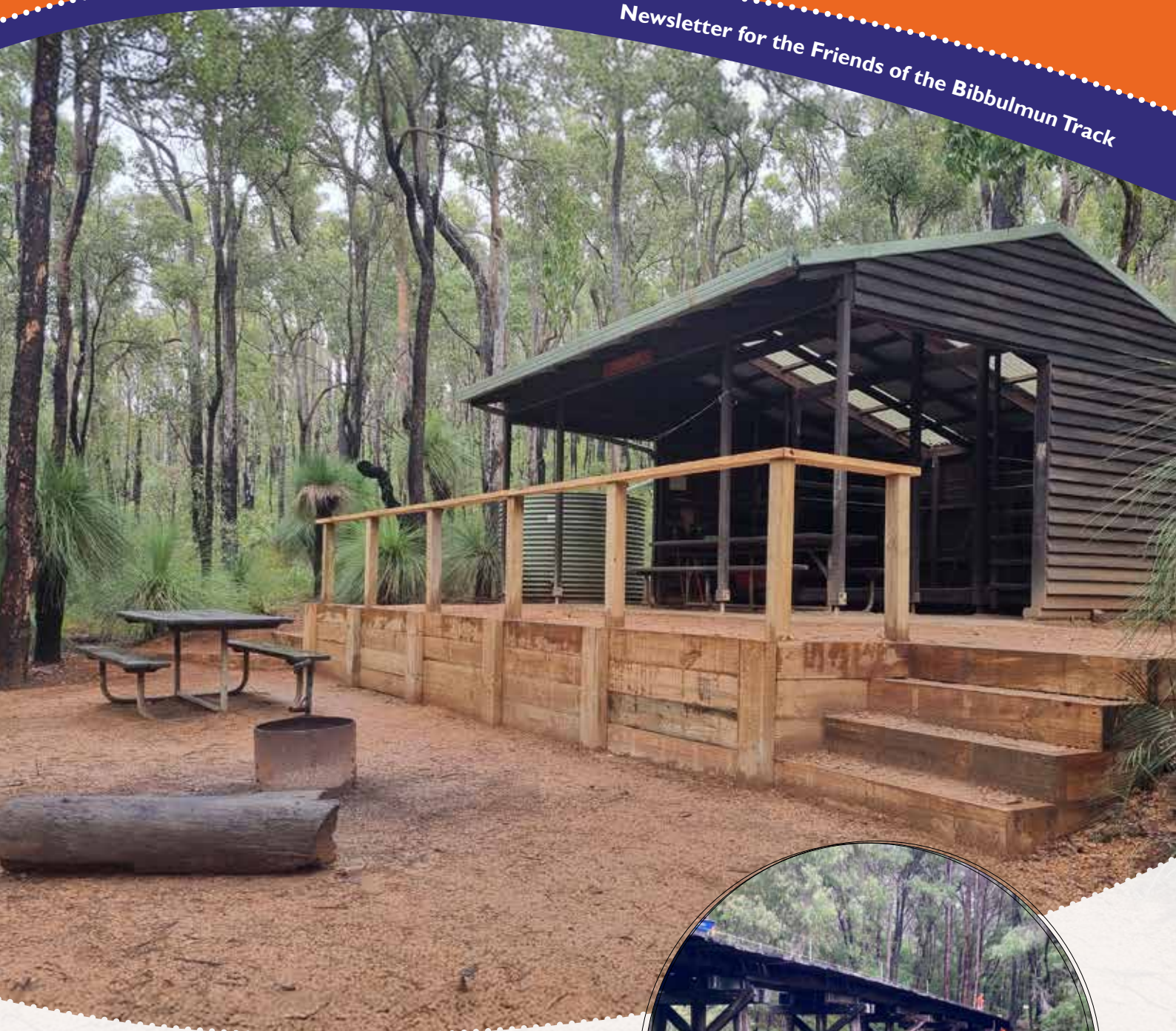


Bibbulmun NEWS

AUGUST 2025 - NOVEMBER 2025
SEASONS OF DJILBA & KAMBARANG
ISSUE #99
RRP \$8.00



Newsletter for the Friends of the Bibbulmun Track



Located between Collie and Balingup, Noggerup Campsite is the latest campsite to be refurbished.
You can read more about these works on page 7.



(Above) Noggerup Upgrades.
(Right) Support Volunteers carry out a scheduled visit to help preserve the historic River Road Bridge near Pemberton.

2025 Bibbulmun Track Adventure Raffle

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation is delighted to reveal the winners of the 2025 Adventure Raffle, which officially wrapped up on June 30. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters and sponsors, the raffle raised over \$20,000 — all of which will go straight back into supporting the Track and the work of the Foundation.



Congratulations to our lucky winners!

Grand Prize – Treasures of Vietnam Tour for Two

Peter – Ticket #3438

Second Prize – \$1,000 Anaconda Voucher

Jodie – Ticket #1514

Third Prize – All-Rounder Sleep System

Carolyn – Ticket #2298

Fourth Prize – BTF Prize Pack

Heather – Ticket #2676



A huge thank you to everyone who bought a ticket or donated a prize — your support keeps the Bibbulmun Track thriving for generations of walkers to come.

Stay tuned for future raffles and events – and remember, you've got to be in it to win it!

Notice to members – 2025 AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation Inc. will be held:

- On Thursday 23 October 2025 at 5.00 p.m.
- At Inglewood Bowling & Sports Club, 1 Stancliffe St, Mount Lawley

Agenda -

1. Apologies.
2. Acceptance of 2024 AGM Minutes.
3. Chairman's annual report.
4. Executive Director's annual report.
5. Treasurer's report and appointment of Auditor.
6. Elections.
7. Business Arising.

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

Any member who wants to appoint a proxy at the AGM must complete a proxy form in accordance with rule 19 of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation Rules 2009 (as amended and available on the BTF's website) and send it to the BTF. Proxy forms received after 5pm on Wednesday 22 October 2025 will not be valid.

Election of Board Members

- At the AGM three members of the Foundation are to be elected to the Board to fill vacancies.
- BTF Members are invited to nominate for election.
- Nominations must be in writing, signed by the member and received by the BTF before the close of nominations at 4pm Monday 22 September 2025.
- Should a poll be needed to elect a Board member it will be conducted during the AGM.

- The term of office of each person elected will be two years from, and including, 23 October 2025.

The elections will be held because the terms of John Holan, Bruce Manning and Michael Wood will expire.

All forms and documents related to the above are available at:

www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/get-involved/about-the-foundation/governance/

or email
admin@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Andrew Chiswell

A/Executive Director, Bibbulmun Track Foundation



FROM MY Desk

A Fond Farewell.

After 22 wonderful years, it's time for me to say goodbye to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation and to all of you—our passionate volunteers, members and supporters who have made this journey so special.

When I joined the Foundation back in 2003, I never could have imagined where the path would lead. What started as a job quickly became a calling, and I feel incredibly privileged to have spent more than two decades promoting, protecting and celebrating one of the world's great long-distance walking trails.

Over the years, I've had the pleasure of working alongside so many amazing people. It was lovely to catch up with some of them at my farewell function in late July. A special mention must go to Mike Wood, who acted as MC for the event. Mike was the Foundation's inaugural Chair for 20 years and was on the selection panel that gave me the job all those years ago. I'll always be grateful to him and the panel for putting their trust in me.

It would be impossible to name everyone, but I must thank Steve Sertis who, as many of you know, has been at the Foundation even longer than I have. While Steve's official title is Events Manager, he's worn many hats over the years—from testing websites and writing COVID procedures to coordinating office moves. Steve recalled the *Yin & Yang* article written about us in *The West Australian* back in 2014. It highlighted how different we are in so many ways, yet how that mix created great synergy and better outcomes. I'll miss sharing an office and the banter with him—though maybe not his taste in music!

I'd also like to thank my co-editor, Jim Baker, aka Wrong Way Jim, for helping to bring every edition of this magazine to life. Jim not only edits but writes many of the articles, including his much-loved Track Trivia column. My first column appeared in Edition 33—I almost made it to Edition 100!

As I hand over the reins to a new leader, I do so with great confidence in the future of the Foundation and the Track. With a strong shared vision to keep the Track environmentally sustainable and delivering a quality experience for decades to come, and with the solid guidance of the Board under current Chair Kath Broderick, I know it's in good hands.

I leave with a heart full of gratitude and memories I'll carry with me always.

See you somewhere along the Track.

Linda Daniels

Join us on



Thank you! Thank you! THANK YOU!

A sincere thank you to the following walkers who have generously donated \$250 or more to the Foundation.

Albany Bush Walkers inc
Bjarne Fallesen
David Hill
Desmond Thompson
Gwen McNaught
Holly Thomas
Laurence Stonehouse

Malcolm Kite
Oona Mansour
Philip Heyhoe
Richard Rumsey
Ruth Simpson
Scott Vawser

MAKE A DONATION

Your donation will help us to continue to maintain, and improve, the Track and facilities, and conserve the environment through which it passes, to ensure that this wonderful resource is available for future generations to enjoy.

Click [Donate](#) on our website homepage.



Check your spam folder!

It is getting harder to contact you as e-newsletters and bulk emails are treated as spam and blocked.

Please make sure you add friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au and marketing@bibbulmuntrack.org.au to your safe senders list so we can continue to update you with the latest news and events.

Hook your BTF member's badge on your pack.

Your membership helps to support the Foundation – which looks after the Bibbulmun Track.

Wear it with pride - and encourage others to give back to the Track for those following in your footsteps!



YOUR Letters

Hello,

Just a bit of feedback...I loved walking the Track in 2022, and I hope to do so again this year in reverse.

I wanted a patch for my backpack alongside the several other long treks I've done and so I ordered one. It did not go smoothly but that was my bank's fault! You, however, were splendid. Helpful, can-do and in the end, result!

The Bibb is lucky to have all of you, and the world is lucky to have the Bibb.

Jude (UK)

Hi Steve,

Just want to say how much I enjoyed the walk on Sunday (Pub, Pump and Pipes).

Bill's knowledge and love for the area made the tour much more than a walk through the bush. Bill's descriptions of the workings of the pump stations and the now gone railway lines and stations almost brought the historic installations back to life for me and brought another dimension to the walk.

His explanations of the achievements of C Y O'Connor and his demise were much appreciated.

Congratulations to yourself and Bill on a memorable walk.

Regards
Neil Newman

Ed: You can read an article published in the Echo about the 20th Anniversary of this event here: [echo.com.au/news/pub-pipes-and-pumps-event-celebrates-20-years/](https://www.echo.com.au/news/pub-pipes-and-pumps-event-celebrates-20-years/)

Thank you!

I had a visit from Sue and Charlie Soord last night and as well as enjoying their company I was delighted to be presented with the Honorary Life Membership that was awarded to me in my absence at the 2024 Frankland District Thank You Day. I just want to thank all the marvellous sectional and support volunteers that I have had the pleasure of irritating over the years. A special thanks to the Foundation and the many people involved for enduring my company and input.

Alex Williams

This was an outstanding hiking trip - by far the most joyful and well-organised I've experienced. What made it truly special were our guides, Steve and Charmaine. Their deep connection to the Bibbulmun Track, combined with their authentic, lived experiences and extensive knowledge, created an atmosphere of trust, insight, and inspiration.

Steve and Charmaine are a complementary team, each bringing unique skills and perspectives. Their ability to foster a sense of community was evident in the strong support of the volunteers, who clearly respect and value their leadership.

The entire experience was not only enjoyable but also deeply enriching. I left with a greater appreciation for the Bibbulmun Track and a lasting sense of connection. The Bibbulmun Track Foundation can be proud to have such passionate and dedicated ambassadors representing them.

