

Bibbulmun NEWS

AUG'17 - DEC'17
ISSUE # 75
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Newsletter for the friends of the Bibbulmun Track

NEW BRIDGE OPENS IN TIME FOR WINTER



The bridge spans 92 metres and is 50cm above the 100 year flood level.

We are delighted to announce that the new bridge across the Murray River and the related Bibbulmun Track realignment are now open.

The bridge was completed at the beginning of July, just before the winter river water level rose, which would have made the Bibbulmun Track impassable at the diversion crossing point. It replaces the historic timber trestle Long Gully Bridge in Lane Poole Reserve which was destroyed in the 2015 Boddington bushfire.

The new state-of-the-art bridge, built several kilometres downstream of the old bridge site, has been named the *Bilya Djena Bidi* (pronounced beel-ya jenabidi) by the Gnaala Karla Booja traditional owners. The name means a swinging river foot-bridge.

With an overall length of 92m and 82m between the towers, the design includes two 12m towers that hold the bridge deck six meters above the summer river level. This enables Bibbulmun Track hikers to safely cross the Murray River all year around, while providing a unique feature on the Track.

The design and the materials allow the bridge to blend into the surrounding environment. Weathering, a form of rusting steel, was used for the main part of the structure, including the towers and hangers. All materials offer a high degree of fire resistance and will require minimal maintenance.

BTF volunteers installed the Track realignment and new signage. Some further work is still required to rehabilitate the site; unfortunately this is being hampered by bad weather.

The total cost of the project was close to \$850,000 including around \$125,000 of in-kind contributions from contractors, volunteers and Parks and Wildlife Service staff.

We are very grateful to the individuals and organisations that contributed. \$100,000 was contributed by the Bibbulmun Track Foundation. These funds were raised by members and friends through donations and raffles—originally for the restoration of Long Gully Bridge and then, sadly, for its replacement.

Other funding came from the Parks and Wildlife Service at the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions; Peel Development Commission and Alcoa Australia with support from engineering company BG&E Pty Ltd who developed the concept design free of charge.



Bilya Djena Bidi opens just in time for winter.



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Honorary Life Membership – Jim Sharp



On behalf of the Board, the staff and the volunteers of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation I am pleased to announce that we have bestowed the first Honorary Life Membership on Jim Sharp, who is retiring from the Board this month.

Jim has been a Board member since its creation in 1997 as a representative of the government department responsible for the Bibbulmun Track, firstly representing CALM, then DEC and finally Parks and Wildlife.

Having the Director General of Parks and Wildlife on our Board has given the Bibbulmun Track Foundation access to the highest levels of government and has ensured that our concerns and our advocacy have been taken seriously.

Jim's energy, vitality and enthusiasm for the Track and the Foundation have been highly instrumental in our success. Through his leadership the Department has partnered with the Foundation to create one of the best managed, highest quality walking trails in the world, with Government and community working side-by-side towards a common goal.

The Life Membership Award acknowledges that Jim's efforts, work and knowledge have had a significant impact on the Bibbulmun Track. From the Building a Better Bibbulmun Track project until the present day he will leave a lasting legacy.

Congratulations Jim! We look forward to your continued connection with the Foundation and the Track for many years to come.

Mike Wood
BTF Chair

Walk into luxury NEW BIBBULMUN TRACK TOUR

Walk into Luxury has been operating Cape to Cape Track tours for two years and is thrilled to announce their expansion into the Bibbulmun Track and Great Southern region.

The four day *Bibbulmun Walk – Albany and Denmark Icons* tour showcases three National Parks – Torndirrup, West Cape Howe and Williams Bay – plus the must-see sights of Greens Pool, King George Sound, the Gap, the award-winning Denmark wine region, and the National Anzac Centre in Albany.

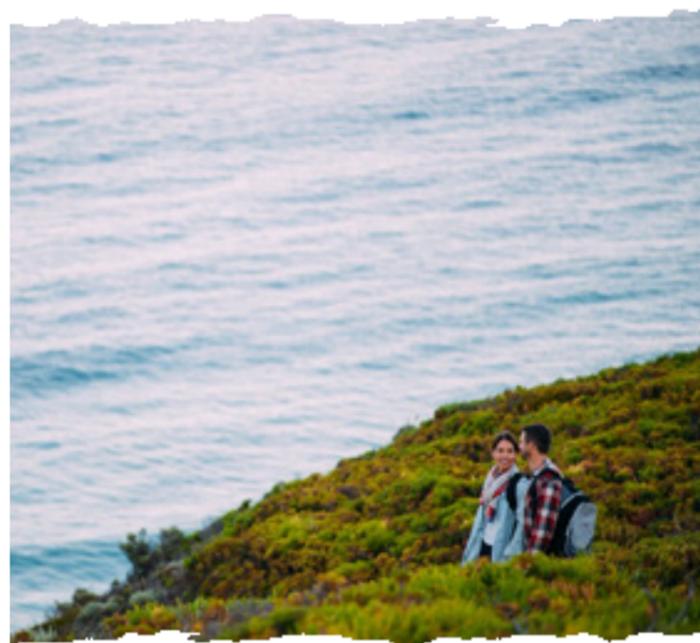
The walk includes 43 kilometres of wild cliff-top coast-line, pristine bays and native bushland between Albany and Denmark, with guests retiring to luxury accommodation each night.

Gourmet food and wine and feature dining experiences are included, with highlights including sunset drinks overlooking King George Sound and an in-villa private chef dinner showcasing local produce.

On day four guests may add a relaxation experience at Denmark's Floating Forest, before enjoying a celebration lunch with wine matches at Pepper and Salt Restaurant, overlooking Forest Hill Estate.

Luggage, track and airport transfers are included, along with maps, a custom backpack and other items required to complete the walk. The 4 day/3 night Bibbulmun Walk is priced at \$2390 pp (twin share), or \$2590 pp (twin share) for the extended 4 night option.

For more information about these walks, visit www.walkintoluxury.com.au or call the team on **1300 662 452**



FROM MY Desk

Welcome to the Spring Edition of Bibbulmun News

It is widely recognised that there has been a decline in the number of people participating in team sports and an increase in people seeking to recreate in our natural environment.

Not so long ago there was a huge, unmet demand for mountain bike trails resulting in mountain bikers building their own trails or using existing hiking trails, such as the Bibbulmun Track. This of course was not only environmentally unsustainable, but resulted in a great deal of frustration and anger amongst Track walkers and maintenance volunteers.

Over the past few years, Parks and Wildlife Services has worked with the mountain bike community to develop purpose-built networks in the Darling Range and south west. If all the current plans on the drawing board come to fruition, WA will become a mountain bike mecca.

This has made a noticeable reduction in the number of complaints the Foundation receives about mountain bikers on the Track. Unfortunately though, the number of trail bike riders has exploded and they too need places to ride as they are wreaking havoc on both hiking and mountain bike trails!

Another fast developing trend is trail running. Rather than go for a walk, many people enjoy the exhilaration of moving at a faster pace and, like walkers, enjoy the change of scenery and mental health benefits of recreating in a natural environment rather than pounding the pavement.

Whilst no one would perhaps balk at an individual running on the Track, there has been some backlash to permission being granted recently for a trail running event. Members and volunteers are, understandably, concerned about the negative impact such an event could have on the Track and hikers.

Interestingly, when the Oxfam Trailwalker event was held on the Track a couple of years ago there was no such opposition despite the fact that it is a much larger event and many teams run the course.

In both cases, event organisers had to meet strict code of conduct and environmental conditions to be granted permission by Parks and Wildlife, and the events are structured to ensure that participants are spread well apart. In the case of the Ultra Series event, which is being held in November, organisers are contributing part of the proceeds to the Foundation, which is greatly appreciated. You can find out more about the event on page 7.

The Foundation is in the process of documenting its long-term vision for the organisation and for the Bibbulmun Track. The use of the Track for competitive events is an example of the type of issue to be discussed and agreed upon to guide future management decisions and we will be asking members and volunteers for their thoughts.

We look forward to your input.

Linda Daniels
Executive Director

Join us on



Thank you
THANK YOU
thank you

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

Barbara Steiner	Jacques van Rensburg
Bev Petterson	Joanne Bell
Brigitte Koenig	Kate Brennan
Cecilie Yates (in memory of John Wynn)	Kathy Christstofelz
Dawn Finnie	Mal Cousin
Ellen Askew	Margaret Bush
Fred McGlashen	Mary McNulty
Gavin Read	Michelle Ryan – Walking Two by Two
Glenn Ask	Rebecca Frendo
Greg Ireland	Serge Tseu
HMAS Stirling – Fleet Base West	Stephen Frawley
Holly Thomas	Sue Rule
	Tim Ayling

Donations are tax deductible!

Through the National Trust, donations to the Foundation are deposited in a special account and assigned specifically to projects that enhance the Bibbulmun Track's environmental sustainability. The National Trust provides this service for free so you can be sure that 100% of your donation will go to Track projects.

Tax deductible donations can be made online, in person by cash or credit card, or by cheque which can be made out to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation with your name and address. We will then provide you with a receipt from the National Trust receipt book which indicates the donation is specifically for the Bibbulmun Track.

All donations, regardless of the amount, are gratefully received and all help to preserve our beautiful Bibbulmun Track.

YOUR LETTERS

Blown away by Borneo

The winners of our 2016 Adventure Raffle, Jean and Thomas Mackie, were blown away by their trip to Borneo. The photo below shows them living it up in style enjoying breakfast on an early morning cruise through the jungle on the Kinabatangan River.

During their trip they saw plenty of wildlife including orangutans, proboscis monkeys and elephants. At the Mari Mari Cultural village just out of Kota Kinbalu Tom was shown how to use a blow pipe and Jean had a traditional design henna tattoo on her arm.

Jean said "I would like to thank you for the marvellous raffle prize. We were a bit concerned that we would be too old for it but were lucky enough to have a really great group. From the start we all had meals together and everyone got on well, not once did we feel out of it."



1st Prize winner Jean Mackie and her husband were delighted with their trip to Borneo.

The Untamed Borneo trip is available from Peregrine Travel WA



summittravel.com.au
(08) 9321 1259
sales@peregrinewa.com.au



Great Gift ideas for Father's Day

Sunday 3rd September

With a wide range of Bibbulmun Track gifts, maps and events there is bound to be something to suit every dad this Father's Day.

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

Head to our website www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/walk-the-track/ to book online.

Bibbulmun Track Head Wear

Headsox, Cap or Hat.

With 12 versatile ways to get your head around Headsox, they are perfect for the active dad. Or if you are walking the Track or just out and about, the peak cap or our cotton bushwalker's hat give great sun protection.

Sox available in red or blue and caps/hats in cream and camel.

RRP starting from \$14.95

T-shirts, mugs and more from Redbubble



You can order a variety of products from the Redbubble website. Currently we have two great designs up there - the Waugal design and the simple Bibbulmun Track logo.

Choose the styles and designs you like and order direct from Redbubble.com.



If you're not sure what Dad might enjoy, why not buy him a **Bibbulmun Track Gift Voucher** (any amount) and leave the choice to him!

Email friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au to purchase your gift voucher today.

View and order online at www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au or pop into the office, above Mountain Designs, Hay Street, Perth.

Bus service September long-weekend TO AND FROM BROOKTON HIGHWAY AND SULLIVAN ROCK

The service allows people to walk from Brookton Hwy to Sullivan Rock (or vice versa) staying at Canning Campsite and Monadnocks Campsite which suits the long weekend time frame.

It also enables walkers to head south from Sullivan Rock to North Bannister to connect with a TRANSWA service back to Perth (please check availability and timetables with TRANSWA) or walk north from Brookton Hwy to finish at Mundaring Weir (and be collected by friends or family).

Date: Saturday 23 and Monday 25 September 2017

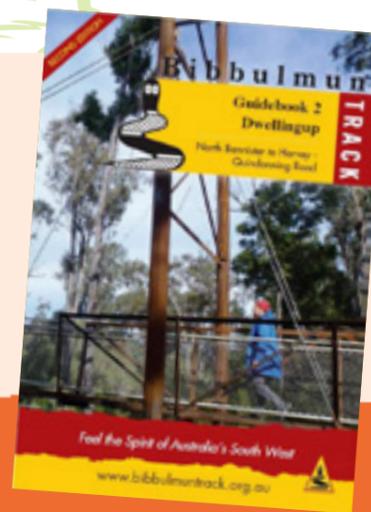
Where: Murdoch Park'n'Ride

Cost: Members \$20; Non-Members \$25

Bookings: Online. Search for *Other Services* on the Calendar of Events page of our website.



Enjoy a ride to the Track and back on our bus.



Guidebook 2 - Second Edition now available!

The 2017 edition is in a larger font size and includes the realignment across the Murray River.

\$11.95 for the guidebook or \$23.45 for guidebook and map combo.

10% discount for members.

FAVOURITE SHORT WALK

CHANNYBEARUP ROAD TO BEEDELUP FALLS

MAP 5 PEMBERTON—7 KM RETURN

This is a short walk with the Beedelup Campsite situated very conveniently along the way. I drive from Nannup along the Vasse Highway towards Pemberton, turn left into Channybearup Road and after about 2km park at the sign where the Track crosses the road.

