

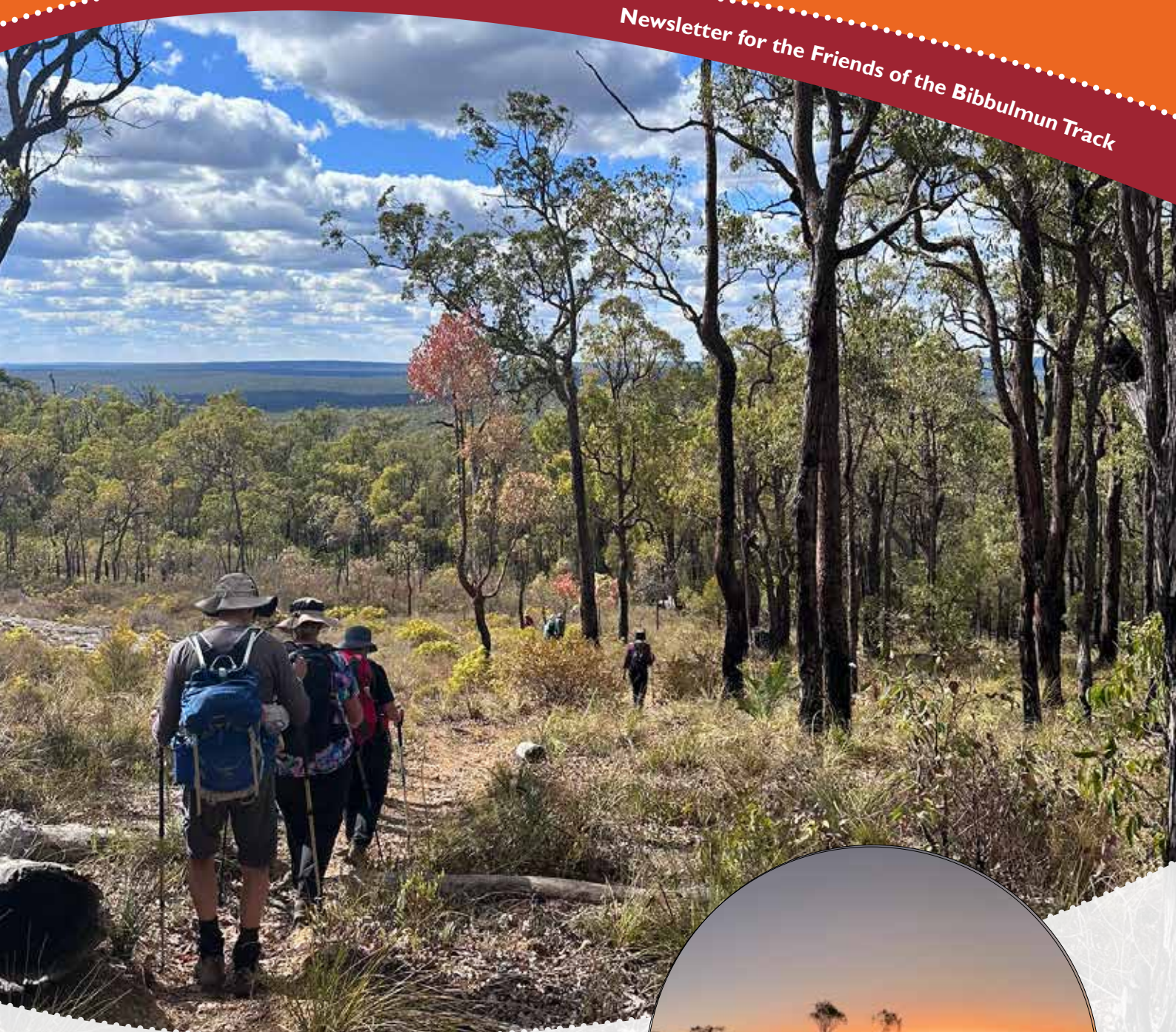
# Bibbulmun

# NEWS

DECEMBER 2024 - MARCH 2025  
SEASONS OF BIRAK & BUNURU  
ISSUE #97  
RRP \$8.00



Newsletter for the Friends of the Bibbulmun Track



**Unwind on a serene, warm evening by the light of the moon.** Our Star Trek and Moon Walk events guide you through beautiful mixed jarrah forest to a massive granite outcrop where you can enjoy a picnic under the beautiful night sky.

*(Above) Hikers on a Bibbulmun Track Foundation guided walk.*

*(Right) Sunset on Abyssinia Rock.*

*Photographs by Neil Gibson*

We acknowledge the Noongar people as the traditional custodians of the land and waters along the Bibbulmun Track.

# Outdoors October Virtual Hike Challenge

This October, 356 participants took part in the Outdoors October Virtual Hike Challenge, logging an incredible 63,000+ kilometres—more than 1.5 times the Earth's circumference! Hosted by the Bibbulmun Track Foundation in collaboration with Outdoors WA, the challenge invited participants to virtually hike the Track.

The challenge attracted a diverse group of participants, from marathon trainees and recreational hikers to fitness enthusiasts and fundraisers. For Tash Hanham, the motivation was simple: "I joined for the pure joy of being outdoors," she said. The challenge provided a boost to her daily physical activity routine, helping her stay active and connected with nature.

Others found the challenge a perfect way to stay fit and engaged while balancing life's demands. Tara, a participant from one of the teams, reflected on their experience: "We were lucky to have some members training for ultramarathons. It gave us all a healthy sense of competition and kept us balanced during work and exams."

The challenge's reach went far beyond Australia, with participants taking the spirit of the Bibbulmun Track across the globe. Miles and his team hiked sections of Turkey's Lycian Way while preparing for marathons in Vietnam. One team member even placed a Bibbulmun Track sticker at the Peak of the Balkans trail in Europe, symbolizing the worldwide camaraderie sparked by the event.

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation hopes the spirit of Outdoors October will continue to inspire participants long after the challenge ends. Lachlan, a teacher from Victoria, noted how his team used the event to stay active during school holidays. "Some members of our team are already looking for the next challenge," he said, reflecting the enthusiasm that many participants feel as they look ahead.

In addition to promoting physical well-being, this year's challenge also underscored the importance of mental health. Hannah from Team West Swan BFB explained that her team chose the challenge specifically to raise awareness and funds for mental health. "Whether it was intensive training for an upcoming Ironman or just going fishing with mates, all members participated and contributed to the team's success," she said.

John from Team Tight Nuts and Sweaty Butts summed up the sentiment perfectly: "If we can raise money for a worthwhile cause and have fun, even better!"

As the Outdoors October Challenge came to an end, it's clear that participants not only embraced the beauty and challenge of the Bibbulmun Track but also discovered the profound physical and mental benefits of spending time outdoors. The event was a reminder of the power of nature to inspire connection, health, and community.

A big thankyou to our sponsors: Sea To Summit, Anaconda, Paddy Pallin, Small Things Wine and Tribe & Trail, who donated amazing prizes for our lucky winning participants!

**ANACONDA**

Paddy Pallin  
SINCE 1930



Spread Christmas Cheer  
with some Bibbulmun Track Gear!



SCAN the QR CODE to buy online. BTF-Member Rates apply.



# FROM MY Desk

## Welcome to the summer edition of Bibbulmun News.

I recently returned from Brazil where I had the pleasure of presenting at the 3rd Brazilian Trails Congress in Sao Paulo.

The Bibbulmun Track was an inspiration for the Transcarioca Trail, the pioneer trail of the Brazilian Trails Network. After 20 years of planning the Transcarioca was launched in 2017 and is Brazil's first long-distance hiking trail. It runs for 183 kilometres via wild beaches, the Corcovado and Sugar Loaf in the heart of Rio de Janeiro.

As one of the BTF's Friendship Trails, the trip provided a great opportunity to meet with volunteers and to spend a couple of days hiking the trail. An initiative of the World Trails Network, the Friendship Trail program aims to share knowledge and information between trail organisations, promote the importance and benefits of hiking trails and to cross-promote the trails to boost tourism and local economies.

The conference was also a good chance to promote the World Trails Conference which is being held in Western Australia in 2026. Despite the long distance between us, I hope that some of the delegates will be inspired to travel to Perth.

In the meantime, BTF event manager, Steve Sertis, accompanied a group of members on a trip to explore the trails in Taiwan. During the trip, BTF Chair, Kath Broderick, signed an MOU to form a Friendship Trail agreement with the Raknus Selu Trail. From all reports the trip was excellent and a great cultural experience. We look forward to featuring both trails in future editions of Bibbulmun News.

In the meantime, the end of the year is fast approaching along with the summer temperatures.

We will be taking a break and wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2024.

## Linda Daniels Executive Director

A panel discussion was held on the rise of professional trail builders and training pathways. From L to R: Nat Scrimshaw, President of the Pan American Trails Network, Mike Passo, Executive Director of American Trails, Cesar Aspiazu, Bolivia rep, Pan American Trails and Linda Daniels, BTF.



## Thank you! Thank you! THANK YOU!

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

Adele Leahy  
Alex Hamilton  
Alice Stubber  
Amanda Miller  
Andrew Chiswell  
Angela Loucaides  
Annemarie Pankhurst  
Arthur Wright  
Barbara Dicker  
Ben Galvin  
Bernard D'Silva  
Carolyn Layton  
Chris Bishop  
Claire Ritchie  
Clint Hounsham  
Clive Matheson  
David Heldsinger  
David Hill  
Debbie McKay  
Debbie McQueen  
Desley MacKenzie  
Dragana Radmanovic  
Duncan McClymont  
Elizabeth Lyons  
Emma Carter  
Enid Gardner  
Ermil Sipp  
Fiona Brayshaw  
Frederick McGlashan  
Gabrielle Gordon  
Gary Tomkinson  
Geoff Oehme  
Georgina Evans  
Gwen McNaught  
Hannah Cowley  
Heather Neil

Holly Sounness  
Hugh Payne  
Huilin Sun  
Ian Fairnie  
Isaac O'Sullivan  
James Flynn  
Jane Turnbull  
Jessica Champion  
Johanne Wiltshire  
John Chellev  
John Hilton  
Julianne Quaine  
Karen Gurry  
Karen Romeo  
Kate Alexander  
Katie Tovich  
Keith McLean  
Kelly Kilheeny  
Kerry Ochtman  
Kieran Behan  
Kieran Behan  
Krissa O'Neil  
Larry Smith  
Len Worthington  
Leonie Harris  
Lindsay Bell  
Lorraine Chaplin-Mills  
Mandy Miller  
Mark Flynn  
Mark Tomkinson  
Martin Gole  
Mary McNulty  
Maryliana Andrade  
Megan Edwards  
Melissa Cox  
Subiaco Hotel and Phat Brew Club  
Y.A.H.O.O over 55's Bushwalking Club

Michael Hughes  
Michael Paterson  
Naomi Kohler  
Nola Alabisi  
Oenone Allen  
Patrick Loudon  
Patrick O'Driscoll  
Paula MacMunn  
Paula Simondson  
Peter Hooper  
Peter Isliker  
Petita Abblitt  
Phil Sutherland  
Rebecca Artaud  
Richard Coker  
Robert Johnson  
Salvatore Prestianni  
Sarah Hill  
Seth Steinberg  
Shane Scott  
Shaun Cardoso  
Stephen Ferrier  
Stephen Sole  
Steve Porteous  
Sue Rolinson  
Tanya Wood  
Teresa Eldridge  
Thomas Duffy  
Todd Rintoul  
Tracy Pearce  
Warren Potts

## 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. 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.

## Season's Greetings

The office will be closed from 12noon Thursday 12 December until 10.00am Monday 28 January 2025.

(Christmas shopping orders will still be processed for the following week.)



# YOUR Letters

Tilly from the Track

In August 2021, I embarked on my first end-to-end from Kalamunda to Albany.

As someone who adores dogs - an unapologetic "crazy dog lady" - one of the hardest parts of the journey was leaving my little man/miniature wirehair dachshund, Derek, at home. If I could have taken him along, I would have carried him the 1000kms!

Fortunately, I have incredibly supportive friends who brought Derek to Collie to visit me, but there was still a void in my heart, a longing for the connection and companionship only a dog can provide.

Near Blackwood Campsite, the arrival of two adorable Border Collies, Tilly and Jack, was like a gift from the gods. For me, it felt like Christmas. I played with Tilly and Jack, going to bed that night with my heart and soul completely full.

Fast forward to August 2024. While working in emergency and critical care, I met two gentlemen who brought in their beloved pet who was critically ill.

This is always a heartbreaking situation.

One of the men shared his favourite photo of her and mentioned they have a farm in Balingup, where the Bibbulmun Track passes through. That photo was of Tilly.

I realised Tilly was the Border Collie who had brought me so much joy on the Track years earlier. I shared my story with her owners, recounting how Tilly filled a gap in my heart and gave me much-needed dog love. I also shared my favourite photo of Tilly from the Track.

I am deeply grateful to have had the opportunity to care for Tilly in her final moments and to offer her some comfort and love in return for the joy she brought me.

I know that Tilly lived the best life and will have touched many hearts, leaving behind a trail of happy memories for all those who encountered her beautiful face.

Jo, the Vet Nurse

*Ed Note: The Track runs through private property south of Blackwood Campsite and these two dogs belong to the property owner.*

## Fellowship & Hospitality for walkers

**Would you like to chat with someone at the start or finish of your walk?**

Volunteers from the Anglican Church in Kalamunda and Albany are happy to meet you for a time of fellowship and sharing – and an opportunity to ring the church bell to announce your arrival in or departure from the town.



To make an appointment, simply visit:

<https://kalamundaanglicans.org.au/bibbulmun/> or scan the QR code.

## Calling all Bush Poets!

**Over the years we have received various poems inspired by walking the Bibbulmun Track.**

We are going to curate a selection to publish.