Helen Dalton

Bibb & Beyond Tour, May 2025

Hello,

After more than 500km on the Bibbulmun Track my hiking shoes had developed holes in the soles. In Donnelly Village I met someone who was riding his bike down the Munda Biddi Trail. He told me of a sports shop in the town of Manjimup, near to Pemberton, where I was staying for one night with my walking companions Barry, Lizzie and Mike. So, when we reached Beedelup Campsite I tried to book a taxi to take me to Manjimup from Pemberton the next day, but only a limousine service was available!

So next morning I set off very early to keep my appointment with the limousine—the others thought I had booked a normal taxi. A long Ford limousine arrived, I got in and enjoyed mints and sparkling water on the way to Manjimup, where the citizens were fascinated by the sight of a limo in town. I bought a pair of Hoka shoes at the shop and picked up some supplies at Coles.

On our return to Pemberton, I told the driver I would be sleeping in my tent overnight and the limo dropped me at the caravan park, between the public toilets, 4WDs and camper vans—what a comparison! Later, I joined the others in the pub, and it was then they understood why they had seen a limo in town!

Simon Dugas

Grospierres, France

Completed end-to-end journey in May 2025.



An unusual experience during Simon's end-to-end was catching a limo to pick up new walking boots!

Love is... (...a well-fitting pair of boots)

We all remember our first true love. Those of us of a certain age, that is.

For some, it started with a mighty bang. You just knew you were made for each other. Right from the outset. Everything fitted together perfectly to start with, and it just kept getting better from then.

For some, it was a slower, gentler realisation. You grew into each other over time. Slowly came to depend on each other. In the end, you simply couldn't imagine being apart.

Perhaps you're still in the grips of your first true love. You lucky thing. You can look forward to many happy years together, many adventures and many memories.

Me? I remember my first love like it was just the other day. A slinky Italian number. Tanned, taut and terrific. I remember the instant, first attraction. My word... could they be mine? Such flawless beauty. Timeless. Simple. Nothing out of place. A deep and complex soul. Padding in all the right places. Eyelets to get lost in. A comforting tongue. Oh! Heavier than expected – never mind.

We spent many happy times together, just they and me. Trips away, alone. Marvelling at the monadnocks. The towering beauty of the karri. The scramble up heart-break hill. We conquered it all, just us. Through

the good times and the bad. I would carry them forward, and then me, supporting each other along the way. Wading through the mud that life threw at us. Fording the streams. Dancing along, together.

Sadly, the years always gather. Its inevitable. Maybe some cracks appear where least expected. Maybe, one lets the other down. Maybe, some water comes between you. You come to realise, with sodden heart, that its time to move on.

I'm currently in the grips of an exciting new love. We're still getting to know each other, wearing each other in. I don't know what it might lead to, but I'm hoping to find another love, a love as deep as before.

Derek Bracken



I recently completed the Women's One Night Escape and I cannot say enough good things about the Bibbulmun Track Foundation!

Your website is clear and easy to navigate. The booking system is straight forward. Hiring equipment (both pick up and drop off) was a breeze.

The confirmation email contained everything a novice hiker like myself needed to feel confident that I was ready to tackle the trip.

The online information session cleared up any concerns I had.

The two guides (Claudia and Sarah) were welcoming, friendly, knowledgeable and great at making sure everyone in the group was taken care of.

If I had to make one complaint, it would be the incline up to Helena was too much, haha. But maybe more hours on the Track will help me with that!

It is truly great to see a not-for-profit organisation thriving and being run so effectively.

You have created a new hiking addict
Thanks again,
Nicola

FATHER'S DAY Gift Ideas

Surprise your dad with BTF merchandise!



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

Before you go...

CHECK THE LATEST TRACK CONDITIONS

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

There may be maintenance or construction projects near or on the Track that result in temporary diversions or changes. These will not be marked on your maps. Diversions are usually marked with Waugal trail markers attached to yellow metal posts. If you encounter these when walking, follow these temporary markers, not your map. The diversion will eventually return you to the main trail.

Please remember the Bibbulmun Track is a walking track only. No wheeled vehicles, including trolleys, wheelbarrows, prams or bikes should be on the Track. Please help to preserve the Track and the environment by keeping to *boots only*.

Prescribed Burning Operations

Parks and Wildlife conducts a program of prescribed burning operations each year. Prescribed burning operations are undertaken for a variety of reasons, including property protection, fuel reduction and biodiversity management.

These burns are carefully planned but may cause some disruption to Track users. Where prescribed burning operations impact on the Track, temporary diversions will be put in place. Prescribed burning operations are dependent on appropriate weather conditions and for this reason dates of burns are not available in advance. For information regarding prescribed burns, please contact the District offices.

Groups on the Track

Groups of walkers with eight or more members that are staying overnight on the Track are requested to complete a Group Notification online at www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/trip-planner/notice-of-intent-for-groups.

Car access to the Track

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

Parks and Wildlife Contacts:

Recreation and Trails Unit

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

District Offices

Perth Hills District (Mundaring and Dwellingup)

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

Wellington District (Collie)

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

Blackwood District (Balingup)

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

Donnelly District (Pemberton and Northcliffe)

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

Frankland District (Walpole)

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

Albany District (Denmark and Albany)

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

LEAVE NO TRACE TIP: LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

- Do not add to, or create new, rock cairns. Cairns are for navigation only where other trail marking is not possible.
- Individual rocks provide shelter for all types of critters and new cairns not only disturb the natural environment but can lead walkers astray.



Take only photos... leave only footprints



Stephen King

TRAILS COORDINATOR, RECREATION AND TRAILS UNIT

TEL: (08) 9219 8265

EMAIL: recreationandtrails@dbca.wa.gov.au



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Recreation & Trails UNIT

Dear Readers,

It's been great to see some decent winter rainfall lately, interspersed with some beautiful clear sunny days, great conditions for hiking! Over recent months we've continued to make steady progress on a range of improvements and maintenance tasks on the Track.

Noggerup Campsite received a spruce up, with works including replacement of the retaining wall and steps at the shelter, reforming of the tent pads, new steps on connecting paths, and improvements to the service vehicle turnaround.

A water tank cleaning program was implemented in early winter, covering 16 of the campsites between Hewett's Hill near Kalamunda and Possum Springs north of Collie. A tank cleaning specialist was engaged to vacuum out the sediment that accumulates in the bottom of the tanks over the years, to improve the water quality. The intent is to progress southward with this tank cleaning program.

Steady progress is being made on a rolling program of realignments to improve the trail experience. In late April, construction was completed on a 900m realignment to replace the trail section running under the powerlines east of Mt Cooke. The purpose-built trail provides a far more enjoyable hike.

Further progress was made in the planning of a realignment involving approximately 9km of purpose-built trail to take the track off Wilshusen Rd and Seventy Seven Rd, north of Collie. The dieback survey was completed and the proposal was approved by the Inter-agency Catchment Working Group. The next step will be to arrange an aboriginal heritage survey.

Early planning is also underway for a realignment between Ball Creek and Helena Campsites, with the general aim of taking the Track off vehicle tracks, including Driver Road, providing a more engaging purpose-built trail.

It was really pleasing to see the Support Volunteers revisit the River Road Bridge for another round of maintenance and repair work, going above and beyond the normal scope of Bibbulmun Track maintenance. This magnificent heritage listed timber bridge is one of the few of its kind and size remaining in the southwest, and it's a fantastic feature of both the Bibbulmun Track and Munda Biddi Trail. I hope that it stays standing for many years to come!

Other smaller bridges along the Track have not fared well, with losses due to fires and fallen trees. Bridge and boardwalk replacements will be a focus for the coming months, with several jobs in the pipeline. An 800m section of the windfarm boardwalk near Albany was repaired in May by a crew from Blackwood District. The remainder of the structure is nearing its end of life, and planning is underway to determine the best approach for its replacement. Several bridges within Donnelly District are also in need of repair or replacement.

Great progress was made with erosion control and Track stabilisation work along the south coast during autumn, with campaigns along track sections near Rame Head, Parry Beach and Boat Harbour Campsites. With support from DBCA staff, a dedicated team of volunteers employed a range of tread treatments, including track pad installation, box steps and water bars, to control erosion and stabilise the sandy tread.

At the Valley of the Giants near Walpole, the new adventure trail network is nearing completion, and may be open by the time this goes to print. The project included a new trailhead sign for the Bibbulmun Track at Pioneer Park in Walpole, and a new walk trail that connects with the Bibbulmun Track near Giants Campsite, forming a loop of around 5km. Several shared use trails will also provide opportunities for loop walks and connections in the trail network.

A long-awaited and much needed Bibbulmun Track user survey is now underway, with the last survey of its kind undertaken back in 2014. It will be great to have current user information and feedback to guide the future management of the Track, and to help demonstrate the Track's economic and social benefits. I'm sure you'll get this message through other channels, but I'd strongly encourage you to undertake the survey if you've been out on the Track recently. Together with the campsite log books and Track counter data, this survey will help build a solid picture and understanding of Track users and usage.



Before/After repair to stairs at Noggerup.

The tent sites at Noggerup Campsite were reformed to improve the surface.



The departure of Linda as long-serving Executive Director of the Foundation feels like the end of an era! Linda has always been a pleasure to work with and has made an amazing contribution to the Foundation and the Track over many years. On behalf of the Department, congratulations Linda and all the best for the future!

There has also been some movement in Recreation and Trails Unit, with Nick Sheahan replacing Tamara Waddell as our Parks & Visitor Services Officer, and Sandy Robson (Recreation Officer) moving to a new, trails focussed position with Blackwood District. It will be great to have Sandy complementing the work of other staff in Blackwood District to look after the Bibbulmun Track.

Stephen King
Trails Coordinator

Eyes on the GROUND

The return of milder temperatures and good rain has seen normality return to most sections of the Track.

Undergrowth is again proving a challenge in some areas, tree blow downs appear to be more frequent, and heavier rains are attacking areas of erosion.

Volunteers have been returning to their sections and rolling up their sleeves in an effort to make the walking season more enjoyable, but if you come across an area which needs more attention please remember to take some photos, log the GPS location, and submit a report through our website. Your assistance then allows us to target our efforts much more efficiently.

The return of rain has interestingly created a lot of reports on water tanks. There's nothing like rain to identify issues with taps and gutters, blockages in pipes and in some cases failure of a first-flush setup which ironically was stopping all water making its way to the tank. Volunteer and walker reports are essential to picking up these issues quickly, so we can direct each District to areas which need inspection.

Thank you also to all our sectional volunteers who joined our field days in Albany, Frankland, Donnelly and Perth Hills Districts I am constantly awed by your willingness to pitch in and amazed at how good the campsites look after your visit.

Frankland region targeted by Support Volunteers

Our Support Volunteers have been busy along the south coast this autumn, with three week-long projects to address known erosion and stabilisation issues around the Peaceful Bay area. A strong and diverse group of 20 individuals, several attending an SV campaign for the first time, completed the projects in record time and to the high standard expected of our SVs.

The first was at Boat Harbour where old sections of trackpad had failed and needed replacement. This followed a successful field day where sectional volunteers not only worked on the Boat Harbour Campsite but spent several hours removing the existing sections of trackpad.

The second repaired an infamous section of Track just west of Parry Beach Rd, where the trail was becoming a hazard to walkers. Special mention must go to the Frankland District rangers who carried many loads of materials to sections along the Track in preparation for our project.

The final project focused on a sandy section near Rame Head which was becoming deeply gullied and difficult for walkers. Trackpad, steps and water bars were installed along this section, with several rolls of coir mesh to repair the trail edges and foster vegetation regrowth.

If you walk these sections in coming months, think of the efforts of our volunteers – your walk would be less enjoyable without them!

Finally, most of you will know now that I will be temporarily moving away from the Maintenance Manager role for several months, acting as interim Executive Director of the Foundation.

I will continue to be contactableontrackworks@bibbulmuntrack.org.au should you have any questions concerning maintenance along the Track and will return to this role when a new CEO is on deck.



Andrew Chiswell



Relaxing after work!

Section of repaired Track



Can I also join our readers and extended volunteer family in offering my thanks to Linda for welcoming me into the Foundation team and teaching me so much over the last two and a half years.