The walk takes me north, away from Pemberton, and as soon as my feet touch the Track I feel as though I'm in the middle of the forest—lovely.

I'm glad to have my walking poles with me as there are a few hills, which makes this more of a trek than a ramble! First stop is Beedelup Campsite—so nice to sit on the wooden bench by the stream and relax for a few minutes, reading the red register and entering the details of my visit in the green logbook. Then off to Beedelup Falls for a short stop before the return walk to the car.

I would suggest to anyone doing this walk that they continue along Channybearup Road to visit the strawberry and avocado farms along the way—good bargain prices!

Angela Loucaides

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



Beedelup Falls by the Laughing Ladies.

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 'Latest Track News' accessible from www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au or contact the appropriate Parks and Wildlife Services District (see contact details below).

There may be maintenance or construction projects near or on the Track that result in temporary diversions or changes. These will not be marked on your maps. If you encounter these when walking, follow the temporary markers, not your map. The Waugal trail markers will revert to the normal black on yellow when the diversion rejoins the main Track again.

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

Prescribed Burning Operations

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

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

Groups on the Track

Non-commercial groups of walkers with eight or more members that are staying overnight on the Track are requested to fill out a Notification of Intent (NOI) form and submit it to noi@bibbulmuntrack.org.au. NOI forms can be obtained from our website or contact the Foundation.

Car access to the Track

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

Parks and Wildlife Contacts:

Recreation and Trails Unit

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

District Offices

Perth Hills District (Mundaring and Dwellingup)

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

Wellington District (Collie)

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

Blackwood District (Balingup)

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

Donnelly District (Pemberton and Northcliffe)

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

Frankland District (Walpole)

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

Albany District (Denmark and Albany)

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



Kerstin Stender,
Trails Coordinator
Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre 6983
Tel: (08) 9219 8265
Email: recreationandtrails@dbca.wa.gov.au



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Recreation & Trails UNIT

As most of you are probably already aware, the Department of Parks and Wildlife was merged with Rottnest Island, Kings Park and the Perth Zoo to form the new Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (www.dbca.wa.gov.au).

The identity and logo of each party is being retained, and we have become Parks and Wildlife Service under the new department. Mark Webb is the Interim Director General for the department and Peter Dans is the acting head of Parks and Wildlife Service. Deputy Director General, Peter Sharp, continues as the Director of Parks and Visitor Services, which has seen minimal change.

The Recreation and Trails Unit remains the same and there have been no staff changes. Sadly we've had to say good bye to Jim Sharp, our previous Director General

and Bibbulmun Track Foundation Board Member, who is enjoying his new-found retirement.

Last week I was lucky enough to hike the Bibbulmun Track between Denmark and Walpole, in part to commence the end-to-end infrastructure assessment. It was very enjoyable to spend a week walking on the Track and seeing the natural beauty of the tingle forest and wild south coast. I was able to meet and chat to some hikers who were braving the cold and windy conditions during multi-day hikes. It was good to see that they were well prepared, which is surprisingly often not the case.

The walk highlighted several issues with the Track infrastructure, including short and long eroded sections and the condition of stairs at all levels and standards. I also experienced firsthand the winter beach

sections after storms and at high tides, making them barely passable. Please be sure to choose the winter alternative alignments, as marked on the maps, during high tides.

I have a meeting planned with the Bibbulmun Track Foundation Support Volunteers to develop a works program that addresses these issues. The shelters and camp sites were well maintained, as was the Track. Thank you to the volunteers and district staff for their hard work and commitment.

Stay safe during the winter storms and enjoy the beautiful wildflowers and fascinating fungi.

Kerstin Stender
Trails Coordinator

Ultra Series Event takes off on the Bibbulmun Track

The Feral Pig Ultra, part of the Ultra Series WA will be held from Saturday 11th to Sunday 12th November 2017 on the Bibbulmun Track.

Ultra Series WA is a member of the Australian Ultra Runners Association. The Feral Pig Ultra offers an international graded course to attract runners from outside WA.

Detailed applications have been submitted to Parks and Wildlife Services and the Department of Water.

The event offers various courses including:

- 22km from Kalamunda to Perth Hills Centre (PHC)
- 50km from Brookton Highway to PHC
- 50 miles from Sullivan Rock to PHC
- 100 miles from North Bannister to Kalamunda to PHC

Ultra Series WA is keen to ensure that the race has minimum impact and contributes to the maintenance of the Bibbulmun Track. The organisers have developed a strict code of conduct for their runners, which includes the rule that runners must go around hikers and are committed to

a detailed check of the courses after the event to ensure no damage, littering or course markers are evident. They are also donating 50% of the profit from each adult entry to the Foundation.

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation and Ultra Series WA are committed to working together to help minimise any negative impact on the Track and ensure the safety of both walkers and runners during the event.

BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER WALKERS – TENTS IN SHELTERS

It is not uncommon to see walkers pitching free standing tent shells inside the shelter for reasons of privacy, warmth or protection from mosquitoes. There is nothing wrong with this practise, provided there is enough space left for others in the shelter.

However, there have been reports recently of walkers arriving at a shelter to find three tents erected inside, no space remaining and the occupants showing no inclination to move. Please respect the rights of all walkers to make use of the facilities!



Eyes on the GROUND



Peter, Mike, Margot, Lachlan, Rob and Patrick showing off the new realignment.

We recently welcomed a number of new maintenance volunteers who have been out to visit their section for the first time.

While the rain is great for the garden, the dams and the farmers, it does play havoc with the plans of maintenance volunteers whose sections are in DRA areas. Our Support VOLLIES have been trying to complete a small realignment for weeks and it has been cancelled a number of times due to the rain.

We now have a shed at Parks and Wildlife in Kensington where we can store chain saws and other items ready for use by the Support Volunteer team. Thanks to Kerstin at the Recreation and Trails Unit for arranging and for providing some additional tools for maintenance projects.

We recently held Field Days in the Donnelly and Blackwood Districts. Field days incorporate training for our volunteers and we try to cover a range of issues as well as complete the tasks set for the day. This varies according to need and the location. Where possible we like to have a campsite nearby in case of inclement weather.

More than 20 volunteers met at Boarding House Campsite for a full day of activities including constructing new tent sites and internal trails, upgrading existing internal trails, spreading what seemed like a couple of tons of woodchips, putting in a small realignment just north of the campsite, repairing steps and creating a quiet area with a seat overlooking the river.

The gold star for the day must go to a new volunteer, allocated a section just a few days before the Field Day, who became a bit geographically embarrassed on the way. Arriving safely at the meeting point (after we had all walked off to the campsite) and finding parked cars, the vullie decided to walk in and find us. However, before reaching the campsite our vullie spotted a group carrying tools, walking over the bridge near Boarding House. Tagging along on the assumption this was the right group, our brave new vullie joined in the work with enthusiasm, listening all the while for someone to call the name Gwen, so that I could be identified. No such luck and it wasn't till the group returned to the campsite to join those working there that we finally made contact!

Blackwood Field Day was smaller with ten attending and we spent the day trail marking. First section was Balingup to the Golden Valley Tree Park gazebo and then we moved to the section between Grimwade Rd and Kirup Grimwade Rd where we replaced some badly burned trail markers.

Thanks to John McKenzie and Ken Ninyette from Parks and Wildlife for their help in organizing the days and coming along to help.



Laurie replacing burnt trail markers.



The Eyes on the Ground maintenance programme is generously sponsored by Newmont Boddington Gold.

Prior to the Field Days we spent a day out in the field visiting Gardner and Dog Pool Campsites, inspecting the site of a new culvert just south of Dog Pool, and other sites. This was a great chance to discuss all sorts of maintenance issues with District staff and to see the wide range of activities they undertake as well as the Bibbulmun Track.

We welcome your reports of any issues you find when out walking. Please be as specific as possible in describing the problem and the location. Your reports are really helpful for us and for the Districts and can often make life easier for other walkers.

Gwen, Charmaine, Mark and Charlie
Maintenance Programme Coordinators



Gary, Sandra and Patrick preparing signage.

GRASSROOTS

Foundation Chair, Mike Wood, and Executive Director, Linda Daniels, are proud to be included in a new book recognising West Australians in the sport and recreation industry.

In the book *Grassroots: The Secret Life of Sport and Recreation*, you'll meet more than 40 Western Australians who reveal why they continue to be involved in sport and recreation.

Conceived and created by WA's Department of Sport and Recreation (now the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries), the book advocates for the power of sport to enrich and change lives. It shows no matter what your age, ability or background, everyone can contribute. Through inspiring stories and photos it invites you to become part of the sport and recreation family – and be active while doing it.

You can view the profiles and order a copy from the website www.dsr.wa.gov.au



BTF Executive Director, Linda Daniels, with WA's Minister for Sport and Recreation, Mick Murray, at the launch of *Grassroots* on 29 May.

Linda Daniels and Mike Wood.

WALKERS RAISE FUNDS FOR THE TRACK

The Bibbulmun Track is a great way to raise funds for a cause close to your heart and each year a number of people embark on an end-to-end to raise funds for a charity or personal cause.

However, this year, we are delighted that two campaigns were aimed at raising funds for the Track itself. As members will be aware, it takes a huge volunteer effort and many thousands of dollars a year to keep the Bibbulmun Track free. It's not an emotional cause so it is harder to raise funds for the Track than other causes.

Our heartfelt thanks to the following for fundraising for the Track:

Michelle Ryan of Walking Two by Two

Michelle walked into Kalamunda on the 28th May with a large group of supporters who donated funds to join her on the last day's hike raising \$2,626. Michelle said "It has been an amazing adventure; a wonderful experience to meet hikers, Track volunteers and Track angels. There is a community feeling out here, one where we are all friends no matter where we are



from, what our background is - we just all belong. I will hold and cherish every part of this forever".

HMAS Stirling – Fleet Base West

For 16 years Chief Petty Officer Glenn Askew, Adventure Training Manager for HMAS Stirling has used the Track for Navy adventure training and he was keen to make a donation as a thank you. Starting in April, he led a relay-style end-to-end with over 100 navy personnel taking part in teams and swapping out over the 28 stages.

The 'boots on the ground' Navy team arrived in Albany on 4 June accompanied by the local navy cadets for the last 7km. Every walker had made a donation and a cheque for \$1,650 was presented to Foundation member Beth Sawers who was at the Southern Terminus to greet them.



The fundraising cheque was presented at the Southern Terminus. L to R: Captain Brian Delamont – RAN, Commanding Officer of HMAS Stirling, BTF member Beth Sawers and Chief Petty Officer, Glenn Askew.



Our thanks to Alcoa for sponsoring our Volunteer Support team.

Getting into Gear

BOOTS THAT ARE MADE FOR WALKING



The single most important pieces of equipment that you will ever purchase for walking the Bibbulmun Track are your boots or walking shoes. These are items you just cannot afford to get wrong; spending any time walking in footwear that doesn't fit is time in hell.

No piece of equipment is as integral to the enjoyment of your walk as your boots. You may be able to get away with a sleeping bag that's not very warm; at least you can warm up during the day, or with not having a comfortable sleeping mat—that just means tossing and turning through the night and waking up with a sore hip. Even a poorly designed backpack comes off your shoulders at camp so you can relieve the back strain. Lace up a pair of boots that haven't been broken in properly, or are the wrong shape for your foot and you'll know about it for the duration of the walk—and the blisters will remind you for weeks afterwards.

Just recently I led a group on the Portuguese Camino, twelve days from Porto in Portugal to Santiago in Spain, a wonderful walk. One thing we all noticed was how hard the various surfaces of the trail were. Particularly noticeable were the cobblestones, which we certainly don't have on the Bibbulmun Track! Even with all the walking that I have done, half way through the walk I succumbed to the advertising at Pharmacia's and invested in Scholl shock absorbing inserts to put in my shoes. I had well worn-in shoes, good socks and experience but still got caught out.

There are several basic rules to follow when choosing a pair of walking boots. Firstly, remember they are not like a pair of fashion shoes. True, it is important to get a pair that you like the look of, but not at the expense of correct fit and comfort. Anyone who has owned a pair of boots that were too small will tell you that the moment they started to walk downhill they knew that they'd made a big mistake. So always err on the side of buying boots that are a little too big than too small. Secondly, try on several different brands, as they all have different shapes and fits and just because a friend told you that Scarpa were the best boots in the world it doesn't mean that they're the best for you.

The sole is the backbone of the boot, it must be torsionally rigid, that is it must not twist, as it provides 80% of the ankle support. To test the rigidity of the sole grab the boot by the heel with one hand and the toe with the other and try to twist it. If it twists a lot then there won't be much ankle support. Try and bend it under the arch between the heel and the toe, if it bends a lot then you'll get tired feet after a long day walking. It should bend, however, at the ball of the foot near the toes, just like your foot does. A sole is actually made of three layers; the outer rubber sole which is often impregnated with an absorption compound, the inner sole which also absorbs shock and supports the arch, and the backbone of the boot which is the mid-sole and is often made of an impervious substance.

The upper of the boot can either be made of leather or synthetic material; each have their benefits. Leather will last longer, provide a little more support, is more water resistant and consequently better in cold, wet conditions. Synthetic boots tend to be better in hot, wet conditions or hot, dry conditions and tend to be slightly lighter. Look for boots that have limited stitching, fewer places for water to leak through and fewer places to split.

