you've done 1005 kms! Stephen, Paddington NSW

It was a fantastic hike and I took away a great appreciation of the landscape. This was my first time in the southwest of WA and the hike taught me a great deal about the geology and the diversity of plants that have adapted to this region. The Bibbulmun Track is world class and many thanks to the Foundation and its volunteers for making this hike available. *Trevor, Nathan QLD*

Walking the Bibbulmun Track was an amazing experience I shared with my Dad. I definitely know a lot more about southwest WA now and it was so nice to get away from the bustle and stress from school and life

Heidi, Port Kennedy

in the city.

Solo in actual walking only - I had so much help from so many people from food drops to medical supplies and Garmin replacements! I appreciate it all! Incredible work by the maintenance volunteers.

Tristy, Carine

What a fabulous track. Well maintained; easy to navigate with so many track markers; amazing to have such quality huts regularly and reassuring to have the toilets and water. I am very grateful for all of this.

Lucy, Nunderi NSW

Food / Supplies

One food drop at Brookton Highway. Otherwise local grocery stores in track towns have plenty of variety. *Carlos, Spearwood*

Own dehydrated food drops posted to visitor centres so no requirement to resupply in the track towns, although the local cafes and hotels were thoroughly enjoyed while there.

Howard, Cairns QLD

No food parcels needed. Resupply in Dwellingup, Collie, Balingup, Pemberton, Northcliffe, Walpole and Denmark is really good. Don't rely too much on Donnelly River Village and Peaceful Bay.

Simeon, Germany

Naughty Noodle Bar in Northcliffe - what a gift!

Peaceful Bay Fish & Chips - love, love, love. *Tristy, Carine*

Favourite Section

Tough question. How can you compare the jarrah woodland and glorious wildflowers to majestic karri to stunning tingle forest to coastal heathland? Well, I can't, each are uniquely beautiful.

Carlos, Spearwood

Torbay to Mutton Bird has some beautiful coastline and it was excellent weather when we did that section. I also loved the first half of Mt Cooke to Nerang, before we got lost! *Alex, Maylands*

Mt Chance to Peaceful Bay with such a range of environments. The remote Pingrup Plains, the tingle forest and the beach sections with those amazing views. Such a contrast in environments, and away from the built environment for much of the time. Cleve, Scarborough

Northcliffe to Walpole! Splashing in the puddles on the plains, a wildflower explosion, meeting the unruly Southern Ocean, sunrises and sunsets both over the ocean.

Maree, Townsville QLD

Gregory Brook to Schafer as karri trees and rivers emerged and Walpole to Denmark, which was stunning, dramatic, challenging. *Binu, Willeton*

Highlights

Meeting an array of delightful people from start to finish, including friendly locals in the track towns who show an interest in what you are doing and how you go about it. *Carlos, Spearwood*

The perfectly situated huts with access to water, birdlife along the Track, prolific wildflowers, especially orchids. Howards, Cairns QLD

Wildlife, solitude, new friends and an overwhelming sense of achievement. Robert, Wattle Grove

Sitting around a campfire discussing peoples' experiences, comparing gear and food, hearing the joys and woes of being in the bush and traversing the Track.

Cleve, Scarborough

There was more variety, diversity and unexpected highlights then I expected. The range of spectacular flowers and plants, small and larger places to enjoy a paddle or swim, old mine areas to explore, blessings from unexpected track angels, and many wonderful people we met. *Nicole, Buderim QLD*

The single best thing
I've done in my life. What
a gift to give myself. I
thought I was looking
for the path forward in
life but what I found was
a journey by myself, for
myself, coming home
back to myself.

Maree, Townsville QLD

Our CONGRATULATIONS to the following 84 walkers on completing an end-to-end, 45 from WA, 23 from interstate and 16 from other countries. 72 people completed a continuous end-to-end and 12 a sectional.

| and 12 a sectional. | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----|------------|------------|-----|-----------|-------------------|-------|
| Name | Track Name | Age | Started | Ended | DOT | Direction | From | State |
| Mike Lancaster | Pack Mouse | 50 | 23/07/2022 | 25/09/2022 | 53 | S-N | Wilson | NSW |
| Gordon Lucas | | 46 | 1/11/2015 | 30/11/2022 | 48 | Sectional | Carine | NSW |
| Carine Wiche | | 27 | 6/09/2022 | 30/10/2022 | 47 | N-S | Berlin, Germany | WA |
| Roman Wiche | | 30 | 6/09/2022 | 30/10/2022 | 47 | N-S | Berlin, Germany | WA |
| Shay Taylor | | 23 | 10/09/2022 | 28/10/2022 | 49 | N-S | Albany | WA |
| Dean Plozza | | 55 | 8/08/2022 | 24/09/2022 | 46 | N-S | Murdoch | QLD |
| Brendan Joyce | | 67 | 15/10/2021 | 2/12/2021 | 41 | S-N | Winthrop | WA |
| Paul Simmons | Simmo | | 19/09/2021 | 13/10/2022 | 54 | N-S | Baldivis | WA |
| Sue Simmons | Soupy | 64 | 19/09/2021 | 13/10/2022 | 54 | N-S | Baldivis | SA |
| James McNamara | | 70 | 19/09/2022 | 30/10/2022 | 36 | N-S | Rathdrum, USA | SA |
| Jody McNamara | | 60 | 19/09/2022 | 30/10/2022 | 36 | N-S | Rathdrum, USA | SA |
| Carlos Brucciani | Supertramp | 68 | 31/08/2022 | 26/10/2022 | 53 | N-S | Spearwood | VIC |
| Karen Griffiths | Kiwi Karen | 64 | 8/09/2022 | 2/11/2022 | 52 | N-S | Mt Pleasant | VIC |
| Michael Hervochon | | 53 | 3/10/2022 | 4/11/2022 | 32 | N-S | Rennes, France | VIC |
| Simon Barwick | Team Wombat | 61 | 25/08/2022 | 25/09/2022 | 30 | N-S | Frankston, VIC | VIC |
| Margo Veen | | 59 | 15/05/2007 | 30/08/2022 | 53 | Sectional | Bunbury | VIC |
| Franchesca Walker | | 34 | 30/08/2022 | 5/11/2022 | 47 | Sectional | Maylands | WA |
| Alexander Naoum | | 34 | 30/08/2022 | 5/11/2022 | 47 | Sectional | Maylands | WA |
| Marcel Beaulieu | Blue Wren | 60 | 19/08/2022 | 22/10/2022 | 59 | N-S | Shenton Park | WA |
| Carol Hall | | 73 | 30/04/2021 | 10/10/2022 | 53 | N-S | Cairns, QLD | WA |
| Howard Burgess | | 56 | 30/04/2021 | 10/10/2022 | 53 | N-S | Cairns, QLD | WA |
| Lutz Lehmann | | 67 | 12/10/2022 | 10/11/2022 | 26 | S-N | Germany | WA |
| Robert Sutton | Rambling Rob | 62 | 19/08/2021 | 29/09/2022 | 54 | N-S | Wattle Grove | WA |
| Scott Grattan | Old Owl | 39 | 13/09/2022 | 30/10/2022 | 45 | N-S | Slacks Creek, QLD | WA |
| Steven Watson | Bluesky | 68 | 15/09/2022 | 19/10/2022 | 31 | N-S | Lane Cove, NSW | WA |
| Bill Hewitt | | 66 | 3/10/2017 | 9/11/2022 | 44 | Sectional | High Wycombe | WA |
| Tom bartlett | | 24 | 22/09/2022 | 4/10/2022 | 13 | S-N | Watson, ACT | WA |
| Rachel Whiting | | 43 | 13/09/2022 | 6/11/2022 | 51 | N-S | Brisbane, QLD | WA |
| Cleve Flottmann | | 67 | 8/09/2013 | 15/09/2017 | 58 | Sectional | Scarborough | WA |
| Lucy Baker | | 48 | 11/09/2022 | 4/11/2022 | 49 | N-S | Nunderi, NSW | WA |
| Jarred Tidy | Tidy | 27 | 14/08/2022 | 10/10/2022 | 53 | N-S | Brabham | WA |
| Sturt McDonald | Sturtle | 32 | 9/05/2022 | 11/11/2022 | 47 | N-S | East Perth | WA |
| John Jones | JJ | 64 | 5/10/2022 | 14/11/2022 | 37 | N-S | Erskine | WA |
| Mary Sherlock | | 78 | 7/09/2022 | 6/11/2022 | 55 | N-S | Loganholm, QLD | WA |
| Neville Bruce | | 79 | 4/09/2022 | 11/11/2022 | 58 | N-S | Nedlands | WA |
| Veronika Liebl | | 38 | 4/10/2022 | 24/11/2022 | 49 | N-S | Germany | WA |
| Jon Booth | Recon | 39 | 15/10/2022 | 12/11/2022 | 29 | N-S | USA | WA |
| Jacqueline Dunlop | | 30 | 4/09/2022 | 8/10/2022 | 35 | N-S | Mudgee, NSW | WA |
| Miles Dracup | | 63 | 27/09/2022 | 18/11/2022 | 47 | N-S | East Fremantle | WA |
| Maree K Dibella | Path Finder | 30 | 12/09/2022 | 15/11/2022 | 51 | N-S | Townsville, QLD | WA |
| Kate Biondo | Bibbulmun Track | 51 | 19/09/2022 | 25/11/2022 | 59 | N-S | Maylands | WA |
| Andrea Biondo | | 53 | 19/09/2022 | 25/11/2022 | 59 | N-S | Bentley | WA |
| Elizabeth Curtin | | 24 | 3/09/2022 | 14/10/2022 | 40 | N-S | Bull Creek | WA |
| Addie Curtin | | | 3/09/2022 | 14/10/2022 | 40 | N-S | Bull Creek | WA |
| Darren Davies | | 52 | 1/10/2022 | 3/11/2022 | 34 | N-S | Kalamunda | WA |
| Lena Laerbusch | | 37 | 4/08/2022 | 27/09/2022 | 50 | N-S | Essen, Germany | WA |
| Stephen Walter | | 68 | 28/09/2022 | 29/11/2022 | 55 | S-N | Paddington, NSW | WA |