If you would like your poetic ponderings to be considered, please email them in Word format to [friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au](mailto:friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au) by 30 January 2025.

## PHOTO COMPETITION WINNER

This photo of our BTF Event Manager and Guide, Steve Sertis, at a social event with the Collie Rotarians during the 25th Anniversary Walk, inspired the following entries:

*"You ordered HOW MUCH Tyvek??  
It's measured in square metres not square centimetres!!"*  
**Kathy Bell**

*"King" Bee*  
**Gwen McNaught**

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

*"No, you can't have it - it is all MIIIIIIINNNNNEEEEE!!!"*  
**Charmaine Harris**

**Well done Charmaine... a prize is in the post!**



# Walker Story - No Second Prize

BTF member John Elderfield is a tenacious person, as his end-to-end walk on the Track proved! This is John's story of his epic journey:

"I would feel more optimistic about a bright future for man, if he spent less time proving he can outwit nature, and more time tasting her sweetness and respecting her seniority" E.B. White.

This is a sign I read along the way that pretty well explains how I feel after completing my north to south end-to-end trek on the Bibbulmun Track, which was not without its share of incidents. My Track name was *No Second Prize*, and this really was the attitude I wanted to adopt in undertaking this walk.

I started from Kalamunda and had travelled well on the early parts of the Track—but my first major problem was about to unfold. I arrived at lunchtime at the Monadnocks Campsite and as I had lots of daylight remaining, I set out again towards Mount Cooke. I was given advice about the walk from others just outside the shelter about how easy this section was. This information proved to be totally incorrect—first big lesson, check maps and distances yourself!

In my haste to get going I completely forgot to replenish my water bladder. Mid-afternoon came and I ran out of water as I was climbing Mount Cuthbert and within a short space of time I began to feel quite unwell and had to stop. I was drowsy, my speech began to slur, I could not think clearly and my vision was fuzzy. Two people stopped and gave me water and generally looked after me; at the time I did not realise I was suffering from severe dehydration.

They called triple zero and within two hours two responders were with me, medics with hiking backgrounds. By now it was late afternoon, and there was not enough daylight left to get me back to the ambulance on foot, so the decision was made to arrange a helicopter evacuation. We got up to a nearby plateau where the chopper could hover and winch me up. I spent four days in Rockingham Hospital recovering, the hospital checked everything very thoroughly. We have a great health service here in Australia.

One rooky mistake that could have been nasty!

I recovered well, restarted from where I had left the Track and trekked down to Donnelly River Village without further

incident. However, two hours after leaving this great spot, following coffee and breakfast at the general store, my left knee suddenly went into a spasm style pain, I sat down and tried to get it going, however after half an hour it was not responding. I could not walk unaided, and no one had come along. I knew I was very close to a road so I called 000 on the emergency plus app on my phone (*Ed: This is a free app that all walkers should put on their mobile phones*). An ambulance took me down to Bridgetown, where I had my knee strapped and I caught the bus to Perth the next day.

Knees seem to be the most common body part to make people suffer on the Track, the number of people I met with knee issues of some kind far outnumbered any other injury. I had physiotherapy treatment and got my knee back to normal, however by then it was getting a little late in the season to restart.

So, after a long break, my second restart was from the Donnelly general store after breakfast, back along the Track to where I left it. From there I was very aware of my knee problem and coaxed it all the way to Albany!

I was lucky with the weather over the last 28 days from Donnelly River; although the first three weeks were hot and energy sapping the last week was beautiful hiking weather, with no rain.

I strolled across the finish line on a Sunday morning after 1003 km, more than one million steps. It was very emotional and incredibly joyous to have done what I set out to do!

My No Second Prize mantra kept me going. I sat on a bench for about 30 minutes after finishing, letting the emotions roll over me. I readily admit I had a lump in my throat and a tear in my eye! My total time taken was 64 days, leisurely yes, but to me it was all about enjoying it, taking time to take photos, jump in the ocean for a swim or sit on a bench for an hour and take in the view.

To me it was never a race, just a stroll!

I want to acknowledge and thank all my family and friends who supported me on this journey. Your encouragement meant so much.



John Elderfield ringing the bell in Albany

Thanks to the staff and volunteers of the BTF who do a wonderful job in looking after the Track and keeping walkers informed. Volunteer Jim gave me around three hours of his time at the BTF office helping me with the planning and logistics to undertake this hike.

It would be remiss of me to not mention the wonderful friends I met on the Track, too many to mention, but you know who you are, thanks for the memories! I met hikers from all over Australia, from Germany, Singapore, USA, Netherlands, England, Canada, New Zealand and France, so good to welcome multinational walkers back on the Track! It was also lovely to meet many mothers with sons or daughters experiencing the Track during the school holidays, especially one handicapped boy with his mother who was just loving it all!

My toes suffered as they always do. I will lose five toenails, and I lost nine kilos in weight.

I celebrated Anzac Day with a minute's silence.

That's all from me. Oh, I did treat myself to a stay at the Garden Hilton in Albany as a reward!

I will never forget my time on the Track, the memories will be with me forever, the forests, birds, rivers, beaches, views, flora, fauna, the Track towns, the shelters and most of all the people.

**John Elderfield**

# Before you go...

## CHECK THE LATEST TRACK CONDITIONS

Before heading out on to the Bibbulmun Track it is important that you check the current Track conditions and are aware of any changes that may impact on your journey. Refer to the Section by Section guide on [www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au) or contact the appropriate Parks and Wildlife Services District (see contact details 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](http://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](mailto:recreationandtrails@dbca.wa.gov.au)  
Ph: (08) 9219 8265

### District Offices

#### Perth Hills District (Mundaring and Dwellingup)

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

#### Wellington District (Collie)

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

#### Blackwood District (Balingup)

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

#### Donnelly District (Pemberton and Northcliffe)

Willow Springs (Gold Gully Rd) to Pingerup Rd  
Map 5 and Guidebook 5  
Contact Dean Johnson on (08) 9771 7988 or [donnelyd@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:donnelyd@dbca.wa.gov.au)

#### Frankland District (Walpole)

Pingerup Rd to Denmark River mouth  
Map 6, 7 and 8 and Guidebooks 6, 7 and 8  
Contact Meg Pardoe on (08) 9840 0400 or [frankland.district@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:frankland.district@dbca.wa.gov.au)

#### Albany District (Denmark and Albany)

Denmark River mouth to Albany  
Map 8 and Guidebook 8  
Contact Sara Hands-May on (08) 9842 4500 or [albany@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:albany@dbca.wa.gov.au)

## LEAVE NO TRACE TIP: RESPECT WILDLIFE

- Don't feed animals or birds, and clean up even the tiniest food scraps.
- Secure food bags tightly and hang from rafter if necessary.
- Protect vegetation and other habitat around campsites.
- Leave your pets at home. Dogs are not allowed in national parks, water catchments or nature reserves. As a majority of the Bibbulmun Track runs through these areas dogs are not permitted. The Track is also regularly baited for foxes with 1080 poison, which can be fatal for dogs even in tiny quantities.





## 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,

I hope you've managed to enjoy some fantastic walks through spring, chasing wildflowers and waterfalls or just relishing the refreshed forest. It has been great to see so many people out on the Track, and fantastic to see the continuing collective efforts to maintain and improve it.

Campsite improvements are continuing, but at a relatively modest pace over recent months. The upgrade of Yourdamung Campsite toilet was completed in September, involving installation of a new large capacity plastic tank, with retention of most of the above ground structure. Construction of a larger toilet building will be considered in the future but is not a high priority.

Extension and upgrade of the Harris Dam Campsite shelter was completed over two campaigns in September and October. The shelter now has new roofing, new squat water tanks, a larger bunk area and an extended verandah providing more shade and shelter. Huge congratulations to the Support Volunteers that managed this project with minor support and assistance from DBCA staff. This campsite was the last of eight to have shelter extensions and upgrades completed and it was very satisfying to see this milestone reached. Still on the cards are a few toilet replacements or upgrades, tent site and path upgrades at several campsites and the installation of a second water tank at those that only have one.

A significant achievement over winter was the completion and opening of the major realignment south of Dookanelly Campsite. A combination of machine construction by trail building contractor Loztrails and hand construction by an enthusiastic team of BTF volunteers resulted in completion of the new trail sections in August, with the opening of the full realignment on 23 August. The new alignment passes through a variety of landforms and includes some sections of designated old growth forest with some spectacular mature trees. The majority of the 18km realignment is purpose-built walk trail, representing a significant improvement to the former alignment that used mostly vehicle tracks. It has also resolved the issue of the section near Bell Brook that was prone to flooding.

Several relatively minor realignments are in the pipeline for next year. These include proposals at Mt Dale, at the powerlines east of Mt Cooke, and near Wilshusen Rd

to the north of Yourdamung Campsite. These each have their own complexities to work through.

The WA Hiking Trail Management Guidelines were released in September, adding to the suite of WA documents providing guidance in trail planning and management. Recreation and Trails Unit were heavily involved in developing this document, along with many others. The long-awaited guidelines should serve as a useful resource for those involved in hiking trail construction and more complex maintenance tasks, such as drainage and erosion control. We are now busy working on the horse trail guidelines.

Work on the Valley of the Giants trail network is progressing steadily, with the design and construction work shared between trail builders Magic Dirt and Common Ground Trails. The network consists of around 50km of walking and cycling trails and includes a new carpark and trailhead facilities on Rate

Road. The network will provide several opportunities for loop walks off the Bibbulmun Track, with opening expected around March 2025.

As we move into summer, it is timely to remind all hikers to be cautious and vigilant regarding heat and bushfire risks. Our standing advice is to avoid any extended walks on the track from December to March, regardless of the short-term weather forecast. If planning a day walk, check the forecast and do not go out if the forecast fire danger rating is extreme or catastrophic. Check the Park Alerts and Emergency WA websites for any warnings or closures in the area you plan to visit. Further details and advice can be found on the Health, Hygiene and Safety page on the Bibbulmun Track Foundation website or on Explore Parks. Stay safe out there!

**Stephen King**  
*Trails Coordinator*

## Summer is here please don't take any risks!

It is strongly recommended that you do not carry out any extended walks between December and the start of March anywhere on the Bibbulmun Track.

The Track gets very hot and the bushfire risk is extreme.

Temperatures can range from low 30s to mid-40s.

Please plan to walk outside of these months and avoid putting your life at risk and the lives of those that may need to rescue you.

We advise people planning a day walk to check the weather and fire forecasts. If the fire danger is high or above we strongly recommend people don't go out on the Track, or leave if they are already out.

If in doubt, and the weather forecast is for hot and windy conditions, our recommendation is not to go walking. The south coast, although may be cooler, offers little protection from the sun due to the lack of a forest canopy and fire spreads more quickly in open bush and grassland.



# Eyes on the GROUND



Andrew Chiswell

**It has been a busy quarter on the maintenance front, battling storms, inundations, prescribed burns and dying kangaroos, in amongst the regular Field Days, SV and maintenance campaigns**

We continue to receive good support from the districts during our Field Day program, with Blackwood District quickly arranging a change of venue to the Golden Valley Tree Park in Balingup when our planned day at Noggerup was cancelled due to the condition of the access road.

Stelle, the District Operations Officer, not only provided the equipment and materials needed for the day, but also rolled up her sleeves and worked on the many tasks presented.

A large team of volunteers enjoyed supporting members of the Golden Valley Friends group for the day, completing many maintenance tasks along the section the Track follows:

**Newmont**<sup>TM</sup>

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

Volunteers preparing for the day ahead



*Of course we're oiling a bridge!*



The Support Volunteers have also been busy, completing three major campaigns on the south coast and in the Wellington District.

In early October, a team of 10 SVs descended on Peaceful Bay to carry out erosion control maintenance, inspections, and sectional support around the Frankland District.

The trip confirmed that our earlier erosion controls in the Boat Harbour area were performing well and identified some additional areas east of Boat Harbour and near Conspicuous Cliffs to receive attention during a future campaign.

A group of SVs also completed major works at the Harris Dam Campsite,

extending the shelter and installing two new water tanks over two separate campaigns.

My favourite touch was the seating installed around the firepit; be sure to let me know what you think following your visit.

I'm sure you will all join me in congratulating the team of 13 involved with this project, which continues to illustrate the growing skillset of our Support Volunteer team.

Stay safe during the festive season, and I hope to see you on the Track next year.

**Andrew Chiswell**  
*Maintenance Manager*



natural resource  
management program



Taking measurements at Conspicuous Ridge

New roof framing and sleeping platform



Many thanks to  
the Perth Activities  
Group for the  
\$8,000 donation  
to help support  
this project.



Digging the footings for the shelter extension

# Getting into Gear

## Why to Invest in Quality Footwear

Investing in high-quality hiking footwear is crucial for support, comfort, and durability during outdoor adventures. Here are some reasons why good hiking shoes are worth the investment.

### Durability

High-quality hiking shoes are made for rugged outdoor conditions, with materials like nylon, polyester, and leather that withstand wear and tear. The durability of these shoes is a result of robust materials, reinforced features, and rigorous testing. These elements work together to create shoes that provide long-lasting protection and comfort on challenging trails.

### Ankle Support and Stability

Hiking shoes offer better ankle support than regular sneakers, reducing the risk of injury on uneven terrain. They have firm ankle collars to help prevent hyperextension, especially when descending steep slopes. Shoes like the Salomon Quest Element offer a balance of stability and lightweight design, which is crucial for maintaining control on rugged trails.

### Reliable Traction

Hiking shoes have rugged soles with deep treads for excellent traction on rocks, mud, and slippery surfaces. These soles enable efficient climbing on steep slopes and safer descents by preventing slips.

Durable rubber outsoles ensure that grip remains reliable over long distances, even in challenging environments.