When fitting the boots make sure that there is plenty of room for your toes so that they don't hit the end of the boot if you are sliding forward on your way downhill. Many outdoor stores now have ramps set up on an incline so you can test how a boot feels when you go downhill. Also make sure that they grip you properly around the ball of your foot, which is the widest part, so that the friction stops your foot from sliding forward and leaves some room for your toes so they don't hit the end. It is not uncommon for people to be trying on lots of different boots and then to slide their foot into one and know that this is their boot, this is the one. That's when you ask the price, after you've already decided!

Next, wear the boots in—you cannot expect to buy a brand new pair of boots and then go out and walk on the Bibbulmun Track, maybe carrying a heavy pack, and not get blisters. You might be lucky, but it's not worth the risk. Just wear them around the house, out to the shops, even to work if possible. Do a few short walks around the local park, climb up and down Jacob's Ladder in Kings Park, do a day walk first before you attempt an overnight one. Gradually break them in to the shape of your foot.

Get some waterproofing or care compound with the boots when you purchase them so that the uppers will be looked after properly—something like Sno-Seal or Nikwax that waterproofs, softens and preserves the leather.

Also purchase good socks that don't bunch up inside the boot causing rubbing and blisters. Many people like to wear two pairs of socks so that they move against each other, rather than against your foot, lessening the chance of blisters. Some people wear one thin sock, then a thicker one; others wear two medium thickness socks. Personally I prefer to wear just one pair of socks, and I vary the thickness depending upon how cold it is. I don't like to get hot feet so too many pairs of socks don't suit me. I use wool socks rather than cotton as they dry out quicker and wick moisture away from your foot while you are walking.

In the end, get the boot that feels the most comfortable on your foot. Don't fall for the trap of buying the ones that look the best at the expense of fit.

And enjoy your time on the Bibbulmun Track!

Mike Wood

BTF Chair



Walker Story

END-TO-END AND BACK AGAIN

Since first setting foot on the Appalachian Trail 11 years ago Michael Vacek has completed over 27,000 kilometres of backpacking. He is currently in the middle of 15 months of travelling with the aim to hike a further 9000 kilometres of trail in various locations across the US, New Zealand, and Australia.

119 kangaroos, 50 wallabies, four emus, 19 tiger snakes and countless numbers of marri, karri, tingle, peppermint, grass and jarrah trees. These were just a few of many beautiful wildlife and plant observations I took last spring while walking a double end-to-end or, as we Americans call it, a yo-yo of the Bibbulmun Track. Despite having backpacked tens of thousands of kilometres across the US, Europe and New Zealand, I didn't know exactly what to expect here in Western Australia. I first heard about the Bibbulmun Track from a fellow American, Eric Bow, whom I met in 2014 while hiking the Te Araroa in New Zealand. Eric told me of a long trail in the west of Australia, and after you complete it you get to ring a bell. The humour of walking a thousand kilometres just to ring a bell was enough to get me here, although I also knew many wonders of a uniquely Australian nature would be experienced along the way. Coincidentally during my walk I discovered a Bibbulmun News article written by Eric, (see Walker's Story in Issue #67).

A bit of research on the web told me that the Track has regularly spaced shelters along a well-marked trail that passes through various forests, wetlands and along the coast. I wasn't too sure about the wildlife to be found and on my first day of walking I was surprised to hear something large moving in the forest and then seeing kangaroos out and about.

Even having a degree in biology and a lifetime of working and recreating in the outdoors had not prepared me for some of the surprises of being out in the bush on a new continent, though one familiar experience I did expect to find was that of Australia's trees. Earlier in my career I worked in many of America's National Parks to help protect them from invasive plants. In Hawaii one of my tasks was cutting back some large eucalyptus trees, which are considered problem weeds over there. The odour, feel, and look of those quintessential and uniquely Australian trees stayed with me over the years. Along with gums I also developed a strong familiarity with melaleuca when working in the everglades of Florida, where the paperbark is also considered a weed.

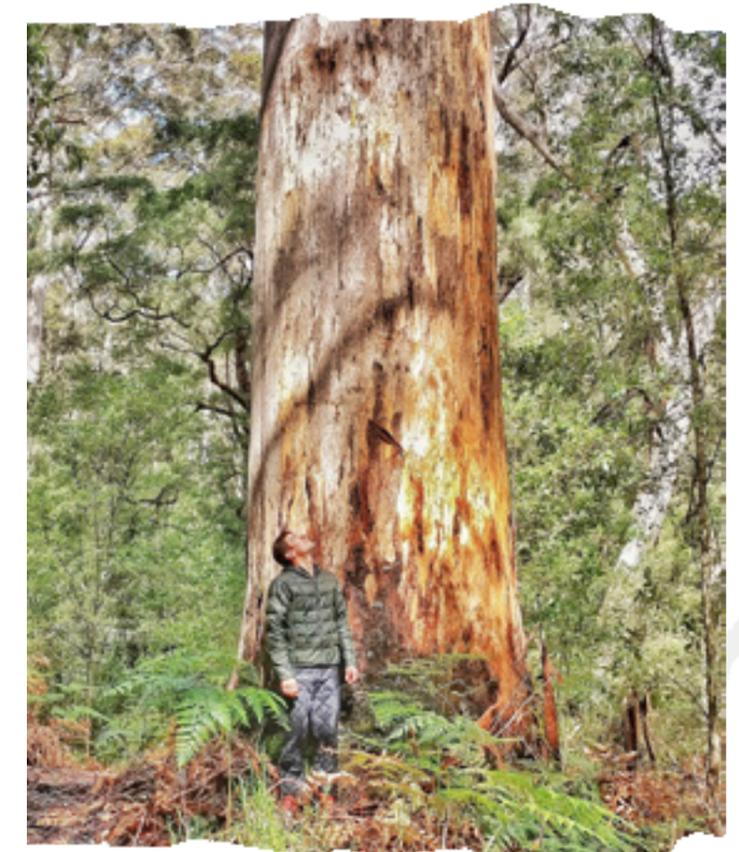
During that time I dreamed of visiting these Australian trees in their home landscape and learning more about the flora and fauna of their native ecosystems; to see where these trees belonged, to enjoy their surroundings, and no longer view them as the problem they are in certain American natural areas. Finding the Bibbulmun Track and experiencing this walk was a realisation of that long dream and now, even months later, I still recall many beautiful experiences of

walking through those amazing forests. It was so fitting for my dream that a dreamtime serpent, (the Waugal trail marker) was there to guide me.

Overall, the Bibbulmun Track is among the best of the trails I've walked and a world class trail for enjoying the experience one can get only by being out in the bush for weeks on end. A big thanks goes out to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation, Parks and Wildlife, and all their associates for providing exactly what a hiker needs. From the well-marked Track and swift sharing of information on fire hazards, to the perfectly developed campsites and water tanks. Small touches like the natural history guides found at each shelter were something I have never seen on any other trail, and I found them priceless for understanding more about what is seen along the way. The log books and notebook journals provided a fantastic way to help keep track of friends on the Track and get to know something about people you may soon meet. They also allow hikers to enjoy a bit of art and humour from fellow walkers. This sharing of thoughts from years past, and notes left for future walkers, extended the sharing and community feeling of the rich and wonderful experiences to be had by being out on the Bibbulmun Track.

I'm looking forward to letting friends and fellow hikers know that the Bibbulmun Track is well worth the journey to this far corner of the globe—and of course that there is that bell waiting for you at the end! 1000 kilometres really isn't too far to walk to hear its tone, for what it symbolizes is something very special.

Michael Vacek, USA



Michael dwarfed by a karri tree.

Yes, THEY DID IT!

Our CONGRATULATIONS to the following 46 walkers on completing an end-to-end! 9 from overseas, 13 from interstate and 24 from WA.



And still they come! Track infrastructure has almost all been rebuilt after our devastating bushfires so walkers have been taking the opportunity to either complete through-hikes with fewer deviations and disruptions, or to finish off their sectional end-to-ends. Here are our latest walkers to achieve end-to-ender status.

All entries are in chronological order of finishing their end-to-end.

Our congratulations go to all of them!

Peter Coyle (68), of Midland, and **Lana Tinsley** (71), from Tasmania, were camel and lanaskink as they completed their end-to-end in WA's wettest, coldest winter in ten years (N-S, 22.04.16 to 29.06.16). Logistics were brilliantly arranged by Lana and they enjoyed excellent dehydrated meals on the Track. Peter loved the giant trees and granite outcrops, but some of the water crossings were challenging features—waist deep across the Murray River, a long walk on bitumen after Parry Inlet was opened and then swirling, waist-deep waves across Torbay Inlet. Their epic walk was described as a “once-in-a-lifetime experience”.

Amele Perocheau (27) and **Gael Dida** came all the way from France for their end-to-end (N-S, 23.08.16 to 07.10.16). They said the Track was very well marked and well maintained. Amele's favourite section was from Denmark to Albany and she thought the wildflowers were incredible.

Erin Saver (37), from USA, called herself Wired on what was one of her favourite experiences so far (N-S, 25.09.16 to 23.10.16). She's walked many trails and says the Bibbulmun Track is awesome and has some of the best support of any trail. She came to really appreciate the guidebooks and the amazing shelters. Erin thought the south coast was unique and she enjoyed the solitude of walking and having shelters to herself. The Track was pleasant and relaxing and showed how much beauty can be found in simplicity. It was just the trail she needed for physical and mental space.

Rebecca Kempe (26), from SA, walked with **Fred Harris**, also known as Hermit Frog, (N-S, 31.08.16 to 25.10.16) and loved the facilities and well-maintained world-class Track. It was far more diverse than expected with sand dunes, swamps, open forests and

the amazing tingle trees. Fred also liked the diversity and abundance of fungi. They delivered food boxes to towns and only had to resupply their treats at each town. Seeing the ocean for the first time was an amazing milestone for both. Hiking poles were a boost for painful feet and using lithium batteries meant virtually no battery replacements were needed along the way.

Michael Vacek (39), from USA, signed in as Hui as he walked (N-S and S-N, 22.09.16 to 26.11.16) on what he called a fantastic, well-organised trail. He enjoyed hiking and meeting people on the Track and in the towns. Each section had something to like and he particularly loved seeing new plants or animals. Michael thought the Track had similarities with other trails he's walked—the Appalachian Trail with its shelters; the Pacific Coast Trail with easy grading; the Continental Divide Trail with lots of wildlife and the Camino with lots of different twists.

Michael Kait (49), from Germany, was just Michael as he completed another end-to-end (N-S, 16.01.17 to 09.03.17), preferring to walk in the hotter months. He says he'd rather be wet from sweat than rain! Having been through it all before, this walk was pleasant anticipation and pure enjoyment. The great Southern Ocean was still a favourite with Mandalay and Conspicuous Beaches being particular highlights. Michael thinks it's great to have good facilities at the end of each day. A lot of wildlife was seen, but still no echidna. He likes his tent for flexibility, protection and privacy and says you don't need lots of gear—just keep everything simple.

Robert Coops (68), of Dalkeith, loves the Track and has completed another end-to-end (Sectional, 29.09.15 to 01.04.17). He maintains it is one of the best trails in the world and says “every kilometre is a favourite section”. He used commercially

available dehydrated food and advises buying the best light-weight equipment you can afford.

Geoff Ellis (67), from Queensland, (Sectional, 20.02.13 to 06.04.17) found supplies were adequate in all Track towns. Albany to Walpole was his favourite section and he says the Bibbulmun Track is better marked and has superior shelters when compared with the Appalachian Trail. He advises taking your time to enjoy the Track without double-hutting.

Kathi Storig (75), of Leeming, was Snottygobble on her walks (Sectional, Oct 2011 to 08.04.17). She loved the serenity of nature and also appreciated her husband's support and company on many of her walks. Being maintenance volunteers, they always enjoy their regular walks on the Track. Kathi dehydrated her own vegies for the trip and this worked well. Her most enjoyable section was between Walpole and Denmark, and highlights included the wildflowers on the Pingerup Plains, walking through the tall forests and suddenly seeing the Southern Ocean.

Dale Mason (54), of Success, (Sectional, 09.07.11 to 12.04.17) is Dale Snail and has shared many of her walks with Track Cracker (see below). Her favourite sections are between Pemberton and Balingup. Dale posted food boxes and found that towns were also very supportive with food supplies.

Albert Scheepers (48), from NSW, had a fantastic adventure (N-S, 05.03.17 to 12.04.17) and loved the Track diversity from jarrah forests in the north, to the spectacular karri forests and the gobsmacking Southern Ocean in the south. The great condition of the Track, the free facilities and the work of volunteers were all appreciated by him. Albert posted food boxes to towns but also picked up fresh supplies along the way. He loved the serenity which allowed him to enjoy nature and saw lots of wildlife, especially early in the mornings.

Lexie Carter (58), of Denmark (WA), had a dramatic interruption to her planned end-to-end; appendicitis along the Track followed by emergency surgery! She was later able to resume her walk (Sectional,

20.05.16 to 13.04.17) and felt very emotional when she finally finished. She says it's the greatest thing she has ever done for herself, by herself, and it's something she will never forget. While her favourite sections were along the south coast, her highlight was climbing Mt Chance at the end of a long day she felt like the only person alive!