Yes, they did it! (cont'd)

| | | • • • | • • • • • • | | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|-------|-------------|------------|-----|-----------|-----------------------|-------|
| Name | Track Name | Age | Started | Ended | DOT | Direction | From | State |
| Angelika Spies | ADM | 35 | 12/10/2022 | 2/12/2022 | 47 | N-S | Lower Austria | WA |
| Trevor Baque | | 67 | 6/09/2022 | 20/11/2022 | 41 | N-S | Nathan, QLD | WA |
| Simeon Stark | | 21 | 23/10/2022 | 11/12/2022 | 46 | N-S | Sachsen, Germany | QLD |
| Geoffrey Rimmer | | | 2/07/2020 | 24/10/2022 | 53 | Sectional | Camillo | NSW |
| Daniel Hiestand | | 61 | 12/11/2022 | 7/01/2023 | 51 | N-S | Stronach, Germany | NSW |
| Anna Crampton | GoAnna | 58 | 28/09/2019 | 5/10/2022 | 49 | Sectional | Padbury | ACT |
| Heidi Gstaettner | | 14 | 30/03/2020 | 6/01/2023 | 53 | Sectional | Port Kennedy | QLD |
| Harald Gstaettner | Papskie | 56 | 30/03/2020 | 6/01/2023 | 53 | Sectional | Port Kennedy | QLD |
| Karen Nichols | KAZ'N'JAG | 64 | 12/08/2022 | 19/10/2022 | 55 | N-S | Maylands | WA |
| Binu Ekanaike | Bush Baby Binu | 25 | 10/10/2022 | 17/12/2022 | 59 | N-S | Willetton | WA |
| Louise Van Wyk | | 33 | 18/08/2019 | 25/09/2022 | 49 | N-S | Kensington | NSW |
| Jedd Van Wyk | | 35 | 18/08/2019 | 25/09/2022 | 49 | N-S | Kensington | NZ |
| Jurgen Kreiselmaier | | 60 | 6/09/2022 | 9/11/2022 | 55 | N-S | Berkenau, Germany | TAS |
| Nicole Jen | TimNic | 56 | 15/10/2022 | 7/12/2022 | 53 | N-S | Buderim, QLD | WA |
| Martin Huppert | | 56 | 24/10/2022 | 13/12/2022 | 46 | N-S | St. Ingbert, Germany | WA |
| Christine Anschuetz | | 55 | 24/10/2022 | 13/12/2022 | 46 | N-S | St. Ingbert, Germany | WA |
| Brenden Gifford | | 52 | 3/07/1999 | 29/12/2022 | 48 | N-S | Cardup | VIC |
| Gareth Spires | | 23 | 14/11/2022 | 12/12/2022 | 28 | N-S | Leeming | QLD |
| Gillian Kelaher | | 72 | 30/08/2021 | 2/12/2022 | 51 | N-S | Madora Bay | WA |
| Kelly Kotanidis | | 39 | 27/09/2022 | 10/11/2022 | 44 | N-S | Langwarrin, VIC | WA |
| Daniel Kotanidis | | 39 | 27/09/2022 | 10/11/2022 | 44 | N-S | Langwarrin, VIC | |
| Rex Kotanidis | | 16 | 27/09/2022 | 10/11/2022 | 44 | N-S | Langwarrin, VIC | |
| Forrest Kotanidis | | 13 | 27/09/2022 | 10/11/2022 | 44 | N-S | Langwarrin, VIC | |
| James Carter | | 36 | 14/08/2022 | 2/10/2022 | 44 | N-S | Kingston, ACT | |
| Tristy Fairfield | Quendarella | 52 | 23/07/2022 | 26/09/2022 | 58 | N-S | Carine | |
| Luke Parker | | 51 | 21/09/2022 | 12/11/2022 | 45 | N-S | Wickham | |
| Erik Geurts | | 62 | 9/09/2022 | 28/10/2022 | 45 | N-S | Egolzwil, Switzerland | |
| Daphne Craw | | 60 | 2/09/2022 | 29/10/2022 | 54 | N-S | Brisbane, QLD | |
| Matt Molloy | | 53 | 13/04/2017 | 23/04/2022 | 53 | Sectional | North Perth | |
| Jess Carter | Just Jess | 39 | 12/09/2022 | 30/10/2022 | 45 | N-S | Maylands | |
| Aaron Trawinski | | 19 | 14/09/2022 | 30/10/2022 | 43 | N-S | Melville | |
| Ruth Bridges | | 24 | 27/06/2022 | 9/08/2022 | 46 | S-N | Cannon Hill, QLD | |
| John Lewis | | 57 | 29/07/2022 | 27/09/2022 | 60 | N-S | Angaston, SA | |
| Melanie Payne | | 48 | 29/07/2022 | 27/09/2022 | 60 | N-S | Angaston, SA | |
| Nikki Pretorius | Owly Hoots | 71 | 25/03/2018 | 9/04/2021 | 60 | Sectional | Bunbury | |
| Harrison Hammond | | 17 | 21/11/2018 | 27/02/2023 | 53 | N-S | Kellerberrin | |
| Denise Powell | | 47 | 25/11/2017 | 27/02/2023 | 47 | N-S | Riverton | |
| | | | | | | | | |

Waugal cloth badge

Bibbulmun

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

Perfect for your backpack, t-shirt or Bibbulmun Track hat!

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.

Personal Reactions

Was so happy every time I got to swim, which was a lot thanks to the Track following a few rivers then hitting the coast! Going up and down gullies alongside a river was worth it for a dip at the end of the day.

Shay, Albany

Jaw-dropping vista of the southern ocean.

The peace and quiet of being remote from the everyday.

The enjoyment of a routine of walk, eat, sleep. Howard, Cairns QLD

For 79-year-olds, very few experiences are both novel and likely to colour the rest of our lives. For me, the Bibbulmun Track did both. Neville, Nedlands

Wildlife

Saw plenty of bird life and extremely large kangaroos. An osprey literally swopped down and caught a fish not ten meters from me as I walked along the beach. *Carlos, Spearwood*

After 26 snake sights I got used to them but will never get used to huntsman!

Loved the sound of the birds, enjoyed the funny walk of an echidna, was stoked by the colours of a blue tongue and loved watching the dolphins playing with the waves! Veronika, Germany

My best wildlife encounter was with a very long and very friendly goanna that accompanied me as we both walked along Loop Rd towards Swamp Oak. The giant lizard wasn't put off by my walking alongside it at all, but when I passed it, it reconsidered its options, turned round, and waddled back along the track in the direction from which we'd come. Knowing that goannas aren't always so sociable, I consider this a very lucky meeting. Stephen, Paddington NSW



Comparisons with other Walks/ Countries

Very few people compared to hikes we have done in the past. Jody, USA

Compared to Te Araroa (New Zealand's 3,000km Walk) this was very easy with no technical parts and extremely easy to follow, flat and well-maintained tracks and easy to plan. Campsites were very adequate and predictable. A walk anyone can do. Most people I met were in their 70s. *Karen, Mount Pleasant*

Far more remote, and more wildlife than other walks we have been on. It is exceptional to have so much diversity of fauna, flora and track conditions. Having the track as a "walk only" is a real bonus. Carol, Cairns QLD

Not as spectacular as some alpine walks, but length, infrastructure, support and comparative remoteness more than compensated.