### Breathability

Quality hiking shoes use breathable materials that help manage moisture and keep feet cool in warm weather. Breathable shoes regulate internal temperature, reduce discomfort, and help prevent bacteria buildup that causes odor.

### Waterproofing

Many hiking shoes are waterproof or water-resistant, which helps keep feet dry during stream crossings or wet conditions. Waterproof shoes dry quickly, reducing discomfort on the trail. In cold or wet weather, waterproofing provides extra protection, helping to maintain body temperature and prevent dampness. Merrell Moab 3 Hiking Shoes, for instance, use GoreTex to keep feet dry, making them ideal for wet conditions.

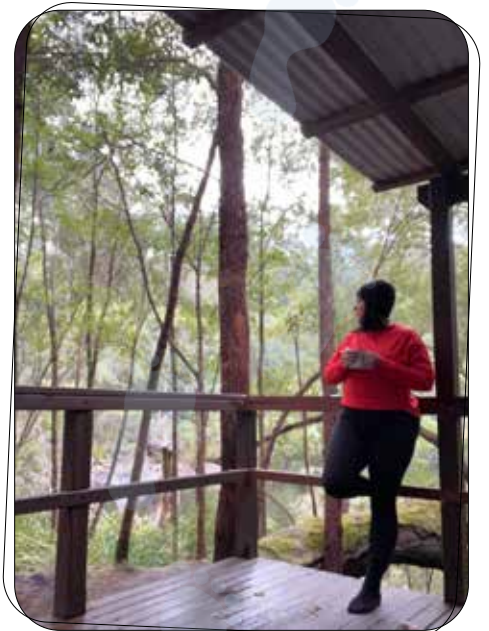
### Weight

Lightweight hiking shoes reduce fatigue, allowing you to conserve energy over long hikes. Shoes like the Salomon X Ultra Pioneer are both flexible and lightweight, which minimizes strain on feet and legs. The ideal weight varies by terrain, with lighter shoes suitable for easy trails and slightly heavier shoes offering more support for challenging terrain and heavy loads.

### Comfort and Protection

High-quality hiking shoes have cushioning and padding for comfort, reducing blisters on long hikes. Reinforced toe caps and heel counters protect feet from rocks and roots, and features like gusseted tongues keep out debris. This combination of comfort and protection minimizes injury risk, making these shoes essential for extended hiking adventures.

You'll find lots of other good tips at [anacondastores.com/adventure-centre](http://anacondastores.com/adventure-centre)



Credit: Trudie Dwyer

# ANACONDA

Put your best foot forward with Anaconda's huge range of outdoor footwear for the whole family.



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# Buddiup on the Bibbulmun Track

**In October, six Buddiup participants – along with their leaders and support workers – made their first visit to their section.**

Buddiup founder and project coordinator Alastair Mackenzie reported that *“We had a great visit today. We started at Golden View and got a couple of kilometres in before turning back and having lunch at the car park. We spent some time on the viewing platform to clear some of the dirt that has built up over time – the crew did a great job.”*

Buddiup, and sister organisation, Sisterup, support young people with disability to develop healthy lives and social connection. With the stated values of Lifting Up, Leading Up and Linking Up, they *“aim to build capability, confidence and friendships through the pillars of health, relationships, community and learning.”* They provide life skills and physical activity programs, mentoring and community supports, a gym, and social activities. They were founded in Perth in 2020 and have since expanded to Victoria.

Sally, the mother of Buddiup participant Peter, was keen to develop her son’s engagement with the Bibbulmun Track and initiated the relationship between the two organisations. Following initial discussions,

several Buddiup/Sisterup leaders registered as BTF volunteers to facilitate coordination and information sharing.

Based on the resources regularly provided to our sectional maintenance volunteers, information and checklists were customized to the needs of their participants; and a maintenance toolkit was put together, to take on each visit.

They have established a planned monthly visit program: *“This will involve meeting at our headquarters, making a packed lunch together, completing a checklist ensuring we have the appropriate tools and equipment and then heading out to the Track. We will spend 2-3 hours walking and observing the track and undertaking any general maintenance as required, finishing with a group lunch.”*

All participants have support workers who will join them on the Track.

With their holistic approach to support and enrichment for people with disability, Buddiup and Sisterup anticipate multiple benefits from this partnership, as their website states:

- Assisting the Foundation to undertake an important role in a world-renowned hiking trail.



*Participant Peter is excited about his new maintenance section!*

- Learning planning and maintenance skills.
- Enjoying nature and physical activity.
- Time to socially connect with other like-minded people.

## Welcome on board!

*Buddiup participants, leaders and supporters on their first maintenance visit*



# Yes, they did it!

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

Once again, Birak, the first summer, has arrived; cooling off in the cool ocean waves has become more pleasant than walking along the Bibbulmun Track carrying a backpack and worrying about bushfires!

This is the time to reminisce about walks you have enjoyed this year, the great company you found and the amazing wildflowers you spotted along the way. And don't forget to plan your next hike!

## General

Get out there. This track is very accessible and achievable for people with a very wide range of abilities and fitness. Whether you take 15 days or 70 it doesn't matter.

*John, North Perth, WA*

Look after your feet. Set realistic goals when planning your hike. Review what you carry to keep your pack weight manageable.

*Peter, Atwell, WA*

Loved the routine of walking, hutting and meeting new people. Haven't holidayed alone for decades but I loved it and was never bored or lonely.

Good weather helped, but what a wonderfully maintained trail through great bushland. A credit to the foundation and WA.

If you're a reasonably experienced, fit and equipped hiker, say you've done a few 4+ day hikes successfully, then I say DO IT.

*Ben*

Waugals were my best friends.

*Carol, Wilston, QLD*

## Food Supplies

Allow plenty of time when sending drop boxes to Donnelly River. Big thanks to the staff at Donnelly River Village for all their help.

*James, East Victoria Park, WA*

I did the "no cook" method. Lots of nuts/dried fruit, cured meats, cheese, crackers, tuna, and most importantly Oreos.

*Michael, Hamilton, Canada*

My resupply boxes were held at the Visitors Centres and because I have lots of food allergies it was comforting to know I had my own food ready and waiting at each stop.

## 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.

The staff at the Visitors Centres were so friendly and welcoming. Much appreciated.

*Shelley, Booragoon, WA*

We dried our own meals and searched the supermarkets for alternative and light weight options so that we didn't have to use the Backcountry or freeze dried meals. A chocolate bar everyday is great!

*Lorraine, Wungong, WA*

We prepared and delivered 12 food drops before we started the walk. One for each town plus four along the trail. Lighter packs was our aim. Track towns were well stocked with supplies.

*Paula, Merrijig, VIC*

## Favourite section

Balingup to DRV. Tree Top Walk to the coast had the most variety in three days. All the time around Pemberton - yes even the rollercoaster!

*Shelley, Booragoon, WA*

From Waalegh to Mount Dale is a section I often like to think back to, although it is not really better, just different.

*Christopher, Hamburg, Germany*

Harris Dam to Yourdamung. I really liked the diversity of the vegetation through this section.

*John, Yungaburra, QLD*

The Pingerup Plains were incredible, like nothing I've ever seen before, untouched, uniquely Australian feel. Then over the dunes down to Mandalay Beach, unforgettable feeling arriving at the ocean after so long in the forest. The whole south coast blew me away, epic scenes at every turn.

*Tim, Charlestown, NSW*

The Tingle Forrest was beautiful and amazing.

*Lorraine, Wungong, WA*

## Highlights

Any chance of a swim or dip in the oceans and rivers!

*Laura*

Finishing!

*Lorraine, Wungong, WA*

Swimming in the ocean on sunny day after a hike. Sleeping under the Stars in a clear night. Evenings with campfire and marshmallows. Cappuccino with oat milk in the track towns. Meeting all the friendly hikers. Watching kangaroos. The mountains in the darling range with the great view.

*Nina, Frankfurt, Germany*

The views from the headlands.

The 'giants'.

The open, dry forest.

The friendly locals in the track towns.

The friendships we made along the way and time we spent together.

The canoe crossing.

The sense of solitude and opportunity to reflect.

*Chris, Sandy Point, VIC*

Waking up at Grimwade Campsite to find it enshrouded in fog yet everything was perfectly visible due to the astonishing moonlight. I would also like to add how fantastic the overwhelming number of my fellow hikers were.

*James, East Victoria Park, WA*

Waking up to bird song in the mornings and being able to have breakfast in my tent looking out at the trees. The calm that bought was the most wonderful way to start a day.

*Jonathon, Treeby, WA*

## Special sightings

A quokka on the mainland, 21 Tiger Snakes, emus, wild pigs, rock wallabies in the shelters, and so many more!

*Joshua, Tewantin, QLD*

A single Dunnart at Canning hut, which ran over my bare feet and checked out our equipment before disappearing back under the sleeping platform.

*Bob, Bayonet Head, WA*

Close encounter with a flock of White-Tailed Cockatoos

*Jessica, Kelmscott, WA*

Feral pig near Nannup, that passed in a blur and could be confused as a Nannup Tiger! The call and display of a Musk Duck at Maringup Hut.

*Chris, Australind, WA*

Our CONGRATULATIONS to the following 67 walkers  
on completing an end-to-end, 39 from WA, 20 from interstate  
and 8 from other countries.  
57 people completed a continuous end-to-end and 10 a sectional.



Name	Track Name	Age	Started	Ended	DOT	Direction	From
Andreas Schneider	<i>Bavarian Buddy</i>	67	8 September 2024	22 October 2024	45	N-S	Weiden, Germany
Ben Skinner	<i>Benski</i>	57	6 September 2024	14 October 2024	38	N-S	Northcote, VIC
Bob Coops	<i>Bib Bob</i>	75	20 August 2018	6 October 2024	59	Sectional	Mt Claremont, WA
Bob Douglas		71	22 June 2022	23 July 2024	62	S-N	Bayonet Head, WA
Brett Merrey		62	12 April 2021	22 July 2022	75	N-S	Dawesville, WA
Callum Watts		20	26 June 2024	17 July 2024	22	N-S	Nedlands, WA
Cameron Glew		34	31 May 2024	1 August 2024	63	S-N	Jane Brook, WA
Carol Masel	<i>Wanderer Christmas Carol</i>	61	1 September 2024	27 October 2024	52	N-S	Wilston, QLD
Chris Bishop	<i>Amigo Chris</i>	46	3 August 2005	25 September 2005	55	N-S	Australind, WA
Chris Harvey		62	25 April 2024	23 June 2024	60	S-N	Sandy Point, VIC
Christine Middleweek		55	1 November 1997	29 September 2024	42	Sectional	Albany, WA
Christopher Heider		40	9 May 2024	2 July 2024	55	N-S	Hamburg, Germany
Debbie Lorking		65	25 April 2022	21 July 2024	70	Sectional	East Perth, WA
Des Cook		64	3 June 2024	11 July 2024	39	S-N	Heathridge, WA
Dragana Radmanovic		38	19 May 2024	9 July 2024	52	S-N	Seville Grove, WA
Felicity York		59	19 July 2020	18 September 2022	56	Sectional	Mosman Park, WA
Frauke Heider	<i>Franky</i>	40	9 May 2024	2 July 2024	55	N-S	Hamburg, Germany
Gaye Bourke		58	1 August 2024	12 September 2024	42	N-S	St Helens, TAS
Geoffrey Miller		53	26 May 2024	17 July 2024	53	N-S	Campsie, NSW
Graeme Cole		66	9 June 2024	1 September 2024	52	N-S	Bateman, WA
Graham Oliver	<i>Echidna</i>	60	1 June 2024	1 August 2024	62	S-N	Lazonby, UK
Greg Foster	<i>The Inspector</i>	60	5 May 2019	20 September 2024	55	Sectional	Hamersley, WA
Hannah Cowley		34	20 June 2024	8 August 2024	50	S-N	Port Lincoln, SA
Hazel Seaman		59	4 June 2024	7 August 2024	60	N-S	Halls Head, WA
Ian Robertson	<i>Rambling Robbo</i>	66	22 April 2022	29 March 2024	34	N-S	Jandakot, WA
James Miller	<i>Widgiemooltha</i>	61	1 August 2024	17 September 2024	48	N-S	East Victoria Park, WA
Jane Allen	<i>Brad+Jane</i>	56	19 April 2024	17 June 2024	58	S-N	Claremont, WA
Janet Burley		71	20 November 2023	2 August 2024	43	S-N	Merewether, NSW
Jessica Chaplin-Mills	<i>The Bears</i>	32	2 September 2024	26 October 2024	49	N-S	Kelmscott, WA
John Berkin	<i>Canno</i>	41	18 May 2024	3 July 2024	47	N-S	North Perth, WA
John Gavin		52	17 April 2024	1 June 2024	46	S-N	Yungaburra, QLD
Jonathon Palmer		35	4 September 2024	25 October 2024	48	N-S	Treeby, WA
Joshua Whatmough	<i>GB Man</i>	28	2 April 2024	28 May 2024	57	N-S	Tewantin, QLD
Keith Mclean		64	4 August 2024	25 September 2024	49	N-S	Fairhaven, VIC
Kerry Ochtman		56	23 July 2024	8 September 2024	49	N-S	Kyogle, NSW
Lari McDonald	<i>Twoshoes &amp; Maguire</i>	69	25 June 2009	26 September 2024	58	N-S	Forrestdale, WA
Laura Gale		24	5 September 2024	18 October 2024	44	N-S	Applecross, WA
Leanne Webb	<i>CaLaLe or LeCaLa</i>	63	24 July 2024	14 September 2024	52	Sectional	Burbank, QLD
Leon Perrie		48	19 August 2024	30 September 2024	43	N-S	Wellington, NZ
Lindsay Bell		44	18 April 2003	20 October 2024	55	S-N	East Toowoomba, QLD
Lorraine Chaplin-Mills	<i>The Bears</i>	60	2 September 2024	26 October 2024	49	N-S	Wungong, WA
Maguire Walsh		24	25 July 2009	26 September 2024	58	N-S	Claremont, WA
Mark Haney		57	1 May 2015	13 September 2023	55	Sectional	Hamelin Bay, WA
Martin Gole		78	6 October 2021	11 October 2024	55	N-S	Gooseberry Hill, WA
Matej Cerny		43	11 August 2024	22 September 2024	43	N-S	Embleton, WA