Bernadette (62) and **Ian** (62) **Wright**, of Midland, (Sectional, 19.11.2011 to 16.04.17) have walked the Track in all seasons and found Track towns to be very welcoming. Using public transport and private shuttles gave them the opportunity to experience things that are only seen on foot at walking pace. The tall timbers and the south coastal sections were favourites for both of them, and they also enjoyed meeting other walkers, exchanging stories and learning from each other. Ian developed a greater appreciation of our country and Bernadette says that pausing and being consumed by nature was invigorating. They saw an enormous variety of wildlife within their natural environments, including some magnificent tiger snakes that obligingly got out of their way.

.....
*Waugal, Waugal, on the tree
You show me where I ought to be
And though you test me once or twice
I'm always glad of your advice*

*In darkness when my need is dire
You light up bright, just like a fire
I only need to shine my torch
And you will guide me to the next hut's porch*

.....
*Supertramp
Swamp Oak Campsite 24/10/2014*

Karen Dowling (58), of Mandurah, was Track Cracker on her walks (Sectional, 30.08.09 to 18.04.17) and she was very happy to finally finish off all her incomplete end-to-ends. She relied more on resupplying in towns on later walks. Karen loves the whole Track, but a special highlight was sharing some of her walks with her grandson. She advises walkers to always be considerate of others on the Track, and in the shelters, so that everyone can enjoy their experience.

Charmaine Harris (64), of Maida Vale, known as FOF#1, was also happy to finally finish the last gap on another end-to-end (Sectional, 27.12.07 to 20.04.17). She loves the whole experience of being out in the bush having her doses of “Bibbulmun Therapy” and especially enjoys walking through the tall timber sections of the Track. Great memories were made while sharing most of her walks with FOF#2, and a more recent highlight was passing under a walking-pole Guard of Honour, made by fellow walkers, on the completion of this end-to-end, while guiding a group walk near Collie.

John Fathers (52), of Mt Barker, was Johnno on his seven-year-long challenge (Sectional, 01.04.10 to 23.04.17), which developed into a lifelong passion to walk and volunteer on the Track. Blackwood to Balingup (before the fire) was a favourite section and John enjoyed seeing a part of WA that you wouldn't otherwise see. He also enjoyed the companionship of other walkers and especially liked the father-son bonding time when his son walked with him. He feels privileged to have such a marvellous, well-serviced and safe facility in our own backyard.

Fay Francis (74), of Mt Barker, found her walks (Sectional, 30.09.10 to 22.04.17) to be a personal growth experience and is indebted to her volunteer maintenance team-mates (including John, above) who provided much support at different times. Fay dehydrated much of her own food but also cooked up lots of pasta meals. The remote section between Maringup and Dog Pool was her favourite and walking through the Pingerup Plains was breathtaking. Nights under the stars were memorable, especially at Blackwood. Echidnas and feral pigs were amongst the wildlife she saw.

Sandra Braithwaite (64), from Alice Springs, was simply Sandra on her trek (N-S, 06.03.17 to 22.04.17). She loved walking through the bush and especially enjoyed Mt Cooke and the sections with tingle trees. Sandra thought the shelters were fabulous — just a shame that you seemed to walk uphill to most of them! She reports being interested only in a beer, steak and vegies when she got to each town — the cost didn't even rate!

Ryoma Iihara (28), from Japan, signed in as Rio on his walk (N-S, 07.03.17 to 22.04.17). Walpole to Peaceful Bay was a favourite section with its awesome tingle trees, beautiful mosses and damp forest as this section reminded him of some of Japan's forests. He found the Track to be quite dry but admired the strength of the Australian plants.

Anne Griffin (67), from Victoria (N-S, 06.03.17 to 23.04.17) thought the Track and shelters were very well maintained. The towns she passed through were great and special mention must be made of the helpful hosts at Colliefields Hotel and Tingle-all-over YHA. Food boxes were sent to towns but she enjoyed eating out while in the towns. Anne particularly enjoyed Denmark to Albany and loved the camaraderie of fellow walkers along the way. This walk was far more satisfying than others completed overseas because she had to carry everything for herself for up to seven days at a time.

Joanne Bell (45), from Victoria (S-N, 01.03.17 to 25.04.17) found it was very satisfying to return to the Track and successfully complete the walk in one go this time. She posted food packages, but bought lunches in towns. The coastline between Denmark and Walpole was a favourite section and other highlights included the sunrise at Rame Head, Frankland River campsite, walking along the Donnelly River and seeing so many red and white tailed cockatoos. She also enjoyed meeting interesting and inspiring people along the way. Joanne says the signage, maintenance, accessibility and facilities set the Track apart from other walks.

Do you have your End-to-Ender BADGE?

FREE when you register your first end-to-end!

Yes, THEY DID IT! (CONT.)

Michael Oakley, from Maida Vale, (Sectional, 1997 to 30.04.17) loved the whole Track but singled out the beaches on the south coast and the open wandoo woodlands in the north as his favourite sections. He found the best and easiest food to prepare was shop-bought dehydrated vegies and various spices. Michael saw very little wildlife due to the many bushfires, but saw lots of snakes on the coastal sections.

Peter Collins (56), of Denmark (WA), called himself Lonewolf on his walk (N-S, 14.04.17 to 10.05.17) on which he was destination-bound rather than journey-bound. He loved the solitude of walking by himself and the physical/mental endurance it took to walk with a pack from dawn til dusk. He ate lots of two-minute noodles, scotch-finger biscuits and blocks of chocolate! The area around Lake Maringup was a favourite section and Peter also enjoyed patting the Clydesdale horses near Southampton homestead.

Tom Hilliar (69), of Coo loongup, still enjoys heading out on the Track (Sectional, 02.05.16 to 11.05.17) and remains appreciative of the efforts put in by volunteers, the BTF and Parks and Wildlife to maintain this great trail.

Florent Poussereau (23), from France, was simply Florent on the longest walk he's ever done (S-N, 09.04.17 to 16.05.17). It wasn't physically difficult for him, but the length was the challenge. He enjoyed the remoteness of the Track, being just by himself in the wilderness. Florent had no trouble relying on the Track towns for resupplies. Favourite sections included Albany to Denmark and Walpole to Northcliffe and he found the climb to the top of the Gloucester Tree at Pemberton was amazing. He was surprised at the number of other walkers he met, and at the variety of wildlife he encountered.

Linda (60) and **Bob** (65) **Saunders**, of Geraldton, (Sectional, 03.05.09 to 20.05.17) found life on the Track to be both challenging and rewarding, and had a great feeling of satisfaction on completing their end-to-end. They liked the variety of landscapes, the welcoming campsites, the well marked and maintained trail, meeting interesting people, and being able to appreciate the simple things in life like enjoying a campfire. Northcliffe to Walpole was a favourite section for both. Other highlights included a morning chorus of robins and wrens at Gregory

Brook, amazing stars at Mt Clare and finally reaching Mandalay Beach after hearing the crashing waves for hours.

Brigitte Koenig (54) and **Heinz Geiges** (54), of Midland (S-N, 11.04.17 to 24.05.17) feel it is wonderful to have a trail like the Bibbulmun Track, with its shelters being a great asset and making overnight stays so easy. Heinz dehydrated all their food so they had plenty of vegetables along the way. They found the Track towns were very accommodating to walkers. Their favourite section was Dwellingup to Kalamunda and they especially liked the hills — Mounts Wells, Cooke, Vincent and Cuthbert.

Sue Bunt (69), from NSW, loved walking on her own and being responsible for herself (Sectional, 22.04.14 to 25.05.17), but also loved the reassurance of husband Fred's support as he followed in their caravan. Mt Chance, Woolbales and the amazing Pingerup Plains are still Sue's favourite sections. A special highlight was seeing her and Fred's Dunny Donor plaque on the door at Schafer Campsite, and she also enjoyed walking on firm sand on those long beaches. The friendly Torbay quenda was amongst the wildlife seen. Sue maintains the Bibbulmun Track is the best long distance walk in Australia and she wishes she lived in WA so she could spend more time on the Track!

Peter Bachelor (73), from Victoria, called himself Richard Hart on his first long trek (Sectional, 24.04.16 to 24.05.17) which he found to be a hard, significant challenge but exhilarating at the same time. He enjoyed the rhythm of the walk on a daily basis and there was a marvellous sense of achievement on completion. Favourite sections included areas with fire regrowth around the Murray River, Balingup hills and the south coast. He loved the ruggedness

of the ocean, the variation of the forest types and climbing hills such as Mt Cooke. He says the Track is unique with its brilliant provision of free accommodation over such a great distance.

Taran St Lawrence (38), from NSW, was known as Tazmaniac on his walk (S-N, 15.04.17 to 24.05.17). He loved the Track, and as long as he had two-minute noodles and a cup of soup he was happy! Dwellingup to Kalamunda was his favourite section and he particularly liked Mt Cooke. The area around Giants, with its tall trees, was another highlight. Taran says working through the pain can help develop mental determination. Compared with other trails, he found the Track was not too hard a gradient.

Michelle Ryan (47), of Iluka, was known as Walkingtwobytwo on her fund-raising trek (S-N, 05.04.17 to 28.05.17). The sections between White Horse Hills and Mt Dale are favourites for her and she especially likes Mt Cuthbert, but the whole Track and all it offers was the real highlight. She enjoyed meeting other people, seeing wildlife and camping in her little tent. Michelle loves the feeling she has when out on the Track—she finds the freedom and nature very grounding. Track accessibility and campsite facilities set the Track apart from other trails around the world.

Wendy Nelson (65), of Northcliffe, also known as FOF#2, has completed another end-to-end (Sectional, 20.05.05 to 30.05.17) on her favourite trail. She loves her Bibbulmun Therapy with FOF#1 and the anti-stress time spent in the bush. The northern jarrah forests are her favourite sections, but the whole Track has highlights. She urges others to get out and breathe in the fresh air.

Paul Tubman (52), of Maida Vale, called himself Tubbo on his end-to-end (N-S, 21.04.17 to 02.06.17). He really enjoyed the whole experience with the Track's changes in terrain, scenery and wildlife. The Pingerup Plains were a favourite, despite soaking rains. A special memory was ANZAC Day on top of Mt Cooke where he left a token at the cairn in memory of a close walking friend. A mix of home and commercially dehydrated food made up the bulk of Paul's diet, and he supplemented this with fresh food in towns. Whales and a bungarra were among wildlife he saw.

Peter Cram (50), from NSW, was Tallawudjah man on a walk that was everything he'd hoped for, and more (N-S, 10.04.17 to 10.06.17). He found the long section from Dwellingup to Kalamunda meant a heavy pack and a hungry walker! A favourite section was impossible to pin down, but Peter maintains that five to seven hours per day of whatever your subconscious throws at you can make for laughter, tears, boredom and deep serenity.

Glenn (56) and **Ellen** (48) **Askew**, of Shoalwater, enjoyed building their walks into an end-to-end (Sectional, 08.04.12 to 14.06.17) and Glenn was also a member of a Navy relay team that completed an end-to-end in June this year. As sectional walkers they were able to be adventurous with food, and Ellen enjoyed red wine at

the end of hard days..."it's a better pain killer than any paracetamol!" They both thought the whole Track was incredible, but a few places stood out—the views from Waalegh, the climbs up Mts Cooke and Wells, Tom Road Campsite, walking beneath majestic trees and sighting the coast for the first time. Passing the half-way sign and eventually walking into the southern terminus were special memories. Sometimes they asked themselves why they were doing this, and would then crest a hill to a beautiful view, or round a corner into a stand of majestic trees and be reminded of the why. Wildlife included a friendly bandicoot at Schafer, and black cockatoos were constant companions.

Kate Brennan (43), from NSW, called herself Coo-ee Kate as she walked her end-to-end (S-N, 09.04.17 to 10.06.17). She passes on sincere thanks to workers and volunteers who care for the Bibbulmun Track. She was particularly interested in learning more about Noongar boundaries in the areas that the Track now passes through.

Kirsten Frost (39), of Kewdale, was Mahat Meditator on her end-to-end (S-N, 18.04.17 to 18.06.17). Food boxes were dropped at town accommodations and her family also helped out between Dwellingup and Kalamunda. Kirsten liked the coastal sections and karri forest, with Mt Clare to Long Point being a special favourite. Her

favourite campsites included Mt Clare with its guardian tingle trees, and Rame Head with its coastal views. Other highlights were the canoe crossing and meeting like-minded people along the way. Her trek was a time for thinking, reflection and solitude, and it was hard to go back to work afterwards. She enjoyed connecting with nature and says it couldn't get any better!

Susanne Spieckermann (50) and **Stefan Kuhn** (50), from Germany (S-N, 18.04.17 to 18.06.17) say the Track's free shelters set it above all other walks they have completed. They enjoyed meeting other people, including maintenance volunteers. Stefan liked the section between Denmark and Walpole whereas Susanne loved the whole Track. Highlights for them included seeing wedge-tailed eagles at Boonerring Hill, being visited by kookaburras at the Swamp Oak table, and finding coffee in the food box at Dog Pool! They both liked having time to watch the birdlife and wildlife and enjoyed their encounter with a quenda at Torbay Campsite. They were astonished that people thought it unbelievable that they could enjoy walking 1000kms!