Andrew Chiswell
Maintenance Manager

Newmont

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

Volunteers testing their new seat.



Walker Story - John Colby—walker extraordinaire!"

BTF Member John Colby has an exceptional record of walking the Bibbulmun Track end-to-end. First of all he has registered eight end-to-ends, six from north-to-south and two from south-to-north. Yes, some others---not many---have done more, but John's walks have all been continuous, not sectional.

John hails from Banora Point, in the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales, and always travels to WA expressly to walk the Track. The other notable thing about his walks is the time period they cover, which is over most of the lifetime of the New Track. His first walk was from Kalamunda to Albany in 2003 and the most recent, in the same direction, in 2024.

His hiking experience is prodigious, and he estimates he has walked some 2250km over trails in the past 18 months. Given that he celebrated his 80th birthday in July 2024, this is truly remarkable, as is the fact that he completed his latest end-to-end walk in 49 days!

John found out about the Bibbulmun Track, not surprisingly, while hiking! He met a female walker on the Hume and Hovel Track in the early 2000s who had walked it shortly beforehand. Her description of the Track persuaded him to come to WA to see it for himself - and the rest is history.

When asked what had drawn him back so often, his response was very simple. "Where else can I go to find a beautiful, walker friendly trail with all the facilities of the Bibbulmun? I can fly to Perth, catch a bus to Kalamunda and start walking. No fees to pay, no hassle of booking."

He has seen many changes over the years in the physical nature of the Track, some of which have met with adverse criticism from walkers, such as the advent of the rammed-earth shelters, steel bridges and wooden stairways on the hilly sand dunes of the south coast. A minority of walkers feel that a wilderness track should leave walkers to fend for themselves---swim the rivers if necessary, struggle up the sand dunes---but that is not what the Bibbulmun Track is about. It is about a walker friendly environment that allows any reasonably able person to experience the delights of bush walking, while leaving them with the responsibility of ensuring their own safety.

John recognises the changes for what they are; improvements against fire risk and the reduction of erosion.

"I don't see any of these structures detracting from the Track as they fit in with what I believe the Bibbulmun Track should be."

When asked about the other walkers he has met on the Track, his response was interesting.

"In 2003, I had 34 nights with shelters and tent sites to myself, together with four days when I didn't see another person. Absolute bliss! Fast forward to 2023, only two nights to myself, always seeing fellow walkers with stories and a lot of laughter. Absolutely delightful!"

In other words, there are a lot more people out there now, but it doesn't reduce the pleasure of the whole experience.

John mentions the fact that there are many more school groups on the Track than before and he feels that the Group Campsite facilities are an excellent idea.

The picture below shows John at Sandpatch Campsite shortly before he completed his 2024 end-to-end at 80 years of age.

The BTF congratulates you and thanks you for your support of the Track for so many years!

At the age of 80, John completed his eighth end-to-end in an impressive 49 days.



Getting into Gear

Water Treatment

Back in 2019 I sweated my way across the Mojave Desert on the Pacific Crest Trail, where water sources are sometimes more than 50 kilometres apart.

The relentless sun nearly boiled my precious drinking water in its bottles every day by lunchtime, so on a particularly hot and exposed stretch I was excited to reach a big concrete cistern that was marked on my trail app.

My excitement turned to apprehension when I read a comment left by a hiker just days earlier.

“Watch out for the bear,” it read.

Apprehension turned to disgust a few miles later, when I reach the cistern, noticed a foul smell, and had a peek under its tin cover.

The bloated corpse of a California black bear was floating in the tank, and clearly had been for some time.

With no other option but dehydration, I filter it through a bandana, zapped it with my Steripen, and added bleach tablets for good measure.



A Sawyer Squeeze coupled to a bladder and a water bottle, creating a gravity filter.

It tasted a bit like an over-full fly trap, but I didn't get sick.

You're unlikely to run into any decomposing black bears on the Bibbulmun, but the odd possum has been known to get trapped in a tank, and the shelter gutters that feed them inevitably fill with leaf litter and other, less pleasant, organic material – so it's a good idea to treat your water.

I relied on my Steripen as my primary treatment method on the PCT, and I'd recommend them to anyone on the Bibbulmun.

The battery-powered device uses ultraviolet light to neutralise any nasties in the water, taking about 90 seconds to treat one litre.

It doesn't affect the taste – unlike tablets – and it's quick and easy.

The downsides of Steripens, and the reason I switched to filters, is that they don't filter out gunk, you need to keep them charged, and they're heavier than other options.

My Steripen Ultra, which fits perfectly in a bottle with a 38mm mouth (such as a Gatorade bottle), weighs 140 grams.

I now use a Sawyer Squeeze filter, which weighs 85 grams.

The advantages of a filter are that it removes sediment, imparts no flavour, and requires no batteries.

Here's a handy trick I discovered: If you pair a Sawyer filter with a Cnoc bladder, Sawyer's threaded cleaning coupling and a compatible water bottle, you can create a gravity-fed system that only needs to be hung from a hook to filter the water.

Much easier than sitting there and squeezing it through Sawyer's provided bags!

Katadyn also makes a great filter, the BeFree, which pairs with a 38mm bottle or bladder mouth.

There are many other heavier options out there that also treat viruses, but they're generally considered unnecessary on the Bibbulmun so long as you stick to the water tanks – and definitely don't collect from streams running off farmland.

A third option, and the lightest, is chemical treatment tablets.

These can suit hikers who aren't sure if they want to commit to buying a filter, but they're still pricey and they leave a chemical taste that deprives you of that fresh Bibb flavour.

I use them as a backup, in case some misfortune befalls my trusty filter.

The last resort is boiling, which is effective – but takes a long time, wastes fuel, and leaves you with a pot of unpleasantly warm water.

Happy trails!

Ben Dickinson



Steripens use ultraviolet light to sterilise water-borne nasties.

Walker Story—Chopper

BTF member and End-to-Enders David Cohen went for a walk on the Track over a weekend and discovered that even a short hike can be fraught with problems!

This is his story:

I never thought I'd get a view of Mt Dale from a helicopter, but then no-one goes out for a quiet overnighter and expects to call 000, despite being only 400m from the Track.

Since completing an end-to-end in 2021 I'd been chipping away at a second, sectional walk of the whole Track and had knocked off most of Kalamunda to Collie.

I decided to use part of the Labour Day long weekend to hike 20km north from Mt Dale to Waalegh on Saturday and return on Sunday. The forecast was for 30C on both days.

My first mistake was to leave one of my two water bottles in the car, only realising the error 3.8km in. I thought about going back to get it, but I was reluctant to add another two hours to the day's walk.

The hiking was fantastic. Huge orb weaver spiders were still in their webs across the Track. a kangaroo bounded away from me, and I saw three black cockatoos.

I had the Track to myself both days, and the red book at Beraking showed I was the first to swing by for nearly a week.

The bush had taken a beating over summer; big branches and whole trees across the Track meant nearly a dozen short detours.

I got to Waalegh by 5pm. The golden sunset was amazing, as was my lukewarm Asahi beer.

Pitching a tent was tricky, fallen branches covered part of the tent site and ants were out in force.

On Sunday I started back at 7am and made Beraking two-and-a-half hours later. I was sweating buckets. I didn't know it, but the temperature would rise to nearly 37C.

By the time I'd crossed the Darkin River and stopped for a rest in the shade of the derelict concrete water tank, with still 7km to go, I was nearly out of water. The next three hours were tough going. I had to rest every 1000m and I was dehydrating.

Second mistake: whenever I checked FarOut I focused on the distance from the Mt Dale picnic area, not the location, and I strayed from the Track.

Eventually I realised I was about half a kilometre from the Track. I was in a steep gully, which I picked my way along, but eventually I accepted it wasn't going to head in the right direction.

Then I made my final mistake. In my parched, heat-addled state I decided to try and bush-bash up the steep hill to get back on the Track. It was a disaster. After a while I sat down in the shade of a tree, vision blurring, and wondered what to do next. FarOut showed I was only 400m from the Track, but I wasn't going to make it. I was out of water and energy. I wasn't hurt, so activating my PLB didn't seem called for and I still had a mobile signal.

So, I rang 000, and the professionals took over. A police officer called back and mentioned a helicopter.

"What! Really? I don't know if that's necessary," I said. But POLAIR was already on its way from Jandakot.

An officer got out of the helicopter, came over to me and handed over a bottle of cold water. It had been 60 minutes between my 000 call and POLAIR finding me.

I had a wonderful eight-minute ride in the chopper as it circled Mt Dale and looked for a spot to land near the picnic area and my car.

Once out of POLAIR an officer carried my pack to the car. It had been his first rescue, and he got his colleague to take a photo of us together. I haven't seen the photo, but it no doubt shows a filthy exhausted wild-haired weekend warrior looking chastened and relieved.

There were more police on the ground. "What are you going to do now?" a Sergeant asked.

"I'm going to sit in my car with the air-conditioning on for half-an-hour and drink the water I forgot yesterday," I said.

The Sergeant said he would drive my car home, and his colleague would follow in the paddy wagon.

Three hours after calling 000 I was sitting in the pool with my wife.

What did I learn? Pay attention to the weather forecast. I have a new rule: no hiking if it's going to be more than 30C. No wonder the Bibbulmun Track Foundation recommends people reconsidering an extended summer hike. Anyone can get into difficulty in the bush. If you do, stay calm and don't hesitate to call for help if you think you need it.

David Cohen

*Helping hand ...
They even carried the pack from the helicopter to the car.*



A sight for sore eyes ... POLAIR finds a safe place to hover before rescuing a weekend warrior



Yes, they did it!

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

We're pleased to recognise another batch of end-to-enders and to read about their highs and lows while being on on the Track.

From hysterical laughter while battling gale force winds to falling in love... every walker has a different story to tell.

Congratulations to you all!

General

Planning in advance enabled us to fully enjoy the time on track and be in the moment. This meant months of dehydrating meals and figuring out all the small details like checking opening days and times of visitor centres for collection of resupply boxes and working out our planned daily distances from our average walking pace from years of sectional hikes. I agree with the saying 'hike your own hike', we were able to plan according to what we knew would work for us and we couldn't have been happier walking into Albany after two months living out of a pack. We are so spoilt with such a world class hiking trail in our backyard and I will always be grateful for the opportunity and the experience. Thanks to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation and Volunteers for all the work they do to make this trail so special and unique.

Jason, ATTADALE, WA

If you feel inspired, just go for it. Not all of us are super athletes or have the chance to spend a big chunk of time out in nature when life has us under the pump, but if you can find a way to do it, you will be forever changed by the experience. It's an incredible, free, well-maintained, and scenic track, and I am so grateful we have it in our backyard!

Amanda, COMO, WA

Prepare well, take less food than you think and top up in Track towns, especially fresh fruit, veg and salad (and meat and ice cream!)

Paul, MULLALOO, WA

It was encouraging to see so many ladies walking solo - it shows how safe the track is

Anthony, WALLISTON DC, WA

Tenacity in the tough bits, stop and enjoy the locations, routinely look back at the path you have walked, enjoy the company of other hikers, do random acts of kindness for people on the Track.

Kimber, SANDY BAY, TAS

Food Supplies

Don't be too picky. Food is Food

Timo, BERN, VIC

We dehydrated our food and left supply boxes in the visitor centres before starting our walk so only had to do minimal fresh food shopping in the towns.

Gary, BATEMAN, WA

No issues we made it work if we couldn't find something. Mix of both. Sent food parcels to Info Centres and accommodation.

Debbie, LYNCHS CREEK, NSW

All the visitor info centres were happy to take food resupply boxes. Just about all the general stores had a range of gas and other hiker needs (except for Pemberton I think) but that general store was excellent for the snacks and prices of other things.

Lizzy, Hawthorn East, VIC

The Track towns and visitor centres have everything you might need. Post to yourself only those essentials or unique dietary requirements.