# Yes, they did it! (cont'd)

Name	Track Name	Age	Started	Ended	DOT	Direction	From
Melissa Shepherdson		50	1 March 2019	12 October 2024	62	Sectional	Woodlands, WA
Michael Davis		65	1 September 2024	13 October 2024	43	N-S	Moyston, VIC
Michael Michael	<i>Maple Syrup</i>	27	9 June 2024	9 July 2024	31	N-S	Hamilton, Canada
Nina Urban		39	19 April 2024	12 June 2024	56	S-N	Frankfurt, Germany
Paula MacMunn	<i>JJKale and the PGP</i>	49	5 August 2024	4 October 2024	60	N-S	Merrijig, VIC
Peter Copeland		55	4 May 2023	10 October 2024	44	Sectional	Atwell, WA
Philip Fillis		66	22 September 2013	1 July 2016	54	N-S	Carine, WA
Phillippa Bennett	<i>Chalk N Cheese</i>	60	4 June 2018	3 August 2018	61	N-S	Armadale, WA
Reid Marshall	<i>Wombat</i>	28	5 June 2024	23 June 2024	18	N-S	Fairfield, QLD
Rowena Scott	<i>Woylie</i>	63	19 August 2024	16 October 2024	50	N-S	Craigeburn, VIC
Roy van Leeuwen	<i>Dirk Hartog</i>	64	20 April 2024	24 May 2024	34	S-N	Lesmurdie, WA
Russell French		58	5 June 2024	11 July 2024	37	N-S	Bateman, WA
Shelley Griffiths	<i>Shelsta</i>	60	30 July 2023	25 September 2023	60	N-S	Booragoon, WA
Steve Barrie	<i>Chalk n Cheese</i>	56	4 June 2018	3 August 2018	61	N-S	Armadale, WA
Sue Simmons	<i>Soupy</i>	66	13 May 2024	7 July 2024	55	S-N	Baldivis, WA
Susan Davis		64	1 September 2024	13 October 2024	43	N-S	Moyston, VIC
Tessa Honeyfield		23	15 September 2024	13 October 2024	29	N-S	Dunedin, NZ
Thomas Goulden		27	29 August 2024	28 September 2024	31	S-N	Houghton, SA
Tim Adams		42	18 July 2024	24 August 2024	38	N-S	Charlestown, NSW
Tracey Doyle	<i>Trailblazer Tracey</i>	62	30 August 2023	27 October 2023	59	N-S	Manunda, QLD
Trevor Cooper		61	26 March 2024	15 September 2024	59	N-S	Shelley, WA
Trish Whiteman	<i>J &amp; T</i>	62	1 July 2017	19 October 2023	51	Sectional	Como, WA

Maybe 100 tiger snakes? But don't let that put you off!

*Ben*

Pods of dolphins surfing on the south coast. Lots of orchids!

*Laura*

Quenda at Torbay campsite, a rufus owl between Frankland and Walpole, *Lindsay, East Toowoomba, QLD*

The birds and the meteor (so lucky to witness this) Sue, Baldivis, WA  
*Sue, Baldivis, WA*

Tiger snake devouring a King Skink; ground parrot; orchids, dolphins, whales, scents of the bush.

*Keith, Fairhaven, VIC*

## Comparisons with other walks/countries

Better maintained than most NZ tracks apart from our 'great walks'. Can't believe that the huts are all free

*Tessa, Dunedin, New Zealand*

Having since hiked The Overland Track and experiencing the multiple flights, transfers, shuttle buses, boat rides, coach trips just to walk under 100kms I am very grateful to live in Perth where a world class track is accessible for day walks, overnights and short sectional hikes.

*Shelley, Booragoon, WA*

I have walked in Tasmania and NZ on shorter overnight walks, and although the scenery is more spectacular, the BT has other attractions such as the varying

landscape, wildflowers and wild life that make it a very unique experience.

*Greg, Hamersley, WA*

I recently did a E2E of the Heysen Trail in SA last year and as far as track variation and facilities go the Bibbulmun blew it out of the water! Thank you to all the volunteers and park staff that maintain it!

*Thomas, Houghton, SA*

I've been walking the track in its many guises since first introduced by Peter Hewitt in 1971 when employed by the Forests Department, Perth. The improvements overtime are excellent and compares favourably with the Cape to Cape and the Overland Trail when I walked them in 1997 and 1999. It was a great experience to revisit the track 20 years after my first end to end.

*Bob, Bayonet Head, WA*

## Best equipment

Having an offline navigation option for when I lost the track was essential - easy to miss a waugal when lost in thought.

*Gaye, St Helens, TAS*

I'm glad we elected to take our tent. This allowed us some extra privacy each night. Also, there's nothing better than a warm sleeping bag!

*Chris, Sandy Point, VIC*



## Waugal cloth badge

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

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

RRP \$12.50  
**\$11.25**  
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iNaturalist app, which allowed me to record the amazing diversity of plants (along with a few animals and fungi), and get help with identifying them.

*Leon*

My journal. As a solo walker, it was great to be able to record my thoughts and experiences at the end of each day.

*Carol, Wilston, QLD*

My RAB inflatable mattress was thick and comfy, and well worth the extra weight. Also my Trangia was awesome, and allowed me to cook properly which kept me going.

*John, North Perth, WA*

Sarong - it weighed 90g and could be used in so many ways. Scarf, sheet, towel, modesty when washing was happening, and when I got a cold it was my handkerchief!

*Jane, Claremont, WA*

## Worst Equipment

I had to swap out my Thermarest sleep mat for a sea to summit Etherlight XT in Dwellingup. The Sea to summit was the noisiest mat ever! I didn't get much sleep for the last section, and neither did those near me.

*John, Yungaburra, QLD*

My trail runner shoes which were super comfortable, but not enough ankle support, lasted 12km before sustaining a knee strain.

*Greg, Hamersley, WA*

Our waterpump, the filter did not perform as known/expected.

*Christopher, Hamburg, Germany*

The newish shoes I had only worn on short hikes at home. Sent for my nearly worn out gardening ex hiking shoes to be collected at Collie.

*Leanne, Burbank, QLD*

Went through 3 (and a half) pairs of Injinji toe socks due to holes :(

*Thomas, Houghton, SA*

## Advice

If you're feeling the cold in your sleeping bag you can zip up your rain jacket and slip it over the end of your sleeping bag to add another layer.

If the huts are a little drafty or the wind is really coming in through the sides of the hut you can use your poncho to line the inside of the wall.

Have a break every 2 hours while hiking and take your pack off.

*Jessica, Kelmscott, WA*

Join the Bibbulmun Track Facebook group well before your trip. Make notes from the various posts and replies to help plan your trip. You don't necessarily need to be super fit, but take the first week slowly if you

are not. Your fitness and endurance WILL improve! Allow enough time for recovery days in Track towns.

*Leanne, Burbank, QLD*

Pack only for your needs ... not your fears, go as light as you can, your back and feet will thank you

*Sue, Baldivis, WA*

Prepare your pack at home, then empty your pack on the floor and only take half of what you originally packed. I have hiked many years and all the best info for packing light is by chatting to other hikers. The BTF runs workshop on E2E and they are worth while attending.

*Mark, Hamelin Bay, WA*

Stay in every hut and go slow! Stretch, eat well and enjoy all the company of the people you meet out there.

*Laura*

Take it easy

*Andreas, Weiden, Germany*

## Short story about bibbulmun track experience

During the walk the karaks were my companions and would herald my arrival with their calls. They were making more noise than usual at the top of a marri tree so I stopped to watch them - I had been watching only for half a minute when a sizeable branch of a dead tree (roughly 30

cm diameter) fell down across the track ahead of me - that gave us both a fright - but perhaps they were my guarding angels watching out for me?

*Ian, Jandakot, WA*

What an amazing experience. This retrospectively feels like it was a reset button on my life with time slowing down and feel much calmer since. I am also a bucket load fitter and thinner to boot.

*John, North Perth, WA*

*Lorraine Chaplin-Mills*



# Calling all End-to-Enders who haven't yet registered!

We're pleased to advise that the registration process has been streamlined and can all be done online. You don't need to recall the dates you walked each section - simply your start and finish dates (Phew!)

Whether you did it in sections over many years or in one through-hike, you should be proud of your accomplishment and you can commemorate your walk with a free personalised certificate.

You can also choose to buy a quality printed certificate and embroidered end-to-ender badge through the shop.

Registering provides the BTF and the Department with important information to help manage the Track.

Publication of your name in Bibb News and on our website is optional.

For more information go to:  
<https://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/walk-the-track/the-independent-way/end-to-end/end-to-end-registrations/>



# Accommodation, Tours and Services

Please support the Walker Friendly Businesses that support the Track.



ACCOMMODATION CATERING TRACK TRANSFERS EQUIPMENT SUPPLIER & SERVICES

BUSINESS NAME	TOWN	TYPE	PHONE	WEBSITE
Albany Harbourside Apartments & Houses	ALBANY		(08) 9842 1769	albanyharbourside.com.au
Busy Blue Bus Tours & Charters	ALBANY		0418 414 425	busybluebus.com.au
Balingup Oakfield Country House B&B	BALINGUP		0428 878 560	balinguptourism.com.au/accommodation/oakfield-house
Southampton Homestead	BALINGUP		0412 229 564	southamptonhomestead.com
Time Travel Tours & Transport	BALINGUP/DONNELLY RIVER		0417 099 268	facebook.com/TimeTravelToursandTransport
Black Diamond Lodge	COLLIE		(08) 9734 4439	https://blackdiamondlodge.com.au
TraaVerse	COLLIE		0417 654 426	traaverse.com.au
Whispering Pines B & B	COLLIE		(08) 9734 3883	whisperingpinesbandb.com.au
Blue Wren Travellers' Rest	DENMARK		(08) 9848 3300	denmarkbluwren.com.au
Boat Harbour Camp	DENMARK		0493 389 393	boatharbourcamp.com.au
Cape Howe Cottages	DENMARK		(08) 9845 1295	capehowe.com.au
Denmark Hotel	DENMARK		0461 321 057	denmarkhotel.com.au
Denmark Waterfront Lodge	DENMARK		0494 058 228	admin@waterfrontdenmark.com.au
The Cove	DENMARK		(08) 9848 1770	thecovechalets.com
Windrose B & B	DENMARK		(08) 9848 3502	windrose.com.au
Donnelly River Holiday Village	DONNELLY RIVER		(08) 9772 1244	donnellyriver.com.au
Banksia Springs Cottages	DWELLINGUP		(08) 9538 1880	banksiasprings.com
Dwellingup Adventures	DWELLINGUP		(08) 9538 1127	dwellingupadventures.com.au
Dwellingup Transfers	DWELLINGUP		0473 924 681	facebook.com/dwellingup
Jarra Forest Lodge	DWELLINGUP		0491 276 028	forestdiscoverycentre.com.au
Banksia Tourist Park	KALAMUNDA		(08) 9250 2398	banksiatourist.com.au
Mundaring Weir Hotel	MUNDARING		(08) 9295 1106	mundaringweirhotel.com.au
Karri Country Good Food	NORTHCLIFFE		0455 628 097	karricountrygoodfood.com.au
Naughty Noodle Bar	NORTHCLIFFE		0439 661 371	facebook.com/noodlebarnorthcliffe
Northcliffe Holiday Park	NORTHCLIFFE		0436 965 529	northcliffeholidaypark.com.au
Forest Lodge Resort	PEMBERTON		(08) 9776 1113	forestloderesort.com.au
Pemberton Charters	PEMBERTON		0413 859 032	facebook.com/pembertoncharters
Pemberton Discovery Tours	PEMBERTON/NORTHCLIFFE/DONNELLY RIVER		(08) 9776 0484	pembertondiscoverytours.com.au
Treenbrook Cottages	PEMBERTON		97776 1638	treenbrook.com.au/
ManjiShuttle	PEMBERTON/DONNELLY RIVER		0457 356 177	facebook.com/manjimup.omnibus.service
Adventure Nutritionist	PERTH		0425 697 482	kristinepeter.com
Compleat Angler & Camping World Rockingham	PERTH (ROCKINGHAM)		(08) 9528 5255	facebook.com/compleatanglerandcampingworld
Hike Hire	PERTH		(08) 9371 1877	hikehire.au
Tribe and Trail	PERTH		(08) 6558 0535	tribeandtrail.com.au
Che Sara Sara Chalets	WALPOLE		(08) 9840 8004	chesarasarachalets.com.au
Coalmine Beach Holiday Park	WALPOLE		(08) 9840 1026	coalminebeach.com.au
Walpole Track & Trail Transfers	WALPOLE		0429 784 924	facebook.com/Naturallywalpole

GUIDED TOURS & EVENTS		
Adventurous Women	1300 388 419	adventurouswomen.com.au
Cape to Cape Explorer Tours	0459 452 038	capetocapetours.com.au
LifeTrail	0410 756 065	www.lifetrail.com.au
Forest Explorers	0427 981 187	www.forestexplorers.com.au
Inspiration Outdoors	(08) 6219 5164	inspirationoutdoors.com.au
Life's An Adventure	(02) 9975 4553	lifesanadventure.com.au
Off The Beaten Track	0417 128 896	offthebeatentrackwa.com.au
Simply Trekking	0427 058 866	simplytrekking.com.au
Natural Perspectives	0434 979 754	naturalperspectivesaustralia.com
Walk into Luxury	1300 662 452	walkintoluxury.com.au