Compiled by Charmaine Harris
BTF Volunteer and End-to-End

NOTICE TO MEMBERS – 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2017 Foundation AGM will be held -

- on Thursday 26 October 2017, 5.00pm;
- at Level 1, Mountain Designs Building, 862 Hay Street, Perth.

Agenda -

1. Apologies.
2. Acceptance of 2016 AGM Minutes.
3. Chairman's annual report.
4. Executive Director's annual report.
5. Treasurer's annual report.
6. General business including -
 - Appointment of auditor.

Members proposing to attend are asked to

notify Ce by telephone on 9481 0551 or by email to admin@bibbulmuntrack.org.au.

Election of Board Members

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

- Three positions are declared open for re-election.
- Members are invited to nominate for election. A member's nomination must be in writing, signed by the member and be received by the Foundation before the close of nominations at 4.00pm Monday 2 October 2017.

• Should a poll be needed to elect a Board member it will be conducted during the AGM.

• The term of office of each person elected to fill those vacancies will be 2 years from, and including, the date on which he or she is elected.

The elections will be held because -

- The terms of Bruce Manning, Simon Holthouse and Mike Wood will expire. Two members are seeking re-election.

Linda Daniels

Executive Director, Bibbulmun Track Foundation

Waugal cloth badge

RRP \$12.50
\$11.25
FOR MEMBERS



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!

Accommodation, Tours and Services



Please support the Walker Friendly Businesses that support the Track.

🏠 Accommodation 📍 Visitor Centre 🚗 Track Transfers 🍴 Catering 👥 Tour Guides

BUSINESS NAME	TOWN	TYPE OF BUSINESS	PHONE NO.	WEBSITE	DISCOUNT OFFERED TO MEMBERS
ALBANY BAYVIEW BACKPACKERS YHA	ALBANY	🏠	(08) 9842 3388	bayviewbackpackers.com.au	Discount on accommodation
ALBANY HARBOURSIDE APARTMENTS	ALBANY	🏠	(08) 9842 1769	albanyharbourside.com.au	10% Discount on accommodation
CAMP KENNEDY BAPTIST YOUTH CAMP	ALBANY	🏠	(08) 9845 1040	albanybaptist.com.au/campkennedy.html	
DUNMOYLEN HOUSE B&B	ALBANY	🏠	(08) 9842 5235	dunmoylen.com.au	
WALK INTO LUXURY	ALBANY	👥	1300 662 452	walkintoluxury.com.au	
YOHO PIZZA	BALINGUP/ DONNELLY RIVER	🍴	0403 734 814	yhopizza.com.au	
COLLIE RIVER VALLEY TOURIST PARK	COLLIE	🏠	(08) 9734 5088	colliecaravanpark.com.au	
GLEN MERVYN LODGE	COLLIE	🏠	0428 395 328	glenmervynlodge.com.au	
HARRIS RIVER ESTATE	COLLIE	🏠	(08) 9734 4042	harrisriverestate.com.au	10% off accommodation for stays of 2 nights or more
MANDIA B&B	COLLIE	🏠	0417 179 260	collierivervalley.com.au/mandia-bed-breakfast	
MUMBLES	COLLIE	🏠	0429 322 038	mumblesboutiquestays.com.au	20% discount after 2nd night
THE COLLIEFIELDS	COLLIE	🏠	(08) 9734 2052	colliefields.com	
WHISPERING PINES B&B	COLLIE	🏠	(08) 9734 3883	whisperingpinesbandb.com.au	
BLUE WREN TRAVELLERS' REST	DENMARK	🏠	(08) 9848 3300	denmarkbluewren.com.au	5% discount on accommodation
CAPE HOWE COTTAGES	DENMARK	🏠	(08) 9845 1295	capehowe.com.au	10% discount on accommodation
CASA LIBELULA	DENMARK	🏠	0403 154 764	facebook.com/CasaLibelula6333/	10% discount on accommodation
DENMARK RIVERMOUTH CARAVAN PARK	DENMARK	🏠	(08) 9848 1262	denmarkrivermouthcaravanpark.com.au	
PELICANS AT DENMARK	DENMARK	🏠	0413 122 176	pelicansatdenmark.com.au	
PEPPERMINT HOUSE	DENMARK	🏠	0408 935 405	pepperminthouse.webs.com	
THE COVE	DENMARK	🏠	(08) 9848 1770	thecovechalets.com	10% discount on accommodation
WINDROSE B & B	DENMARK	🏠	(08) 9848 3502	windrose.com.au	10% discount on accommodation
DONNELLY RIVER VILLAGE	DONNELLY RIVER	🏠	(08) 9772 1244	donnelyriver.com.au	From \$25 pp
DWELLINGUP ADVENTURES	DWELLINGUP	🏠	(08) 9538 1127	dwellingupadventures.com.au	
KALAMUNDA CARRIAGES & 3 GUMS COTTAGE	KALAMUNDA	🏠	(08) 6293 1902	perthhillsaccommodation.com.au	10% discount on accommodation
VILLA DU IAC	KALAMUNDA	🏠	08) 9293 2906		\$5.00 on accommodation
MUNDARING WEIR HOTEL	MUNDARING	🏠🍴	(08) 9295 1106	mundaringweirhotel.com.au	
KARRI COUNTRY GOOD FOOD	NORTHCLIFFE	🍴	(08) 9271 2869	karricountrygoodfood.com.au	
WATERMARK KILNS	NORTHCLIFFE	🏠	(08) 9776 7349	watermarkkilns.com.au	Discount on application
NUTKIN LODGE	PEACEFUL BAY	🏠	(08) 9840 8650	nutkinlodge.com.au	10% discount on accommodation
KARRI VALLEY RESORT	PEMBERTON	🏠	(08) 9776 2020	karrivalleyresort.com.au	10% Discount on accommodation (excluding peak periods)
PEMBERTON CAMP SCHOOL	PEMBERTON	🏠	(08) 9776 1277	pembertoncampschool.com.au	
PEMBERTON CARAVAN PARK	PEMBERTON	🏠	(08) 9776 1800	pembertonpark.com.au	
PEMBERTON DISCOVERY TOURS	PEMBERTON	🏠	(08) 9776 0484	pembertondiscoverytours.com.au	
PEMBERTON OLD PICTURE THEATRE APARTMENTS	PEMBERTON	🏠	(08) 9776 1513	oldpicturetheatre.com.au	
SILKWOOD WINES	PEMBERTON	🍴	(08) 9776 1584	silkwoodwines.com.au	
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CHE SARA SARA CHALETs	WALPOLE	🏠	(08) 9840 8004	chesarasarachalets.com.au	
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ALBANY VISITOR CENTRE	VISITOR CENTRE	📍	(08) 9841 9290	amazingalbany.com.au	
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PERTH HILLS VISITOR CENTRE	VISITOR CENTRE	📍	(08) 9257 9998	experienceperthhills.com.au	
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Peppermint House

Discover the Great Southern of WA. Our winter weather is perfect for walking, and hiking. This is the time for a crackling fire and a glass of wine after a day's walking. We are only min from the Bib. Family and pet friendly, quiet location with nearby General store. Enjoy the culinary delights of this great region. Spotlessly clean and tidy. 4 Bedrooms. Fully equipped country kitchen. Winter offers available.



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Come and take the weight off your feet at Harris River Estate Winery, Micro-brewery & Accommodation, right next to the Bibbulmun Track, in Collie River Valley.

When you enter Harris River Estate you enter into a world that will stimulate your senses on every level, from the TASTE of our award winning wines, craft beers and ciders, to the FEEL of just 'being' with family & friends, and to the SIGHT of our breathtaking views. Come visit us or stay in our vineyard view chalets today...



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Tick this 7 Day trek off your bucket list this Spring and walk the entire 135km of the Cape to Cape Track on a guided tour with Inspiration Outdoors. No camping or carrying a heavy backpack. Just walk and relax and we will do the rest!

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Office GOSSIP

With the walking season now well under way we find ourselves busy with walkers wanting maps and guidebooks, trip planning advice sessions for our members and a wide range of enquiries about walking on the Bibbulmun Track.

In April we were sorry to say farewell to Lindsay, our Office Administrator. We miss his thoughtfulness and quirky sense of humour and we wish him well. Ce is our new administrator and is settling into the role well, although she did sneak away recently for a couple of weeks in the northwest!

At the end of May Yvonne retired, to give herself time catching up on a range of projects at home, but she is coming in occasionally to fill gaps when others are away. We welcome Hugh and James to the team and they have been busy learning the ropes.

Jim B and Peter W have been walking in the UK, Lorna enjoyed a trip to Borneo, Linda spent time visiting family in NZ, Elsie spent some time in Exmouth, Mark has just returned from three months in Europe while Vicki and Edith are now

both packing their bags for Europe. Ash has also been away - not on holiday though, but undergoing surgery on her foot. We welcomed her back along with her crutches.

Thanks to a huge response from members we recruited more volunteers to assist us with the log book data entry project. We now have more than 80 volunteers doing a tremendous job. Over 150,000 log book entries have been entered from books that date back to 2003 when they were first introduced. The huge increase in data provides us with valuable information to assist with grant applications and Track management.

During National Volunteer Week in May we recognized our hard working office volunteers with morning tea each day and all our volunteers with Thank You messages via Facebook.

Gwen Plunkett

Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator



Karri Valley Resort

Escape to the forest

We are a 3.5 star family resort in a spectacular forest setting. Choose from a self contained 2 or 3 bedroom chalet or a hotel style room on the edge of the Lake. The setting is spectacular, amongst towering karri trees bordering trout filled Lake Beedelup. Kookaburras, kangaroos, emus – truly an Australian getaway.

Activities and facilities include: Canoeing, trout fishing, mini golf, archery, tennis, feeding the farm animals, bush walks, restaurant, basic general store and bottle shop.

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www.karrivalleyresort.com.au



LIFE MEMBER AND MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEER MARCUS HARRIS



Marcus is a retired geologist, having lived and explored throughout Australia and much of the rest of the world for 50 years. He came to embrace the Darling Range and the Bibbulmun Track by assisting his mate and Foundation volunteer, John Chellew, who maintains the Hewett's Hill to South Ledge section of the Track.

About twelve years ago the opportunity arose for Marcus to maintain a section of the Track south from Dwellingup.

In his youthful years, growing up in Tasmania, he walked many challenging tracks and climbed many wilderness ranges inaccessible other than on foot.

Many of the wild Tasmanian tracks he ventured upon, such as the Murchison Valley track from Tullah Dam to Fury Gorge are long since underwater, after the Murchison River, like many other rivers in Tasmania, was dammed for hydroelectric power.

However, conservation action 30 years ago highlighted by the Stop the Dams action saved the Franklin River and others. Consequently, for the intrepid, there are still challenging tracks in Tasmania, as there are on sections of the Bibbulmun Track.

By contrast the Dwellingup section Marcus looks after is benign and truly delightful to ramble along to enjoy the jarrah, banksia and zamia woodland and beautiful seasonal native wildflowers. There are also some panoramic views of small valley farms closer to Dwellingup across River Road. In January 2016 a bushfire closed the section for a few weeks but the forest is fast regenerating.

Visit Dwellingup for a short stay, enjoy what the town has to offer and ramble on your Bibbulmun Track. It's fun to walk there come rain or shine, but especially in the wildflower season.

Nepal Adventure APRIL 2018

Join the Foundation's Executive Director, Linda Daniels, on this fabulous adventure in Nepal combining a stunning 8-day trek with a few days volunteering to help a remote community rebuild its school.

This is a great opportunity for Bibbulmun Track members to help raise money for the Foundation and contribute to a substantial international service project - all the while travelling on the adventure of a lifetime!

After exploring the fascinating city of Kathmandu we head to the site of our service project, Kshamawati Higher Secondary School. The school is located in North Eastern Nepal in the Dolakha district. We will spend time here donating our time and effort to help the local labour force rebuild a portion of the school affected by the earthquake. You do not need to have any trade skills, just willing to muck in and help.

We then travel to the Annapurna region and complete a stunning trek, off the main trails, through small Gurung villages gaining incredible views of the majestic Annapurna mountain range. The rhododendron forests should be in full bloom.



This is a fully supported camping based trek including three hearty meals per day.

If you have an interest in leaving behind something positive and tangible in the places you pass through then this trip is for you!

Duration: 16 days including 4 days community project work & 8 days trekking

Grade: Introductory to Moderate

Cost: \$3190 per person + flights

Fully supported camping based trek includes:

- 15 breakfasts, 12 lunches and 11 dinners
- Expert bilingual guide
- Use of a trek pack including sleeping bag, down or fibre filled jacket and insulated mat valued at AU \$630.

For more information email admin@bibbulmuntrack.org.au for the trip notes or call Ce on 9481 0551.



Prize WINNERS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PRIZE WINNING MEMBERS

Prize for renewing as a Life Member

Erin Taylor received a Bibbulmun Track keep cup, a 4 litre dry sack and a travelling light toiletry bag.