Kimber, SANDY BAY, TAS

Favourite section

Pingerup Plains - surprisingly as it was the section I dreaded most, given the high water levels.

Amanda, COMO, WA

Albany to Walpole. Love and hate relationship with the sand.

Johan Stilund, HOLTE, DENMARK

The section between Northcliffe and Walpole because the terrain profile was pleasant and we could enjoy an unbelievable sunset and sunrise on top of Mount Chance.

Simon, Grospierres, France

Rame Head Campsite to Frankland River Campsite - both ocean and ancient forest close together

Walter, MOUNT BARKER, WA

Mandalay Beach and Golden Valley Tree Park. Lots of emotions at the end of the hike during the last section.

Debbie, LYNCHS CREEK, NSW

Wow that's a very difficult question to answer. And my friends have asked me this too. I stumbled with my answer, but probably Northcliffe to Walpole plus the coast sections. Truthfully, I loved it all. Each section had something different to offer, see and experience!

Carol, MELBOURNE, VIC

Highlights

The exhilaration, descending the 200+ steps into a 100km/hr gale, and being pelted by serious rain and laughing at being helpless to do anything about it!

Micheal, HILLARYS, WA

Getting to share and remember the experience, the ups and downs of two months on track with the most important person in my life. The joy and simplicity of living out of a pack, carrying only what we needed.

Jason, ATTADALE, WA

The constant rain, flooding and falling trees. Being alone for a days and days and then jabbering like a mad man once you finally get to talk to someone. The green tunnel. The vista of the ocean after weeks in the bush. Seeing my family when I got home. Not being a fat bastard once I got home. Meeting a childhood friend randomly at camp I had not seen in 40 years!

Richard, WILLETTON, WA



Lizzy & Gabrielle Gordon

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.

Our CONGRATULATIONS to the following 39 walkers on completing an end-to-end, 18 from WA, 11 from interstate and 10 from other countries.

36 people completed a continuous end-to-end and 3 a sectional.



Name	Track Name	Age	Started	Ended	Direction	From
Alex Anderson	<i>Honey Badger</i>	44	14-Apr-24	28-May-24	Northbound	Auckland, New Zealand
Amanda Gargett	<i>daisyfish</i>	55	28-Aug-19	17-Apr-25	Southbound	Como, WA
Andrew Rose	<i>Andy R</i>	53	30-Apr-25	11-Jun-25	Northbound	Roseville, NSW
Anthony Cole	<i>Ant</i>	66	7-Mar-25	12-May-25	Northbound	Walliston DC, WA
Barry Auchterlonie	<i>Barry</i>	34	31-Mar-25	10-May-25	Southbound	Dumbalk, VIC
Bridie Ritchie	<i>Pins</i>	36	5-Oct-24	15-Nov-24	Southbound	Margaret River, WA
Carol Lingard	<i>Monte Carlo</i>	70	28-Mar-25	22-May-25	Southbound	Melbourne, VIC
Carol Newton-Smith	<i>Wildflower Wanderers</i>	75	19-Jul-23	21-Sep-23	Southbound	Subiaco, WA
Christina Schneider		36	6-Apr-25	19-May-25	Southbound	Edingen-Neckarhausen, Germany
David Zimmermann		56	16-Sep-24	1-Jun-25	Southbound	Nudgee, QLD
Dawn Wooler		60	15-Apr-25	17-May-25	Both	West Busselton, WA
Debbie McQueen		60	13-Apr-25	1-Jun-25	Northbound	Lynchs Creek, NSW
Dor Sousana	<i>Dor S</i>	30	1-Apr-25	28-May-25	Northbound	Ashkelon, Israel
Duncan Scott	<i>Duncan</i>	68	31-Mar-01	8-Apr-25	Southbound	Bunbury, WA
Garry Sullivan	<i>Take 2 - Michelle and Garry</i>	69	4-Apr-25	31-May-25	Southbound	Bateman, WA
Geoff Oehme	<i>Geoff O</i>	62	18-Jul-22	30-Apr-25	Both	Hillarys, WA
Helen Steadson	<i>Huff n Puff</i>	55	16-Aug-19	13-Sep-23	Southbound	Springwood, QLD
Jamie Davison		39	30-May-20	8-Mar-23	Southbound	Sorrento, WA
Jason Winterbottom	<i>JMW2</i>	49	3-May-24	1-Jul-24	Southbound	Attadale, WA
Jen Banks	<i>Gear Rat</i>	47	8-May-22	25-Apr-25	Southbound	Seville Grove, WA
Johan Stilund Hansen		21	18-Mar-25	26-Apr-25	Northbound	Holte, Denmark
John Colby	<i>John C</i>	80	20-Aug-24	12-Oct-24	Southbound	Banora Point, NSW
John Taylor	<i>Fish Taylor</i>	64	6-May-25	17-Jun-25	Northbound	Yallingup, WA
Kimber Ellis	<i>Kim Ellis</i>	71	14-Apr-25	6-Jun-25	Southbound	Sandy Bay, TAS
Lizzy Pritchard		21	28-Apr-25	7-Jun-25	Northbound	Hawthorn East, VIC
Michael Kalt	<i>Michael</i>	57	17-Jan-25	6-Mar-25	Northbound	Berlin, Germany
Michael McPhee	<i>West Coast Wombat</i>	73	1-Apr-16	12-Oct-24	Southbound	Hillarys, WA
Nick Weedon		17	1-Nov-24	20-Nov-24	Southbound	Subiaco, WA
Paul Reinhardt		60	23-Sep-24	30-Oct-24	Southbound	Brisbane, QLD
Paul Schaub		58	15-Mar-25	30-Apr-25	Northbound	Mullaloo, WA
Rebecca Scott	<i>Scott & McQueen (Rollardoors)</i>		13-Apr-25	1-Jun-25	Northbound	Kyogle, NSW
Richard Rumsey		54	19-Jul-24	3-Apr-25	Both	Willetton, WA
Rick van Vessem	<i>Zoe & Rick</i>	31	26-Apr-25	15-Jun-25	Northbound	Arnhem, Netherlands
Robert Gillman		68	13-Apr-25	23-May-25	Southbound	Bibra Lake, WA
Simon Dugas		24	29-Mar-25	10-May-25	Southbound	Grospierres, France
Stephan Muelbert	<i>Stephan</i>	43	6-Apr-25	19-May-25	Southbound	Edingen-Neckarhausen, Germany
Timo Loosli		40	16-Mar-25	18-Apr-25	Northbound	Bern, Switzerland
Walter Ramage	<i>Walter</i>	52	7-Apr-25	11-Jun-25	Northbound	Mount Barker, WA
Zoe Stuurman	<i>Zoe & Rick</i>	27	26-Apr-25	15-Jun-25	Northbound	Arnhem, Netherlands

Yes, they did it! (cont'd)

New friends, good solo time and also fell in love with now partner (we met just before I started the Bib and had our third date on the trail when she joined me for a few days hike! I knew then that it was love!)

Birdie, MARGARET RIVER, WA

Special sightings

Very lazy lizards

Barry, DUMBALK, VIC

Lots of Cockatoos (all varieties), wrens, kangaroos, pigs, quenda

Rebecca, KYOGLE, NSW

The red breasted robin was my favourite

Debbie, LYNCHS CREEK, NSW

Lots of snakes down south which I wasn't expecting.

Lizzy, HAWTHORN EAST, VIC

The flock of cockatoos that followed us, the snakes, kangaroos, emus orb spiders, blue wrens, etc, etc.,

Zoe, ARNHEM, NETHERLANDS

13 snakes! A quenda. Some possums and 9 teen emus followed by mom emu.

Rick, ARNHEM, NETHERLANDS

I mostly saw kangaroos, a mob or two of emus, and the odd snake (4) which I think is pretty low for snake numbers. Most other trekkers that I spoke with said they hadn't really seen many snakes either - so we were very lucky. Plus plenty of different types of cockatoos, and other colourful birds too.

Carol, MELBOURNE, VIC

Comparisons with other walks/countries

Outstanding walk through wonderful wilderness. I have done lots of other long-distance walks and the Bibbulmun is tops for wilderness.

Carol, SUBIACO, WA



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!

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WEEKLY EQUIPMENT HIRE PRICES

ITEMS	MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS	BOND
BACKPACK (ADULT)	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$300
BACKPACK (CHILD)	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$150
SLEEPING BAG & LINER	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$170
SLEEPING MAT	\$5.00	\$8.00	\$30
TRANGIA METHO STOVE	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$120
JET BOIL ZIP GAS STOVE	\$40.00	\$45.00	\$150
DEHYDRATOR	\$40.00	N/A	\$280
TENT	\$45.00	\$50.00	\$150
PLB	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$300
PLB (E2E 2 MONTHS)	\$200.00	\$250.00	\$300

All prices include GST and are for one to seven days.
A bond is required prior to hiring equipment

Payment may be made by cash or credit card.
For all enquiries contact the Foundation: Tel: 9481 0551

To book your gear, head to
<https://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/product-category/equipment-hire/>

For me nothing beats Larapinta, but there is something magic about being out for 6+ weeks that the Bib allows. You can really drop into the daily rhythms and drop out of everyday life for a while.

Birdie, MARGARET RIVER, WA

The condition of the track and the community on the track is unique.

Stephan, EDINGEN-NECKARHAUSEN, GERMANY

The length of the journey makes it hard to compare, the facilities are outstanding, accessibility was easy to access, terrain at one end is so different to other with its variety.

Rebecca, KYOGLE, NSW

Hard to do a like for like comparison. I have walked the Heysen Trail, and while it is even more spectacular, it's much harder and with much fewer resources and support. The Bibbulmun is unique, and stands on its own merits and is World's Best standard!

Kimber, SANDY BAY, TAS

Well worth walking the Bibbulmun Track for a completely different experience on so many levels. On the majority of my treks I've walked, there's usually a WOW factor every day, however the Bibbulmun isn't like that, for me some days there was a WOW factor, other days it's ... just more forest. BUT, that is not to say it isn't an amazing trek, it's just different. I loved it. And I would highly recommend anyone considering walking it - TO DO THAT JUST :) I mean, I want to do it again, so that speaks volumes I reckon :)

Carol, MELBOURNE, VIC

Best equipment

Walking poles- they helped me to stagger into camp in the afternoons, stopped me from slipping and falling over many times, and held my tent up!

Richard, WILLETTON, WA

Good quality, warm sleeping gear and decent hiking poles.

Jen, SEVILLE GROVE, WA

That would be my feet. Hike would be tough without them.

Johan Stilund, HOLTE, DENMARK

My Keen hiking boots.

Duncan, BUNBURY, WA

My Sea to Summit Etherlite mattress - comfortable and light.

Anthony, WALLISTON DC, WA

The jet boil is so quick and efficient.

Garry, BATEMAN, WA

Worst Equipment

Poncho

Micheal, HILLARYS, WA

My boots! I regretted been sold my Altra boots. They could not handle the repeated daily usage and resulted in continuous blisters and other foot issues.

Alex, AUCKLAND, New Zealand

My sleeping bag wasn't warm enough and I bought a thermal liner while on the track to keep me warm enough at night.

Helen, SPRINGWOOD, QLD

My squeaky leaking sleep pad.

My poncho during gale force wind events and near constant rain from Albany to Walpole. Should have brought my rain jacket in retrospect.

My bad left knee.

Richard, WILLETTON, WA

My knees.

Paul, BRISBANE, QLD

Non-thermal sleepwear (it was a lot colder sleeping in the shelters in just a sleeping bag than in a tent).

Andrew, ROSEVILLE, NSW

Advice

Do some practice overnight hikes if you can. We eliminated a lot of gear that way.

Carol, SUBIACO, WA

Engage with all your senses and be open-minded and prepared to change your plans, if required.

Helen, SPRINGWOOD, QLD

Don't pack too much, less is more.