VISITOR CENTRES			
ALBANY	Albany Visitor Centre	(08) 6820 3700	theamazingsouthcoast.com
BALINGUP	Balingup Visitor Centre	(08) 9764 1818	balinguptourism.com.au
COLLIE	Collie Visitor Centre	(08) 9734 2051	collierivervalley.com.au
DENMARK	Denmark Visitor Centre	(08) 9848 2648	denmark.com.au
DWELLINGUP	Dwellingup Trails and Visitor Centre	(08) 9538 1108	visitdwellingup.com.au
KALAMUNDA	Perth Hills Visitor Centre	(08) 9257 9998	experienceperthhills.com.au
MANJIMUP	Manjimup Visitor Centre	(08) 9771 1831	manjimupwa.com
NORTHCLIFFE	Northcliffe Visitor Centre	(08) 9776 7203	visitnorthcliffewa.com.au
PEMBERTON	Pemberton Visitor Centre	(08) 9776 1133	pembertonvisitor.com.au
PERTH	Western Australian Visitor Centre	(08) 9483 1111	wavisorcentre.com.au
WALPOLE	Walpole-Nornalup Visitor Centre	(08) 9840 1111	walpole.com.au

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- 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
- END TO END DEAL \$700 FOR 8+ Weeks!**  
Incl everything for your end to end or other extended expedition for 8 weeks
- FAMILY KIT \$350 per week!**  
1 x Parent Full Kit,  
1 x Basic Adult kit,  
2 x Basic Kids kits.  
Extra Basic Teen \$85  
Extra kids \$50 each
- GROUP KIT \$400 per week!**  
2 x Solo Full Kits,  
2 x Basic Adult Kits,  
Extra Solo \$115  
Extra Basic Adult \$85,  
Extra kids \$50 each

CHECK WEBSITE FOR:  
EQUIPMENT INCLUDED IN KITS  
PRICES FOR INDIVIDUAL ITEM HIRE RATES  
NOTE: FOOD AND PERSONAL ITEMS NOT INCLUDED  
PEB'S ALSO AVAILABLE FOR \$40 PER WEEK!

[sales@hikehire.au](mailto:sales@hikehire.au)  
[hikehire.au](http://hikehire.au)

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Supporting the  
Bibbulmun Track  
Foundation at  
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08 6184 6715

## FAST, NOURISHING FOOD FOR ADVENTURERS

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## Dream Big. Pack Small.

**ALL-NEW STASH™**

Meet the lightest and most compact Jetboil ever.

We know your dreams are big and ambitious. Which is why we designed the all-new Stash™ to be efficient and compact, maximizing your pack space without sacrificing that iconic Jetboil performance. At 200g, the 0.8L Stash is 40% lighter than the 0.8L Zip.

Time to dream big, and pack small.

Available for purchase at [seatosummitdistribution.com.au](http://seatosummitdistribution.com.au)

**SEATO SUMMIT**  
and Distributed Brands

## Thank you to all of our volunteers!

Our dedicated volunteers do a huge amount of work to help us support DBCA with the management, maintenance and marketing of the Track.

Over the course of 2024, we had 483 people on the volunteer list. Big thanks to all of you for being part of the team!

Volunteers keep the Track clear and safe, the office running smoothly, our events well organised and led, the records from campsite logbooks transferred to a database, the digital Track-user counters checked regularly, brochures distributed, support our online marketing, and ensure we are soundly governed.

Each November, we hold volunteer thank you days – these events were recently held in Perth, Bunbury, Albany and Peaceful Bay. They include special presentations of Long Service Awards and Annual Rewards.

### Long Service Awards

These recognise the commitment and loyalty of our long serving volunteers.

#### 25 YEARS

Jim Freeman

#### 20 YEARS

Jim Baker  
Charmaine Harris  
Ce Kealley  
Hal Levison  
Kelvey Pearson

#### 15 YEARS

Robert Butler  
Mark Davidson  
John Ferguson  
Barry Goldsmith  
Jaromir Kulir  
Fiona Noble

#### 10 YEARS

Robert Allen  
Andrew Burbidge  
Gary Ceriani  
Sandra Ceriani  
Terry Coumbe

Jan Howie  
Ann James  
Natalie King  
Mochtar Mukmin  
Michael Spragg

#### 5 YEARS

Helen Arcaro  
Carolyn Bradley  
Nic Compton  
Des Cook  
Alana Dwyer  
Chris Dwyer  
Paul Gardner

Joe Gaspar  
Susan Goldsmith  
Michael Grimm  
Susan Grimm  
Marilu Vaz  
John Hosking  
Candy Koning  
Bridget Leggett  
Beatriz Lorente Lacasta  
Steve McGarry  
Stuart McLeod  
Hayley McLoughlin

Adrian Rakimov  
Tony Schlink  
David Scott  
Erik Slof  
Johanna Spragg-  
Hoevenaars  
Mark Stafford  
Roslyn Tucker  
Carole Walpole  
Hannah Walpole  
Tamsin Walpole



Helen Grimm

Barry Goldsmith received his 15 Year Long Service Award in Peaceful Bay.



Volunteers gathered at our 'thank you' in Perth



## Annual Volunteer Rewards

An incredible 36,304 volunteer hours were logged last financial year!

Thank you to all volunteers for your contribution large or small. It all makes a difference.

### 500+ HOURS

Isabel Busch  
Andrew Chiswell  
Mark Davidson  
Charmaine Harris  
Ce Kealley  
Chris Lee  
Sue Lee  
Graham Murdoch  
Gordon Roberts  
Ross Simpson  
Charles Soord  
Susan Soord  
James Young

Lari McDonald  
Selene Moonbeams  
John Murphy  
Claudia Payne  
Nigel Pilgrim  
Patrick Tremlett  
Jing Xie

### 100+ HOURS

David Ashcroft  
Barry Bastow  
Daphne Bastow  
Rob Bortot  
Karen Boyce  
Mary Boyce  
Kath Broderick  
Richard Brook  
Derek Callow  
Gary Ceriani  
Sylvia Cheung  
Mike Cosson  
Beverly Culpán  
Greg Foster  
Jennifer Fraser  
James Freeman  
Russell French  
Jenni Giacomel  
Helen Grimm  
Paul Harris

### 300+ HOURS

Mary-Anne Addenbrooke  
Robert Allen  
Hedley Amos  
Greg Arnold  
Jenny Arnold  
Jim Baker  
Jack Busch  
John Fenn  
Wes Fokkema  
Bill Hewitt  
Phil Lehmann  
Margot Lowe  
Mike Marsh



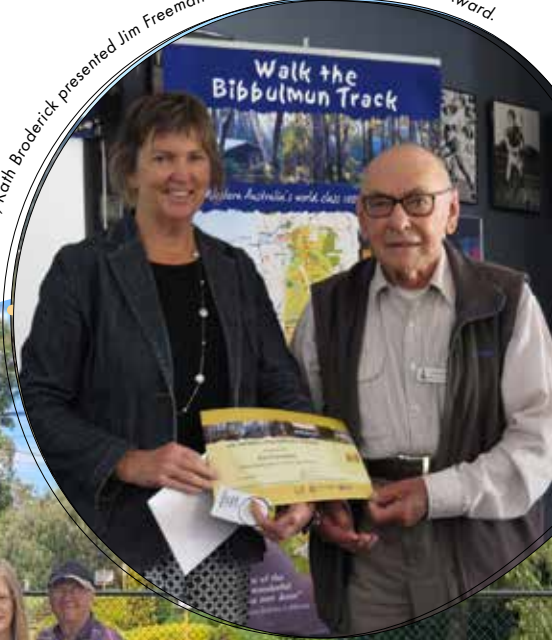
Albany volunteers are thanked for all their hard work during the year!

Donald Hill  
Denise Hilsz  
John Hosking  
Trisha Howe  
Jan Howie  
Mona Humphreys  
Tony Jennings  
Mar Knox  
Nina Martin  
Stephen McGarry  
Tim McGrath  
Fiona McKenzie  
Corinne Mercer  
David Miller  
Jeff Ovens  
Kerry Ovens  
Hugh Payne  
Ian Rae

Terry Ryan  
Kirstine Sadler  
Anthony Schlink  
Carol Simmons  
Stephen Smythe  
Michael Snart  
Gary Tomkinson  
Mark Tomkinson  
Brett Tyson  
Benjamin Veale  
Sue Verran

Michelle Wilson  
Moyra Wilson  
Mike Wood  
Arthur Wright

BTF Chair, Kath Broderick, presented Jim Freeman with his 25 Year Long Service Award.



# Walker Story - the power of love & determination

**Last year BTF member Trudie Dwyer made a brave decision to overcome severe PTSD that was affecting her life. This is her story:**

In November 2021, after a breakdown at work as a Police Officer, I was diagnosed with complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and in February 2022 I was admitted to Perth Clinic to start my healing journey. I became very reclusive, to the point of being agoraphobic as I developed Major Depressive Disorder (MDD). I struggled not only to leave the house but even to get out of bed in the morning. I stopped any form of exercise and my self-esteem was at an all-time low.

Over the next year I experimented with several different healing modalities including deep self-hypnosis, kinesiology, sound and somatic energy healing, breathwork and ice baths, alongside my regular psychologist sessions.

While these were working on some level, I felt I was still missing an important piece of the puzzle. I needed to get back to basics.

While I loved to hike in the form of coastal walks, bush walks and scenic hikes, I had never hiked distances of more than fifteen kilometres and I had never done an overnight hike; in fact, I hated camping!

I re-watched the film *Wild*, the story of Cheryl Strayed hiking the PCT, and realised that for her it was a mental health journey and not just a physical

hike. Perhaps I could do something similar closer to home. I had known about the Bibbulmun Track for many years, so I decided to walk it end-to-end.

I hoped that this new project would get me out of the funk I was in and motivate me to positive action. For the first time in nearly a year I had something to look forward to and work towards. I cooked, dehydrated and vacuum packed most of my lunches and dinners. I shopped for snacks, made my own trail mix and measured out daily portions of cacao.

I packed all my resupply boxes for each town along the way and took one day driving from Perth to Denmark, stopping at each town and dropping them off at the tourist centres or general stores. The further south I drove the more I wondered how the hell I was going to walk this far!

I bought new equipment with no clue of what I was doing, just purchasing within my budget. I downloaded the FarOut App and tried to gain an insight to the Track and what to expect. I made multiple spreadsheets for my daily checkpoints, my meals, the weights of everything and quotes to write in the green logbook daily. I took screenshots of my plans, and the sections I would be

Setting out from the Northern Terminus in Kalamunda.



hiking to save on my phone. I created a family group chat to keep everyone updated along the way. The planner in me was ready... but was I?

I hiked the Bibbulmun Track end-to-end from Albany to Kalamunda over 64 days, remembering who I really was, facing my traumas and shadows while creating a new life to move forward into. The story of an everyday woman who decided to face the toughest challenge of her life to overcome Post Traumatic Stress.

I authored a book entitled *Everyday Warrior*. These are the excerpts from my personal journals in which I wrote every day while on the Track. This was part of my therapy and something my psychologist made me do to be able to reflect on my experience.

Reading the book, you will be able to experience the Track and my journey through my eyes and words. I hope that somewhere along the line, it inspires you to face the unknown, challenges you to explore your emotions, and discover that you are stronger than you ever thought you could be.

**Trudie Dwyer**

(Ed: Trudie's book is available at [www.trudiemarie.com.au](http://www.trudiemarie.com.au))



Trudie overcame many challenges to complete her journey.

# TRACK TOWN - KALAMUNDA

## Welcome to Kalamunda, home of the northern terminus of the Bibbulmun Track.

Just 30 minutes' drive from Perth, Kalamunda offers a mix of natural bushland, artisan markets, art galleries, cafes and quality restaurants. The town is surrounded by national and regional parks; the Bibbulmun Track begins in the Kalamunda National Park where you'll find woodlands of jarrah, marri, wandoo, and butter gum. Close by is Lesmurdie Falls National Park, home of Lesmurdie Falls, the tallest waterfall in the Perth Hills, where the viewing platforms will give you a spectacular view of the Perth City and the coast.

At the other end of town is Gooseberry Hill National Park, from where you can drive down the Zig Zag Scenic Trail, with its great views and wonderful springtime wildflowers.

Kalamunda is home to the Kalamunda History Village, the largest folk museum in Western Australia. The Village is home to the original train station buildings as well as a fascinating variety of other heritage buildings which have been moved from their original locations in the region and decorated and appointed to reflect life in the early days of Hills' settlement.

Just outside Kalamunda lies the beautiful Bickley Valley, home of the Bickley Valley wine and cider trail. With eleven boutique wineries, two cideries, and three distilleries, you're sure to find something to wet your whistle. The Bickley Valley is home to abundant orchards growing delicious, juicy apples and stone fruit, and small farms growing a large variety of fruit and vegetable.

Every Sunday morning the Kalamunda Farmers Market is set up in the centre of the town, and the first Saturday of each month sees a wide variety of artisans displaying their creations at the Kalamunda

Artisan Market. During the warmer months, the Kalamunda Night Market sets up on Fridays with a wide selection of food trucks and artisan stalls. The Zig Zag Gallery mounts a diverse range of exhibitions from both professional and hobby artists, featuring sculpture, painting, textiles, ceramics, and mixed media. Exhibitions run for an average of three weeks, so there's always something different to experience and enjoy. Kalamunda also has its own ArtWalk; discover the fascinating and varied public art dotted around the town.

Lovers of things furry, scaly, and feathered will enjoy a tour of Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre. Kanyana is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to wildlife conservation, caring for sick, injured, orphaned, and displaced wildlife, breeding threatened species, and providing education to schools and the community. On a Kanyana tour you will experience close encounters with native animals, visit the Wildlife Hospital, and explore interactive displays in the Discovery Centre.

