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**THE BIBBULMUN TRACK FOUNDATION**

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**Bibbulmun NEWS**

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Newsletter for the friends of the Bibbulmun Track

**End-to-Enders Gather**

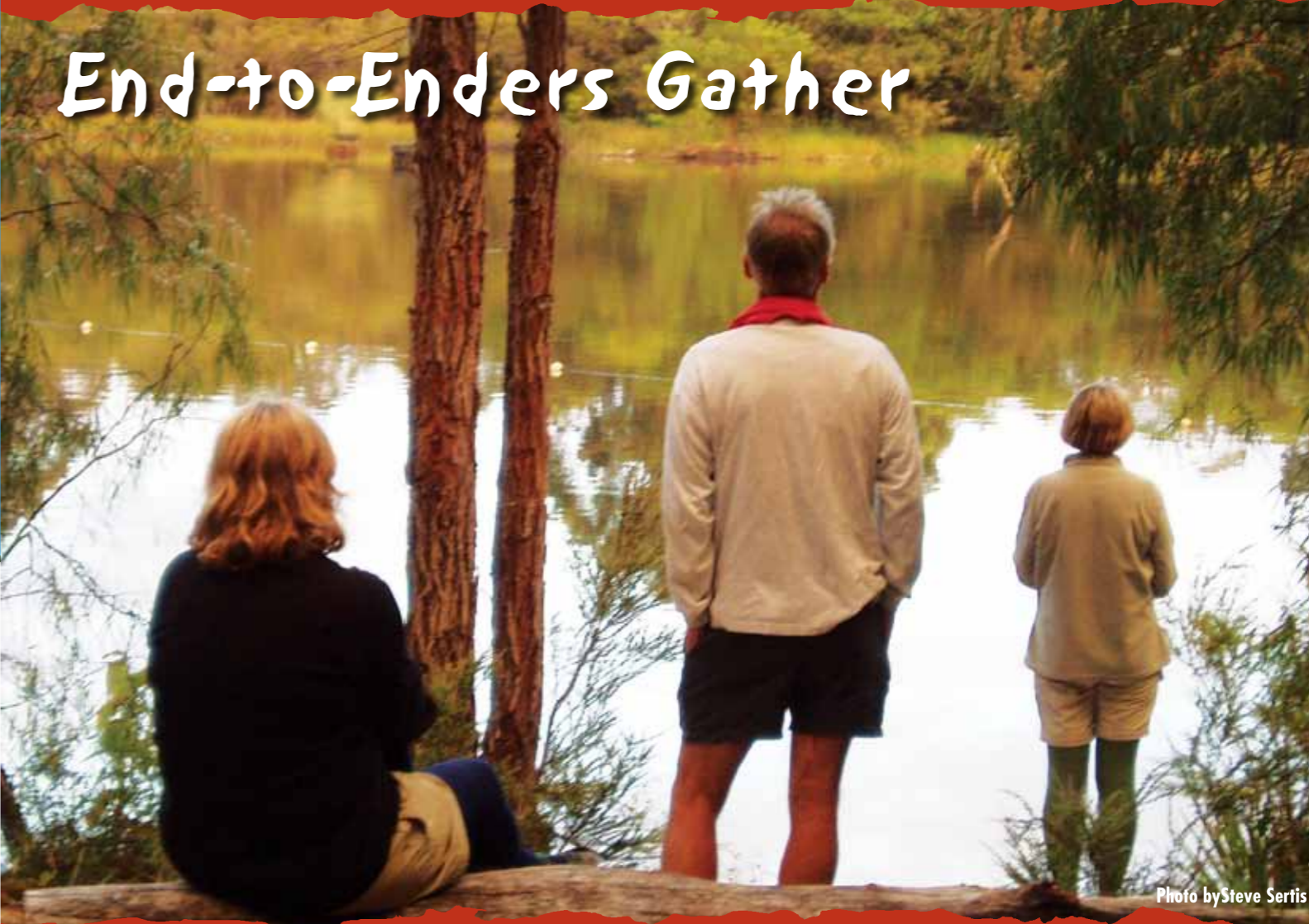


Photo by Steve Sertis

ABC Perth Radio posed a question, what is an End-to-Ender? The answers, including a power tool, were way off the mark before the fourth caller gave the correct description. The question was asked following my interview with Eion Cameron regarding the End-to-Ender Picnic on March 12.

Over 130 registered End-to-Enders, along with friends and families, met at Point Walter Reserve in Bicton. The End-to-Enders represented walkers from all three alignments of the Track and had either completed the Track in sections or walked from one end to the other in one go.

The 1979 alignment extended from Kalamunda to Northcliffe, approximately 520km; the 1988 alignment continued on to Walpole, extending the Track a further 130kms; and the current alignment, opened in 1998, takes walkers all the way to Albany, a total of 965 kilometres.

Walkers were very excited to meet fellow End-to-Enders who perhaps they had heard about from other walkers or read about in the campsite registers. Of course most indulged in telling their Track stories such as the biggest tiger snake ever encountered, the most rain had on their walk, where and when they got lost, the hardest day had

on the Track, and everything else except the story about the fish that got away! Some were reunited with walkers they had met on the Track and had not seen for years.

On the day, End-to-Enders had the opportunity to re-visit the memories of their walk through the various campsite registers, Bibbulmun Walk '79, '88 and '98 diaries, 1979 Guidebook, 1988 Guide Book and the current Guide Books, most of which were made available on the day with the support of the Tracks and Trails Unit at CALM.

Cont. page 2



# End-to-End Picnic cont...

A pin-up board displayed walkers stories, various versions of the End-to-End certificate over the years, messages from End-to-Enders who could not attend, and copies of the 'Yes-they did it!' articles from Bibbulmun News which publishes the details of each individual end-to-ender's achievement.

Jim Freeman (aka the Mad Axeman) brought the spirit of the Bibbulmun back to us all through his poetry. Mike Wood, Chairman of the Foundation and Managing Director of Mountain Designs introduced Greg Robertson, Site Manager of Boddington Gold Mine (BGM), the Foundation's new Premier Sponsor. Greg, attending the picnic with his wife Chris, expressed his enthusiasm for the Bibbulmun Track and welcomed the opportunity for BGM to play an active role in maintaining the Track, which runs adjacent to the Mine, through sponsoring the 'Eyes on the Ground' maintenance program. Greg's first duty was to call the winning numbers for the spot prizes on the day.

With a very relaxed atmosphere, excellent weather and the comforting feeling of being surrounded by over a hundred people with the same thing in common, the day was a great success. Many End-to-Enders, including myself, are looking forward to the next get together where we would welcome many more people who have experienced what it is to become an End-to-End. 🌻

**Steve Sertis**  
End-to-Ender



The old campsite registers proved very popular



Linda Daniels, Executive Director Bibbulmun Track Foundation, Greg Robertson, Site Manager Boddington Gold Mine & Mike Wood, Foundation Chairman and Managing Director Mountain Designs



1989 End-to-End Walk - LR Mavis Freeman, Max Walsh, Elaine Airey, Richard Penn-Dennis



Over 55's Walking Group - Last group to walk the old Track before it was realigned in '89.