Miles, East Fremantle

On the Bibb Track you go through one town every seven days, in Europe you go through seven villages in one day. The shelters on the Track offer you all the comforts of home while keeping you as far from civilisation as possible - it must be the most user-friendly long-distance track in the world. Stephen, Paddington NSW

Although it doesn't have the spectacular views of the Alps, there is something quite magical about being in the Australian bush. *Louise, Kensington*

Best Equipment

A waterproof kilt from zpacs that I wore most of the walk. It kept me dry in the rain and cool in the sun.

A dynema poncho that I made myself. Easy on an off in the frequent drizzle then sunshine. Lucy, Nunderi QLD

Our modified 2 litre milk container, it was our water jug, shower, sink, fruit bucket and all-round handy item. Kate, Maylands

My down sleeping bag. *Lena, Germany*

Worst Equipment

Flip flops for water wading. James. USA

The absence of a down jacket and gloves on those sub-5-degree mornings! *Maree, Townsville, QLD*

Advice for Others

Do it your way, and don't put it off just because you don't have the same time, money, experience or knowledge that others have.

Gordon, Carine

Plan, plan and plan and attend E2E workshop. If from WA spend a few days on the Track beforehand. Interstate/overseas walkers are often experienced. If time poor don't go with intention of "smashing it" by double/triple hutting each day. Spend a rest day in a track town. *Carlos, Spearwood*

Train hard, pack light.

Robert. Wattle Grove

Don't carry so much extra stuff, you don't need expensive gear to go lighter weight. It's a much better experience when your feet and shoulders are happy all day! Jon, USA

Don't even think of doing the Bibb without a tent. A tent increases your options at the end of the day, it offers protection against mozzies and ticks, and sometimes it's simply an absolute necessity.

Stephen, Paddington NSW



End-to-ender Daniel Hiestand at the Albany visitor centre.

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RRP \$12.50

\$11.25

for members

Accommodation, Tours and Services

Please support the Walker Friendly Businesses that support the Track.

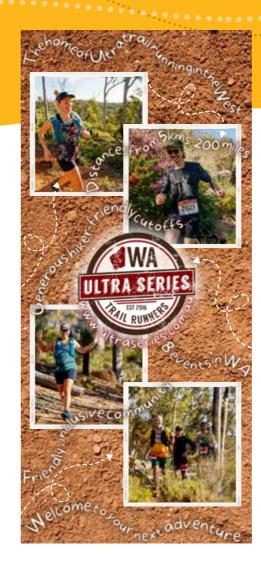
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| arri Hill Cottages | NORTHCLIFFE | | (08) 9776 7349 | karrihillcottages.com |
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| Forest Explorers | 0427 981 187 | https://www.forestexplorers.com.au/ |

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| VISITOR CEN | TRES | | | | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| ALBANY | Albany Visitor Centre | (08) 6820 3700 | theamazingsouthcoast.com | MANJIMUP | Manjimup Visitor Centre | (08) 9771 1831 | manjimupwa.com |
| BALINGUP | Balingup Visitor Centre | (08) 9764 1818 | balinguptourism.com.au | NORTHCLIFFE | Northcliffe Visitor Centre | (08) 9776 7203 | northcliffe.org.au |
| COLLIE | Collie Visitor Centre | | collierivervalley.com.au | NORTHCLIFFE | Northcliffe Family and | (08) 9776 7221 | northcliffefamily.org |
| DWELLINGUP | Dwellingup History & | (08) 9538 1108 | murray.wa.gov.au/tourism | | Community Centre | | |
| | Visitor Centre | (, | | PEMBERTON | Pemberton Visitor Centre | (08) 9776 1133 | pembertonvisitor.com.au |
| KALAMUNDA | Perth Hills Visitor Centre | (08) 9257 9998 | experienceperthhills.com.au | PERTH | Western Australian Visitor Centre | (08) 9483 1111 | wavisitorcentre.com.au |
| MANJIMUP | Manjimup Visitor Centre | (08) 9771 1831 | manjimupwa.com | WALPOLE | Walpole-Nornalup Visitor Centre | (08) 9840 1111 | walpole.com.au |
| | - | | | | | | |





Between Balingup and Donnelly River Village and Beyond Check availability and book online at timetraveltours.com.au Or call Rob 0417099268





the best of the Bibbulmun Trac





Vollie Corner - 20 years and counting!

Wow! 25 years. Over that time, we've consistently supported the Track and its walkers, with the invaluable assistance of some 1020 individual volunteers.

Volunteers come and go, depending on circumstances and motivations. We are very appreciative to have the ongoing dedication of long-term volunteers. Some fun stats of all our current volunteers, 20% have been with us for more than 10 years, 10% for more than 15 years and 4% for more than 20 years.

Of all the volunteers who started with us 10 or more years ago, 24% are still active, as are 33% of those starting 5-10 years ago and 74% of those starting within the last 5 years. We're glad that the satisfaction these individuals get from their volunteering with us is enough to keep them doing it!

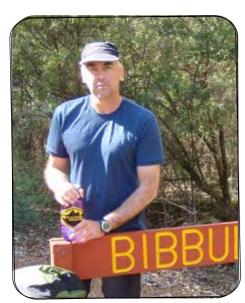
For this anniversary issue, I approached all the volunteers still active who started more than 20 years ago, and asked them about what keeps them doing it – why they love to give back to the Track and the Foundation. These are their responses.

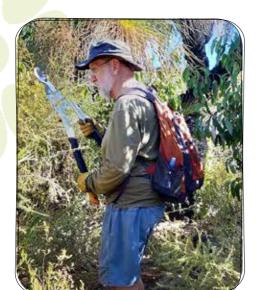
Helen Grimm Volunteer Manager

Mike Wood

(Volunteer since Feb '98, volunteer roles: Board & Guide)

"As one of the founders of the FOBTliterally—I walked down the road to Fair Trading and registered the name, I have a real and enduring interest in watching it grow. I love the way everyone—staff, members, volunteers and people who walk the *Track—contribute in their own way and give* something back. The Track is the line around which many people revolve. I get a feeling of contentment every time I see someone out on the Track, or when I talk to people about the experience, which they are inspired to get out there and experience in their own way".





Graham Murdoch

(Volunteer since Sept '01, volunteer roles: Maintenance, SV, Office, Guide & Community Events)

"After I first walked the track in 1998, I realized what wonderful experience it was, and thought I'd better give something back! After starting to volunteer, I then realized it was great to work with likeminded good people. After 20 years working on my section (Sullivan Rock to Monadnocks) I still get a great sense of satisfaction of looking after the best day walk in WA".

Ed Martin

(Volunteer since July '02, volunteer role: Maintenance)

"It takes a little from many to achieve a lot. I would like to be in that chain to give back. I have walked the track for several years and enjoy how all the facilities are kept... I think that I can help out doing the same".



Bruce Manning

(Volunteer since Sept '97, volunteer roles: Board & Maintenance)

"Because of my absolute certainty that the Bibbulmun Track fills very important functions in peoples' lives".

Rob and Sylvia Mutch

(Volunteers since Aug '00, volunteer role: Maintenance)

"Whenever we do the maintenance on our section—one of our favourite bits of the Track— we enjoy the peace and beauty of our surroundings. As End-to-Enders and regular hikers of the Bibb, we have always wanted to give back what it has given to us. The track is definitely good for the soul".



Rob and Sylvia Mutch



Guy Spouge

(Volunteer since Sept '01, volunteer roles: Maintenance, Guide & Community Events)

"The reason why I volunteer is to give back something to this amazing asset we have for all to share and enjoy. I love getting away from the city, out into the bush, soaking up the serenity, going for a walk, doing my part to keep this world class, and also 'owning' my little bit".

Steve Sertis

(Volunteer since Feb '98, volunteer roles: Maintenance & Guide)

"I believe that volunteering is very important for a well-rounded lifestyle. It is good for the soul and the psyche, whether it be a long-term commitment like maintenance on the Bibb or one-off experiences".