For information on all this and more, visit the Perth Hills Kalamunda Visitor Centre.

Located about 200 metres from the Northern Terminus of the Bibbulmun Track. The Track logbook and End-to-Ender's bell are held in the Centre, plus there are free showers!

Bibbulmun Track maps, guidebooks, and souvenirs are available to purchase, along with a diverse selection of locally made gifts, books, and greeting cards. The Centre is happy to hold walker parcels for collection.



**We look forward to seeing you in Kalamunda!**

### Perth Hills Kalamunda Visitor Centre

50 Railway Rd  
Phone: (08) 9257 9928

Open seven days a week:  
9am to 4pm on weekdays  
10am to 4pm on weekends and public holidays  
(closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day, and Good Friday).

[experienceperthhills.com.au/kalamunda](http://experienceperthhills.com.au/kalamunda)



An art gallery and the History Village are co-located at the visitor centre in Kalamunda.

**Please support our Walker Friendly Businesses in Kalamunda.**

**Banksia Tourist Park**  
08) 9250 2398

**Trails Hub Cafe**  
0400 882 433

**Mundaring Weir Hotel**  
(08) 9295 1106



# Naturalist on the Bibbulmun

**Birin-birin are the harbingers of Birak in the northern jarrah forests. Birak and Bunuru are the hottest and driest seasons when few will venture far along the northern stretches of the Bibbulmun Track. However, these seasons can be optimal for walks along the southern coastal stretches of the track, with the opportunity to spot one of our rarest shorebirds.**

Migratory birds typically move between geographic locations in search of food. In northern Europe, the return of Barn Swallows from their winter feeding grounds in Africa signals the return of summer. Here in Australia that role is filled by birin-birin, or Rainbow bee-eaters. Birin-birin spend the cool, wet seasons in the Malay Archipelago, between Lombok in the west, through to New Guinea in the east and Sulawesi in the north. There they feed in preparation for their journey south to the breeding grounds in the northern jarrah forests, arriving at the beginning of Birak when the abundance of food allows them to raise their young. Birin-birin feed not just on bees, but any large flying insect that strays into their path. They perch on the tips of branches of the tallest trees, flying out in feeding flights to snatch insects on the wing, broadcasting their cheerful, excited calls *pirr-pirrrp-pirr-pirrrp*. In the northern jarrah forests,

birin-birin are commonly found feeding in the crowns of flowering marri, where their preferred prey item, honeybees, gather to feed on pollen and nectar.

Unlike birin-birin, many of the birds in WA's southwest are residents; they do not migrate but rather they remain in their natal regions year-round. One such resident that can be found along WA's remote southern beaches is the dirl-dirl or Hooded Plover. If you are lucky, dirl-dirl can be spotted along Mandalay, Conspicuous Cliff, Peaceful Bay or Mazzoletti beaches, searching for food along the tideline. They rush seaward to pluck invertebrates dumped onto the sand by the retreating wave, turning and running swiftly back up the beach ahead of the following breaker. This plover is one of Australia's rarest shore birds. At last estimate only 4,000 breeding pairs remained in Western Australia, and these populations are in rapid decline.

The problem for dirl-dirl is that they rely completely on undisturbed beach habitat, both for food and for breeding. They do not build nests, but rather deposit their speckled eggs directly onto the sand among the flotsam and jetsam of the high tide mark. The spots and blotches of the eggs camouflage them perfectly from would be predatory ngakala or Pacific Black-backed Gulls. Moreover, dirl-dirl will often leave their nests unattended in order not to attract attention to the eggs, making nests almost impossible to find by anyone but the careful beachcomber.

Unfortunately our southern beaches are heavily populated by recreational vehicles during the dirl-dirl breeding season, which spans Birak and Bunuru. Many of our beaches are open to vehicular traffic, with 4x4s thundering along the high tide line in their multitudes to reach distant fishing spots or just to enjoy the drive. Nests get crushed in the vehicular tracks or otherwise destroyed by associated human foot traffic. It is essential that some of our remote beaches remain closed to traffic if dirl-dirl are to be protected. Bibbulmun



Track walkers should walk along paths that are clear of flotsam and jetsam to ensure they do not inadvertently crush dirl-dirl eggs underfoot. The Department of Parks and Wildlife often erect signs at the entrances to beaches that are known to be home to dirl-dirl, such as Mandalay, but just because there are no signs does not mean there are no dirl-dirl. Keep an eye open next time you are on the Track, and be sure that the footprints you leave are in clear sand

**Leigh W. Simmons**

*A dirl-dirl nest at Mandalay Beach.*



*Dirl-dirl or Hooded Plover, Charadrius rubricollis.*

*Birin-birin or Rainbow bee-eaters, Merops ornatus.*



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

**All royalties are donated to the Track.**

## The odds of a night to yourself at a campsite

We get many queries about the number of people walkers are likely to encounter on the Track and especially whether shelters are likely to be full. This is a nearly impossible question to answer, given that there is no registration system.

Campsites with a less than 20% vacancy rate	
Mt Cooke	19%
Ball Creek	14%
Hewetts Hill	13%

On average you have about a 25% chance of finding an empty campsite. Of course, in summer or mid-winter (i.e. not ideal walking conditions), the vacancy rate will be much higher. Campsites near towns are always busier than those in the more remote regions.

For those seeking solitude, it is worth checking if your intended destination is being used by an organised group by checking the "Groups on Track" tab under [bibbulmuntrack.org.au/trip-planner/track-sections/](http://bibbulmuntrack.org.au/trip-planner/track-sections/)

As an aside, statistics show that the Visitor Centre registers in Track Towns have fewer entries than their neighbouring campsites. This is probably due to walkers arriving in town after the centre has closed for the day and leaving town before it opens the following morning. As we rely on these towns for their support, walkers are encouraged to attempt to register at these centres, as this helps to provide a measure of how many walkers visit the town.

**Dr Barry Bastow**

## Bibb Track Birds - the Western Whistler

by Mark Davidson

Endemic to WA the Western Whistler, is one of our most beautiful songsters whose persistent territorial call ends in a rising whistle, a whip crack and a drawn out seep<sup>(1)</sup>. *Pachycephala fuliginosa* occupies a large area of the state south of a line stretching from Kalbarri to the SA border and can be observed in many parts of the Bibbulmun Track. Being an insectivore, it moves through trees and thickets prying upon insects and their larvae. Caterpillars are a favourite dispatched by beating on a branch before swallowing.

The unmistakable male's plumage is a combination of black hood, white throat, olive yellow back, bright yellow underparts and black-tipped grey tail while the female is plain grey.

Mark's Western Whistler image is exquisitely rendered in the Spring 2024 LANDSCOPE as the final Nature's pin-up work of recently retired watercolourist Gooitzen van der Meer. To quote the magazine Gooitzen is an accomplished illustrator whose works have graced the pages and covers of

LANDSCOPE magazine for the last 20 years. Gooitzen specialises in watercolour artwork and is renowned for the careful detail and textures of the natural world that he is able to communicate through his artwork. Gooitzen retired in September after 49 years in the public service. Mark feels honoured that Gooitzen selected the Western Whistler as his parting LANDSCOPE feature which also marks the final printed edition. Due to changing market conditions the magazine will now be distributed online.

A large selection of Gooitzen's works is available for purchase through DBCA's WA Naturally website.

<https://shop.dbca.wa.gov.au/collections/prints>

<sup>(1)</sup>Graham Chapman. Note: Western Whistler and Eastern Australia's Golden Whistler have very similar calls.

## PHOTO CAPTION COMPETITION

Send us a caption!

**BTF volunteers greet the first walker on a new alignment with some helpful directions!**

The volunteers constructed segments of new trail which make up a 16km realignment either side of the Murray River. From L to R: Steve Nota, Selene Moonbeams, Peter Veitch, Tim McGrath, Ross Simpson, Mark Davidson and Don Hill. Absent: Isabel McGrath, Sue Morley and Gordon Roberts

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

Email to: [friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au](mailto:friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au) or by post.



Send us your caption!

Water colour illustration of the Western Whistler by Gooitzen van der Meer.



# Notice board

## FOR SALE

### TYVEK TENT GROUND SHEET

Tyvek is widely used as a groundsheet for protecting the bottom of your tent. It is breathable, super light-weight, 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**  
**E: events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au**

### EXPED DOWNMAT LITE 5M

Exped Downmat Lite 5M hardly used, with bag and pump – \$125. Can arrange to post if needed. I am in Kingsley.

**Contact: Glenn**  
**0424 178 381**  
**Email: glenn@barrettwa.com**

### GAITERS

Brand New – Never Worn.

Sea to Summit gaiters.

Size boot 37 – 40 (S)

Paid \$79.95 and happy for reasonable offer.

**Contact: Paola**  
**0437 611 170**  
**Email: paola1@iinet.net.au**

### HIKING BOOTS

Scarpa – Brand New – Size 42/10

Sturdy with high ankle support. Half price/brand new. \$200

**Contact: Sue R**  
**0414 554 094**  
**Email: suerolo@aapt.net.au**

### MEN'S / YOUTH'S VIGILANTE ZIP OFF HIKING PANTS

Grey Zip off Hiking Pants with 6 pockets. Light weight, quick dry, never worn

UPF: 50. RRP \$119.99 bought \$80  
Price \$40

**Contact Sue**  
**Email: seeka@tpg.com.au**

### JACKETS & BACKPACK

Mountain Design Puffer Jacket/  
Men's XL for AUD 50.00

Mountain Design Gore-Tex Jacket  
/ Men's XL for AUD 80.00

Osprey Backpack 70l for AUD  
80.00

All in good condition!

**Contact: Kaye Heelan**  
**(08) 9398 6804**  
**(please call after 12pm)**

### OZTRAIL 60 PLUS 10 LITRE

My owner has only taken me on one hike. I loved it but he was not so happy. I would like to do some more hiking, so if there is someone out there that would like to make me happy please buy me for only \$60.

**Contact: Keith William Clark**  
**0438 145 154**  
**E: totalbody@westnet.com.au**

## FOUND

### RAIN JACKET

Rain Jacket, Rivers Tex, size M, colour Black/Gray.

Found at Mt Cooke Shelter 4th October 2024.

**Contact: David Broughton**  
**0419 948 887**  
**Email: nothguorb@hotmail.com**

### FILMING CAMERA DEVICE

Filming camera device – please contact Pemberton Visitor Centre to claim and advice details of object to confirm.

**Pemberton Visitor Centre**  
**08 9776 1133**  
**E: info@pembertonvisitor.com.au**

### SUNGLASSES

Blue prescription bifocal sunglasses Ralph Lauren brand found between Rame Head and Giants Campsite on 14th September 2024.

**Contact: Maggie**  
**0408 677 420**  
**Email: maglou29@gmail.com**

## LOST

### SEA TO SUMMIT SILK SLEEPING BAG LINER

Lost either at White Horse Hills or Mt Wells between 10/11 September

Sea to Summit silk sleeping bag liner in a small zipped pouch. Blue in colour.

Reference ID: 166

**Contact: Wendy Mewett**  
**0419 946 675**  
**E: wendyloum56@gmail.com**

**Adverts are free  
for members & \$5  
for 3 months for  
non-members**

# Prize WINNERS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING WHO WON THE EARLY BIRD MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL PRIZES.

## July

**Ann James** received a 2litre Lightweight Dry Sack.

## August

**Lari McDonald** received a Clothes Line.

## September

**Michael Eyre** received a Ultra Sil 10lt folding bucket.

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



# Favourite Short Walk

## Chesapeake Road West to Lake Maringup return

Starting: **Chesapeake Rd, about 5.5km from Deeside Coast Rd**

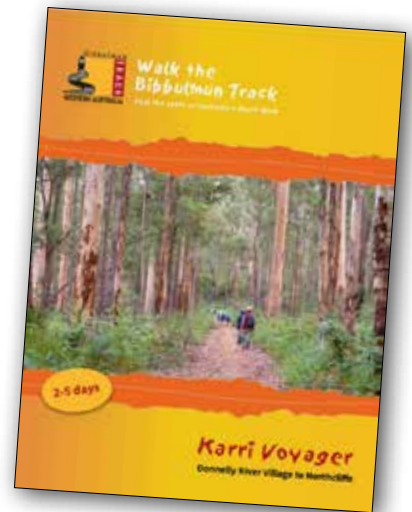
Distance: **18.2km loop**

Difficulty: **Grade 3**

Time: **Full day**

Water will be your constant companion on this walk, as the route passes through swampy sections with karri-oaks, yarri and peppermint trees, and crosses creeks and boardwalks to the picturesque Maringup Campsite.

Described as one of the jewels of the Bibbulmun Track, the campsite is perched on a high sandy ridge looking out through the karri and Warren River cedar to one of the largest, fresh-water lakes in the South West. Relax and enjoy the serenity of the lake before retracing your steps back to your start point.



*This walk is from the Karri Voyager itinerary which features four Bibbulmun Track walks and other attractions between Donnelly River Village & Northcliffe.*

*Download 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](mailto:admin@bibbulmuntrack.org.au)

## Keeping WA myrtle Rust free

Myrtle rust is an introduced and highly invasive fungal disease of plants that spreads quickly and can have a substantial impact, especially given it is airborne.

Myrtle rust has not yet been recorded in WA or South Australia, but it is a serious threat. The plant disease attacks and kills plants in the Myrtaceae family including eucalypts, bottlebrushes, paperbarks and peppermint trees.

### What to look for

There is almost nothing else that causes similar symptoms on Myrtaceae. Look for:

- Masses of bright yellow or orange-yellow spores.
- Lesions on young, actively-growing foliage, as well as floral buds and young fruits.
- Rust lesions on plant species such as bottlebrush are purple in colour and sometimes spores are dark brown.
- Buckled or twisted leaves.