Windmill Walkers - walked the Track on 24 outings from 1998



Enjoying the sunshine and sharing memories



## FROM MY Desk



Welcome to the Winter edition of Bibbulmun News.

You may notice a theme running through this edition as we focus on the special group of Bibbulmun Track walkers known as 'end-to-enders'. The end-to-ender 'brag' picnic was warmly received and prompted around 60 people to complete the paperwork and officially register their end-to-end walk.

There are now 586 registered end-to-enders – some of whom have completed multiple end-to-end walks. When looking at the facts and figures it is interesting to note that around 20% are from interstate or overseas; 30% are female and that 88 were aged between 61 and 79 when they completed their walk. This tells us that word is definitely spreading beyond WA, that women are comfortable walking on the Track and that age is no barrier. All good news!

The number of people completing an end-to-end each year is increasing steadily and 61 recent end-to-enders are recognised in this edition of Bibbulmun News on pages 12 to 14. Every one of these people has a unique story to tell about their journey and I'm sure that you, like me, will find Elsie Grygiel's story on page 10 inspiring.

Of course, not everyone has the time, stamina or inclination to walk the Track from end-to-end (even in sections!) and this month the team from Channel 7's 'The Great Outdoors' is filming a promotional spot for our Bibbulmun Walking Breaks which combine selected day walks and B&B accommodation for a relaxing holiday with all the creature comforts. This is taking place as the newsletter goes to print and may go to air in June or July so keep an eye out!

Our events programme is in full swing and is a wonderful way to get the kids involved or to meet like-minded people. Please help spread the word to friends and family. Team Challenge registrations are also open and heats will fill up fast, so if you've been meaning to enter a team each year – now's the time to do it.

I am pleased to report that the Foundation is running smoothly and, thanks to the support of our members, volunteers and sponsors we continue to answer hundreds of enquiries each month and maintain the Track to a high standard.

We are also working with CALM to address some of the issues that have arisen, such as trail bikes and vehicles accessing campsites, and have had some minor successes. However, these issues often go beyond the Bibbulmun Track to all National Parks and require long-term strategies including community education.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Bibbulmun News and find it both informative and inspiring.

Many thanks to volunteer, member and end-to-ender, Jim Baker, for editing all the articles.

**Linda Daniels**  
Executive Director

## ENTER A TEAM IN THE ULTIMATE BUSH WALKING CHALLENGE!

Time to get your colleagues and friends together and enter a team in the 2006 Mountain Designs Bibbulmun Team Challenge.

During October and November, 16 teams will compete in one of four heats incorporating bushwalking, team-building and mind-bending activities along the Bibbulmun Track.

Now in its fifth year, the event is a "must do" for some organisations who sign up each year, and is an amazing experience for the participants. This is what some of last year's challengers had to say...

"This was without a doubt the most impressive team challenge event that I have been involved with. The activities were extremely well planned and executed" Neil Driscoll "The Coights"

"Why was the event excellent? The enthusiasm of Steve and the leaders; the mix of challenges; the idea it was a competition, but in a friendly way; a great way to get to know the strengths and weaknesses of your workmates; and it makes you think about interaction with others. I am encouraging my workmates to apply to be in the PWC team next year, as it is such a worthwhile experience." Sarah O'Halloran, PricewaterhouseCoopers.

"A really enjoyable four days... it is only when you reflect afterwards that you appreciate all the time and effort which goes into the organising of such an event and also appreciate that the guys helping you are volunteers and do it for something they really believe in....brilliant!" Stuart Gilson, Perth Glory

"Thanks again. I had no idea how much fun I was in for. I've been raving about it and recommending it to everyone." Holly Smith, CALM

What more can we say? Email [events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au](mailto:events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au) or call Steve on 9481 0551 for more information.

All proceeds from the event go towards the ongoing sustainability of the Bibbulmun Track so you're also raising money for a great cause!

"A perfect combination of nature, people, challenges and rewards!! Thank you for a wonderful time on the Track – it was a wonderful, professional experience. I would recommend it to anyone." Tanya Ashley, Pitcher Partners.

Thank you...  
Thank you

Many thanks to **Keith Carmody** for his kind donation for paddles, for the canoes at the Irwin Inlet.

Thank you to **Carrie Lock**, a solo end-to-ender in 2003, who has kindly donated an EPIRB to the Foundation. Carrie found that an EPIRB gave her added peace of mind throughout her end-to-end walk and hopes it will do so for others.

Thank you also to one of our members, who wishes to remain anonymous, who donated \$1 for each kilometer of the Track, and to the **'The Grimey Limeys'** who also made a generous donation.

See the 'Your letters' pages.



# YOUR LETTERS

**Our mail-bag has been very full lately. Sadly, we can't print all your letters – but please keep them coming as we like to receive your feedback and enjoy reading about your adventures.**

Dear Editor:

Firstly an enormous thank you for creating the Bibbulmun Track. It had become a little light at the end of the tunnel after a stressed year in Melbourne. The perfect breaks between that and a move to Sydney. The great thing we have found is that once you are on these long distance tracks, no thought is required, apart from what to eat of course. The ultimate relaxation!

One thing that struck me about the Bibbulmun is the fantastic continuity of vegetation it has along it. We only seemed to cross a couple of patches of paddock and non-native forestry. This effectively is an enormous wildlife corridor creating an opportunity to allow species to move in adaptation to threats such as climate change. Other states are trying to create the same thing and you have it already. The presence of the Bibbulmun Track I am sure helps to cement the security of the surrounding bush as it is now seen as a great tourist resource. The benefits of long distance footpaths in promoting wildlife needed to be considered elsewhere – I will be sowing the seed in NSW!

On another tack, the breaks we took in all the country towns along the way were a real highlight of the walk for us. I think we visited every tourist attraction easily reachable by foot with highlights being the steam railway in Dwellingup, the country show at Collie and the WOW tour at Walpole. The scariest was definitely the Gloucester Tree. We also ate extremely well by just buying food en route and would highly recommend that people do this to support these local and vibrant communities.

**Thank again Anna & Adam,  
aka The Grimey Limeys**

Hi

I was amazed to arrive home from a three-month overseas trip to find that I had won a prize, which I thought was a daypack. On presenting the letter to Mountain Designs I found it to be a new backpack so was doubly (!) thrilled. I have had my pack for years and it is definitely showing signs of wear and tear but I convinced myself that it would last forever.

I am heading off next week for a hike between Denmark to Walpole with some friends and will be trialing my new pack in anticipation of returning to South Africa to hike the Drakensberg Grand Traverse again; this time from South to North, which is the more difficult hike.