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP PRIZE DRAW

March

Patrick Keogh won a 5 Litre kitchen sink.

Joan Gregor won 2nd prize of a waterproof iPad cover and travel cutlery set.

April

Anne Hill won a Travelling Light toiletry bag.

Simon Hesp received the 2nd prize of a Scrubba wash bag and cutlery set.

May

Lynne Sinfield won a meduim packing cell

Kim Sarti received the 2nd prize of a travel clothesline and iPad case.

June

Les and Maureen Kennedy won a large pack cover.

Shelah Perrot received the 2nd prize of a Nano head net and travel cutlery set

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



If you haven't already purchased your NEW 2017 | 2018 Entertainment Membership this year, this is your chance to support us and be rewarded with over \$20,000 of valuable offers!

- You will be supporting the Bibbulmun Track Foundation! We receive 20% of the purchase price for every Entertainment Membership sold.
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Thank you for your support.

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.

HAVE YOU CHANGED ADDRESS?

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

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

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

WEEKLY EQUIPMENT HIRE PRICES

ITEMS	MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS
Backpack	\$27.00	\$33.00
Sleeping Bag/Liner	\$20.00	\$25.00
Sleeping Mat	\$ 3.00	\$ 5.00
Stove	\$22.00	\$27.00
Tent	\$37.00	\$42.00
Dehydrator	\$35.00	N/A
PLB	\$35.00	\$45.00
PLB e-2-e 2 mths	\$170.00	\$200.00

All prices include GST and are for one to seven days
A bond is required prior to hiring equipment:
\$150.00 for basic equipment
\$300.00 for PLBs
\$230.00 for Dehydrators

Payment may be made by cash, cheque or credit card
For all enquiries contact the Foundation: Tel: 9481 0551
Email: friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au or download the booking form on our website under Trip Planner / Equipment & Hire.

TRACK TOWN - Collie

"OLD STYLE CHARM AND HOSPITALITY"

Located 200 kilometres south of Perth in the heart of the south west, Collie is a bustling, thriving country town.

Enjoy a stroll through the town centre and discover gift shops, craft supplies, cafes and plenty of Aussie pubs all offering a chance to chat with the locals over a meal or cold drink. The new Karak Red Tail Path on the edge of town takes you on a 3.5km wander through the Westralia Conservation Park.

With waterskiing, canoeing, fishing, swimming, camping, cycling and bush walking trails and 4WD tracks, Collie has plenty for those looking for action and adventure. Staff at the Visitor Centre can provide plenty of local knowledge and up-to-date advice on the best locations for the wide range of activities on offer.

The new Collie Art Gallery on Throssell Street is the first purpose-built art gallery outside Perth. Open Thursday to Monday from 10am to 4pm, the Gallery features a different exhibition every six weeks or so.

Kids of all ages will love the fantastic new skate park adjacent to Soldiers Park on the Collie River. Central Park, conveniently located in the town centre on Forrest Street, features a water park and playground. This is a great spot for lunch, with free barbecues, picnic tables, shady trees and plenty of grass where you can spread out a picnic blanket.



Black Diamond Lake.

Collie has a long history, having being declared a township in 1896 following the discovery of coal in nearby Allanson. The Coalfields Museum, Old Railway Station, Replica Underground Mine and the Rail Heritage Centre all provide a fascinating insight to the town's rich history.

Walkers will find all they need to resupply with supermarkets, hardware and camping stores in town. Collie also offers a wide variety of accommodation from budget hotels, guesthouses and B&Bs to modern self-contained apartments, motels and a caravan park.

Walkers finishing their adventure in Collie, or taking public transport back to Perth, can take advantage of a shower in the Visitor Centre to refresh themselves before their onward journey.

Take the time to explore Collie and discover for yourself what makes this a fascinating, diverse and beautiful area in which to spend a few days. Whether it's relaxation or adventure, Collie has something for everyone.



Bibbulmun Track near Collie.

Fact file:

Collie Visitor Centre
Phone: (08) 9734 2051
Email: info@collierivervalley.org.au
Address: 156 Throssell Street
www.collierivervalley.org.au

Open seven days a week:
Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm
Saturday and public holidays 10am to 3pm
Sunday 10am to 2pm
Closed Christmas and Boxing Day



F5 452 locomotive at the visitor centre.



The new Collie Art Gallery.

Please support our Walker Friendly Businesses in Collie

Collie River Valley Tourist Park
(08) 9734 5088

Comfort Inn and Suites Collie
(08) 9734 6444

Glen Mervyn Lodge
0428 395 328

Harris River Estate
(08) 9734 4042

Mandia B&B
0417 179 260

Mumbles
0429 322 038

The Colliefields
(08) 9734 2052

Whispering Pines B & B
(08) 9734 3883



Walker Story



Robert, Anthea and Geoff at the Northern Terminus.



Trekking through the Pingerup Plains.



High tide at Perkins Beach.

Robert Carter, a very experienced bushwalker and member of the Sydney Bush Walkers, joined up with friends to walk the Bibbulmun Track end-to-end in May/June 2016. This is his account of their experience, and an illustration of how planning in advance made that experience all the more enjoyable. Read on:

Bushwalking is a long-held passion of mine, but many of life's day-to-day challenges deflect us from those things we hold precious. My work to life-style balance was way out of kilter—luckily Kylie, my wife and soul mate, recognised this. She convinced me to take stock and move away from full time work.

I needed a plan to enter a world in which I could build up a range of activities as gap fillers—so I started bushwalking again. A colleague convinced me to join her bushwalking club, the Sydney Bush Walkers (SBW), and suddenly that long-held passion was brought back into being.

Soon after joining the SBW I met Bruno, who had recently completed the Bibbulmun Track end-to-end. I did some research on the Bibbulmun Track, and my admiration for Bruno and his achievement grew as we spoke about his adventure and his reasons for undertaking the walk. His words “you become immersed in the walk” kept echoing in my ears—I couldn't grasp what he meant. This intensified my goal to walk the Track to understand this immersion.

It took a couple of years to move from aspiration to action. I placed the walk on our club program and found two members were committed—Anthea and Geoff—who were experienced multi-day walkers. Another colleague, Alan, would join us at Walpole.

I lead a lot of walks for the SBW and enjoy planning and coordinating. I scoured the Foundation website, purchased the map packs and read about the experiences of other walkers. An itinerary took shape.

I joined the Bibbulmun Track Foundation—initially to offer a donation—and was pleased to be offered a contact, Jim

Baker, who would act as our track mentor. The insights received and his experience greatly contributed to the planning phase. He suggested that we had too many food drops planned, so we settled on five to coincide with our intended rest days. Our mentor also guided us on track closures and diversions due to the recent bushfires and some of the gotchas such as the Albany Highway crossing—which we still missed!

We started on April 27th, after the school holidays, intending to arrive in Albany on or around June 16th. We decided on a fairly easy pace, averaging 20km a day, as I considered fatigue over such a long distance could pose challenges if we were too ambitious. We wanted to enjoy the experience and not risk injuries. This meant that we would miss the wildflowers (replaced by the fungi), but it was important for us to walk in the cooler months. Another reason was that I have a horrible reputation with snakes and if there are any around I normally have an up close and personal experience with them. As it turned out we only saw one on the entire trip, a death adder behind the coastal sand dunes.



Geoff and Anthea at the Gloucester Tree in Pemberton.

We flew in from Sydney and after a final carbohydrate loaded meal we took the bus to Kalamunda and our first photograph at the Northern Terminus. Despite Jim's advice to be particularly careful to follow the Track markers in the first section we were lost within the first kilometre. Plenty of laughter; however this wasn't the last time we walked past a marker and needed to back track! Our modus operandi changed with Anthea becoming the marker monitor, alerting us if there wasn't a Waugal marker spotted every 15-20 minutes.

We soon met fellow walkers, a couple of young backpackers, and then Jo, a young lady walking solo with whom we shared Ball Creek campsite. She touched each of us with her life story and her reasons for escaping into the bush. This was a great introduction to the camaraderie on the Track. We all enjoyed the interaction with many people from different countries with many different stories throughout the entire walk.

I can honestly say that there were way too many highlights to list and very few lowlights except for a couple of falls on wet log crossings and an occasional blister—isn't it amazing that you can wear the same pair of boots and sock combination for weeks on end and all of a sudden you get a blister out of the blue!

The key highlights for me were the people I walked with and met along the way. At Monadnocks, after a very long day due to track closures and diversions, we caught up with a couple of characters who had started a few days before us. Norm and Dory were walking the Track for the second time and we had their company all the way to Collie, and met up again with Dory on our last night at Muttonbird. We met a couple near Peaceful Bay, with the young lady supporting her visually impaired companion, walking all the way from Denmark to Pemberton—inspirational stuff! Then there were the two school groups, Phillippe from France, Alex from Italy, two crazy Singaporeans and many more. So many people from different countries and walks of life, all sharing the same experience.

Favourite sections? All of them! I enjoyed every day and whatever it brought—the serenity of the dry jarrah forests in the north with the openness and rolling hills—the transition into the dampness of the karri—the different landscape of the scrubby Pingerup Plains, where we were lucky to experience dry conditions—the transition to the coastal plains, preparing us for the spectacular southern coastal vistas that were mind blowing, and of course the giant tingle trees.

We were constantly amused by the cautions given to us by walkers that we met of the “big hills” up ahead. Big hills? We are used to a few more challenging ups and downs on walks in the Blue Mountains and other areas where we normally walk.

The hospitality afforded us in the townships was tremendous. Here were these dirty, smelly, ravenous walkers arriving in towns where the locals and visitors were so welcoming and made our stay an absolute treat. After the simple pleasure of a shower and washing our clothes Geoff and I would normally hold court in the local pub where we quite often felt like rock stars!

The Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Bibbulmun Track Foundation have done a fantastic job in constructing, maintaining and promoting the Track and its facilities. The luxury of a clean campsite with a shelter, water and a toilet at the end of each day was very much appreciated. The volunteers who help to maintain the Track are a precious resource and we were constantly thankful

of the gift of toilet paper at many of the campsites—some may think a small gesture, however it's huge when you are on the track as toilet paper is usually a tradable commodity. (Ed: Nevertheless, walkers please carry your own!). Thank you to everyone involved for your dedication to the Bibbulmun Track and its walkers—it is certainly a credit to you all.

After 52 days of walking, including six rest days, we arrived in Albany as planned. There was no band or welcoming committee, however the final Waugal and the Southern Terminus Trailhead gave us the personal satisfaction of successfully completing our journey together and achieving our goal of becoming fitter and leaner (I lost 12% of my body weight—9kg) and more relaxed.

After a night of celebration it was time to catch the bus back to Perth and then head home. There was a strange lingering feeling, as walking the Bibbulmun Track had become a new way of life for those 52 days—a very simple way of life with just the basics carried on your back and none of the day-to-day complexities that you normally experience living in a big city. It took several weeks to come back to reality. I am pretty sure that this is what Bruno meant by being “immersed in the walk”.

I have heard people say that they felt like turning around and walking back to Perth and I can really appreciate this, except for that special someone waiting at home for me to return. This being said I will be returning and will walk the Bibbulmun Track again—possibly a double end-to-end, but I feel the need to walk the Te Araroa Track first!

Robert Carter, Sydney, NSW



Done it! All smiles at the Southern Terminus in Albany.

Notice board

WANTED: WALKING COMPANIONS FOR DWELLINGUP TO COLLIE

I would like to join one or more walkers for the Dwellingup to Collie section to finish my sectional E-2-E. I can arrange transport to and from Collie but not Dwellingup. N to S or S to N, either way. Would be able to go in early October this year. I am a senior lady and have done much of the track solo as I do not have a support group. Am prepared to pay share of any expenses required. Any age, male or female as long as you do not have extremely long legs. I am not too flash on hills.

Contact: Elaine
(08) 9376 1116 or 0409 099 189
E: johnelaineellard@hotmail.com

LOST: GOLD NECKLACE

Lost on Track about 8km north of Donnelly River gold necklace with arabic writing.

Contact: Rae
0427 850 883
e: raeyorg@westnet.com.au

FOUND: PERTH SCORCHERS CAP

Cap with ANZAC pins attached. Found on summit of Mt Vincent on 28 May 2017.

Contact: Ben
0430 394 664
E: bendineen@gmail.com

FOUND: GLASSES

Found 2km south of Beraking campsite on a Bibbulmun Track post.

Contact: BTF office
9481 0551
E: friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

FOR SALE: WALKING BOOTS

Hi-Tech Ladies Transcender. In good condition. Brown leather, fully waterproof. Size - UK - 71/2, USA - 91/2, EUR - 41 \$40.00
Can bring into the BTF office on Mondays

Contact: Lorna
9458 6392
E: saunders_lorna@yahoo.com.au

FOR SALE: WALKING TROUSERS... LADIES

1 Black and 1 Beige. Zipper detachable leg. \$50.00 each

Contact: Gwen
0438 802 588
E: g.mcn@bigpond.com

FOR SALE: MARMOT FORCE 1P UL TENT + GROUND SHEET

Marmot Force tent in excellent condition, no tears or damage of any kind. Also included is a Tyvek groundsheet I custom made for the tent, plus pegs and lines. It's been a fabulous tent for my first year of hiking (approx 15 nights of use all up), but I'm upgrading to a super UL tent that uses hiking poles instead of tent poles. You can set it up with or without the fly, so you can sleep under the stars in fine weather. The whole tent + ground sheet weighs approx 1.2kgs.