Duncan, BUNBURY, WA

Make sure your backpack isn't heavy. Do not forget socks layers. Know how to cure blisters. Have a good pair of shoes. Enjoy the moment. And keep motivated.

Simon, GROSPIERRES, FRANCE

Getting in while the Pingerup Plains are still dry makes it the easiest and most pleasant walking you'll ever do

Barry, DUMBALK, VIC

Definitely take up the offer of using the Foundation for advice, schedules and track info. Check how far accommodation is from town.

Rebecca, KYOGLE, NSW



Zoe & Rick from the Netherlands on the the last day of their End-to-End.

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Calling all End-to-Enders

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!)

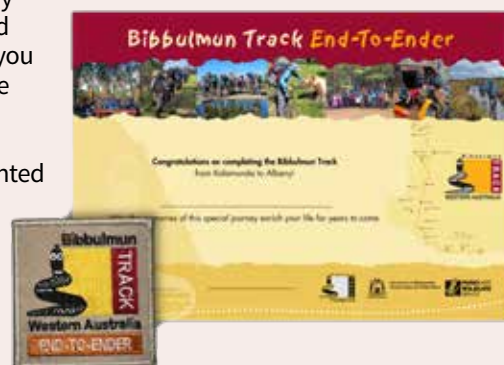
Whether you did it in sections over many years or in one through-hike, you should be proud of your accomplishment and you can commemorate your walk with a free personalised certificate.

You can also choose to buy a quality printed certificate and embroidered end-to-end 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
1849 Backpackers	ALBANY		(08) 9841 1574	1849albany@gmail.com
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
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
Jarrah Forest Lodge & Forest Discovery Centre	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	forestlodgeresort.com.au
Pemberton Discovery Tours	PEMBERTON/NORTHCLIFFE/DONNELLY RIVER		(08) 9776 0484	pembertondiscoverytours.com.au
Treenbrook Cottages	PEMBERTON		97776 1638	treenbrook.com.au/
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

Cape to Cape Explorer Tours	0459 452 038	capetocapetours.com.au
Forest Explorers	0427 981 187	www.forestexplorers.com.au
Inspiration Outdoors	(08) 6219 5164	inspirationoutdoors.com.au
Off The Beaten Track	0417 128 896	offthebeatetrackwa.com.au
Simply Trekking	0427 058 866	simplytrekking.com.au
Natural Perspectives	0434 979 754	naturalperspectivesaustralia.com

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
MUNDARING	Perth Hills Mundaring Visitor Centre	(08) 9290 6645	perthhillsmundaring.com.au
NORTHCLIFFE	Northcliffe Family and Community Centre	(08) 9776 7221	northcliffefamily.org
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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- Cans contain 75% recycled material.
- Cans are part of a closed loop recycling system using critical mineral resources.

Quality

- Cans provide a unique 100% barrier against light, water and air preserving drinks longer.
- 100% efficient by transport, lightweight and unbreakable.

Convenience

- Are perfect when you want a glass and not a bottle.
- There's plastic, on a hike, in a boat, around the pool.
- Have a bulk in glass and cork screw.

Recyclable

- Cans are 100% more efficient to recycle than bottles.
- 70% of all aluminium ever produced in the world is still in use today.
- Infinitely recyclable.

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Paddy Pallin
SINCE 1930

The 2025 Bibbulmun Track Use Survey is underway and BTF volunteers are making a significant contribution.

The short survey – completed online – aims to better understand how people use the Track, what they value

most, and how it contributes to their physical, social, and mental wellbeing. Insights gained will help to guide future planning, improve Track management, and support funding for ongoing maintenance and enhancements.

Although we're promoting it strongly through the usual channels, there will be Track users who are not engaged with our digital platforms, or are using the Track on a more incidental or casual basis.

For these situations, we have a coordinated program of volunteers out on the Track, to intercept walkers and tell them about the survey. They can complete it there and then, or later at their convenience.



Helen Grimm

Volunteers can pick their location and date, to spend a half or full day at a convenient predetermined location.

We welcome further help with Trackside survey engagement – to find out how you can become involved, contact Volunteer Manager Helen Grimm (volunteer@bibbulmuntrack.org.au).

Helen Grimm
Volunteer Manager



Volunteers Meg and Gill start their survey session on a chilly morning near Mundering Weir



Waste Not, Want Not

In July, Support Volunteers revisited childhood memories of Meccano sets as they spent three days near Harvey-Quindanning Road dismantling two kit-bridges from an old alignment of the Track. A big thank you to the Wellington District Staff who provided invaluable support to our Maintenance volunteers.

Demonstrating their trademark tenacity and commitment, the volunteers managed to complete two days' worth of work in a single, long day. They then devoted an additional day to maintaining the new section of the Track, which was opened earlier this year just north of Harvey-Quindanning Road.

Looking ahead, one of the dismantled bridges will be reinstalled across a small creek south of Collie-Preston Road in late October, with the skilled Support Volunteer team leading the effort.

Well done to the team for their hard work and ongoing dedication to preserving and enhancing the Track!



The Bridge Team: Hedley, Ross, Lari, Margot, Gordon, Rob and Mark taking the photo.



Securing the Future of the Bibbulmun Track: A Shared Vision

In 2017, the Bibbulmun Track Foundation (BTF) initiated a pivotal Vision Survey and collaborative workshop to shape the future of the Bibbulmun Track.

Walkers and volunteers were invited to share their insights on two key areas: the ongoing development of the Foundation as an organisation, and the physical evolution of the Track itself. This article focuses on the latter.

Building on the survey results, the workshop aimed to create a shared vision for the Track's future. Discussions centred around Track capacity and infrastructure preferences, including potential realignments, bridge designs, and enhancements to campsite layouts and shelter design. Participants were also asked to define the core character and identity of the Track that must be preserved. The five most valued attributes identified through the survey were:

- The natural wilderness experience
- Physical and mental challenge
- Solitude
- Simplicity
- Track facilities

Why Vision Matters

Some may question the need for a long-term vision when the Bibbulmun Track is already regarded as a world-class trail. However, its continued success depends on thoughtful planning and future-focused stewardship to maintain the Track's integrity and ensure its sustainability. The collective input from the Vision Survey and Workshop provided Parks and Wildlife Service and the BTF with a solid foundation for planning and decision-making.

Putting It into Action

The Vision Survey and workshop informed a series of strategic upgrades and actions. The purpose of this article is to update you on the progress so far.

Track Realignments

To date, 16 sections have been moved away from badly eroded or 4WD roads to more scenic and environmentally sensitive routes. Additionally, a formal route across the sandbar and Nullaki Peninsula was completed in 2023. It is noted that this still does not address the challenge of a crossing when the inlet is open, and that a reliable boat service would be the optimal solution.

Campsite Upgrades

Overcrowding during peak season was identified as a growing issue. Plans to address this included extending shelter verandas to allow for more bunks, installing extra water tanks, and creating additional tent sites. To date, 12 smaller

campsites have been upgraded, and the shelter at Helena Campsite, which was lost to bushfire, was replaced in 2019 with a much larger rammed earth design.

Group campsites have also been constructed near the Mt Cooke and Monadnocks campsites. Other minor improvements include the addition of more hooks, better weather protection at select campsites, new noticeboards, and improved signage.

Loop Trails

To increase opportunities for overnight hikes without backtracking, several loop trails were identified. The following have been completed:

- The Mt Dale Circuit has been incorporated into the Track
- The Wilman Bilya five-day loop around Wellington Dam (incorporating the Wellington Spur)
- The Nyingarn Bidi trail in Dwellingup, which connects Swamp Oak and Chadoola campsites to form a three-day loop from Dwellingup
- Two new loop trails near Walpole and the Valley of the Giants are currently in development

Erosion Control

Extensive work has been carried out on sections of the Track affected by erosion, particularly along the south coast, where 17km have been remediated in recent years. Volunteers have laid track pads, installed water bars and steps, and stabilised and repaired the trail surface. In addition, coir mesh has been used to reinforce sand banks beside the trail, helping to stabilise the fragile dune systems and encourage vital vegetation regrowth.

This program of trail restoration is scheduled to continue in 2026, subject to a successful Community Stewardship Grant application. A further 13km of Track between Mandalay and Lost Beaches has been identified as a priority for remediation.

Bridges

Due to government regulations, previously simple timber structures lost to bushfire were being replaced by steel structures with handrails. While the change in material is understandable, walkers were concerned that this type of installation was not in keeping with the wilderness nature of the Track. Recently BTF volunteers have 'rescued' three bridges from a closed section of Track to repurpose elsewhere along the Track.

Unauthorised Use & Trail Etiquette

Mountain bike usage has decreased due to the development of world-class MTB networks across WA. However,

unauthorised access by 4WDs and trail bikes remains an issue—particularly as campsites have become easier to locate via Google Maps. While gates have been installed at many sites, they're not always effective as vehicles often driven around them. The BTF continues to advocate for more sanctioned trails for trail bike users and for stronger enforcement of penalties.

Interpretive Content

Participants expressed a strong interest in educational materials about flora, fauna, and cultural heritage. The preferred delivery method was physical resources at campsite register boxes. Interpretation materials now include a Noongar culture interpretation booklet, as well as flora and fauna factsheets.

Other Improvements

Additional works include the refurbishment of canoe sheds and installation of a ramp at Irwin Inlet, replacement of numerous sets of steps, refurbishment of sheds at Donnelly River Village, and preservation works on the River Road Bridge—the last remaining timber trestle bridge on the Track and an important piece of WA's heritage.

Ongoing maintenance also continues, with shelters oiled, gutters repaired, signage reinstalled after bushfires, and countless other tasks undertaken regularly by our dedicated volunteers.

Looking Ahead

Importantly, these upgrades are designed to preserve—not diminish—the challenge and spirit of the trail. As the Vision Statement outlines:

"Trail design should reflect a concern for safety without detracting from the opportunity for hikers to access natural areas by their own unaided efforts, and without sacrificing aspects of the trail which may challenge their skill and stamina. Attempts to provide protection for the unprepared lead to a progressive diminution of the experience available to others."

While safety is always a consideration, responsibility ultimately lies with each individual walker.

The BTF extends its sincere thanks to all who contributed to the visioning process, and to the Parks and Wildlife staff and BTF staff and volunteers who continue to plan, coordinate and carry out this important work. Through this enormous group effort, we aim to ensure that the Bibbulmun Track continues to offer a world-class walking experience for generations to come.

The full Vision Statement for the Track can be found here: bibbulmuntrack.org.au/get-involved/about-the-foundation/

"It Made Me Feel More Connected": Lou from Team Booknboot Reflects on the 2025 Bibbulmun Virtual Hike Challenge

The Bibbulmun Track Virtual Hike Challenge continues to inspire and connect walkers from across Australia — even those hundreds of kilometres from the Track itself. We caught up with Lou, one-third of "Team Booknboot," who, alongside her brother and sister-in-law, completed the 1,000km challenge in just 31 days, earning them a surprise third place finish.

A Dream Deferred — For Now

For Lou, based in Canberra, the Bibbulmun Track has long held a place in her heart — even if the full end-to-end hike has eluded her so far.

"It has long been a dream of mine to undertake the Bibbulmun end-to-end," she shared. "Plans were thwarted several years running due to bushfire. But I've since changed jobs and am busy planning the logistics of a spring 2027 or autumn 2028 hike."

Even though life circumstances have delayed her on-track experience, the virtual hike offered a meaningful way to begin the journey — step by step.

Walking Through the Cold — and the Magic

As a shift worker in Canberra, Lou's challenge was as much about consistency and motivation as it was about distance.

"This challenge got me back to walking a minimum of 10,000 steps a day. And let me tell you, as a shift worker in Canberra this was no mean feat."

She recalled a particularly chilly milestone:

"June saw the coldest month of morning minimums on record since 1984. To get my 10,000 steps on a 12-hour night shift, I often had to go out in -5.2° (feels like -8.6°) temperatures at 3am."

But out of the cold came unexpected moments of beauty.