**Kind Regards  
Pam Bradley**

**Ed - Pam won her prize in the Life Member's draw. You can read about Pam's first hike of the Drakensberg Grand Traverse in issue #39 (Spring 2005) of Bibbulmun News.**

Dear Editor:

My husband and I walked the northern half of the Bibbulmun Track last October and were delighted to meet Action Outdoors Association members maintaining the Mt Wells Hut – not only maintaining it, but improving it by removing non-native plant species.

We were even happier to have AOA members on hand when the Hut was nearly taken over during the night – not once, but twice – by parties of off-road vehicles. It would have been a frightening experience for the two of us had not the AOA members been there to explain to the 4WD trucks and bikes that the hut was for walkers, not vehicular parties.

Thanks again, and keep up the good work – the hut maintenance is very much appreciated.

**Regards,  
Nina McLaren and Ian Johnson**

Hi

It's a bit late but I thought I'd write and thank you for all your help over the past year in planning my E2E.

I completed it without any problems between 3rd October and 8th November.

The walk was marvellous, and I was very impressed (as was every other walker who I met) by the quality of the trails and huts and the hard work that the volleys put into it – such a setup is almost inconceivable in Britain with such a high population density and all the problems that come with it. My heartfelt thanks to everyone concerned. The weather was generally favourable and was mostly about as cool as in England so I felt quite at home and even a little smug at having brought a nice warm sleeping bag!

As always on such trips there were a number of high points, but my favourite has to be Torbay. Arriving at the hut in the early afternoon on a glorious day, I carried on down to the shop a couple of kilometres from Cosy Corner, intending to make a phone call and then camp at Cosy Corner East But... nice though Cosy Corner was, the Torbay hut site was so beautiful (see picture) that I went back up to spend the night there. Lovely views, lovely sunset and complete peace before the imminent arrival to Albany. Marvellous!

**Thanks once again,  
and good luck for the future.  
Duncan Anderson, UK**



Hi,

I want to pass on a huge thank you to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation and to Berryvale Lodge in Dwellingup for providing a wonderful weekend getaway as part of the prize for winning the Bibbulmun photography competition in 2005.

Last weekend, my daughter Erin and I had a very enjoyable stay at Berryvale. We were very lazy and didn't take up the offer of drop offs and pick ups on the Track, but instead just became Dwellingup tourists visiting the Forest Heritage centre, riding the Etmyln train, watching the log chop competitions, visiting craft shops and galleries and lazing in the lovely surrounds at Berryvale.

We did manage a little walk (with no boots, socks or gaiters – very unFOF-like!!) to Marrinup Falls, which still had enough water over it to make it a very pleasant spot on a warm afternoon.

But above all, Marcia and Peter at Berryvale provided a wonderfully welcoming 'home' for the weekend. Their accommodation, guest facilities, hospitality, fantastic food and 'Berryvale ambiance' are second to none! Added bonuses were the lovely gardens and the many friendly animals and birds. My camera was very busy all weekend!

Thank you so much to everyone involved in the provision of this fantastic prize. It was much appreciated and definitely enjoyed!

**Charmaïne Harris  
(FOF #1)**

Dear Editor:

Please find enclosed a donation of \$967 from an age-pensioner member who has just completed a sectional end-to-end. One dollar per km of the Track.

Use of the Track and facilities is free, and should remain so, but it takes a lot of effort and money to maintain the wonderful standard. Those of us who use it regularly should contribute if we can. From my point of view, where else can you get entertainment, exercise, accommodation and good company for about \$20 per day. On top of that, for those with more income than me, it's tax deductible.

Putting things in perspective, a volunteer who works just one day a month for a year is making a much greater contribution to the Track than I am.

**Ed: The donor wishes to remain anonymous. The Foundation would like to extend its sincere thanks to you, sir or madam, not only for the money, but also for the generous sentiments expressed in the letter. We wish you many more years of happy walking!**

**Tax deductible donations can be made by cash or by cheque. Cheques should be made out to the National Trust of Australia (WA) and sent to the Foundation. A receipt will be issued.**

Dear Friends of Bibbulmun Track

Just a quick note with a membership application. Over the Christmas period I walked from Broke Inlet Road to Peaceful Bay over eight days. This was a great introduction to the Bibbulmun Track and again I was struck with what an amazing asset this is for the state and indeed all walkers from wherever they are visiting.

So as a small gesture of thanks and help with the continued work of the Foundation my membership application is attached. I hope to definitely get to experience more of the track during 2006. Good luck with your continued good work in ensuring the track is a living entity.

**With thanks  
Judy Comfort**



# Latest Track News

Compiled by Tracks & Trails Unit, CALM. The following Track news is accurate and up to date at time of printing.

For the very latest updates it is important that you check the Latest Track News web page, which can be accessed via a link from the Foundation's home page at: [www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au) or [www.calm.wa.gov.au/tourism/bib\\_news](http://www.calm.wa.gov.au/tourism/bib_news)

## CAMPFIRES

Blackwood and Yourdamung campsites have a permanent fire ban, as do all campsites from Mount Chance South.

## NOTIFICATION OF INTENT FOR ORGANISED NON-COMMERCIAL GROUPS TO CONDUCT OVERNIGHT EXPEDITIONS ON CALM TRACKS AND TRAILS.

The CALM Tracks and Trails Unit requests that groups (with 8 or more members), planning to conduct an overnight expedition on a CALM track or trail, notify the Unit of their intentions prior to their planned activity. The notification process is used to help us manage and record group usage, and also to preserve the conservation values and the enjoyment level of all track/trail users. The information collected also assists CALM during emergency response situations such as a wildfire. We would also appreciate large groups (15 members or more) that are planning day walks to notify the Unit of their intentions. For a NOTICE OF INTENT form contact the Tracks and Trails Unit on 9334 0265 or the foundation.

## NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS

### Mundaring Section of Perth Hills District

*Covers Kalamunda to Gringer Creek Campsite near Albany Highway*

*Map 1 or Sections 1 to 12 in the Northern Guidebook*

*Contact: Kym Pearce (08) 9538 0006 or [kymp@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:kymp@calm.wa.gov.au)*

The shelter at Beraking campsite has been rebuilt and is proving to be very popular with walkers. Vegetation in the section of the Track between Waalegh and Old Mount Dale Road that was burned is regenerating well. However, walkers are asked to ensure they remain on the Track in this area to give the plant life every chance to recover fully.

The bridge across the Canning River between Canning and Monadnocks campsites has been rebuilt, and the Track returned to its original alignment.

The Forest Products Commission is carrying out a pine clean up operation in the Beraking pine plantation between Beraking and Mount Dale campsite over the coming months. The Track will remain open but walkers should proceed with caution.

Over the coming months, sections of the Track in the Perth Hills will be affected by prescribed burning operations and large sections may be diverted. Walkers should follow all signage and directions on the Track.

PLEASE use water sparingly. The campsites in the Perth Hills are the most heavily used on the Track.