Selling for \$450 (retails \$700-800).

Contact: Ben
0430 394 664
E: bendineen@gmail.com

FOR SALE: TRANSPARENT FOLDING BUCKET - AS NEW

1. Never used, still in original sealed wrapping
2. Weighs 255g
3. Folds flat
4. Asking price \$15.

Contact: Bob
0437 613 499
E: cheems2008@gmail.com

FOR SALE: 3-FUNCTION EMERGENCY WHISTLE - NEVER USED

1. Whistle, thermometer and compass in one.
2. Unused.
3. Munkees brand.
4. Asking price \$6.

Contact: Bob
0437 613 499
E: cheems2008@gmail.com

FOR SALE: 60 LITRE CARIBEE RUCKSACK

1. Used, strong backpack, used for overnight and multi-day hikes on Bibbulmun Track.
2. In very good condition.
3. Asking price \$45.

Contact: Bob
0437 613 499
E: cheems2008@gmail.com

FOR SALE: 40 LITRE CARIBEE DAYPACK

1. In very good condition, used a few times.
2. Generous with storage pockets.
3. Hydration bladder compatible.
4. Asking price \$45.

Contact: Bob
0437 613 499
E: cheems2008@gmail.com

FOR SALE: 1-MAN TENT

1. Used.
2. 2kg, fully functional tent, suitable for hikes on Bibbulmun Track.
3. One hook is missing, string used to attach to pole.
4. Reasonable condition.
5. Asking for \$45.

Contact: Bob
0437 613 499
E: cheems2008@gmail.com

FOR SALE: BUSHWALKING BOOTS X2

1. KATHMANDU- Randonee, all leather uppers, Size11, little used, exc cond. \$45
2. SALOMON- Gortex uppers, Size11. \$25

Contact: Terry
9339 6539
E: ptoh@bigpond.com

FOR SALE: SLEEPING BAG

Black Wolf with compression bag. 1.3 kg. 5°C - 0°C. Excellent condition. \$120

Contact: Elaine
9376 1116 or 0409 099 189
johnelaineellard@hotmail.com

Want to advertise on our notice board?

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

- Non-members, please phone or email us to arrange your adverts.
Cost is \$5 for 3 months.

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

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

ARE THERE ANY SNAKES ON THE TRACK?

Oh yes! Snakes are quite common and can be seen almost anywhere along the Track, especially in late winter and spring, near the south coast and in swampy areas. The heavy footfalls of a walker are usually enough to frighten them away before they are seen. An exception to this can be on unseasonably warm days in late winter and spring when any snakes, which curl up for a long sleep during cold weather, will be sluggish if they are around. In this state they are more likely to feel threatened and, if encountered, the walker should steer well clear of them. Tiger snakes, which are highly venomous, are fairly common near swamps, wetlands and karri forest while dugites occur in drier areas anywhere.

Don't scuffle about in thick undergrowth for firewood, take special care with small children and wear sturdy shoes and thick socks. Most bites occur on the ankle or lower leg, so wearing gaiters, thick socks and sturdy boots will help prevent envenomation from possible snake bites. Ensure that your first aid kit includes at least two snake bite bandages.

Snake bite first aid—the following information should only be used as a guideline and should not replace your first aid training!

- Immediately apply pressure on to the bite.
- Do not wash the venom off the skin, as this will assist in the identification of the snake.
- Keep the person calm and completely at rest.
- If the victim is bitten on a limb, apply a firm compression bandage over the affected area, roll it toward the extremities and then back up over the affected area, as close to the body as possible.
- The bandage should be firm but not tight.
- Put a mark on the bandage indicating the location of the bite.
- The limb should be immobilised with a splint or sling.
- Once applied, the bandage should remain in place until medical care arrives (try to bring transport as near as possible to the patient). Never remove the bandage. Trained medical personnel will do this.

Snake Bite Kit

This handy kit has three 10cm compression bandages that can maintain the correct pressure and will remain tight during transport of the victim. Three bandages are necessary to apply pressure to an adult male's leg.

A first aid sheet is included.

Dimensions: 125 x105 x 40mm

Weight: approx 150g

RRP \$22 - Only \$20 for members



HELP blanket is a real life saver

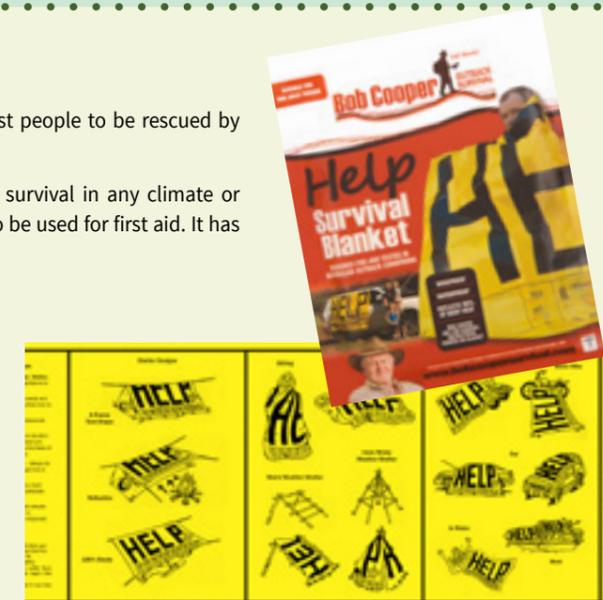
The bright yellow, pocket-sized, light-weight blanket is designed to assist people to be rescued by signalling that emergency assistance is required now.

Clearly displaying the word HELP, it satisfies three of the priorities for survival in any climate or condition: warmth, shelter and a distress signal all in one, plus it can also be used for first aid. It has been designed for and tested in Australian outback conditions.

- Bright yellow and easily seen large black print
- Says HELP in giant letters
- Windproof and Waterproof shelter
- 10 easy to follow sections of information
- Super lightweight and measures 2.0 meters long x 1.3 meters wide
- Emergency Shelter
- Highly reflective silver side
- Shock and hypothermia treatment uses

RRP \$19.95

Purchase online at bobcoopersurvival.com



Upcoming events

Spring is just around the corner and we are getting excited about our upcoming events. With the wildflowers in bloom and the perfect walking weather setting in, spring is the best time of the year to be out on Track!

So come join us on one of our walks, meet new friends and enjoy the Bibbulmun Track in all its beauty!

All events can be booked online at bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Wildflower Wander

Spend three days camping out on the Bibbulmun Track walking amongst the wildflowers.

Starting from Mundaring you will be amazed at the scenery that each day has to offer – the mysterious boulders, the expansive views and the misty mornings. Great for sectional end-to-enders, or those yet to explore the Track beyond Mundaring in the Perth Hills. Includes return transport ex Murdoch Train Station/park'n'ride, comprehensive planning night, trip preparation manual, map and equipment hire. BYO food.

Date: Saturday 23rd September 2017 at 9:00am

Where: Darling Range

Rating: Intermediate - Experienced

Cost: Members \$205; Non-Members \$230



Camp Cooking for Kids

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

A 4km return walk to a typical Track campsite during the school holidays. Just bring refreshments, snacks for kids and lunch for adults. Maximum two kids per adult; and 2 adults per child. Ages 6 to 12yrs. Includes ingredients for cooking and experienced guides.

Date: Wednesday 27th September 2017 at 9:30am

Where: Near Kalamunda

Rating: Beginners

Cost: Adults \$5; Kids \$35



Dr Dolittle Goes Bush

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: Saturday 30th September 2017 at 3:30pm

Where: Near Kalamunda

Rating: Beginners

Cost: Adults \$15; Kids \$35



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 1st October 2017 at 8:30am

Where: Near Mundaring

Rating: Beginners

Cost: Members \$75; Non-Members \$90



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 8th October 2017 at 8:30am

Where: Near Kalamunda

Rating: Beginners

Cost: Members \$50; Non-Members \$60

Ramble and Paddle

A fantastic walking and paddling weekend escape in Dwellingup.

Two adventures wrapped up in one weekend! This is one of our favourite events. Forget the heavy packs; enjoy a rewarding 14km walk on our Track with only a day pack. You will have time to enjoy some of the local attractions and a fascinating tour of the historic Murrinup POW camp before a tranquil paddle down the Murray River. Includes accommodation, breakfasts (other meals not included), guided POW tour, experienced guides, canoe equipment and instruction, return transport for from Murdoch Park'n'Ride rail terminal, as well as all transfers over the weekend.

Date: Friday 13th October 2017 at 3:45pm

Where: Dwellingup

Rating: Beginners

Cost: Members \$295; Non-Members \$315



Dehydrate and lose weight!

The Foundation has two Ezidri food dehydrators available for hire to members.

A food dehydrator is an appliance that removes moisture from food to aid in its preservation. A food dehydrator uses heat and air flow to reduce the water content of foods. The water content of food is usually very high, typically 80% to 95% for various fruits and vegetables and 50% to 75% for various meats. Removing moisture from food restrains bacteria from growing and spoiling food. Further, removing moisture from food dramatically reduces the weight of the food. Dehydration is therefore an excellent way to prepare foods for carrying when bushwalking.

The dehydrators each come with an instruction and recipe book, five trays, one mesh sheet and four solid sheets for liquids.

I have been using one since my first end-to-end in 2001 and I love it. In fact if you have attended a recent Food in a Fuel Stove workshop (see our Calendar of Events) you may have tried some of our recipes using dehydrated foods.



What do I dry? Almost all vegetables and most fruits. I even make my own tomato paste and dry that! Yoghurt? - no problem. If you dry it well enough, your dried produce will last the entire walking season.

For more info call the Foundation or visit bibbulmuntrack.org.au/trip-planner/equipment-hire/ to download a hire form. For more information on dehydrators visit Ezidri at ezidri.com.au

Dehydrators are available to members only. Hire fee is \$35 per week for a maximum period of two weeks.

Steve Sertis

Events Manager and Lead Guide

Ed: If you don't have the time to experiment before your next trip – the range of Backcountry Cuisine meals is a tasty alternative!

Social Sunday walks

Free for members. \$15 non-members. See booking conditions online.

WALK RATINGS: 🦶 BEGINNERS 🦶🦶 INTERMEDIATE 🦶🦶🦶 EXPERIENCED

3 September 9am 🦶🦶🦶
16.2km return walk from North Bannister to the Serpentine River via the Gringer Creek Campsite
10 September 9am 🦶🦶
11 km return. Lights Beach carpark to William Bay campsite
17 September 8.30am 🦶🦶🦶
23.5km return walk from Perth Hills National Parks Centre to Helena Campsite (Fit and experienced walkers only!)
1 October 9am 🦶🦶
16.3km return walk from Sullivan Rock to Monadnocks Campsite

8 October 9am 🦶🦶
18km return walk from Sand Patch to Mutton Bird Campsite near Albany
15 October 8.30am 🦶🦶🦶
18.4km return walk from Dale Road to Beraking Campsite. (Fit and experienced walkers only!)
22 October 9am 🦶🦶
16km Mt Cooke circuit walk via Mt Cooke Campsite
5 November 4pm 🦶
6.4km return sunset walk from Camel Farm to Hewett's Hill Campsite

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

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





Track Trivia

as the address. Inside was my food, map and guide book for the final section.

What a hoot. Fred and I couldn't stop laughing!

I understand the new bridge over the Murray is nearing completion. I did submit my own design for the bridge (see picture below) but it was refused on health and safety grounds, due to the absence of a safety net.



Over the past few months I've met up with many walkers in the Foundation office, including several who had completed end-to-end walks. It is particularly pleasing to see we are still getting a lot of people from overseas coming to WA specifically to walk the Track—this year alone I have met South Koreans, Americans, Canadians, Poms, Swiss, Germans, Kiwis and French, among others.

Here is a story from end-to-ender Sue Bunt of NSW.

In August last year I packed up all my food drop boxes and posted them to designated pick up spots, with the return address of Jim Baker c/o the BTF. Due to injury I had to abandon my walk, so I contacted all the recipients and asked them to return the boxes to Jim, which happened quickly with all but one parcel being returned. This parcel was addressed to the Peaceful Bay Chalets & Backpackers. The manager he was perplexed; he had never received a box, but if it did come he would return it. It never appeared.

Some months later I returned to the Track to complete my end-to-end, this time with husband Fred acting as support with our caravan—so no food drops! All went well and on my arrival at Peaceful Bay Fred was in the caravan park with the caravan. I showered and we went to the office to fill in the logbook and order fish and chips. While there I noticed several boxes, obviously for walkers to collect. Suddenly Fred noticed one with Susan written on it. It was my lost box! It had been there for about nine months, despite having Peaceful Bay Chalets & Backpackers



Always, on a walk, one meets strange characters, and the Ridgeway was no exception. High up on a chalk track we caught up with one, pushing an old fashioned, heavy bicycle with panniers hanging off the back. It was a hot day with no shade and the sun was reflecting strongly off the white surface of the track. The man with the bike resembled a latter-day Einstein—wild grey hair, a thick grey moustache and a lugubrious expression. He was wearing heavy black trousers and a long sleeved black jacket. "Bike problem?" asked Brian.