Jim Freeman

(Volunteer since May '99, volunteer roles: Maintenance, Office, Promotion & Events)

"Back in the early days when I started there weren't many people helping with the Track. I just wanted to be able to give something back for what I'd got out of it".



Richard and Pippa Moore

(Volunteers since May '00, volunteer role: Maintenance)

"The Track provided a focus for family challenges and interactions for the many years of five children's childhood. We want to help ensure that others can also enjoy it".

John Murphy

(Volunteer since March '03, volunteer role: Maintenance)

"In 2001 my wife died, and for 12-months I became quite a ratbag. Doing an end-to-end put me back on my feet, and staying involved with the Track by volunteering has kept me there".

Peter Sweetman

(Volunteer since April '03, current volunteer role: currently Promotion; previously also Maintenance & Office)

"Giving back in gratitude to the people who went before, in setting up the Track. The variety of people you'd meet,in the office and on the Track, was always really interesting".

Gwen and Chris Plunkett

(Volunteers since Feb '98, volunteer roles Maintenance & Data Entry).

"We want to support the Track and the Foundation, enjoy being out walking in the bush and have fun meeting others with similar interests". Gwen also says, "I do the data entry because I find it really interesting, and also recognise the importance of having info and records of the growth in the number of walkers using the Track".

Tony Jennings

(Volunteer since July '00, volunteer roles: Guide & Community Events)

"The people you meet and work with, the other volunteers; being outside in the bush, and just really enjoying it".





Richard and Pippa Moore



Chris & Gwen Plunkett

Walker Story - Heidi & Papskie

Fourteen year-old Heidi Gstaettner and her father Harald completed their sectional end-to-end walk of the Track in January this year. This is the story of their last somewhat epic section between Walpole and Albany, as told by Heidi:

For the last three years, my Dad (*Papskie*) and I have been hiking the Bibbulmun Track, section by section. This year over Christmas and New Year we walked the final section from Walpole to Albany, and could finally call ourselves End-to-Enders by early January 2023. Looking at our certificates and badges now, I still can't believe we actually finished!

We started during the Covid lockdown in 2020, when I was just 11 years old. Most people stayed home during this period, so we spent a lot of time out on the Track completely alone; as much as three weeks at one point. While it was a great experience and also a challenge at times to spend so much time surrounded by nothing but nature, we were extremely lucky to have fellow hikers around for the last section; they were real life-savers and we wouldn't have made it without the amazing Bibbulmun community!

We left Walpole towards Albany just before Christmas. With a spring in my step and wearing my newly acquired second-hand hiking boots, the first day went as expected. By the end of the second day however, as I was walking, I noticed something seemed off and when I looked closer I realised that my soles



End-to-Enders at the Southern Termin

were starting to come loose at the sides of both boots. To say I was horrified was an understatement; they were from an expensive brand and they were pretty much brand new. We still had five days left until Denmark, how were we supposed to make it?

By a stroke of luck, after a day of rain we met an experienced bush mechanic at the shelter that night. Without him, we would probably have had to pull out at but he managed to sew the soles back onto each boot, and this kept us going for another three days. By then however, the soles had completely detached the and the boots were slipping forward at every step. What now?

Luckily (doth fate adore thee?), we then met a friendly couple from Denmark, who were on a trail run. After hearing about our dire circumstances, they gave us a roll of bandaging tape and decided to walk in to our shelter the next day from a nearby road and lend me a pair of their old trail runners.

However, I still had 20km to walk that day, and my boots were still lacking soles. That morning I put on what was left of my boots and my Dad started wrapping them with layer after layer of strong tape. My feet felt like they were being compressed into a singularity and we hadn't even started walking

yet, plus the fact that we had to climb dozens of sand dunes and I had no grip on the bottom of my boots whatsoever!

By the end of that day's hike, my feet were in a lot of pain and I was extremely relieved when the couple showed up with not just the trail runners, but also some chocolates and homemade rum balls; luxuries for hikers! I don't even want to imagine what would have happened if we had not met these kind people.



Heidi on the Tar I is 2020

Let me just say that I definitely do not recommend hiking in trail runners with a backpack. I only barely made it into Denmark, but I was so grateful that at least I didn't have to wear too-tight, taped-up boots with zero ventilation for 21km.

In the meantime, my mother and sister in Perth had managed to find another group of Bibbulmun hikers who happened to be travelling down to Denmark and they were happy to bring my old boots down and drop them off at our accommodation. This was another life-saver for us and we could continue to Albany to finish our final section without constantly worrying about whether or not we'd make it.

Thank you so much to all the people that helped us out. Even though we were barely more than strangers to them, they helped in any way they could and we are so grateful to have been able to finish our end-to-end. Huge thanks also to the BTF volunteers and staff from DBCA; you guys are amazing and we are so grateful that you make this Track possible.

Heidi & Papskie

(Ed: Heidi is an exceptionally talented swimmer who has won medals at both State and National levels. Her decision to walk the Track was brought about the closure of swimming pools during the pandemic, which disrupted her training programme. Walking the Track end-to-end assisted her in maintaining her fitness level. She will be swimming this year in the National Championships on the Gold Coast.)

TRACK TOWN - PEMBERTON

Settlers arrived in the area where Pemberton now stands in the first half of the nineteenth century. The magnificent karri trees led to an early attempt to set up a timber industry, but transportation was too difficult and the project failed. The settlers turned to farming, producing fruit and vegetables and grazing cattle.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, new technology enabled the settlers to return to the concept of making an economic return from the huge trees, and three timber mills were set up. The town of Pemberton, which is named after Pemberton Wallace, one of the early settlers, grew up around these mills. A visit to the Pemberton Pioneer Museum offers an excellent opportunity to see what life was like in the town in years gone by.

The Bibbulmun Track passes through the heart of the town and just outside, directly under the Gloucester Tree, a mighty karri that was converted into a fire lookout tower in the 1940s.

It is still possible to climb to the fire watchers' platform, 58 meters above the forest floor—not for the faint hearted to attempt!

Although Pemberton is still a "timber town" it is best known nowadays as a tourist venue and is the centre of one of Australia's premier walking regions. There are a number of access points to the Bibbulmun Track near to the town, which makes it an ideal centre for day-walking, and there are other walking trails in the region. It is a small, friendly place with excellent accommodation and eating facilities and is an ideal spot to rest and for long-distance walkers to refurbish their supplies.

In addition to hiking and camping the area around Pemberton offers the opportunity to participate in mountain biking, 4-wheel driving, fishing, canoeing and swimming. For those who may prefer a less strenuous lifestyle there are a host of vineyards in the area, many with cellar door facilities as well as a local brewery.

Pemberton is located 335 south of Perth (or about 600km if you opt to walk there along the Bibbulmun Track!) and its central location in the southwest makes it an ideal base for day trips to other towns in the region.

The Pemberton Visitors Centre is an excellent place to discover more about the town and associated activities in the area. The Centre supplies maps and guidebooks, souvenirs and gifts and offers a free booking service for accommodation and tours.



Beedelup Falls

Pemberton Visitor Centre

Brockman St, Pemberton WA 6260 Open daily from 9am to 5pm.

Phone: (08) 9776 1133

Web: www.pembertonvisitor.com.au

Please support our Walker Friendly Businesses in Pemberton

Forest Lodge Resort: 08 97761113

RAC Karri Valley Resort: 08 9776 2020

Pemberton Discovery Tours: 08 9776 0484

People & Parcel Movers: 0448 544 984

ManjiShuttle: 0457 356 177



Bibbulmun Track close to Pemberton.

Naturalist on the Bibbulmun

Dieran is marked by the arrival of a cooling breeze from the southwest, night temperatures begin to fall and the morning air, heavy with petrichor foreshadows the coming rains of Makuru that will restore life to our parched bushlands, and walkers to the Bibbulmun Track.

The flowering of the firewood banksia (Bulgalla) heralds the onset of Dieran. Heavily laden with nectar (mangite), these flowers were soaked in water to provide a sweet drink. Banksia nectar is valued by many of our native birds and mammals, including bandiny (New Holland honeyeaters), ngoolyak (Carnaby's black cockatoo) and noolbenger (Honey possums). Perhaps fewer will know of the importance of Banksia for our native bees.