### Dwellingup Section of Perth Hills District

*Covers Gringer Creek Campsite to Harvey-Quindanning Rd*

*Map 2 or Sections 13 to 20 in the Northern Guidebook*

*Contact: Kym Pearce (08) 9538 0006 or [kymp@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:kymp@calm.wa.gov.au)*

The section of the Track between the Murray and Dookanelly campsites, which was severely affected by a wildfire, has been re-opened. The Track is properly marked, but walking in the area will not be a pleasant experience. We suggest that unless you are passing through this section on an extended walk, it would be best to avoid it. The fire affected neither of the above campsites.

### Mornington (Collie) District

*Covers Harvey-Quindanning Road to Mumballup*

*Map 3 or Sections 20 to 25 in the Northern Guidebook*

*Contact: Peter Morris or Scott Hunter (08) 9734 1988*

The toilet at Harris Dam campsite has been converted to a sealed vault type, which will improve user conditions considerably.

Minor realignments of the Track have taken place to avoid sections that had become badly eroded, and three damp areas, which had timber rings in use as stepping stones, have been upgraded with boardwalks.

### Blackwood - Balingup District

*Covers Mumballup to Willow Springs*

*Map 4 or Sections 25 to 30 in the Northern Guidebook*

*Contact: Dave Lathwell (08) 9731 6232 or [davel@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:davel@calm.wa.gov.au)*

A prescribed burn has been partially completed four kilometres south of Gregory Brook campsite. Until the burn has been totally completed, and the Track checked, a diversion will be in place south of the Brockman Highway to the Yornup-Nannup power line, north of Willow Springs.

(See page 272 of the Northern Guidebook). Instead of crossing the Brockman Highway just west of Karri Gully, follow the diversion along the Highway to Stallard Road. Turn left and follow Stallard Road south to the power line, turn left again, follow the power line maintenance road and turn right where it rejoins the Track. This will increase the distance walked by about two kilometres.

A second prescribed burn is planned. If it goes ahead, it will affect the Track in the Blackwood Valley area. A diversion will be in place between Grimwade Road and Jayes Road. (See page 243 of the Northern Guidebook). If planning to walk in this area, check the Track conditions on the web before you go.

Pine harvesting is planned for south of Blackwood campsite, in the autumn. This will take place in two stages, the first of which will require a diversion commencing at the Blackwood campsite. The Track will be diverted through marked plantation tracks east to Southampton Road, then south along Southampton Road until it rejoins the Track via a short track heading west. This will be a six and a half kilometres diversion and will add three and half kilometres to the normal walk.

The second stage of the harvesting will not require any diversions, however walkers should note that about 150 meters of the Track will be shared with slow moving vehicles.

Please take care when walking during this period and ensure you follow all signage and instructions.

### Manjimup & Pemberton - Donnelly District

*Covers Willow Springs to Pingerup Road*

*Maps 5 and Map 6, Section 30 in the Northern Guidebook and Sections 31 to 42 in the Southern Guidebook*

*Contact: John McKenzie (08) 9776 1207 or [johnm@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:johnm@calm.wa.gov.au)*

A number of trees have fallen across the Track, most of which have been removed. The remainder will be removed as soon as time and resources permit.

A prescribed burn is planned just to the south of Boarding House campsite. When this occurs, the Track will be diverted temporarily west along Palings Road and then south along Scatter and Lease Roads to meet up with the Track at Lease Road Bridge. (See page 73 of the Southern Guidebook)

A prescribed burn in the Gloucester National Park south of Pemberton, has resulted in a small temporary diversion from the Gloucester Tree car park,

along Burma Road to the bridge across the Eastbrook.

Some work will be underway on the Track south of Gardner campsite through to Chesapeake Road during autumn. CALM staff will be on hand, and notices regarding the work will be placed in the shelters at Gardner and Lake Maringup.

Currently, there is no water lying on the Track between Chesapeake Road and Dog Road, so no wading will be necessary!

### Walpole - Frankland District

*Covers Pingerup Road to Denmark*

*Maps 6, 7 and 8 or Sections 42 to 53 in the Southern Guidebook*

*Contact: Andrea Bidwell or Alison Driscoll (08) 9840 1027*

The steps at Conspicuous Beach have been completed, and the diversion removed. Access to the beach is safe and construction of the remaining areas of boardwalk, including the viewing platform, is scheduled to be completed over the next two months.

Parry Inlet is no longer flowing, so there is no obstacle to walkers along Mazzeletti Beach.

### Albany

*Covers Denmark to Albany*

*Map 8 or Sections 53 to 58 in the Southern Guidebook*

*Contact Luke Coney (08) 9842 4500 or [lukec@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:lukec@calm.wa.gov.au)*

The sandbar has formed across Wilson Inlet, so it is possible to walk the section between Nullaki campsite and Denmark Town via Nullaki Point and Ocean Beach. (See page 263 in the Southern Guidebook)

The dinghy hire service is not available due to low water levels in the inlet.

Local taxi and drop-off operators who will drive walkers around the inlet are Denmark Cabs (9848 2295), Little River Discovery Tours (9848 2604) and Windrose B&B (9848 3502).

Volunteers will be tackling areas of heavy growth along the Track in March and April, as well as addressing signage, waterbar maintenance and step repair. Walkers who encounter volunteers on the Track are encouraged to introduce themselves and advise of any maintenance matters that need attention.

**A very BIG THANK YOU to all the Bibbulmun Track volunteers, CALM staff and the Bibbulmun Track Foundation for their on-going support to the Bibbulmun Track. 🌻**

Keep up-to-date with the latest Track News, special offers and events with our email newsletter.

Email [events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au](mailto:events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au)

and ask to go on our mailing list.

Remember to let us know if your

email address has changed!

## Hut at Mount Wells Campsite restored -

A Special Thanks to the Peel Development Commission.

Many Bibbulmun Track walkers will be familiar with the Mount Wells campsite and its shelter, which is unique amongst the shelters on the Track. The shelter is a replica of the hut used by firewatchers, who would spend months on the hilltop, scanning the horizon for fires. The original hut was destroyed by fire in 1961, rebuilt by the Forest Department in 1962 and renovated by CALM and the Ministry of Justice in 1997. Since that time it has been available to walkers as a shelter.

Unfortunately it is easily accessible by vehicles\*, and over the years it has suffered vandalism, which resulted in asbestos cladding being exposed in the walls and ceiling.

In July 2005 a project was established to remove all asbestos material from the site and renovate the shelter.

The Peel Development Commission provided funding for this project, and all the work has now been completed.

Our thanks go to the Commission for their generous action, which assists The Bibbulmun Track to remain one of the most popular sources of outdoor activity in Western Australia. 🌻



● **Foot Note:** We're very happy to report that two heavy duty gates are being installed at Mount Wells to prevent vehicles from accessing the campsite.

## Vehicles on the Track

Reports continue to come in regarding the presence of unauthorised vehicles on the Bibbulmun Track, especially at the campsites.