"I truly believe I saw a beautiful side to Canberra that most people don't get to see: that moment when fog turns to frost, right before your eyes. Magical!"

Together, From Afar

The challenge also brought Lou closer to family — even if they were on the other side of Bass Strait.

"I was doing the virtual challenge with my brother and sister-in-law, who are both also mad keen hikers, and it gave us so many great moments to connect from a distance (they are both in Tasmania)."

They found camaraderie and connection in working toward a shared goal, celebrating milestones and cheering one another on.

"We loved that our efforts were combined to achieve the goal as a team. That was a great initiative. I don't think any of us realised how competitive we would become!"



Team Booknboot (plus cousin John) during the three capes hike a couple of years ago. Left to right: Lou (booknboot), John (not in the challenge), Juzzie and Steve.

Big Steps, Big Surprise

Despite the team's impressive third-place finish, Lou admits she wasn't expecting it.

"I personally set out just hoping we would finish the challenge in the allocated timeframe. None of us saw that coming!"

The effort paid off: *"We are just so proud of ourselves to have walked 1000kms in 31 days," she wrote. "It has improved my fitness, it has made me feel more connected — to people and to environment — and it has made doing the Track in person a priority for me once more."*

Looking Ahead

While the virtual hike may have ended, the motivation it sparked continues.

"We are all motivated to find something similar now that [we have completed the challenge] — to keep us motivated and connected."

And as for the next challenge?

"We can't wait to do the virtual challenge if it is offered again — as well as the real one within the next couple of years."

Thanks again to Lou, Juz and Steve of Team Booknboot — and to all 189 participants who took on the 2025 Bibbulmun Track Virtual Hike Challenge.

Whether you walked in winter fog, city streets or coastal sunshine, your steps brought you closer to the Track — and to each other.



TRACK TOWN - ALBANY

Gateway to the Bibbulmun Track and So Much More.

Set on the rugged south coast of Western Australia, the city of Albany is the southern terminus of the iconic Bibbulmun Track.

Albany/Kinjarling is the oldest European settlement in Western Australia, colonised in 1826—three years before the Swan River Colony. As such, it is steeped in history while also boasting an abundance of natural attractions, drawing visitors from around the world to this diverse region.

While Albany offers a wealth of historical insights, one of its most significant legacies is its connection to the ANZAC story.

In 1914, several convoys carrying ANZAC troops to Gallipoli and the Western Front assembled in King George Sound. For many, Albany's islands, rugged cliffs and brilliant white beaches were their last glimpse of Australia.

The very first dawn service was held here on Mt Clarence, and

this poignant tradition continues to this day. The Light Horse Memorial stands proudly atop the mount and is well worth a visit for the panoramic views alone.

Albany is also renowned for its fine food and premium Great Southern cool-climate wines. If your stay falls over a weekend, don't miss the weekly Farmers and Boatshed Markets. A fine selection of seasonal fruit and vegetables, fish, meats, dairy products and seafood is available—this is where you'll find the locals on a Saturday or Sunday morning. Albany prides itself on a 'paddock to plate' philosophy, allowing you to buy produce directly from the growers and fishers themselves. You won't find anything fresher than hand-picked vegetables or fish caught that very morning.

From June to November, Albany transforms into a haven for wildflower enthusiasts and whale watchers. The peak months of September and October offer a spectacular display. Western Australia is world-famous for its wildflowers, with more than half of the state's 10,000 plant species occurring naturally throughout the South West.

Albany is a gateway to some of the best wildflower areas in the country, including the Stirling Range National Park—home to 87 endemic plant species found nowhere else on Earth. Nearby, the Porongurup Ranges, one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world at over 1,000 million years old, feature over 700 species of flowering plants and 78 bird species. Wildflowers typically bloom from August through November, making these ranges perfect for a day trip.

Closer to town, there are several local walks where wildflowers bloom in season—most offering breathtaking views over Albany and its spectacular coastline.

From colonisation through to the late 1970s, whaling was Albany's primary industry. Its deep natural harbour served as a safe haven for sealing and whaling vessels operating in the wild Southern Ocean. Today, however, whales have returned to Albany's waters, using them as a refuge before their long journey to Antarctica.

From June to October, visitors can witness the awe-inspiring sight of Humpbacks and the endangered Southern Right Whales, often seen frolicking with their young. These majestic creatures come close enough to be seen from scenic lookouts and coastal trails around Albany.

Albany truly offers something for everyone—whether you're a history buff, an adventure seeker, a food and wine lover, or simply after a relaxing spot to rest your feet after a long trek.

Albany/Kinjarling celebrates its bicentenary in 2026, with a year-long calendar of events planned.

Visit: albany2026.com.au/events for details.

Happy trekking from Albany!

Albany Visitor Centre

221 York Street,
Albany WA 6330

Open 9am – 4pm, 7 days a week (closed Christmas Day).

amazingalbany.com.au

(08) 6820 3700

The Bold Head Trail is a spectacular day walk in Albany. Photo by Linda Daniels



Naturalist on the Bibbulmun

The emergence of conspicuous yellow flowers, including acacia and yellow buttercups, signal the arrival of djilba. Kambarang, is just around the corner. These seasons, of conception and birth, offer unparalleled opportunities to experience the biodiversity of the southwest, and where better to do so than along the Bibbulmun Track.

This is the time when male birds start to develop their extravagant plumage and set their minds to courtship and mating. The bush is alive with song, as males defend their territories from rivals, and attract females to inspect their fine feathers and the opportunities for nesting that their territories have to offer. It is the time when sexual selection filters out the finest and fairest of them all, the process that is responsible for the evolution of what we recognise as the beauty in birds.

Arguably the fairest of them all is our Splendid fairywren, *Malurus splendens*, the djer-djer. He stands out like a beacon in the undergrowth, deep electric blue with a sky-blue crown, cobalt throat, black chest band and dazzling pale blue cheeks. These exquisite feathers develop throughout djilba, turning what was a pale brown bird into a veritable bobby-dazzler. And the male that can change into

his blues sooner will be greatly admired by the females when it comes to breeding during kambarang.

Fairywrens are what we call cooperative breeders. They live in groups of 4-8 birds, typically most birds in the group are females and juveniles, pale brown with the faintest of light blue tails. Only one or rarely two blue males live in the group. The dominant male and female are the breeders, and the rest of the group will forage collectively and share in the feeding of young. Helpers are often offspring from the previous year who are helping raise their siblings before heading out into the big wide world in search of their own group. Happy families? Not quite, for fairywrens have the highest rates of extra-pair paternity of any bird. Genetic studies have found that more than 50-60% of young are fathered by a male from outside the group. And behavioural studies have revealed how males embark on early morning philandering trips to neighbouring and more distant territories in search of breeding opportunities.

As if their electric blue feathers were not enough to convince the discerning female, males fly through a female's territory with his body held vertical to the ground, rather than horizontal as in normal flight, in so a called "seahorse display". And often he will carry in his beak a purple or pink flower petal. The male with the most dazzling display will mate with the female, passing on his dazzling looks to his future offspring.

The philandering of male fairywrens imposes a second form a sexual selection on males that has led to the evolution of a perhaps less well appreciated aspect of their biology. Because female fairywrens mate both with the dominant male in their group and with any number of attractive visitors, the sperm of many males compete to fertilize one or more of the 3-4 eggs she will lay. Fatherhood is rather like winning a lottery, the more tickets a male has the greater his chance of being the father. Multiple mating by female fairywrens has thereby led to the evolution of extreme male



investment in sperm production, with male Splendid fairywrens having the largest testes relative to body size of all bird species. Beneath that electric blue exterior, some 6% of a male's body mass is devoted to the production of up to 600 million sperm that will be deployed in the hope of fertilizing at least some of the 3-4 eggs the female will lay.

Splendid fairywrens have a widespread distribution. You stand as good a chance of seeing them in Piesse Brook as you do on the coastal heaths between Walpole and Albany. Two other species are equally common, the variegated fairywren in the northern Jarrah forests and the red-winged fairywren in the southern Karri and Tingle forests. While these two species are similar in their appearance, their distributions do not overlap. And then there is a chance of seeing the other 376 species of birds, many endemic, that breed in our corner of WA.

Leigh W. Simmons



A male Splendid fairywren in full breeding plumage

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

All royalties are donated to the Track.

Campsite Visits by Day Walkers

Across all campsites, more than half (51%) of the registered walks on the Track are for only one day. Given that many popular day walks don't include a campsite, and that many day walkers don't think they need to register in the logbook, the real percentage would be considerably higher. Indeed, past Track surveys showed that over 70% of the walks on the Track each year are day walks.

The tables below show which campsites have the highest percentage of visitation by day walkers and which have the lowest. I have omitted the Group Campsites and the Visitor Information Centres from this analysis.

Dr Barry Bastow

Most Number of Day Walkers

Campsite	%
Hewett's Hill	80%
Torbay	64%
Ball Creek	64%
Brookton	64%
Mt Cooke	63%
Monadnocks	63%
Sandpatch	62%
Swamp Oak	61%
Mutton Bird	59%
William Bay	58%
Beedelup	58%

Least Number of Day Walkers

Campsite	%
Mt Wells	12%
Waalegh	13%
White Horse Hills	15%
Schafer	22%
Gardner	22%
Yourdamung	23%
Donnelly River Village	23%
Boat Harbour	24%
Warren	24%
Beraking	25%
Long Point	25%

PHOTO CAPTION COMPETITION

Send us a caption!

Steve being Famous -

Photo by – Mark Pybus.

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

Email to:

friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au
or by post.



Send us your caption!

Bibb Birds - Nankeen Kestrel

(mardiyet; *Falco cenchroides*)

Most visible along the Track's coastal sections the Nankeen Kestrel, mardiyet¹ can also be seen along roadsides in rural areas perched ready to pounce, on fence posts and exposed branches.

Australia's smallest raptor, its predominant brownish plumage colour is named after nankeen, a very durable cloth originating in Nanjing, China. The underside of its body and flat pointed wings are pale. Like some other raptors the female is larger than the male. She has a brownish head and tail while the male has a grey cap and grey underbarred tail. Both have very visible yellow feet.

In the open it is most often seen flying with distinctive shallow, beats, soaring and gliding in a horizontal posture before hovering then diving head-first on partly closed wings.

Nankeen Kestrel, *Falco cenchroides*, can be seen singly or in pairs. I have been fortunate to observe three juveniles, siblings, practising aerial antics, crucial for hunting and survival.

Mark Davidson

¹ Naturalist On The Bibbulmun, Leigh W. Simmons.

² Graham Chapman.

Nankeen Kestrel. Photo by Mark Davidson.



Notice board

FOR SALE

JETBOIL FLASH COOKING SYSTEM

An excellent system for serious hikers, fast and efficient, comes with a canister stabiliser and pot support. Purchased just over 3 years ago but is unused. Selling for \$85.

Contact: Fiona
0420 934 421
Email: noblefiona43@gmail.com

SPOT GEN3 SATELLITE GPS MESSENGER EMERGENCY BEACON

Only used a few times. In an emergency, the SPOT Gen3 has an S.O.S. function. There is a check in function, friends and family able to track waypoints in near real time. There is a help feature for a non-life-threatening situation. Requires a paid subscription for service. See BTF website for details. Selling for \$200.

Contact: Steve
events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

KATHMANDU 70L WOMEN'S FIT C3 ADAPT BACKPACK

New condition. Polyester/Nylon, blue with yellow lining (2.7kg). Not suitable for hiking, could be used as a travel bag. Selling for \$50.00 o.n.o.

Contact: Rosie
0894 810 551
friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

ZAMBERLAN VIOZ GTX HIKE BOOTS SIZE 44(9 1/2)

Waterproof full grain leather, breathable, GorTex, solid sturdy, Vibran sole boots VGC
Selling for \$100.

Contact: Gary - 0427 400 264
Email: garyc@nhe.net.au

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 but very tough.