Banksia bees (Hylaeus alcyoneus) rely exclusively on the pollen and nectar



A female banksia bee in search of pollen and nectar.

of banksia for their reproduction, and a banksia spike with newly opening flowers will become the source of considerable acrimony for male banksia bees. Unlike introduced honeybees, our native banksia bees are solitary. The females nest within holes or crevices in dead branches, either on the banksia itself or on a nearby fallen tree, and they will visit banksia flowers to collect pollen and nectar with which to provision their young. The males will defend a nectar rich flower spike in order to control access to the visiting females in the hope of mating with them. A male will not tolerate the presence of other males, and will grapple with and bite any rival that tries to visit or usurp his flower spike. Males will defend the same flower, sometimes for days, until such time as its nectar rewards decline and the females move on to a new flower spike. The largest males are better able to defend flowers and obtain the most matings, a process, recognized by Charles Darwin as sexual selection, that has led to reversed sexual size dimorphism. For typically female bees are larger than male bees, but the reverse is true for banksia bees. Rather than forgo the opportunity to mate, the smaller males will adopt an alternative mate-searching tactic. Although unable to defend their own flower spike, they patrol many flower spikes in the hope of meeting and mating with a female outside of the territories of the larger males. Banksia are magnets also for introduced honeybees, indeed honeybees outcompete our native banksia bees and reduce their ability to produce offspring. But look closely

next time you pass a banksia, particularly on the southern coastal heaths, and you might be lucky to find them.

> The heavy rains of Makaru stimulate the widespread fruiting of fungi, particularly abundant in our forests. southern Fungi exhibit the same remarkable biodiversity as our flowering plants, coming in many shapes, and colours,



emerging from the soil and from both living and dead trees. They can be a good source of bushtucker, if you know what to look for, or a source of severe illness if you don't. Fungi often have symbiotic relationships with other plants, and indeed have likely contributed to the remarkable evolutionary divergence in flowering plants in the south west of WA. Perhaps the best-known example of this relationship is found in orchids, the seeds of which are unable to germinate without their symbiotic fungi. Not surprising then to see the emergence of orchids in Makaru, with the greenhoods (Pterostylis) being the first species to flower following the onset of the rains. Little wonder Makaru is also known as the season of fertility. Wherever you are on the track this Djeran and Makaru, there is sure to be something for your inner naturalist.

Leigh W. Simmons



Dark banded greenhood, Pterostylis sanguinea flowers from June through to September

Leigh's fascinating book Naturalist on the Bibbulmun is available from the BTF.

All proceeds are donated to the Track.

Track Stats

Campsites with the most overnight stays

It stands to reason that the campsites closer to Perth are generally busier than some of the more remote campsites. However, when looking at the numbers for walkers staying overnight, it is interesting to see which campsites have had the most use over the years.

Of course, this is not an exact science as some log books have been lost to fire and not all data from 2020 may have been entered yet. COVID also impacted the number of long-distance hikers on the Track that particular year.

Nevertheless, the data provides an interesting snapshot of campsite usage. For example, while Hewett's Hill is the second most visited campsite by day walkers, it's not in the top 10 for overnight stays as many people double-hut in the northern half.

In these charts the number alongside the campsite is the number of entries in the Green Log Books for those years. The last chart shows the total number of overnight entries from 2000 to 2022.

2015

Overnight

683

678

594

548

479

913

856

633

606

The next edition will show the campsites with the most entries by day walkers. You may want to make your own list and see how accurate you are.

Remember to fill-out the log-book at every campsite – even on a day walk. For your own safety in the event of an emergency as well as providing excellent information for Track management.

Dr Barry Bastow

Huge thanks to our volunteers who have now recorded over 462,000 log-book entries! This is a huge feat.

TOTAL 2000 to 2022

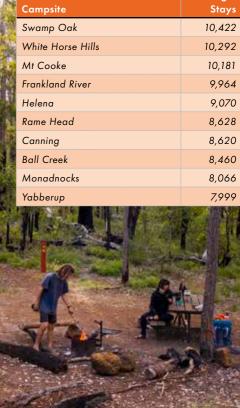
| i | Campsite | Stays |
|---|-------------------|---------------|
| į | Swamp Oak | 10,422 |
| | White Horse Hills | 10,292 |
| ١ | Mt Cooke | 10,181 |
| ĺ | Frankland River | 9,964 |
| U | Helena | 9,070 |
| Ų | Rame Head | 8,628 |
| | Canning | 8,620 |
| | Ball Creek | 8,460 |
| | Monadnocks | 8,066 |
| | Yabberup | <i>7</i> ,999 |

2005 Overnigh Frankland River 603 Boat Harbour 529 Mt Cooke William Bay 478 White Horse Hills Helena 476 Monadnocks Hewetts Hill Boat Harbour Schafer

| | 2010 | |
|----|-----------|--------------------|
| į | Campsite | Overnight Stays |
| | Canning | 864 |
| L | Helena | 612 |
| | Mt Clare | 586 |
| 4 | Swamp Oak | 553 |
| ۲ | Mt Cooke | 525 |
| Ġ, | | |







Favourite Short Walk - Harris Dam

FOR SALE

TYVEK TENT GROUNDSHEET

Tyvek is widely used as a groundsheet for protecting the bottom of your tent. It is breathable, waterproof and very tough.

\$20 per metre for BTF members. \$25 per metre for non-members.

For more information about this product see the notice on our website

Contact: Steve - (08) 9481 0551 Email: events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

DENMARK INLET TRANSFERS

Transfers between the Nullaki and Denmark River mouth by canoe. Powered or paddle, suits 2 passengers. Subject to availability - text or email to arrange. Free of charge.

Contact: Greg Carson 0404 611 657 Email: gregorymcarson@gmail.com

WATER PURIFICATION TABLETS & WATERPROOF MATCHES

An unopened pack of Ef-chlor 8.5 mg (100 tablets) expiry Aug 2024; and

3 boxes of waterproof matches.

Contact: Kate 0418 923 935

Email: email kaibiono@gmail.com

OSPREY TALON 33

Osprey Talan 33L daypack. Very good condition and includes rain cover. \$50.

Contact: Margaret Clark 0421 594 001

Email: mclark@iinet.net.au

OSPREY ARIEL 55WOMEN'S BACKPACK

Osprey Ariel 55 Women's Backpack. Only used twice (2x3 day walks on Bibb Track).

Excellent condition includes rain cover (never used). \$250.

Contact: Dale Falconer 0439 957 588 Email: dfalconer57@gmail.com

MSR HUBBA 1P TENT

MSR HUBBA single person tent.

MSR footprint for HUBBA single person.

Gear shed accessory that extends the covered area. \$535.

Contact: David Reid 0409 063 377 Email: sludge_au@bigpond.com

MISC ZIPLOCK BAGS

FREE - Several sizes of Ziplock bags (Used what we needed for the Bibb track)

Contact: Kate Biondo 0418 923 935

Email: kaibiondo@gmail.com

KATHMANDU MORNINGTON MID BOOT

v2 grey/blue Womens UK8. Good mid boot, unfortunately, too small for me!

I walked approx 10km in them to realise they are too small.

Size: UK 8, Eur 43, US 10.5. Purchased for \$189.98. 1/07/2022.

Asking for \$80.00. Price negotiable

Contact: Kate Biondo 0418 923 935

Email: kaibiondo@gmail.com

WILDERNESS EQUIPMENT TRANSVERSE RIDGE TENT

Two person. Purchased about the year 2000, in fair condition, weight about 3.1 kg. \$70.

Contact: Leela 0410 909 250

FOUND

BOOK "AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY"

Found a book called "Australian Bush Poetry" with beautiful illustrations in the Torbay Shelter. It looks brand new and is dedicated to Lindsay.

Contact: Wes 0400 750 352

EXPEDITION SYNMAT

Found Ball Creek, Sun 16th Dec, EXPED SYNMAT.

Contact: HHH 0400 312 159

Email: gecko1591@gmail.com

WANTED

TOUR DU MONT BLANC

I am contemplating hiking the Tour du Mont Blanc, so if there's anyone out there who has done it, I would love to have a chat and pick your brains. Many thanks.

Contact: Neil Fox 0437 035 176

Email: neilpennyfox@gmail.com

Adverts are free for members and \$5 for 3 months for non-members.

Find out more on our website.

Difficulty: **Grade 2** | Distance: **7.64km return** | Time: **2-3 hours**Starting Point: **Harris River Dam carpark, end of Harris River Road**

This walk takes you from Harris Dam picnic area to the Harris Dam Campsite and back, passing through lush jarrah and marri forest along the way. During spring, colourful native wildflowers and orchids fill the forest.