The rules of the Track are quite clear: -

Unless authorised by CALM, no vehicles, including bikes or motorcycles, are allowed access to campsites, or permitted on any parts of the Track other than roads normally open to the public. This also applies to wheeled devices such as rickshaws and trolleys.

We would request that walkers take the following action if they encounter any vehicles on the Track, particularly at campsites:

- Avoid any confrontation with the vehicle owners or passengers.
- Note as much detail about the vehicle as possible i.e. registration number, make and colour and also the location, time and date when the vehicle was seen.

Report the sighting to The Bibbulmun Track Foundation or to the nearest office of CALM at the earliest opportunity. 🌻

# Accommodation, Tours and Services

The following business have supported the Track by becoming Affiliated members. Please take a look and remember them when you next book a tour or accommodation. The Foundation is happy to welcome WANJEDDA HILLTOP B&B AND ATTRACTIVE TOURS who have joined recently. Thanks to all our Affiliated Organisations for their support!

BUSINESS NAME	TOWN	TYPE OF BUSINESS	PHONE NO.	DISCOUNT OFFERED TO MEMBERS
ATTRACTIVE TOURS	PERTH	Tour	(08) 9477 4997	
INSPIRATION OUTDOORS	PERTH	Tour	(08) 9378 2523	5%.
BERRYVALE LODGE	DWELLINGUP	Accommodation/Transport prov.	(08) 9538 1239	10% Sun-Thurs inclusive (excl public hols and long w/e).
DWELLINGUP ADVENTURES	DWELLINGUP	Tour	(08) 9538 1127	10% on self-guided tours.
DWELLINGUP BUNKHOUSES	DWELLINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9538 1314	10%.
DWELLINGUP CHALET & CARAVAN PARK	DWELLINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9538 1157	No.
COLLIE VISITOR CENTRE	COLLIE	Tourist Bureau	(08) 9734 2051	10% on souvenirs. Excl. CALM books, maps and craft.
PREMIER HOTEL	COLLIE	Accommodation	(08) 9734 1899	\$15 sgl, \$10 dbl.
WHISPERING PINES B&B	COLLIE	Accommodation	(08) 9734 3883	10%.
PEPPERMINT LANE LODGE	WELLINGTON MILL	Accommodation	(08) 9728 3138	On application.
WANJEDDA HILLTOP B&B	MUMBALLUP	Accommodation	(08) 9732 2004	10%.
BALINGUP BUDGET ACCOM. - 'THE HIKERS HIDEAWAY'	BALINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9764 1049	10% for 2 or more nights.
CHESTNUT BROOK COTTAGE	BALINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9764 1606	10% (direct bookings only).
JALBROOK COTTAGES - ALPACAS & KNITWEAR GALLERY	BALINGUP	Accommodation - Attraction	(08) 9764 1616	10% with 'first down' breakfast basket inc. (excl. specials and long w/e). Direct bookings only.
KARRI FOREST MOTEL	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 1019	10%.
KARRI VALLEY RESORT	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 2020	10%. Not available on public holidays.
KARRI GLADE CHALETs	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 1120	
PEMBERTON CAMP SCHOOL	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 1277	No.
PEMBERTON DISCOVERY TOURS	PEMBERTON	Tour/Transport prov.	(08) 9776 0484	\$5 p.p. off tours (direct bookings only).
PEMBERTON TOURIST CENTRE INC	PEMBERTON	Tourist Bureau	1800 671 133 or (08) 9776 1133	Through members possibly.
WANDERING VINTAGE SCENIC BUS TOURS	PEMBERTON	Tour/Transport prov.	(08) 9776 1757 or 0429 776 175	No.
BIBBULMUN BREAK MOTEL	NORTHCLIFFE	Accommodation	(08) 9776 6060	\$5 sgl, \$7 dbl/twin on presentation of card.
NORTHCLIFFE CARAVAN PARK & BACKPACKERS	NORTHCLIFFE	Accommodation	(08) 9776 7295	On application.
WATERMARK KILNS	NORTHCLIFFE	Accommodation	(08) 9776 7349	\$5 in double kiln (shared facilities) or \$10 for the single kilns. Pre-booking recommended. YHA rate.
'TINGLE ALL OVER' BUDGET ACCOM and WALPOLE TAXI & TOURS	WALPOLE	Accommodation - Tour/Transport prov.	(08) 9840 1041	
WALPOLE LODGE	WALPOLE	Accommodation	(08) 9840 1244	\$2 p.p., p.n.
BLUE WREN TRAVELLERS REST	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 3300	5%.
DENMARK BUDGET ACCOMMODATION	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 1700	10%.
GUM GROVE CHALETs	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 1378	10% (excl. public & school hols).
MOONWATERS HOLIDAY COTTAGE	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 2055	10% (excl. public hols and specials).
CAPE HOWE COTTAGES	LOWLANDS BEACH	Accommodation	(08) 9845 1295	10% off normal tariff.
ALBANY VISITOR CENTRE	ALBANY	Tourist Bureau	1800 644 088 or (08) 9841 1088	No.
NORMAN HOUSE	ALBANY	Accommodation	(08) 9841 5995	5%.
ORANJE TRACTOR WINE	ALBANY	Winery	(08) 9842 5175	



## CALM Tracks and Trails Unit

Therese Jones, Acting Unit Coordinator

Locked Bag 104 Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983 Tel: 9334 0265 Email: [bibtrack@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:bibtrack@calm.wa.gov.au)

Even though we have been blessed with one of the coolest summers on record, 2006 has presented its own set of challenges for the CALM Tracks and Trails Unit. Annie Keating is on a well-deserved one-year break. Stuart Harrison, our Acting Tracks and Trails Leader, is on sick leave, and with myself being part-time, our commitment to service the Bibbulmun Track and the Munda Biddi Trail has been severely tested. However, we are moving along, and we wish Stuart all the best for a full and speedy recovery.

### New Staff

In my role as the co-Acting Tracks and Trails Unit Leader, it is a great privilege for me to introduce and welcome our newest Tracks and Trails unit member, Robyn Weir. Robyn has been seconded to us from the Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs Division of CALM. Robyn comes with a strong background in customer service and education. Her most recent role has been supporting the Eco-Education unit. The depth of her experience, and in particular her editing skills, are great assets to our unit. The greatest benefit, however, is her passion and enthusiasm for Tracks and Trails, especially the Bibbulmun Track. We hope that Robyn enjoys her time working in the unit.

### Track Projects For 2006

Funding has again been allocated from capital, and from maps and guidebook sales for maintenance and track improvements.

### Project works include:

**Perth Hills** — Track realignments in the Mt Wells area, and installation of a series of steel gates to prevent illegal access into the campsite.