\$22 per metre for BTF members.
\$27 per metre for non-members.
For more information about this product see the notice on our website.

Contact: Steve - (08) 94810551
events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Fellowship & Hospitality for walkers

Would you like someone 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:
www.kalamundaanglicans.org.au/bibbulmun/

or scan this QR code:



WANTED

FOOD DROP HELP TO BROOKTON HWY

Our family (2 plus two kids 9 and 13) will be hiking the track North to South starting at the end of August. I would like to leave a food drop at or near the intersection of the track and the Brookton Hwy to save us carrying 16 days' worth of food on the first leg. Does anyone know who could help out? Thanks in advance.

Contact: Jordan
0410 199 131
Email: jordaxoneill@gmail.com

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

Find out more on our website.

CHANGED ADDRESS?

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

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

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

HIKE HIRE hire gear for your next adventure

FULL PACKS FROM \$130 PER WEEK OR JUST HIRE THE GEAR YOU NEED

Hiking Pack, Tent, sleeping mat, sleeping bag & liner, Dry bag, Water bottles, Hiking poles, Cooking set, Bowl & cutlery, Jet-Boil or stove, Rechargeable torch, Powerbank and Gaiters

PLB & Pro Gear upgrades available

CHECK WEBSITE FOR DETAILS
hikehire.au sales@hikehire.au

Prize WINNERS!

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

February
Jo Blacker

March
Ada Guglielmino
and Giorgio Balzarro

April
Matthew Richards

May
Tracy O'Brien

Thanks to Sea to Summit
for the prizes.



Favourite Short Walk

Mt Clare Summit Trail

Starting:

Mount Clare carpark, Tinglewood Rd, 9km from Walpole

Distance: **2.4km return**

Difficulty: **Grade 2**

Time: **1-2 hours**

This scenic section of the Track leads you uphill through magnificent tingle and karri forest to the summit of Mount Clare. The trail is steep in places but once you reach the top, you'll be rewarded with incredible views of the Southern Ocean and Walpole Wilderness. Along the trail, see who can be the first to spot the teapot-shaped tingle tree!

This walk is from the Trees to Southern Seas itinerary, which features family-friendly walks and lots of other activities from Walpole to Albany. It also offers tips on what to take and where to stay.



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

PHOTO COMPETITION WINNER

This group was snapped by Mary Larkin on her property in Balingup, where the Track meanders along the Blackwood River.

Thank you to all who submitted captions, your creativity and humour make every edition brighter!

Let's look at the inspiring captions including:

"Stop, stop, stop! We need to go baaa-ck. We need to go baa-ck!"
Lindsay Baxter

"Lambs to the slaughter that is known as Cardiac Hill"
Esther Ward

"A classic case of Ovine Waugalosis"
Clifton Parry

And the Winner is

Congratulations to Jeanette for her winning caption that had us all laughing out loud.

"Is he seriously taking us all the way to Woolbales?"

Nice work Jeanette, a prize is in the post!



Upcoming Events

For a full description of each event and to make a booking head to bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Bibbulmun For Beginners

The perfect introduction to overnight bushwalking, discover the tranquillity of the bush as you explore a relatively easy section of the Bibbulmun Track. We walk approximately 8km each day and camp out under canvas at a typical Bibbulmun Track campsite. Our experienced and friendly guides will teach you all you need to know about walking and camping and give you the confidence you need to venture out on your own. Hire gear available at no extra cost on this overnight Trek.

Date: Sat 23rd and Sun 24th August
Where: East of Armadale
Rating: Beginners
Cost: Members \$175

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: Wed 27th August at 6pm
Where: West Leederville
Cost: Members \$45

Walking with Mum or 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 Mum or Dad and Walking with Mum weekends have been thoughtfully considered so they are enjoyed by parents and kids (8-13yrs) alike. Together you will enjoy two walks through the magnificent jarrah forest and camp overnight at a Bibbulmun Track campsite. Here you will learn bush and camping skills from our experienced guides and perhaps enjoy some marshmallows roasted over the fire. These events are guaranteed to be fun, fun, fun with long lasting memories for you all. The perfect opportunity to get outdoors with your kids.

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

With Mum or Dad:
Sat 20th to Sun 21st September.

With Mum: Sat 30th to Sun 31st August.
Where: South east of Armadale

Rating: Beginners
Cost: \$245 Members
(for 1 adult & 1 child)

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 21st September at 8am
Where: Near Mundaring
Rating: Beginners
Cost: Members \$110

Bibbulmun Blossoms

A fabulous day and your new wildflower book is included!

Don't just gawk at them! Come and learn about the many wildflowers in bloom on a guided walk near Kalamunda this spring. Our guides will assist you to identify the flora along the way. A copy of Wildflowers of the Northern Bibbulmun Track and Jarrah Forests is included. A good level of fitness is required. Be quick, places won't last too long.

Date: Sunday 5th October at 8:30am
Where: Near Kalamunda
Rating: Beginners
Cost: \$60 Members



Walkers on our Easter Hike heading to Dwellingup. Photo: L Frewer.

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 5th October at 3:30pm
Where: Near Kalamunda
Rating: Beginners
Cost: Adult members \$10; Kids \$55

Women's One Night Escape

Time for a fun weekend on the Bibbulmun Track. Gain confidence, outdoor skills and new walking friends as you don a backpack for a weekend escape on the Track. We walk 11km on both days, spending Saturday night at the newly rebuilt Helena campsite perched over the stunning Helena valley. Finish the next day with a chance to have a relaxing afternoon at the local pub. Includes experienced guides, comprehensive planning night, trip preparation manual, map and equipment hire. BYO food. Own transport to Mundaring.

When: Sat 18th to Sun 19th October
Where: Monadnocks National Park
Rating: Beginners to Intermediate
Cost: Members \$175

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 19th October
Where: Near Mundaring Weir
Rating: Beginners
Cost: Members \$50

Track Trivia Night!

Thursday 20th November

We are excited to host a Trivia Night this November to raise funds for the Bibbulmun Track Foundation, and we need your support!

We're currently seeking donations for our raffle and silent auction. Whether it's a gift card, merchandise, or a unique experience, your contribution will make a meaningful impact. No donation is too small, and every item donated will help us raise money for the Track!

As a thank you for your generosity, we're pleased to offer:

- ✓ Table flyers featuring your business logo
- ✓ Signage with your logo displayed at the event
- ✓ Social media recognition leading up to and post the event
- ✓ Verbal acknowledgement during the evening
- ✓ A personalized thank you letter and certificate for your records

**Mark this date
in your diary
and look out for
information about
booking a table!**

**If you're interested in supporting our cause,
please contact BTF Marketing Manager, Kelly
Claessen to coordinate your donation.**

Thank you for helping us make a difference —
we couldn't do it without you!

Join the team of volunteers.



We need your help!

- Do you love a good quiz night?
- Do you enjoy organising events?

We are planning a few events for our members this year and would love some help!

Our marketing manager, Kelly, is looking for a couple of volunteers who can help with this year's events and fundraising efforts.

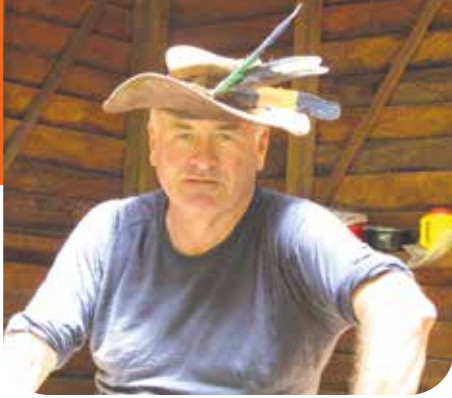
If you have some spare time and can help, we'd love to hear from you!
Please email Kelly at marketing@bibbulmuntrack.org.au or call 9481 0551

Social Sunday walks

WALK RATINGS: 🐣 BEGINNERS 🐣🐣 INTERMEDIATE 🐣🐣🐣 EXPERIENCED

DATE	DETAILS	RATING
31 Aug 9am	16.2km return walk from North Bannister to the Serpentine River via the Gringer Creek Campsite	🐣🐣
7 Sep 8.30am	23.5km return walk from Perth Hills Discovery Centre to Helena Campsite (Fit and experienced walkers only!)	🐣🐣🐣
14 Sep 9am	16.3km return walk from Sullivan Rock to Monadnocks Campsite	🐣🐣🐣
28 Sep 8.30am	21.4km return walk from Mt Dale to Beraking Campsite. (Fit and experienced walkers only!)	🐣🐣🐣
12 Oct 9am	11.5km Mt Cooke circuit walk via Mt Cooke Campsite	🐣🐣
26 Oct 4pm	6.4km return sunset walk from Trails Hub Café to Hewett's Hill Campsite	🐣

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

G'Day, Fellow Track Devotees,

As a further follow-up to my ramblings about nutters who walk up mountains backwards and those who take their wheelbarrows with them to the summit, here is a report about a complete idiot; a 27-year-old university student who climbed Mount Fuji outside the official climbing season when all trails are officially closed and had to be rescued twice in four days. The first time he was rescued by helicopter after he lost his crampons. Whether he forgot where he put them or if they fell off his feet was not made clear in the report. So, what did he do? Two days later he went back up the mountain to find his mobile phone, suffered altitude sickness and had to be rescued again. Further comment would be superfluous.

Which obviously brings me on to the subject of safety on the Bibb Track and the necessity of good navigational skills.

"Oh no!" I hear you say. *"Wrong Way Jim on the subject of navigational skills! Skip the next bit!"* Please don't—I haven't been lost on the Track in weeks. But then, I haven't been on the Track in weeks...

What I want to talk about is Apps. More and more, especially during trip planning

sessions for walkers who are intending to do end-to-ends, I am asked about the various navigational apps that are available for walkers. In days of yore, people navigated by the stars. We tried running a workshop on this, but found it was too difficult during daylight hours in a forest. So, maps were invented and the compass developed to use with them. We do have workshops devoted to this topic in which Steve Sertis, the BTF Events Manager teaches the theoretical and practical aspects of navigation in the bush. See:

<https://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/walk-the-track/events-calendar/get-lost-with-steve-21-sep-2025/>

I was going to run these workshops, but I got lost on the way to the venue for the first one and strangely, my services were no longer sought.

Then came GPS, a wonderful system using orbiting satellites that enables you to find your position almost anywhere on the planet and to determine the direct route to another. Now we have apps; software applications designed to perform specific functions on a device such as a mobile phone. These include navigational apps that provide detailed maps and information about trails, with a GPS function that enables walkers to locate their exact position. Technology is developing exponentially—a fact accepted as the norm by the majority but perhaps with some trepidation by the older generations. I always recall a cartoon I saw in a magazine, where a grandmother is talking to her granddaughter, aged maybe six:

"When I was your age, Lucy, we didn't have an Internet."

The kid looks at her in disbelief.

"But Granny, how did you download your apps?"

But I digress. Apps are here to stay and there are some very good ones available that will provide you with maps of the Track, detailed information about the facilities, the capacity to determine where you are on the Track—or if you have strayed from it—distances, elevations and much more.

If people ask me if they should use an app, then the answer is yes—with certain reservations. I am not making recommendations for any specific app. Use Google to find out what is available. Most will offer a free basic package with payment required for

access to additional data. Importantly please realise none of these are products of the BTF, we take no responsibility for the accuracy of their data.

Apps will not show temporary diversions due to issues such as fires. Other Track changes may not be seen depending on how often the app data is updated.

Apps will work only if your phone is functioning. There is no requirement for mobile service availability but if you lose your phone or if it loses power, you will have nothing. This can happen for several reasons. So, take a means of back-up.

The Foundation always recommends walkers to carry the paper maps of the Track. Not only will this provide a fall back if your phone fails, but the maps also show a wider area of the terrain than is visible on an app, so for example you can see where you are in relation to a major road or a water source.