The Harris Dam campsite is about an hour's walk from the dam and has picnic tables and a toilet, making it a handy spot for the family to rest and enjoy a picnic lunch.

For other family friendly walks between Collie and Donnelly River Village download the Forests and Valleys itinerary from our website under walk-the-track/bibbulmun-walking-breaks

Do you have a favourite short walk?

Send the details (around 200 words) and a photo if you have one to admin@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

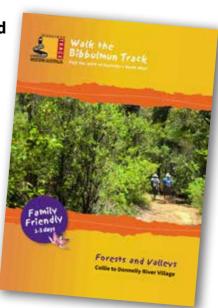


PHOTO CAPTION COMPETITION

Send us a caption!

Volunteers Sue, Sue and Ellen share a joke at the Albany volunteer recognition event in November – but WHAT were they laughing about?!

The most popular caption will win a prize (judged by our office volunteers!)

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



Send us your caption!



SOLO/PARENT FULL KIT \$130 per week!
Incl everything for a solo trip or as a parent carrying equipment for the kids

BASIC ADD-ON ADULT/TEEN KIT \$100 per week!
Incl everything minus cooking gear

BASIC ADD-ON KIDS KIT \$80 per week!
Incl everything minus tent & cooking gear

Incl everything For your end to end or other extended expedition For 8 weeks

FAMILY KIT \$350 per weel 分分分为

ROUP KIT \$400 per week! 2

/eek! 2 x Solo Full Kits, 2 x Basic Adult Kits Extra Solo \$115, Extra Basic Adult \$85, Extra kids \$50 each

CXECK WEBSITE FOR:

EQUIPMENT INCLUDED IN KITS

PRICES FOR INDIVIDUAL ITEM HIRE RATES

NOTE: FOOD AND PERSONAL ITEMS NOT INCLUDED

PLACE ALSO, AVAILABLE FOR \$40 PER WEEK!

sales@hikehire.au

hikehire.au

Upcoming Events

HRT Easter Trek

Take in the spectacular views from Boonerring Hill, White Horse Hills and Mt Wells. Explore the hills, old rail formations and walk the trail by the numerous abandoned mill towns. The journey from the Albany Hwy to Dwellingup takes you to three campsites over the four days. Includes comprehensive planning night, trip preparation manual, map, experienced guides, return transport from Murdoch Park'n'Ride rail terminal and equipment hire. Food not included.

Date: Friday 7th to Monday 10th April Rating: Experienced Cost: Members \$410

Camp Cooking for Kids

In a beautiful bush setting children will learn camp cooking through hands-on experience!

A 4km return walk to a typical Track campsite.. Just bring refreshments, snacks for kids and lunch for adults. Maximum two kids per adult and two adults per child. Ages 6 to 12 years. Includes ingredients for cooking and experienced guides.

Date: Sat 22nd April at 9:30am or 12pm

Rating: Beginners

Cost: Adult members free; Kids \$40

Dr Dolittle Goes Bush

Hev kids! Come and learn about our native animals!

Walk 2km to a Bibbulmun Track campsite to meet the friendly native creatures from Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre.. Ideal for kids 5 to 12 years. Watch their faces light up as they interact and learn about our native animals. Maximum two kids per adult and two adults per child.

Date: Saturday 22nd April at 3:30pm **Rating: Beginners**

Cost: Adult members \$5; Kids \$40

Bibbulmun For Beginners

The perfect introduction to overnight bushwalking, discover the tranquility of the bush as you explore a relatively easy section of the Bibbulmun Track.

We walk approximately 8km each day and camp out under canvas at a Bibbulmun Track campsite. Our experienced and friendly guides will teach you all you need to know about walking and camping and give you the confidence you need to venture out on your own. Hire gear available at no extra cost on this overnight trek.

Date: Sat 6th and Sun 7th May **Rating: Beginners** Cost: Members \$175

Walking with Dad / Walking with Mum Weekend

The perfect opportunity to get outdoors with your kids these events are guaranteed to be fun, fun, fun and create long lasting memoriesDesigned to be great fun for parents and kids (8 - 13 years) alike. Enjoy walking through the magnificent jarrah forest and camping overnight at a Bibbulmun Track campsite. Learn bush and camping skills and bringmarshmallows to roast over the fire.

Includes trained guides, map, planning night, trip preparation manual equipment hire and return transport. BYO food.

With Dad: Sat 15th to Sun 16th April. With Mum: Sat 13th to Sun 14th May Rating: Beginners

\$215 Members (for 1 adult & 1 child)

Balingup Weekend Adventure

Leave your worries behind as we transport you to the picturesque Blackwood area.

Spend two glorious days walking through karri/jarrah/marri forest finishing with views across the Blackwood valley. Stay at a Bibb Track campsite and enjoy the serenity of the forest. Experienced guides are on hand to offer guidance and support. Includes trained guides, map, planning night, trip preparation manual and equipment hire. Freshen up on Sunday afternoon with a hot shower before boarding the bus back to Perth.

Date: Friday 19th to Sunday 21st May Rating: Intermediate Cost: Members \$295



Ramble and Paddle

Two adventures wrapped up in one

This is one of our favourite events. A fantastic walking and paddling weekend escape in Dwellingup. Forget the heavy packs; enjoy a rewarding 14km walk on our Track with only a day pack. You will have time to enjoy some of the local attractions and a fascinating tour of the historic Marrinup POW camp before a tranguil paddle down the Murray River. Includes two nights' accommodation in town with late check out, two continental breakfasts, guided POW tour, experienced guides, canoe equipment and instruction. We have organised return transport for from Murdoch Park'n'Ride rail terminal as well as all transfers over the weekend for you.

Date: Fri 26th (3:45pm) to Sun 28th May Rating: Beginners Cost: \$330 Members

Get Found with Steve

The perfect opportunity to develop your compass and map reading skills.

On this fun but intensive weekend learn how to navigate through the bush and put it into practice at a Rogaine.

We will hike around 20km over the weekend (carrying a day pack only) including a night hike.

Vehicle based camping means you don't have to carry your overnight gear!

Includes entry fee to Rogaine, theory session (on Friday evening) and plenty of practical tuition, dinner Saturday night, breakfast and lunch on Sunday. Own navigation compass required.

Date: Friday 9th to Sunday 11th June Rating: Intermediate Cost: \$210 Members

More events and all bookings are available online at: www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Social Sunday walks

Free for members. See booking conditions online.

| WALK RATING | S: SEGINNERS SINTERMEDIATE SEXPERIENCED | |
|--------------------|---|----------|
| DATE | DETAILS | RATING |
| 18 June @ 10:30am | 11km return walk from Mundaring Weir to Ball Creek Campsite | ⋰ |
| 18 June @ 9.00am | 17km return walk from Brookton Hwy to Canning Campsite | 4 |
| 2 July @ 9:00am | 15km return from Mt Cooke Pines to Nerang Campsite) | |
| 9 July @ 8:30am | 23.5km return walk from Perth Hills Discovery Centre to Helena Campsite (Fit and experienced walkers only!) | |
| 20 August @ 8:30am | 20km walk from Kalamunda to Hewett's Hill Campsite (Fit and experienced walkers only!) | |
| 27 August @ 8:30am | 21km return walk from Brookton Hwy to Mt Dale Campsite | |

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

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



Thank you! Thank you! **THANK YOU!**

A sincere thank you to the following walkers who have generously made donations to the Foundation.

| Charlie Soord | Katrina Pike | Paul |
|------------------|----------------|----------|
| Christine Kennea | Leonie Kirke | Prof. Da |
| Clifford Logan | Lucy Baker | Rapid |
| Craig George | Luke Willcock | Stephen |
| Dr Pengelly | Marcus Harris | Trevor |
| Isabella Rowe | Margaret Morse | Vicky W |
| Janet King | Natascha Curle | |

Toon vid Hill Ascent n Walter **Baque** Vinfield

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.



Many thanks to Rapid Ascent who donated \$2000 from the inaugural Great Southern Stage Run held in November. The three-day event showcased a 200km point to point course which traversed large sections of the Bibbulmun Track between Walpole and Albany.

It was a great success with 61 relay teams of four taking part while eight competitors ran the entire course solo.





Hello Fellow Bibbulmun Tragics!

I spoke last time about technology, so for this edition's ramblings I thought a bit of a return to nature would be appropriate. I use the word *ramblings* advisedly; I received a phone call in the office recently from someone who congratulated me on the *Track Trivia* column. Naturally I was pleased until he went on to say, "Yes, your ramblings about the Track are very entertaining."