**Wellington** — repair of track erosion and damage, caused by trail bikes.

**Donnelly** — construction materials for the Pemberton Swimming Pool bridge.

**Frankland** — boardwalk in the Peaceful Bay area and stairs at Quarram Beach.

**South Coast** — clearing of the Track between Nullaki and Albany.

### Summer Season Roundup

The summer months provided a range of happenings along the Track and in the Office.

The opening of the new bridge over Beedelup Falls has proven to be a real feature along the Track. Walkers now have the option of continuing to follow the Track markers across the suspension bridge, or to use the new bridge. This will be soon complemented with a new approach into Pemberton via the swimming pool area.

The opening of the new Beraking shelter and campsite was a welcome present on Christmas Day! We would like to thank all those who put so much effort into re-establishing this popular campsite, after it was destroyed in the Perth Hills fire in January 2005.

Further south, access to Conspicuous Cliff and Beach, via the Track to Rame Head campsite, was reopened in February. Work has been carried out over the past few months to reconstruct the steps and boardwalk that were destroyed by fire last year. Construction of the remaining section of the boardwalk, and the top-viewing platform, is expected to be completed over the next few months. Thanks again to the crew on the ground for their tireless work.

It has been a relatively quiet fire season in most districts. Unfortunately, the Perth Hills did not escape entirely. A deliberately lit fire was started north east of the Harvey Quindanning Road in February. The flames threatened both the Waroona and Yarloop townships, and some popular sections of the Bibbulmun and Munda Biddi Tracks in the Lane Poole Conservation Reserve. The fire burnt out approximately 11,090 hectares and had a boundary of 90 kilometres. Although seven kilometres of the Bibbulmun Track between Murray and Dookanely campsites were burnt, the shelters and campsites sustained no damage.

The Track was closed for approximately two

weeks after the fire, and opened again in late February. Thanks to everyone for the fire-fighting efforts that prevented loss of life, and limited the loss of property and forest areas. Particular thanks to the Parks and Visitors Services Section of CALM in the Perth Hills District, which updated us continually about the situation, and then reinstated the Track so quickly.

A Special 'Tracks And Trails' Volunteer Quite often, we hear about volunteers on the Track, and at Foundation events, but little is said about the "quiet achievers" who work behind the scenes in our offices, and have a commitment to keeping our Track Information Base up to date. We offer a warm and heartfelt thank you to June Wishart, our 'mother earth' who visits us once a week at Kensington. June issues the End-to-End Certificates, inputs data from track registers, log books and volunteers' maintenance forms, and occasionally answers the phone. June has been with us for quite a few years now, and forms an integral part of the Tracks and Trails team.

Despite the demands of working and motherhood, I am glad that I took the time out early in the New Year, while on a family holiday in Albany, to reconnect with the Bibbulmun Track after many years of focussing on the Munda Biddi. I took a short walk between Mutton Bird and the Wind Farm to remind me 'why we do what we do'. I hope, like me, you will all get a chance to walk the Track in 2006.

### Happy walking!

Therese Jones

Acting Tracks and Trails Unit Leader



Four spacious AAA 3 star units with lovely soft beds, ensuites, fridge, microwave, TV and video.

From \$99 twin, \$88 dbl, \$77 sgl, inc generous continental breakfast (discount for FOBT members, conditions apply). Extra person \$22.

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## INSPIRATION OUTDOORS

WALKING THE BIBBULMUN TRACK IN STYLE

Inspiration Outdoors caters for people who not only want the freedom of walking just carrying their lunch and water bottle, but who also enjoy a hot shower, a comfortable bed and great food prepared for them every evening. A range of destinations are offered in 2006- Albany to Denmark, Denmark to Walpole, along with trips based at Balingup and

Dwellingup. Inspiration Outdoors also offers trips on the Cape to Cape Track. These trips include all accommodation, meals, transport and guiding.

To receive a brochure contact Pam on [93782523](tel:93782523)/[inspire@multiline.com.au](mailto:inspire@multiline.com.au) or check out [www.inspirationoutdoors.com.au](http://www.inspirationoutdoors.com.au)



# Walker Story -

## "ME & GRYGLIE'S BEAR"

BY ELSIE GRYGIEL

Peter, my husband, had already had some surgery because of pains in his legs whenever he walked. The surgery was not all that successful, and his specialist advised walking—lots of walking—as a better alternative to further surgical intervention. We started out by walking around the suburbs. Peter started to show signs of improvement, and so given our love of the bush, we decided to "head for the hills".

On one of our excursions, we discovered the Camel Farm on Paulls Valley Road, and decided to treat ourselves to a camel ride, which took us across the Bibbulmun Track. Having been reminded of the Track, we decided that walking sections of it would be an ideal way for Peter to obtain his much needed exercise.

I have known of the track since the late 70's, and even then thought of walking it, but felt as a mere woman I had no chance. I also had children and a husband. I followed the stories of the changes to the Track, but always saw it as unattainable for me. Peter knew nothing of this until that day on the camel ride, and he was immediately inspired. His enthusiasm rekindled my desire.

So, we brought the first couple of maps and started to plan day walks. We set off to walk a different section each Sunday. Our walks were slow, as at this stage Peter could barely walk 100 meters without stopping, in order to

let the pain in his legs subside. However, by the end of July 1999 we were hooked, and we decided to take it a stage further and try overnight walks. We bought our equipment, some of which we later found to be unsuitable, and learnt by experience and by talking to everyone we met along the way.

Throughout all our walks, Peter was always more concerned about my well being than his own. He helped me over logs, stiles and creeks, up and down sand hills, and all the time apologized for his snail like pace. There was one occasion, when I didn't think I could make it to the campsite. Peter offered to go on to the campsite, still three or four kilometers off, leave his backpack there, and then come back and carry mine. I did however make it, after a good rest.

Another time, in order to celebrate my 60th birthday out on the Track, he carried a bottle of wine in his already full pack for two days. I should add that by the time we opened this very expensive bottle of red, it had suffered extreme heat and much bouncing around and was unfortunately more like a bad vinegar than a good wine.

By the end of spring, we knew that somehow we would walk the complete track. That summer we accomplished our first long walk, from Northcliffe to Walpole. Because of the constant stops, it took us most of the day to walk from hut to hut.

We found, as an added bonus, that we were learning more about our flora and fauna, and we just loved the tranquility of the bush. It was so relaxing to

Elsie and Peter in July 2004. They took five granddaughters to Monadnocks for an overnight camp. It was Peter's last walk on the Track.



escape all the hassles of daily life, and the need to rely on each other brought us even closer together. And Peter's legs were improving. We came up with some wonderful uses for the Track—people could throw away all their diets and pills for weight loss and sleeping problems. The Track was also a place to take people to get together. And, of course, we decided every couple should have to walk together for at least one week before getting married.

During these times, we discussed the idea of one day having our ashes scattered along the Track, with the surviving partner carrying the first ones ashes and scattering them along the whole length. Hopefully then another family member could do the same for the other partner. Whatever, we decided that the Bibbulmun Track was our best holiday, and would be our final resting place.