### What to do

Report any suspected sightings immediately:

- ✓ MyPestGuide app (available on App Store and Google Play)
- ✓ [mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au](http://mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au)
- ✓ DPIRD Pest and Disease Information Service: (08) 9368 3080 or [padis@dpiird.wa.gov.au](mailto:padis@dpiird.wa.gov.au)



# Upcoming Events

For a full description of each event and to make a booking head to [bibbulmuntrack.org.au](http://bibbulmuntrack.org.au)

## End-to-End Workshop

Planning an end-to-end or just dreaming about doing it? Join the Bibb Track specialists for expert advice at this online workshop. Learn how to develop your own itinerary, organise food and food drops, plan effective rest days, cross the various inlets and consider the various emergency options available to you. Check out the in-person workshop on March.

**Date:** Thursday 23rd January at 4pm  
**Where:** Online  
**Cost:** Members \$55

## Yoga Harmony Hike

Nourish your soul on nature's canvas and immerse yourself with a mindful stroll on the Track, revitalising yoga session and a bush picnic. The perfect way to reset, refresh and discover how yoga can help you bush walk better! After our yoga session, unwind and connect with others during a sunset picnic. We return at dusk so don't forget to bring your torch! Although previous yoga experience is not required you do need to bring your own yoga mat, and picnic treats to savour our beautiful bushland.

**When:** Saturday 5th April at 4.30pm  
**Where:** Near Mundaring Weir  
**Rating:** Beginners  
**Cost:** Members \$50;  
Non-Members \$60

## Food In A Fuel Stove

Whether you are a first time walker just learning the ropes or a veteran hiker, expand your culinary repertoire and join Lead Guide and End-to-End, Steve Sertis, for a hands-on cooking workshop which is now in its 25th year!

**Date:** Wednesday 9th April at 6pm  
**Where:** West Perth  
**Cost:** Members \$100,  
Non-Members \$120

Gregory Brook Campsite. Photo: Steve Sertis.



## Paws and Claws

Hey kids! Come and learn about our native animals!

Walk 2km to a typical Bibbulmun Track campsite to meet the friendly native creatures from Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre and return following the Waugal trail markers. Ideal for kids 5 – 12 yrs. Watch their faces light up as they interact and learn about our native animals. Maximum 2 kids per adult and two adults per child. Not suitable for pushchairs. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Date:** Sunday 13th April at 3:30pm  
**Where:** Near Kalamunda  
**Rating:** Beginners  
**Cost:** Adult members \$10;  
Kids \$50

## Wellbeing Workshop: Self-massage and Yoga

Join Helen in an interactive session where everyday items, hiking gear, and body awareness come together in a series of exercises designed to prepare for and recover from hikes. Special emphasis will be placed on averting common pains associated with hiking. This 1.5hr hands-on workshop is suitable for everyone, and notes will be provided.

**When:** Tuesday 15th April at 6.15pm  
**Where:** West Perth  
**Rating:** Beginners  
**Cost:** Members \$35;  
Non-Members \$45

## DTC Easter Trek

This Easter we continue our journey on a 7 day trek walking more than 130kms on the Bibbulmun Track (8 day trip, 7 days walking). This exciting journey takes walkers from the historic timber town of Dwellingup, along the beautiful Murray River through areas affected by the Yarloop and Hotham Valley bushfires (2015 and 2016) and the Special Conservation Zone of Lane Poole Reserve, to the coalfields town of Collie. Includes comprehensive planning night, trip preparation manual, experienced guides, transport from Murdoch Park'n'Ride rail terminal to Dwellingup and equipment hire. Food and accommodation not included.

**Date:** Friday 18th (Good Friday) to  
Monday 25th (Anzac Day) April  
**Where:** Murdoch Park'n'Ride  
**Rating:** Experienced  
**Cost:** Members \$610

## L-plates Pub Plod

Are you a first timer or do you just occasionally dabble in bushwalking?

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

**Date:** Sunday 27th April at 8:30am  
**Where:** Near Mundaring  
**Rating:** Beginners  
**Cost:** Members \$30

## Get Lost with Steve

Do you really know how to use a compass?

Steve will guide you through a series of practical and theoretical exercises on and near the Track in Mundaring. You will have fun learning and perfecting basic map reading and compass skills. Involves approximately 7km of walking on and off tracks.

**Date:** Sunday 27th April at 8am  
**Where:** Near Mundaring  
**Rating:** Beginners  
**Cost:** Members \$105

## Getting into Gear

Come along for a fun and interesting evening run by experienced walkers. Learn as they show you the gear they like to use, talk about the gear they don't use, and give you those tips you never hear about.

**Date:** Wednesday 30th April at 6pm  
**Where:** West Leederville  
**Cost:** Members \$45

## Walking with Dad Weekend/ Walking with Mum Weekend

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

# Feathered Friends event

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

Includes trained guides, comprehensive planning night, trip preparation manual and equipment hire. BYO food.

**With Dad: Sat 3rd to Sun 4th May.**  
**With Mum: Sat 24th to Sun 25th May.**  
**Where: South east of Armadale**  
**Rating: Beginners**  
**Cost: \$220 Members**  
**(for 1 adult & 1 child)**

## Nature Snap: Beginner's Photography Workshop

Welcome to our beginner's bush photography session! In this workshop, we'll explore the basics of capturing the natural beauty that surrounds us using just your smartphone or DSLR camera. Whether you're a nature enthusiast or a photography novice, this session aims to provide you with simple tips and tricks to enhance your skills and create stunning images. Let's embark on a journey to discover the wonders of bush photography together!

**Date: Sunday 4th May**  
**Where: Near Mundaring Weir**  
**Rating: Beginners**  
**Cost: Members \$50;**  
**Non-Members \$65**

Following on from our AGM on October 24, the Foundation was pleased to host speakers from BirdLife Australia for a memorable evening of learning and inspiration.

Dr. Grace Blackburn gave an insightful presentation on the effects of environmental changes on local bird populations. She also shared invaluable tips on how to create bird-friendly gardens, offering practical advice that attendees could immediately implement in their own backyards.

David Bruce provided an engaging and interactive session on the birds commonly spotted (or, more frequently, heard) along the Bibbulmun Track. He played various bird calls and offered tips on how to spot and identify birds on the Track including the use of an App called Merlin Bird ID.

Thanks to the generous donations from those who attended, we were pleased to present \$370 to BirdLife Australia, which works tirelessly to recover the most threatened wild bird species and restore local environments. You can find out more about their work at [birdlife.org.au](http://birdlife.org.au).

Identify the birds you see or hear with Merlin Bird ID.

This free global bird guide provides photos, sounds, maps, and more



Dr. Grace Blackburn (right) spoke on behalf of BirdLife Australia

# Social Sunday walks

**WALK RATINGS:** 🐾 BEGINNERS 🐾🐾 INTERMEDIATE 🐾🐾🐾 EXPERIENCED

DATE	DETAILS	RATING
23 March 4:00pm	6km return sunset walk from Trails Hub Café to Hewett's Hill	🐾
13 April 8:00am	14km return walk from Albany Hwy to Boonerring Hill	🐾🐾
27 April 9:30am	13km return from River Rd to the Murray River via Swamp Oak Campsite return (Dwellingup sth)	🐾
4 May 8:30am	19km return walk from Dale Road to Beraking Campsite. (Fit and experienced walkers only!)	🐾🐾🐾
18 May 9:00am	12km return walk from Kinsella Rd to Canning Campsite	🐾🐾
25 May 8:30am	20.4km return walk from Kalamunda to Hewett's Hill Campsite. (Fit and experienced walkers only!)	🐾🐾🐾

**Bookings for each walk will open one month prior to each walk.** Free for members. See booking conditions online. Book online, or contact the BTF office for a booking form. Bookings cannot be made over the phone.

# Track Trivia



## Hello Fellow Track Fanatics,

For many years now one of my tasks with the Foundation has been to offer trip planning advice to walkers intending to make end-to-end walks on the Track. Over the years I have tried to refine my suggestions as I learn of improvements in equipment and other advancements. I have always stressed the advisability of keeping the pack weight low by dehydrating and carrying one's own food and minimizing the amount of clothing carried. However, an article I read recently has made me rethink my strategy, especially regarding the advice I give to female walkers.

Of course, when advising the ladies, one must maintain a certain level of decorum in discussing clothing. Fortunately, as those who know me will attest, I am the personification of tact, diplomacy and good taste. This came to light recently when I was advising a middle-aged lady about the importance of keeping warm at night in the Track campsites and suggested she should wear a beanie. Her response was indignant; "I would rather be dead than be seen wearing a beanie"

My response of "It's not a bloody fashion parade out there" surely displayed my diplomatic abilities. Very fortunately, she burst out laughing—and she completed her end-to-end! But I digress.

My thinking has been changed because of an amazing lady called Henriette d'Angeville, who climbed Mont Blanc in 1830. This was no mean feat, Mont Blanc, the highest mountain in the Alps, rises to 4800m.

D'Angeville hiked to the mountain's summit, climbing it with her staff, (that's the shepherd's crook thing in her hand, not her servants), 18 bottles of wine, 26 roast chickens and 3 pounds of chocolate. Her clothing consisted of long flannel underwear, two men's shirts, two pairs of woolen stockings and two others of silk, two pairs of waterproof shoes with cleats, a pair of plaid double-layer wool trousers, a tartan boa, a pair of knitted fur gloves, a fur trimmed coat, a loose blouse of

the same material, a flannel hat, a velvet mask and sunglasses with very dark blue lenses, and a feather boa. It is not clear how the food was transported but it seems safe to assume she didn't carry it all herself.

It was also noted that she carried "a further source of alcohol". Well, it always pays to be careful, pubs were few and far between on the mountainside.

So maybe, based on this, I should rethink my trip planning advice policy for the ladies:

"Take your dehydrated food but bung in a couple of roast chickens, three bottles of Penfold Grange 1996 (only \$2000 a bottle) and a feather boa for wearing in the campsite". One thing's for sure, you'd have plenty of people ready to keep you company for the first few days!

Back to the present—the BTF website has been upgraded, which has caused a few headaches, especially to the likes of yours truly, who was brought up in the steam train era when telephones were used only for making phone calls. However the glitches are being ironed out (can you iron a glitch?) and things have settled to give us much more versatile system.

One more item of note. Two ladies have recently trekked to the summit of Mt Kilimanjaro

pushing and in part carrying a large red wheelbarrow. This has caused a torrent of protest, not least from the Society for Prevention of Wheelbarrow Cruelty and from the woke community. The latter are still looking for a reason for their protest.

The modern world in a nutshell!

Happy walking, especially in your waterproof shoes with cleats!

## Wrong Way Jim

Henriette d'Angeville in her mountaineering suit. (J. Hebert, 1830)



## Would you like to join our team?

- ✓ Love the Bibbulmun Track?
- ✓ Enjoy interacting with people?
- ✓ Available at least one day per week?

If you have a good knowledge of the Track, are a keen and experienced walker, and have a working knowledge of Microsoft Office applications (Outlook, Word, Excel), then you are welcome to apply to become a regular member of our office team.

Office volunteers provide front-line interaction with our members and the public, and can expect to meet engaging and like-minded people in a fun and positive environment.

**Contact Helen at:**  
**volunteer@bibbulmuntrack.org.au or 9481 0551.**

# REFLECTIONS FROM THE REGISTERS

## SWAMP OAK:

Woohoo! We didn't get lost! I didn't fall over! Things are looking up. The river is nice but a short cut through the thorn bushes is not advised, especially for males...just the wrong height! The heat has clearly affected the DNA of the local insects, as they are all gigantic. There were six of us, but one got carried off by a mutant ant. As a school group we have no alcohol, but fatigue is having the same effect. Off to Dwellingup and real toilets!  
*Toodles 21/11/2000*

## PEACEFUL BAY:

Can't write, thinking too much about the fish and chips...  
*Nic 08/02/2003*

I'm walker in Australia here. Almost past 2 month. I'm Japanese. There is so nice place. Because beautiful view (ocean, forest) having there. And so many kindly friendly people. I like here.

*From Akio 16/12/2007*

## BOARDING HOUSE:

Many years ago I was hiking up Scafell in the UK. Coming towards a large rocky outcrop I could hear "tap,tap,tap..." of metal on rock. It got louder as I approached the outcrop and then the source was revealed. A lone hiker, seated next to his tent, was beating a can of baked beans with a large chunk of rock. The only food he had was in cans and he had forgotten his can opener. (no pulling tops in those days!). After a good laugh I used my Swiss army knife to open some cans for him and continued on my way.

Moral: Don't forget the can-opener!  
*Anon 10/05/2022*

*(Ed: Better still, don't carry canned food!)*

## WEST CAPE HOWE:

I have decided to award myself a triumph! In ancient times victorious Roman generals were awarded a parade through the streets of Rome to show off their success and their spoils of war—a triumph. Sadly, I have no spoils of war, and I don't anticipate adulation from heaving crowds, but I still feel like celebrating my achievement. It will be a slow walk through the streets of Albany with all my thoughts and memories of the Track—good enough!  
*Alan from Oxford 28/11/2019*

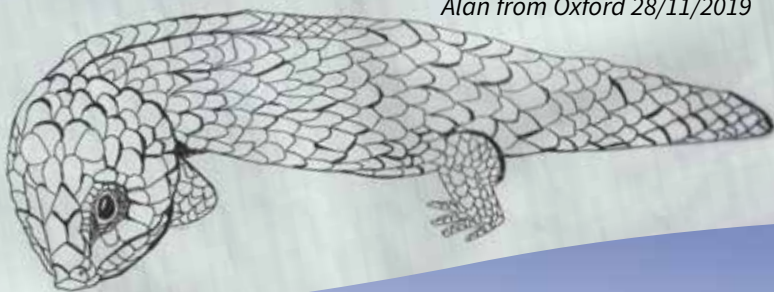
## FRANKLAND:

It's so nice to be back on the Track! I used to come here as a child with my parents and my brother, and later on, two years ago, with my partner. As a child I was scared of swimming in the pool in the river--afraid that lurking underwater creatures would nibble my toes! Some things never change, but today I conquered that fear and swam across! Big day tomorrow to Rame Head so we make it to Peaceful Bay for New Years Eve.  
*Hannah 25/12/2022*

Day #13 end-to-end. Taking my time and staying at each campsite. I love being retired. Remember it's the journey, not the destination, that matters. Has anyone else out here noticed all the weird, colourful fungi? I noticed when I got to the shelter something smelled bad when I sat down at the table---then I realised it's me!  
*Susan 12/05/2023*

Welcome 25th Anniversary Walkers! Enjoy your time in our favourite campsite and shelter!