In addition, carrying some form of emergency device, such as a PLB is strongly recommended, especially for solo walkers. (See the walker story on page 11)

The Track remains as popular as ever and it is very gratifying to see many walkers from out of state and overseas are preparing to come over to tackle end-to-end treks in the spring. Trip planning advice remains one of my favourite parts of volunteering in the BTF office. This service is offered free to members only, either face-to-face in the office or by email, with one of our experienced walkers ready to answer any questions about planning a walk in the bush. Contact the Foundation for further information.

It was also good to discover that a lot of walkers were able to battle the problems of the Track closures in the Pingerup area earlier this year and still complete their walks.

So, stay safe, and enjoy your walking. I am still bemused by the number of folk who are setting off in early winter on an end-to-end walk, with the full realisation of the cold wet weather, the probable flooding they will encounter and the likelihood of storms along the coast! They all have their reasons, but the strangest one I have heard recently was from a lady who told me she only walked in the bush in the winter because she hated flowers! Happy Walking.

Wrong Way Jim



REFLECTIONS FROM THE REGISTERS

DWELLINGUP VISITOR CENTRE:

Walked from Chadoora Campsite at 2am in the dark and the rain with an injured eagle wrapped in my jumper, using a 20-year-old headlamp to find my way. Got here in the end, safe and sound. Took the eagle off to the vet.

Lena Lehtoren 17/09/2008.

Left Chadoora at sparrow's fart,

Knew we needed an early start,

Stopped just once for porridge and tea,

Trees and more trees were all we could see,

Just when we thought we were going insane,

Along the Track came a choo-choo train!

*Red Dog & Chunky Monkey
12/10/2008*

TORBAY:

Another beautiful day. I kept stopping to say hello to the plants. Maybe I've been out here too long.

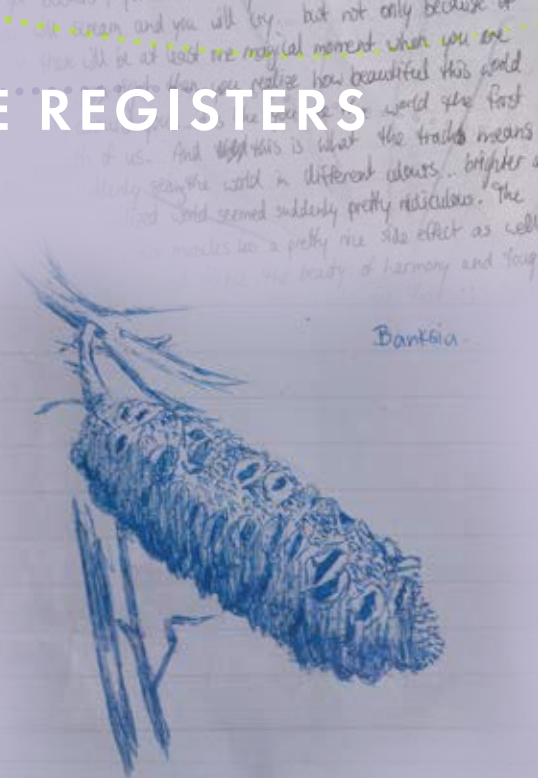
Bilby 18/10/2022

HEWETT'S HILL:

This is my first night on the Bibbulmun Track and I slept at Hewett's Hill and today we went to do Dr. Doolittle and I loved the snake wogle and we got to touch it and it was smooth and nice after that it was getting dark. So we had dinner and we were chating and these lovely people had a didgeridoo and instorments and we got to play with some instorments they were nice also I had some hot chocolate and it was nice and we went to bed the lovely lady done a lollabye it made me slepy it was chily but I was toasty. The next morning I was cold but I had a hot chocolate to warm me up and I am doing the book now so this was so special.

*From Jorja Christofelsz 8 years old
22/04/2023*

*ED note: Dr Doolittle (aka Paws and Claws) is an event organised by the BTF.
See page 26.*



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



Judy, Tingyeh (Guide), Joe and Daphne.

Patagonia

Mountains and Glaciers, Not a Walk in the Park!

Patagonia is the furthest south you can go in South America, an epic landscape shaped by volcanoes and ice. It straddles Chile and Argentina, with the Andes as its spine. It is a dream destination for serious trekkers.

From Perth, we flew to Santiago, then on to the town of El Calafate. From there we continued by road to El Chaltén, a walkers' town on the edge of Los Glaciares National Park, where the windswept plains give rise to the mountains, with Mount FitzRoy visible from the town on a clear day.

The tourist information office provided information about the trails and the National Park Pass is required for access. We had booked a self-contained flat and stayed a week to maximise our chances of getting weather windows for hikes to Laguna los Tres and Laguna Torre.

We set off at 6am on the nine-hour round trip of 20 km. The route was a well-marked, rocky trail that climbed steadily upwards, traversing beech woods and streams to the first viewpoint, where we were treated to fantastic views of a cloud-free Mount FitzRoy. From there, a flat section—by Patagonian standards—allowed us to recover before a final, very steep 400 m ascent over about one kilometre. The severely eroded, rocky climb went up and up, eventually delivering us to the lip, from where we descended to Laguna de los Tres, with the

mighty FitzRoy (3,405 m) towering above. We had lunch, taking in the scene, with caracaras, large predatory birds, perched on the rocks around us. It was too cold to sit for long before the downward journey, which was congested with many people struggling up as well as down!

We got a second weather window on our last day, enabling us to walk to Laguna Torre, an 18 km, seven-hour round trip. This well-marked trail follows the FitzRoy River to the laguna, with panoramic views of Cerro Solo (2,100 m), with the snow sparkling in the sun on its summit, and Cerro Torre (3,000 m).

The town of El Chaltén also offers a multitude of shorter, easier hikes should the weather at altitude confine you to town. It is a well-serviced town, an easy, safe place for the independent traveller.

In February this year, BTF members Leigh and Carol Simmons, their son Freddy and his wife Tasha, took a trip to Patagonia, a spectacularly beautiful area of South America. This is Carol and Leigh's account of their time there:



Ecocamp



From El Chaltén we travelled overland to Ecocamp Patagonia, located in Torres del Paine National Park in Chile, close to the Argentinian border. Our package included travel from Argentina, park fees, accommodation and food, plus a four-day guided walk of the famous “W” trek, as part of a group of 12, including two guides.

(Ed: For a detailed description of the Torres del Paine National Park, go to: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torres_del_Paine_National_Park)

Day one was a relatively easy 12 km, with beautiful views of the Paine’s Horns and over Lake Nordenskjöld, to Refugio Los Cuernos at the base of the middle arm of the “W”.

(Ed: Refugios are Patagonia’s original hiking hostels: simple mountain huts and lodges dotted along Torres del Paine’s most popular hiking routes).

We camped in rooftop-style tents perched on platforms above the ground, and we were comfortably warm thanks to the fleecy sleeping bag liners we had brought along to use with the sleeping bags provided—a must! We carried our daypacks and had a small dry bag transported by porters for our overnight needs.

The following day was more strenuous, with an early start for the 26 km return trek up the French Valley and back. This is a steep trail that leads into the very heart of the Paine Massif. After several hours we reached the Mirador Valle del Francés, with amazing views over the French Glacier, the ice-covered rock wall on the other side of the valley, and behind us Paine Grande and Los Cuernos. Time for a rest, experiencing the frequent, thunderous sound of avalanches, while scanning for the cascading snow. Then onward and upwards to Mirador Británico, a low rise in a cirque, with a 360-degree view of

the surrounding 2,000 m peaks. With the weather closing in, we quickly headed back down the valley and out along the base of the ranges to Refugio Paine Grande, arriving just ahead of the rain, where our tents were set up on ground platforms. The food was generally mediocre at the refugios, but the hot showers and the roaring fire in the bar area helped ease our tired and sore bodies after a long and arduous day.

Day three took us up the western arm of the “W” to Glacier Grey, an 11 km hike. The viewpoint overlooking Grey Lake provided an amazing vista. We did not linger long, however, as the spot was exposed and there was a ferocious, icy wind. There was some concern that it might be too windy for our boat pick-up from Refugio Grey, and that we would have to return on foot. Fortunately, the boat arrived, and we cruised along the face of the glacier before a short journey down Grey Lake to disembark at a gravel spit. It was only a kilometre along the gravel, but the crosswind remained ferocious, which, coupled with the unstable surface, made it the hardest part of the day’s walk by far. We were all relieved to get into the coach, which took us back to the luxury of Ecocamp, with magnificent views of the ranges we had walked over the previous three days.

The final day dawned clear and cold, and we made an early start for the last part of the trip, “The Towers” walk, a return hike of 22 km. We had a great view of the Towers in the sunrise before setting off and heading west from Ecocamp along the face of the ranges, until turning into the eastern arm of the “W”. We climbed steadily for a couple of hours, through scrubland, until we came to a river valley—a bit of downhill! On the other side, we continued to go up through beautiful open beech forest to the steep climb over and among large boulders to the Mirador Las Torres Base. We were fortunate to be there before the crowds and able to see the Towers relatively cloud-free. The return hike was mostly downhill but tricky and slow-going at times. Arriving back mid-afternoon, we could relax, with the “W” completed.

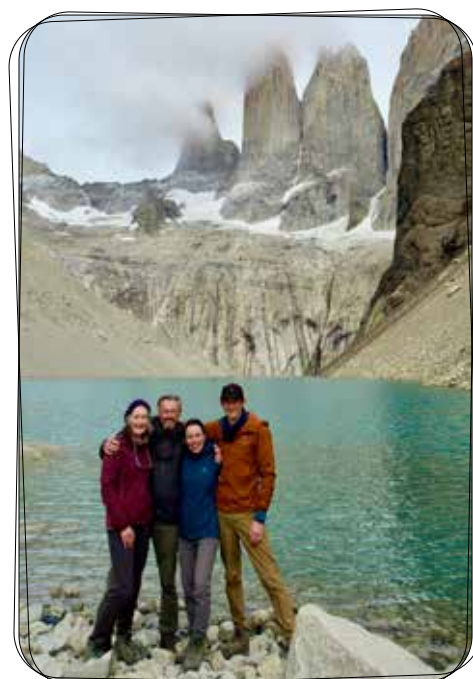
To sum up, this was a fantastic trip. The snow, ice and mountainous terrain are such a novelty for those of us used to hiking in WA! We saw some interesting wildlife along the way—many birds, including several species of caracara, condors soaring on the thermals, and our favourite, a torrent duck throwing itself into the rapids time and again. Also hares in the early mornings, grey foxes, and even a puma.



Freddy and Tasha on the way up

Our “W” trek was an organised hike via Ecocamp, but walks in the Torres del Paine National Park can be made independently, and we met many walkers doing just that, both walking the “W” and the longer, wilder “O” that circumnavigates the entire range. However, don’t underestimate Torres del Paine—it is a spectacular but unforgiving landscape; you wouldn’t want to get caught without shelter, so booking refugios in advance is essential. Good quality hiking boots, poles, a thick puffer jacket and windproof wet weather gear are an absolute must.

Carol and Leigh Simmons



Simmons family at Las Torres Base, Torres del Paine – made it!

Mundaring Weir Hotel

Heritage listed hotel set in beautiful gardens – and a popular watering hole for Bibbulmun Track walkers. The Hotel has unit-style accommodation all with ensuites, linen, tea & coffee making facilities, small fridge, microwave, TV/DVD, reverse cycle air con and open fires with wood supplied (in season). Free wifi and EFTPOS facilities are available. Each unit sleeps up to 4 guests in double bed and bunks, or twin beds and bunks.

Contact Details

Telephone: (08) 9295 1106

Email: info@mundaringweirhotel.com.au



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BIBBULMUN TRACK FOUNDATION

Unit 3, 62 Ord Street, West Perth

T: (08) 9481 0551

E: friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

A/Executive Director
Office Manager
Volunteer Manager
Marketing Manager
Events Manager
Maintenance Manager
Bibbulmun News Editors

Andrew Chiswell
Rosie Truong
Helen Grimm
Kelly Claessen
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