Well, we walked our end-to-end in stages, some of them very small, and finished in January 2001. We started to do it again, this time it would be in bigger chunks and faster. We also started taking our grandchildren out on overnight stays, and they all loved it and kept asking for more. Then in February 2002, with our second end-to-end two thirds completed, our plans were brought to an abrupt halt. I was diagnosed with breast cancer, and had to undergo surgery, chemotherapy and radiation treatment. We still managed a few short walks and took the grandchildren out as well. Then, as I received my first clearance, Peter was diagnosed with lung cancer. He was never well enough to carry a pack again, and eventually in April 2005 lost his battle.

As promised, we took Peter's ashes out onto the Track. I started planning an end-to-end, and decided to go solo. I wasn't sure if I had the physical or mental strength to complete this task, without the support Peter had given me on all of our previous walks. He had helped me over logs and creeks and taken snake lookout all the time. I trained and planned, and in early September 2005 I set off with my only companion, a bear that had belonged to Peter—hence my track name "Me & Gryglie's Bear".

Much to my amazement, it rained, it stormed and it rained some more, but to make up for the wet weather, the wild flowers were magnificent. I met so many wonderful people along the way that I was never lonely. Of the sixty days that I took to walk to Albany, I only spent twelve nights on my own and on every day, I saw at least one other person. At times, I shared huts with the same people for many days and nights and made some wonderful friends.

On two separate occasions, when I had collapsed to sit on a log, thinking I would never find the energy to make it to the next hut, I was rewarded with a close encounter with an echidna. This gave me such a rise in spirits that I covered the last few kilometres to the hut in good style.

By the time I reached Collie, I was actually starting to feel like a real bush walker. Most of the aches and pains had disappeared completely and I had not one blister. However, the day I walked into Grimwade my resolve slipped a little. I walked for two hours in punishing rain, so heavy it was running in cascades down the tree trunks as I walked past them. My boots were full of water and I was frozen, but the next day was fairly fine, and I enjoyed being in front of a fire at the Balingup Backpackers.

For the next couple of weeks I had lots of great company—Belinda, Sandy and Jim through to Donnelly. We shared the schoolhouse, and a surprise bottle of wine supplied by a holidaymaker in one of the cottages, who thought we would enjoy a bottle of red on a wild and wet night. We certainly did, and thank you again to that very kind gentleman. The next day we were joined by Liz, Susan and Mark, who stayed with us all the way through to Northcliffe.

With all the rain we had been experiencing, we were starting to worry about the wet sections on the leg between Northcliffe and Walpole. However, they proved to be less of an obstacle than the tree root in the middle of the track just before Gardner Hut—I wore a beautiful black eye all the way to Denmark. As for the swampy bits, we had a fair bit of wading, but luckily, most of it was only ankle or shin deep. Another highlight for me was seeing the wreck of the Mandalay exposed. I had walked this section twice before and never seen it, wow!

The southern section was over all too soon. Managing the canoes, the beaches and even Mount Hallowell I found to be not as bad as I had feared. It was the unexpected moments, like reaching Conspicuous Cliffs in the middle of a howling gale, and then trying to stay on my feet as I crossed the sand dunes, which proved the most challenging.

And there were the wonderful times like finding a pod of Southern Right Whales, basking in the surf off Torbay Beach.

Best of all it was finally making it all the way into Albany, already feeling quite pleased with myself, to be greeted at the Southern Terminal by Belinda, Sandy and friends, with banners, balloons and champagne. What a great finish.

My feeling at the end was that if I could manage this on my own, I am very confident that whatever life deals me in the future, I will be able to do it. Walking, and life in general, was much more fun with my beloved Peter, but he has given me such a wonderful present, in encouraging and helping me to get to the stage where I could achieve this. 🌸

## Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour: Australia 2006

Experience the courage, the passion, and the inspiration of mountain stories and thrill of high adrenalin vertical sports when this year's Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour comes to Perth in May.

The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour is produced by Mountain Culture at The Banff Centre. The festival began in 1976 and is held annually on the first weekend in November in Banff, Alberta, Canada. Immediately after the festival, a selection of the best films entered in the festival goes on tour.

Sur le fil des 4000, winner of the Grand Prize, follows two French mountaineers Patrick Bérhault and Philippe Magnin who set out to climb all 82 summits above 4000 metres in the Alps. Well-known for their solid experience and purist approach to climbing, they brave changing weather and strong emotions as they proceed on their long journey. On April 28, they are making their way along Nadelgrat, an interminable ridge leading up to their 67th summit, when destiny steps in.

Parrellojams (fundamentals) gives an hilarious and inspiring look at modern desert

crack climbing, hosted by Timmy O'Neill. The Fundamentals is a special excerpt from the highly-acclaimed Parallelojams and showcases the accomplishments of crack-climbing addicts in legendary Indian Creek, Utah. This funny and insightful film offers a unique perspective on this pure form of climbing.

Middle Kaweah follows some of the world's best kayakers as they embark on a six day expedition into the Sierra Nevadas to kayak a 500-foot (1524-metre), 35-mile (56-km) river: Middle Kaweah. It is a first descent with spectacular scenery.

The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour is presented by Paddy Pallin on 30 & 31 May at the Playhouse Theatre. For tickets & info call (08) 9321 2666 or email: perth@paddypallin.com.au

View the TRAILER for the BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR 2006 at [www.paddypallin.com.au/banff/](http://www.paddypallin.com.au/banff/)

# Yes, THEY DID IT!

We congratulate 61  
end-to-end walkers  
in this edition.



*My motto is "Age and health are no barrier" – Bernice Colvin (78)*

In keeping with recent trends, most walked from north to south. A few started and finished at points other than Kalamunda or Albany. Unless otherwise stated it should be assumed that walks were commenced and concluded in 2005, and that they started in Kalamunda.

#### We begin with our international visitors:

**Iain Brodie** (40) of Glasgow reached Albany on 31 January 2006 after 71 days on the Track. His recollections include the antics of emus at Yourdamung and an annoying possum at Frankland. Iain describes his experience as a way of life rather than a walk. It was something that he never wanted to end—so much so that he immediately carried on to complete the Cape-to-Cape walk!

The first of two visitors from Switzerland was **Franck Villiard** (40) of Frinwillier, who left Kalamunda on 23 October and reached Albany on 14 December. Every section brought him something new. He was disappointed by the inconsiderate use of the Track by motorcyclists and horse riders.

Our second Swiss walker was **Thomas Elliker** (41) of Zurich. Thomas split his walk into two sections, between February 2004 and November 2005. He described his experience as "the walk of a lifetime" Thomas enjoyed sleeping on the summit of Mt Chance, being alone in the huts and at one with nature.