*Issy and the Frankland Track Maintenance Team 26/08/2023*

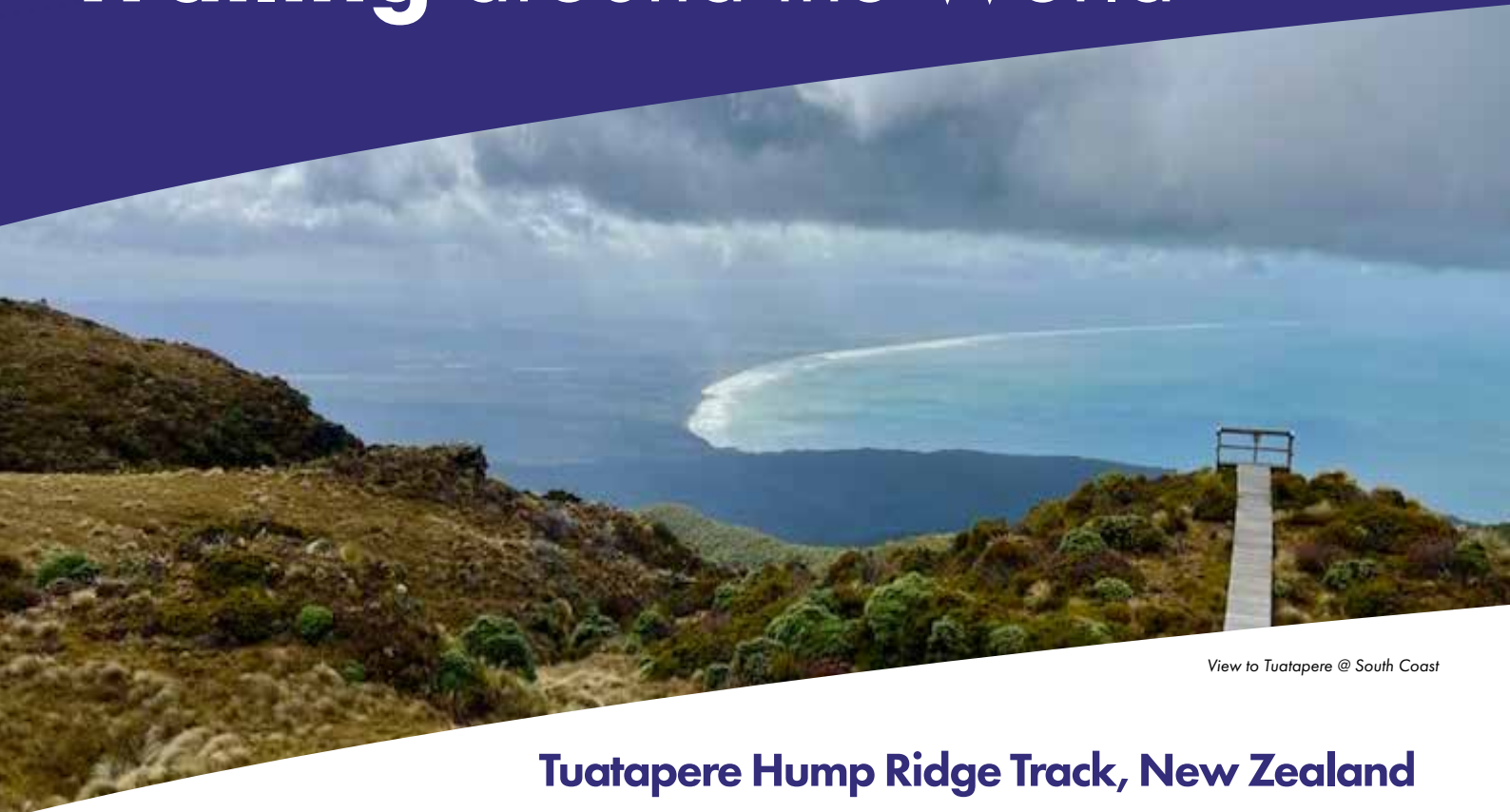


This lovely drawing of a Bobtail Lizard is from the register at Grimwade Campsite.

## LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY...

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

# Trailing around the World



View to Tuatapere @ South Coast

## Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track, New Zealand

The Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track is a 61km, three-day loop trail through pristine sub-alpine ecological conservation areas, soon to be recognised as one of New Zealand's 11 Great Walks. Highlights include swing bridges, moss covered ancient trees, beach walks along the rugged southern coastline, mountain climbs and varied bird sightings, along with incredible views.

The coastal track dates back to 1896, when it was cut for gold seekers, and later from 14km of train track that was formed from Port Craig to ship out native timbers. Three impressive viaducts still remain, of which the largest is Percy Burn viaduct, a Class One historic structure. It remains as one of the world largest wooden tram viaducts. Once milling ceased, a charitable trust was formed to maintain the heritage of the area and the Hump Ridge Track was developed with Department of Conservation (DOC) assistance and opened in 2001.

The local town of Tuatapere is 200km from Queenstown and 85km from Invercargill. Tuatapere sports a proud self-declaration of being the Sausage Capital of New Zealand, something definitely worth staying in town for!

I stayed at the Last Light Lodge which was very comfortable and had a bar/restaurant on site. Prices were excellent and the food was delicious.

The Hump Ridge Track Walk offers two backcountry lodges with impressive facilities, upgraded dorms or private rooms with double beds including your own hot water bottle. Showers are available, cooking facilities can be utilized in a well-appointed kitchen with some food available to buy if needed. Each lodge has a live-in host who runs a well-stocked bar.

Three choices of walking packages are on offer:

- Freedom Walk - breakfast included.
- Prime Walk - breakfast and dehydrated meals, multi-share accommodation including sheets, pillowcase, shower and a helicopter pack lift to the top of the hill.
- Guided Walk - a fully inclusive package with private facilities, delicious gourmet meals, stacks of treats and drinks and exclusive use of the lodges. Also included is a helicopter ride to start the first day and your pack delivered to the first night's lodging.

For those that feel the 900m ascent is a step too far, the helicopter will take you to the top. This is a fantastic option for those with sore knees, lacking fitness or just wanting the experience of a helicopter flight along the beach and up into the lush forest to Okaka Lodge.

*BTF member and Maintenance Volunteer Jennifer Fraser visited New Zealand's South Island recently to walk the acclaimed Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track. This is her account of the trip:*

For more information visit:  
[www.humpridgetrack.co.nz](http://www.humpridgetrack.co.nz)

I opted for a guided tour as it included private transfer from Queenstown, and I needed only a small day pack. I went in summer but unfortunately the sun must have missed my memo and on my arrival, I was greeted by a one-degree, misty day.

After meeting the lodge hosts and being primed with hot coffee I walked the Summit Loop Track at the top of the mountain. I felt like I was at the top of the world as I risked being blown away by the powerful wind. The Loop Track takes around 45 mins, is fully boardwalked and has sweeping views across the bay to Southwest Fiordland, Stewart Island Rakiura and beyond.

Or so I had been told. I was above the clouds, absolutely freezing, with three layers of clothing including thermals, jackets, gloves, beanie, scarf and rain pants. Go in summer, they said, it will be fun! But soon the clouds parted, and I had the most magnificent views, worth every icicle!

So good in fact that I went back later in the day to walk past the Limestone Tors and see the view again. The sun sets at about 10:30pm in February, plenty of time to marvel at the beauty of the Ridge before settling into a delicious lamb ragout and NZ's finest wine at Okaka Lodge.

The first day takes about 7-9 hours, has the helicopter flight, a long climb, rare native bird sightings, purple mushrooms, ancient trees dripping with mosses and lichen, and panoramic views. Truly New Zealand at its best. A



Percy Burn viaduct



Swing bridge near Flat Creek

decent level of fitness is recommended but is less essential if you take the helicopter option.

The second day is from Okaka Lodge to Port Craig, a distance of 21km, taking 7-9 hours. Due to the consistent wet weather in Fiordland there are substantial boardwalks on the ridge to minimize trudging through the mud, although there are still some areas that get very muddy. Some sections are quite exposed, and the trees are stunted like a pristine bonsai forest. Luncheon Rock has a great place for a break as the track descends the ridge, with shelter, water and a toilet.

The walk then drops down past the towering rim through rata and totara trees where I caught a glimpse of kaka birds above. The birds are playful, and small robins will land on your arm if keep still. The trees give way to the old tramline that served the Port Craig sawmill. crossing over three wooden viaducts, the longest being Percy Burn viaduct - the largest in the southern hemisphere. Two hours hiking took me to the old Port Craig school and the Port Craig Lodge. A swim at Mussel beach is possible for the brave where more reminders of the past can be found along with Hector dolphins playing in the waves.

After a great sleep and hearty breakfast at the Port Craig Lodge, the final 20km awaited me. The track emerges at Breakneck Creek on the Southern Coastline

and follows the coast on and off to the Flat Creek Swing Bridge, a stunning long swing bridge and the track's final highlight on. Then two hours back Rarakau Car park to take local beer or cider, along with a photo of the Hump Ridge Track sign.

I would strongly recommend this three-day walk, it offers so much, packed into a short time. It is such an amazing part of New Zealand with unparalleled beauty.

Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track as the provider has years of experience and exceptional professionalism.

### Jenn Fraser



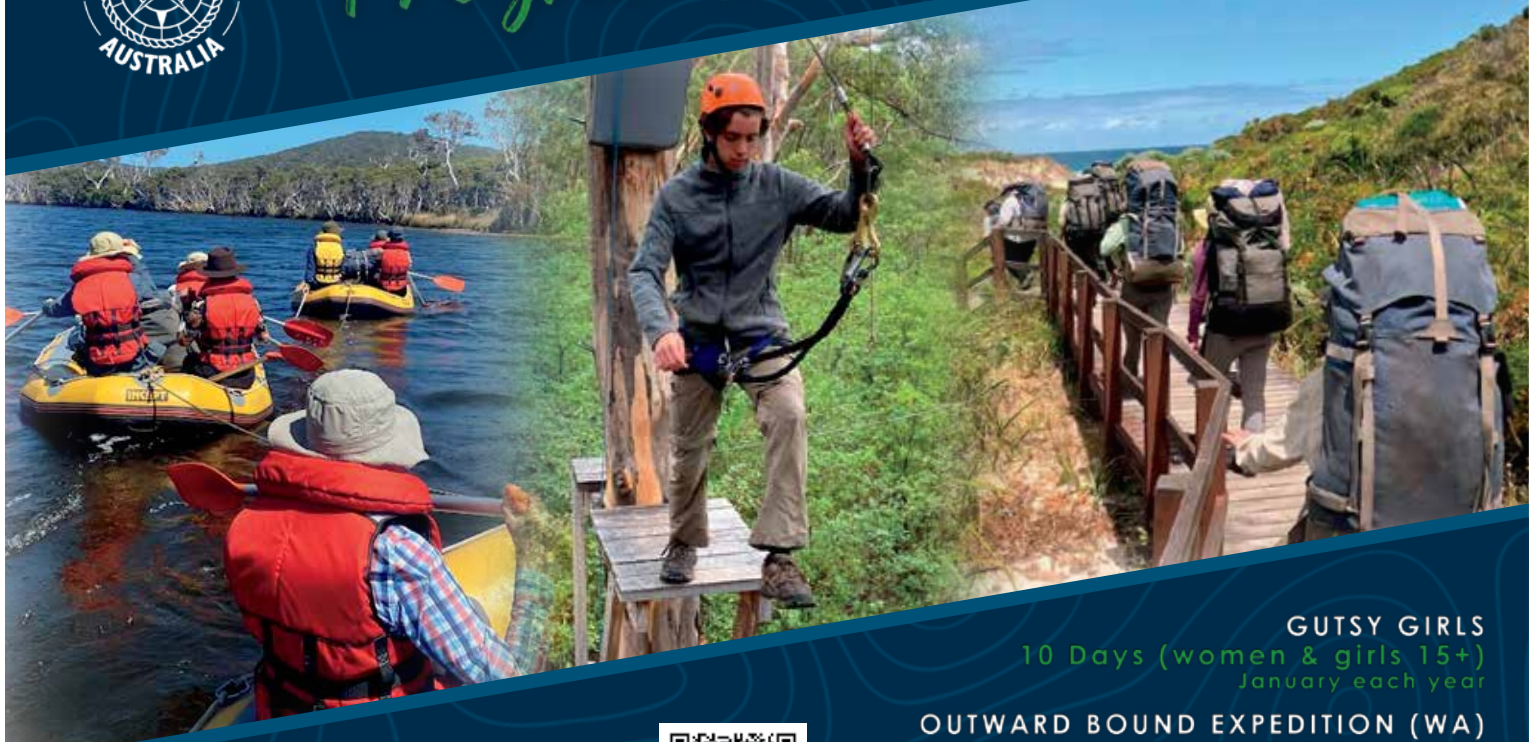
Limestone tors on loop track



Boardwalk to Luncheon Rock



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