To have my erudite and sophisticated commentaries described as ramblings was a bit of a downer, especially when I looked it up and found a definition "confused or inconsequential, writing, gibberish". I concluded he must have mistaken me for Prince Harry, probably because of my Pommy accent.



Fit to dro

Track Trivia

Anyway, back to nature. I've noticed a number of comments from walkers of late, especially those walking endto-ends, expressing disappointment at the scarcity of wildlife on the Track. Although birds are still everywhere to be seen and heard, walkers see few animals, particularly in the northern parts of the Track between Kalamunda to Collie. The cumulative impacts of prescribed burns, mining, logging and climate change have been particularly hard on the northern jarrah forests and the BTF has voiced its concerns to the powers that be (see article on page 10). Fortunately, in the more remote areas of the Track, especially along the south coast, wildlife in the form of kangaroos and emus abounds.

However, there is some good news on this front. For many years the presence of drop-bears along the Track has been a contentious issue amongst walkers. For those of you who are not familiar with the stories, drop-bears come into the same category as the Yeti, Bigfoot and Sasquatch; humanoid creatures that live in the wild but whose existence has never been definitely proven.

The drop-bear legend describes a very large, koala-like creature with coarse orange fur found in our forested regions. They are very powerful creatures and supposedly hunt by ambushing ground dwelling animals from above, waiting up to as much as four hours to make a surprise kill. Drop-bears will drop as much as eight metres to pounce on top of the unsuspecting victim. The urban legend focuses on bush walkers being dropped on, resulting in injury including lacerations and bites, however there are no stories of incidents being fatal. Suggestions have been made that drop-bears can be repelled by wearing metal forks in the hair when walking or smearing Vegemite or toothpaste behind the ears.

Strangely. few people believe that these creatures exist, but I can now reveal that Bibbulmun News has obtained exclusive photographic evidence, as shown to the left.

The picture was taken on the Track by BTF member and maintenance volunteer David Broughton, who was shrewd enough to not get too close.

It clearly shows a pair of drop bears listening intently for the sounds of approaching prey. We are not announcing the location of this photograph for fear of encouraging a flood of arctophiles in the area. For anyone wishing for more information, and believe me it is worth it, go to https://mythicaustralia.com/drop-bear/



 ${\it Old\ Padbury\ Road}$

Finally, a little bit of Track history. Most people who use the Track will be aware of the contribution made by convicts in fabricating the shelters, clearing the Track and performing maintenance work. However, their work goes back much earlier than that. Where the Track leaves Balingup it follows the Old Padbury Road. BTF Maintenance Vollie Joanna Pearson has sent us a photograph that clearly shows the original paving stones laid down by convict workers when the road was constructed in the 1860s. So, convicts were involved, albeit unknowingly, long before the Track came into being!

Happy Walking, Wrong Way Jim

REFLECTIONS FROM THE REGISTER

MT CHANCE

I feel incredibly lucky to be here in this magic spot while Perth endures another snap Covid lock-down. The peace, the trees, the rock, the birdsong, the sunshine and the breeze are perfection. The worries of the city seem far away but are still too close. Hoping the lock-down ends in time for my partner to join me in Northcliffe with my next lot of food. Nothing I can do about it but wait and in the meantime continue soaking up the joy that is being outside on a perfect autumn day.

Bee 25/04/2021

A wonderful walk from Woolbales to Mt Chance—wildflowers, water, mud, sunshine, bobtails and snakes! Loving the birdsong and the quiet time away from city traffic. Hope everyone is enjoying hiking on the BIBB Track, what a special part of the world. *Sarah and Janet 10/11/2021*

GRINGER CREEK

Settling into the rhythm of the Track on my walk from Kalamunda to Dwellingup. The joy of walking early in the morning as the first pink glow appears in the east and the birds start chorusing. Packing up, hitting the trail and getting my old bones and muscles warmed up. The rest stops, soaking up the silence of the forest but also the sounds that belong there. Getting tired, counting down the last kilometers to the shelter. Finally! A wash, a cup of tea and the evening routine. Watching the light fade away, lying on the bench at the outdoor table to check out the stars. Then bed is calling. Time to sleep and then do it all again. There is so much peace in getting into these rhythms, and I feel so lucky in being able to do this walk. Happy walking to all! Jude 2 14/10/2020

BEEDELUP

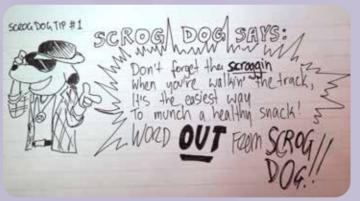
Well done everyone! A big thank you to all the Track maintenance crews, to DEC and the BTF vollies. The Track down from Balingup was in top notch shape. The shelters were immaculate and clean. Well done all and sundry. I love my walks on the Bibb! On-On!

Terry the Piscator 05/05/2010

Oh no! An avalanche of adolescent estrogen is about to hit camp! Which is the more unwise, staying here or heading for next campsite in the dark? The latter sounds the least painful, so I'm off! Stomping Stan, the Bibbulmun Man 26/05/2003

(Ed: The adolescents were a group of international female exchange students)

GREGORY BROOK



Scrog Dog 19/10/2017

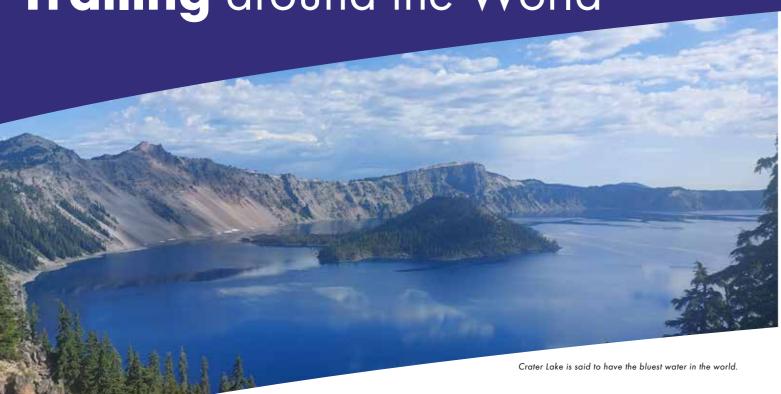


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Include a gift for the Bibbulmun Track Foundation in your will and help ensure the Bibbulmun Track is maintained for generations to come.



Trailing around the World



Thru-hiking the Pacific Crest Trail

The PCT is a wilderness trail stretching 4246km from the Mexican border to the Canadian border through Californian desert, the high alpine regions of the Sierra in California, over the hills of Oregon and the Cascade Ranges of Washington.

The Desert: 1120km

Last year, BTF members

Veronika Winkler set out to

thru-hike the Pacific Crest

and End-to-Enders

Michael Schulze and

Trail (PCT) in the USA.

These are some of the

told by Veronika.

highlights of their trek,

Day 1: April 21st. We are at the Southern Terminus near Campo, on the Mexican border. Other hikers are milling around; all spent last night at the house of Frodo and Scout, famous trail angels in San Diego.

The trail winds its way through the desert and hills; it is pleasant and the temperatures are not as high as I feared. After 7km we arrive at our only water source for today, a small creek where the water is still running. We each filter about five litres of water, a daily chore for the next five to six months.

We started the trail with low daily mileage so our bodies could adapt and after 25 km we stop for the night at the dry Hauser Creek. For navigation we are using the Far Out app on our smart phones, which has up-to-date information about campsites and water sources. It rained during the night—the only rain for many weeks to come.

We quickly fall into a daily routine, starting walking at dawn. In the desert we make big distances in the morning, so we can spend the midday heat somewhere in the shade and

resume hiking in the late afternoon. Later, when the heat isn't a problem, we still start early, using the whole day to average 30km.

Most hikers start solo on the PCT, but normally end up in a trail family or tramily, and we soon were joined by Caterpillar and Field Trip, camping with them in the evenings. Trail names are the norm. Michael is known as Teddybear after Henro Bibbul Bear (HBB), the mascot that accompanies him in his pack. HBB was bought in Pemberton on Michael's end-toend and named Bibbul Bear, gaining the name Henro (pilgrim) after tackling the Japanese 88-Temple walk. I later became Osita (tiny female bear) in Spanish.