"No."

We looked at each other and I asked the obvious. "Why aren't you riding it?"

"Ah," said our Einstein. "I bring it in case I walk too far, so then I can ride it back, and the bags on the back save me from carrying anything."

We wished him well and walked on. I just wish I'd had the nerve to take a photograph.



Speaking of which, I will leave you with a couple of pictures of the quintessential English countryside seen on the journey.

Happy Walking!

Wrong Way Jim

Reflections FROM THE REGISTERS

Ball Creek

Roses are red
Violets are blue
My knees are sore
My feet are too.

Shaved Apes 19/09/1998

The morning saw a misty weir
Through the trees came the smell of beer
So faster we went over rock and hill
To sit in the pub and drink our fill.

Red Dog & Chunky Monkey 29/08/2008

Last night for the great grannies and grandchildren after six nights on the Track. We are thrilled that the children are enjoying the Track as well. Last night they said, "This view is better than TV!"

P.S. Bernice might do an end-to-end for her 85th!

Bernice (83), Prue, Jacob and Douglas (10) 10/04/2009

Frankland River

Sappers Bridge to Frankland—only 40 minutes but a magnificent walk; bright sunshine, no rain and heaps of mushrooms growing along the way. (Don't think they are the magic variety!). Campsite fantastic, setting perfect. What a wonderful secret hideaway.

Phil and Jenny 27/05/2004

Pascale and Steve here, refugees from the Australian Neuroscience meeting in Perth. This is the best spot of the three we've stayed in, although Rame Head was pretty spectacular. Fantastic trail, hats off to all those responsible—beats anything we've done in Europe or the US!

03/02/2005

Janet and Mary were ladies of class

Without boots and packs they could travel quite fast

But once they were laden the slower they went

Their brows started sweating, their backs were all bent

Their blisters were screaming, their feet were so sore

Alas and alack they were classy no more!

J&M 19/04/2007

What a fantastic forest environment and walking track. The Bibbulmun Track and shelters are an excellent example of humans and nature co-existing with minimal impact. The peace and tranquility are simply outstanding—it doesn't get any better than this. Off to Giants tomorrow! Happy walking

Michael from Sydney 06/05/2007

White Horse Hills

We finally made it! It was a long trek through the leaves but we have finally reached paradise—a log cabin! It took us five long hours but it is all so worthwhile; just remember to keep on going...walk, walk, walk...

Nicky 15/4/2001

You know, I once had a doctor who told me he was worried about the potential of bacteria growing between the tines of forks, and a well-known chef said that using my thumbnail to open my Swiss army knife was unhygienic. I don't think either of them would do well out here!

Dougal 03/08/2005

The walk from Boonerring Hill to here was like the Garden of Eden, with all the wildflowers out and the panoramic views from the hills.

DD 09/10/2005

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

THE THREE CAPES TRACK

In January of 2017, husband and wife Alan Pitman and Denise Hilsz, long time members of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation and addicted walkers, celebrated the New Year in a unique way by walking the Three Capes Track in Tasmania. They would like to share their experience with the many friends of the Bibbulmun Track who share their love of walking— anywhere, anytime:

“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.” Albert Einstein



Stone stairs on one of the coastal sections.

At the completion of the Three Capes Track this quotation from the Track guide book captured the four-day experience. “This is a world-class and innovative track which connects breathtaking coastal scenery with the nature and spirit of the land.”

The walk takes four days and covers 45 kilometres. For seasoned Bibbulmun Track walkers it is an easy walk on well-designed tracks and provides high quality hut accommodation. The walk is open to all ages and has been designed to cater for a range of fitness levels. As with many Tasmanian walks there is a fee to be paid and a limit on the number of walkers for each day. All the details are set out on the excellent website that provides information, updates and links to relevant resources.

Day One

We take off from Port Arthur on an exciting boat cruise out to Arthurs Peak and the arc of Crescent Bay. The ride gives a waterside view of the forthcoming walk and a glimpse to Tasman Island and Cape Pillar. Along the way our boat is surrounded by a pod of about 50 dolphins that encourage us on our way before zooming off to feed on a large school of salmon. An hour later we

disembark at Denham’s Cove in the Tasman National Park at the start of the trail. We are greeted by a cheeky echidna scratching beside the entry sculpture—the first of many encounters with local wildlife.

Our walk climbs due south through coastal heath and eucalypt woodlands. Along the way, we stop to take in the views and begin many encounters with interpretive artistic representations of the history, nature and spirit of this special place. There are 36 encounters and each is detailed in the track book and enrich the experience. Dear Eliza depicts fragments of convict correspondence and journal entries. Punishment to Playground describes how a place of severe punishment was turned into a place of tranquillity and pleasure.

A two-hour walk brings us to our accommodation at Surveyors Cabin. Designed to complement the environment these expansive timber and corrugated iron constructions are stunning! They provide shared cabins for up to 48 people with kitchen facilities, relaxation areas and quality drop toilets—we even had mattresses on the bunk beds.

Tonight, and every night following, the Hut Guide gives us a briefing on the campsite, weather conditions, places of interest and general information. A wide range of people and ages make up the group of 48 walking with us.

Day Two

The next day sees us moving through eucalypt forests and across open moorlands. After a climb to Arthurs Peak we look over Crescent Bay and Mount Brown to the towering spires of Cape Pillar. Along the way we share many encounters with plenty of information in our track book. Where the ‘ell are we? links us back to excerpts from the Tasmanian Tramp, a journal of the Hobart Walking Club; a wonderful insight into the walking pioneers of this Track.



Walk through coastal heath.

We wander along the cliff tops with many surprises and insights along the way. Wallabies and wombats give us shy glances as they meander along and yellow tailed cockatoos shriek in surprise at our arrival. Two majestic sea eagles hang glide over the cliffs, catching the breeze as they survey their territory.

After a four-hour walk we arrive at Munro Camp, set 242 metres above the sea on the cliffs of Munro Bight. Again, we are impressed by the design and comfort of the buildings and facilities and the viewing deck which juts out over the cliff wall. Our lullaby tonight is provided by the Tasman Sea and the call of the southern boobook owl.

Day Three

This is a day of dizzying heights as we head off on an out-and-back walk to Cape Pillar, skirting The Blade. We have left our packs at Munro so the cliff edges are easy to navigate, even for a person who is afraid of heights. The encounters along the way include The Lightkeepers Daughter which tells of the hardships endured by the Tasman Island Lightkeeper’s family. The fascinating history and anecdotes included in the track book add another dimension to this walk.

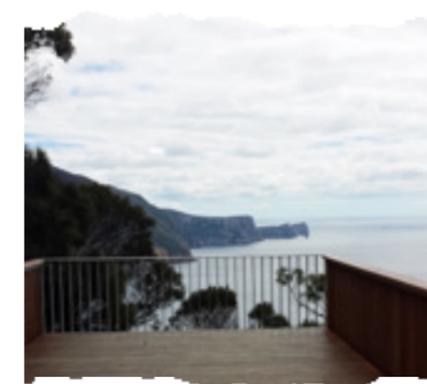
Today includes a stop at the Seal Spa! Yes, indeed—the Tasman Island Day Spa, Australia’s most southerly spa where you will find mudstone baths, multiple plunge pools and discrete pools for couples. The hilarious advertisement in the track book almost had me fooled into making a booking! I must say it was a great view to enjoy during the return walk. We drag ourselves away from the amazing views and make our way back to Munro, collect our packs and head off to walk to Retakunna Camp for our final night. Here we settle in and wait for the nocturnal creatures to put on the evening show.



Surveyors Camp is one of three cabins on the track.

Day Four

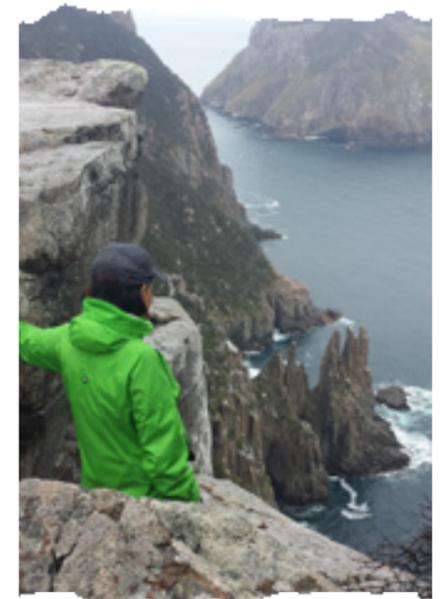
On the final day of this magic walk we cover a variety of terrain including mountains, rainforests, coastal cliffs, heathlands, a stunning cape and a perfect sandy beach at the end. Walking over Mt Fortescue has been made easy with the construction of a contoured climb and along the way there are plenty of encounters to give you the perfect excuse



The look-out at Munro Camp.

to stop for a while. Once Upon a Time takes us into a mossy, damp forest where you almost expect to see hobbits and dragons. Pillars of the South provides notes detailing the history of the giant pillars of ancient stones along the track.

Leaving our packs at the junction we make our way to Cape Huay, where the well-constructed tracks and steps are appreciated as this is a fairly steep and challenging section of the walk. The view all the way is breathtaking and the lookout point which hangs out over the crashing waters is a highlight. Don’t miss doing this extra trail—many of the walkers in our group didn’t bother and they missed something quite special.



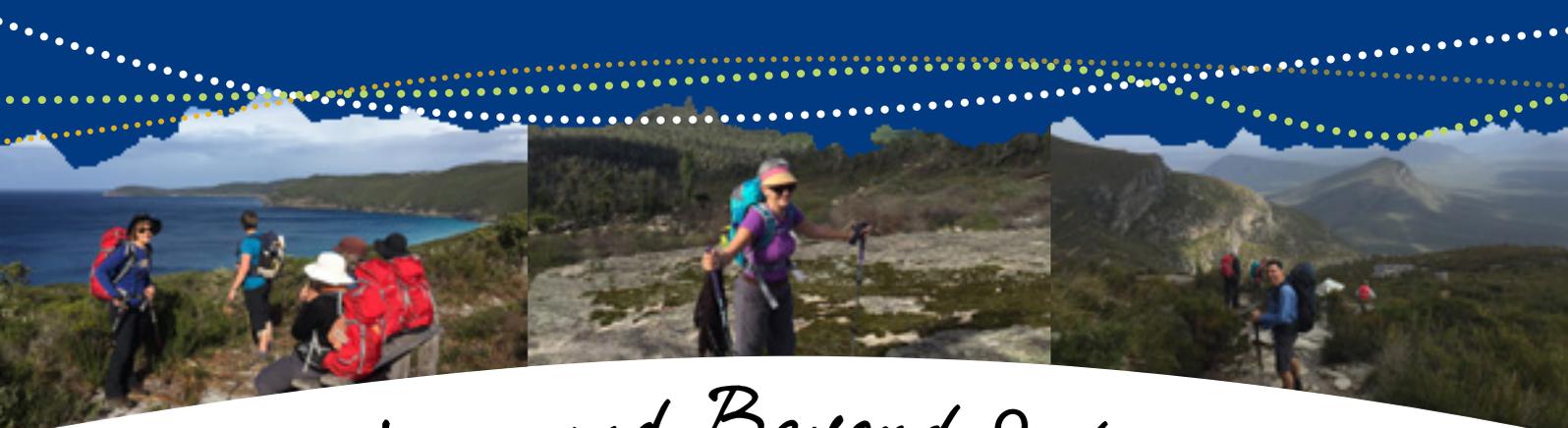
The track takes you to the edge of the sea cliffs.

The final part of the walk takes us downhill to Fortescue Bay through coastal heathland with views down to a peaceful bay. At Fortescue, we had time for a dip in the pristine waters and some much-appreciated coffee and snacks at the kiosk, where we sat back and recalled the many elements of the Three Capes Track before catching our shuttle bus back to Port Arthur.

We have completed a number of Tasmanian Tracks including the Overland and Bay of Fires. All the walks have rewarded us with unique and exciting experiences and the Three Capes Track joins that group. The many people who make these walks in Tasmania possible are to be congratulated for their determination, creativity and commitment to the environment.

Tips:

- Avoid school holidays.
- Be prepared for all types of weather, after all this is Tasmania.
- Take your time each day to stop and read, observe and enjoy the vistas and encounters.
- The kitchen facilities include stainless steel everything, Smeg stove tops, cooking equipment and everything you need to cook up a storm.
- Find out more at www.threecapestack.com.au



Bibbulmun and Beyond 9 day Tour

Book your seat today! 30 April to 8 May 2018

Join our lead guide, Steve Sertis to experience the best of the Bibbulmun Track and the majesty of the Stirling Ranges. Carefully selected full and half-day walks will take you past giant boulders and through jarrah forests in the northern section; through the magnificent karri and tingle forest and on to the spectacular ocean views and coastal heathlands of the Great Southern region.

Cost: \$2,830 twin share. Includes accommodation, meals, transfers, experienced guides and more!

Visit the **website** or contact the **Bibbulmun Track Foundation** for a dossier.

"The whole experience was seamless with professional, enthusiastic, friendly and well organised guides."

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

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