The rain causes the desert to explode in colour; thousands of pink and yellow blossoms on the cacti and hundreds of white petals on the tall yucca plants. Tiny hummingbirds seek nectar in the flowers. Small lizards race over the trail. We saw only three rattlesnakes, one a baby whose rattle sounded like a faint hiss.

The Sierra: 640km

Day 45: June 4th. We reach Kennedy Meadows, the gate to the Sierra, high alpine areas and mountain passes. We are lucky this year because in the winter 2021/22 there was very little snow. The river crossings are only calf deep and the mountain passes have only a few snow patches on their northern sides. Our tramily gains two more members, Choo

Choo and Nudist. We are all Germans, who seem to make up the second largest nation represented on the PCT.

Day 51: June 10th. Teddybear, Choo Choo and I climb to the summit of Mt. Whitney, at 4,421m. Mt. Whitney isn't officially on the PCT, but almost every PCT-hiker attempts the summit. I'm worried about altitude sickness because I had problems with elevation earlier. I am very slow, but we make it to the summit. The view is just breathtaking.

Day 52: June 11th. We climb Forester Pass, at 4,009 m the highest point of the PCT.

On the top our tramily waits for us. The view north reveals an alpine wonderland of high mountain peaks. For the next week we climb one of these passes every day. The valleys are dotted with small, crystal clear lakes. Between the rocks sit fat marmots and cute chipmunks.

On the northern side of Forester Pass there are patches of snow, as on all the following descents. Most times we don our micro spikes for the frozen sections. But sometimes the snow is already slushy and we sink knee deep..

Day 62: June 21st. Naked Hiking Day! It is very cold in the morning, so Nudist and I agree to shed our clothes at lunchtime. Field Trip hesitates, but then also gets rid of her clothes (only shoes, socks, gaiters and sun hat are allowed). We start the descent, single file and naked over the snow fields, concentrating on not slipping! The three of us hike naked for the rest of the day. It is great fun, seeing the baffled faces of the hikers we pass.

Northern California: 704km

Day 85: July 14th. Teddybear and I are on our own, our tramily dissolved at the official end of the Sierra. We cross the burn area of the Bear Fire of 2020. The trail consists of ashes, with burned tree-skeletons which offer no shade. It is very hot, and the conditions resemble the desert again. Water is scarce but nature is fighting back, some green on the ground and colourful flowers in bloom.

Day 88: July 17th. We start at 4.00 am. Even now it is very hot. An elevation gain of 1,800m awaits us and we don't want to climb in the sun. Two pairs of eyes glow in the light of our headlamps and we recognize two juvenile mountain lions growling and hissing at us—where is their mom? As fast as possible we walk on, frightened but at the same time excited to have seen these beautiful animals.

Day 101: July 30th. We arrive at a trailhead, where there are cars of day hikers in the parking lot and trail-magic for PCT-hikers; melon, cherries and water-bottles. Teddybear and I grab a juicy melon-slice. Heaven! Day

hikers tell us of a fire that started last night in Seiad Valley; in their opinion it shouldn't pose any problem to the PCT. Wrong!

Minutes later Eagle Eye, a guy from Sri Lanka arrives with bad news, the PCT is closed from Etna Summit onwards for 176 km. Etna Summit is three days away, so we walk on but quickly learn the fire is now directly ahead and close. Time to leave! We return to the trailhead where other PCT-hikers are stranded. Within a few hours everyone gets a lift back into civilization. True trail angels!

Oregon: 698km

Day 104: August 2nd. The day after we evacuated the PCT we hitchhiked 110 km to Ashland in Oregon. Today we continue our hike. We are sad; we were supposed to cross the border from California to Oregon on foot, not by car! In the meantime the now named McKinney Fire has developed into this year's largest fire in California. Even in Ashland the air is thick with smoke. We managed to find accommodation but our dream of a thru-hike is shattered; the fire means we have missed 286km of the PCT.

Rumours of new fires abound but we decide to walk on.

Day 110: August 8th. Today we break our rule of being purists in order to reach Crater Lake, which is said to have the bluest water in the world.

The official PCT stays in the forest, but the alternate trail, which most PCT hikers take, follows the 16km Crater Lake Rim Trail. The views are incredible as is the blue colour of the water. We have just one more fire to avoid, the Windigo Fire, and we miss another 96km of the trail.

Washington State: 757km

Day 128: August 28th. We cross the mighty Columbia River on the Bridge of the Gods into Washington, the Evergreen State. Surely no bush fires here—wrong!

Day 135: September 2nd. We are in the alpine region of the Goat Rocks Wilderness. Ahead of us lies Knife's Edge, hugging the crest of the mountains. In this good weather it looks beautiful—in fog, rain or high winds crossing Knife's Edge must be scary and dangerous! When we put up our tent in the evening other PCT-hikers pass by. Bad news—the last 32 km of the PCT are closed due to fire! We are devastated. But it will take us three weeks to get there. By then the closed section could re-open

Days 142 – 146: From Snoqualmie Pass to Stevens Pass the trail passes through the most beautiful scenery in Washington. We

enter the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, with countless lakes, where the trail often leads above the tree line, crossing boulder fields where cute pikas, hamster-size rodents, sun themselves on rocks. But steadily the view gets worse; fog and rain in combination with the smoke of a fire ahead of us at Stevens Pass.

Day 147: September 14th. The road to the west of Stevens Pass is closed due to a fire near Skykomish. The Stevens Pass Lodge is closed, but thankfully the security staff retrieve our resupply package. We are allowed to stay at the closed cafeteria, where it is warm and dry, for as long as we want. We, and our gear, range from damp to soaking wet because of a sudden last afternoon hail storm. We spread out everything and after a couple of hours all is dry again. We hike on in the misty, smoky gloom – the hardest section in Washington lies ahead of us.

Day 151: September 18th. The day started beautifully with gorgeous views of mountaintops across alpine meadows. A black bear ambled ahead of us along the trail, feeding on huckleberries, but since we started to descend to the Suiattle River my tranquillity of mind has vanished. Hundreds of blowdowns are blocking the PCT, many of which we must climb over or crawl under. Often we have to take off our backpacks and it slows us down considerably. I am tired, tired of the trail, I want it to be finished!

Day 159: September 26th. We have reached Windy Pass, at 4205km. The last 41 km to the Northern Terminus are still closed due to fire and we decided days ago that Windy Point would be our finish point, but our decision wavered when we met a group of hikers returning from an illegal hike to the Northern Terminus, ignoring the closure. It was tempting for us to ignore the closure as well, but we didn't want to be irresponsible and put our and perhaps the lives of other people in peril.

So we set up our tent on Windy Pass, grateful to have made it there.

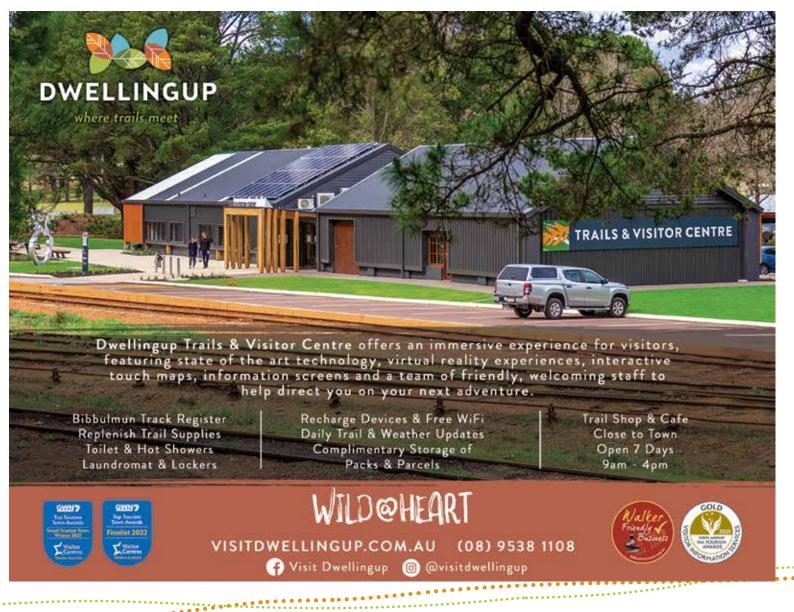
Conclusion: If you are considering hiking the PCT—do it! The landscape is breathtaking, the trail for the most part well maintained and the camaraderie amongst the hikers is great. The one drawback is the high probability of wild fires during the hiking season, due to which we weren 't able to do a true thruhike. Instead we walked only about 90 % of the trail, about 3,820 km. But still we are very happy we've done it!

Veronika Winkler

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