From the UK came **Karen Farnell** (47) of Yeadon and **Mike Whitelaw** (53) of Leeds, who walked with local man **Bernie Renwick** (58) from Nedlands. They reached Albany on 23 November after 66 days on the Track. Karen loved the walk, plus the chance to meet so many people. She says it was not as hard as she expected and cooler than she anticipated. Mike described the walk as long, but not difficult for regular walkers or as physically demanding as several UK walks he has undertaken. Bernie sent us a very interesting account of his experiences, mentioning among many other things the sighting of the best spider orchids he has ever seen, and his enthusiasm over the amazing transition from tangles to dunes.

Our final overseas visitor is **Ian Mackay** (50) of Quorn in Leicestershire, whose 48-day hike ended on 19 November. His memories include seeing dolphins and surfers near Albany, snakes coupling and flowers in 'glass bowls'. There was

a humbling sense of space and emptiness for Ian and for him the walk was, in its way, as spiritual as the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage in Spain.

#### On to our interstate visitors:

**Ian Haynes** of Macquarie, one of several walkers from the ACT, completed his 64-day walk on 1 November. He says that what began as a walk, ended as a journey. Ian adds that the Track is something uniquely Australian that should not be confused with "those other things from elsewhere called trails"!

**Jennifer** (58) and **Bob** (60) Horsfield from Kambah, and **Terence Uren** (55) of Yarralumla, walked with the Canberra Bushwalking Club. They left on 28 September and reached Albany on 25 November. For Jennifer and Bob every day had its own rewards and none were dull. They recommend choosing the season carefully, taking guidebooks and maps and having the right, light gear. Terence says the walk was a much richer experience than he expected, enhanced by taking plenty of time and avoiding a rigid schedule. He says it was easier than walking in the Australian Alps and much more comfortable. He urges walkers to explore the towns that they pass through.

Another visitor from the ACT was **David Large** (68) of MacArthur. He walked from Pemberton to Denmark in late spring 2003, and completed the remaining sections of the Track in early spring 2005, reaching Albany on 3 November. David recalls with pleasure meeting other walkers (especially the O'Hara family at Canning) and mentions that to his knowledge there were at least 12 other Canberra walkers on the Track in 2005, some of whom are identified in this edition.

To finish with the ACT we have **Timothy Walsh** (58) from Woden, walking in sections between October 2003 and November 2005. He considers the Track as good as any, and in terms of organization, better than most. Tim enjoyed the physical effort required and the companionship of other walkers.

**John Lloyd** from Dungog in NSW, who reached Albany on 27 October in 76 days, describes himself as a long-term bush walker and active conservationist. He assures readers of the campsite registers that his comments under "Grumpy Old Man" are not criticisms but invitations to promote discussion. John achieved great personal satisfaction, renewed confidence and improved health, including a 12 kg weight loss.

**Tom Lloyd** (45) "The Old Wabbally" of Mothar Mountain via Gympie in Queensland completed the walk in sections between December 2004 and December 2005. A highlight was walking with his son to Giants. For Tom each step was a new experience and the Track was always challenging but never overwhelming.

South Australia is represented by sectional walker **Jack Marcellis** (64) of Rostrevor, whose journey began in September 2002 and ended on 30 October 2005. He enjoyed the camaraderie both on and off the Track and would love to repeat the Walpole to Albany section.

**Peter Pink** (68) comes from Woodford in Queensland. He reached Albany on 19 October, and says his 47 days on the Track made him appreciate everyday comforts. He recommends carrying an emergency shelter rather than a tent. Peter enjoyed many aspects of his walk but admits the mountain walks in Tasmania, New Zealand, the UK and Europe rate higher on his list.

Still in Queensland, we find that **David Slayter** of Machans Beach started on 2 September and reached Albany on 16 November. He had a fabulous time with good memories far outweighing the cold, rain, aches and pain. It was bliss even when he struggled. He says that New Zealand's walks may be "greater" but they are too short to give what the Track gives. On the question of food David was nonplussed by inconsistent advice given to him by WA quarantine authorities.

**Kathy Moylan** (42) from Alice Springs reached Albany on 9 November. She says it was a fantastic experience and a great way to spend 45 days. The Track provided wonderful facilities, easy to follow markers and shelters that were so welcome.

#### And finally to our WA walkers:

**Dawn Ambrose** (54) of Busselton walked with **Fiona Noble** (62) of Bicton. The "Two Elles" reached Albany on 7 December. They left Kalamunda on 4 October. For Dawn it was a truly magnificent experience and the culmination of five years of planning and anticipation. She says the hut sign at the end of each day was the most welcome sight in the world! Fiona misses enormously what was an amazing adventure that she will treasure forever.

**Emma** (30) and **Jim** (41) Anick of Duncaig were on the Track for 62 days after leaving Kalamunda on 3 November last year. They find it impossible to compare the Track with any other walk, as it has its own distinct beauty, wildlife

and terrain. They had mixed feelings at the end, and after what was an achievement in every way, found that returning to the pace of Perth was quite stressful.

**Pam Bradley** (54) of Armadale, who started in October 1998 and finished in January 2005, had to balance walking with working. She plans to do another end-to-end this year. She enjoyed making friends along the way. She feels that while the Track is an easy walk compared to some others, it stands out in terms of being the best organised and safest.

High praise comes from **Martin Cabalt** (50) of Kalamunda, who reached Albany on 2 October. His journey started on 8 August. He was blown away by the whole thing and found heaps of peace and stress relief. Martin found that the more slowly and quietly he walked the more he saw and heard.

**Kevin Chattelle** (49) "KC" of Roleystone urges walkers to walk at a comfortable pace and keep looking ahead and around. He had been on the Track for 54 days when he reached Albany on 29 December 2004. He records encountering an over curious bush pig and a dugite that thought it was a missile.

**Matt Davis** (30) of Kelmscot reached the Albany terminus on 14 December – 54 days out from Kalamunda—the achievement of a life long goal. Matt met some fantastic people on the way. He recommends taking a hammock!

**Ralph Eckart** (39) of Kalamunda also walked the Track in 54 days, reaching Albany on 23 September. Of the many highlights, Ralph singles out arriving at the hut each day—a joy beyond description. He was inspired by the Tingle forest, and surprised to find that one of life's greatest adventures started at his front door.

**Russel Fowler** (58) of Maida Vale, **Uwe W Thiel** of Hillman, **David MacAtinney** (49) of Kelmscott and **Ted Ratkovic** (42) of Medina are members of the group identified as the "Extreme Walkers". According to Russel they left Kalamunda at 05.30 on 21 October and reached Albany at 21.10 on 6 November! A support team supplied food. Russel says that unless you are aiming for a record – in which case you must be mad – you should take your time and enjoy yourself. A highlight (?) was finally finding their support crew at 23.30 after being unable to find the way off Mts. Cuthbert and Vincent in the darkness! Uwe makes the comment that the Track is a hill by another name. David is still stunned at the distance and the hills,

which took their toll on his legs and hips. The Track is among the best walks he has encountered in his travels. Ted recommends taking a walking stick and sense of humour. You can read their story in edition #40.

**Karl Fuderer** (23) "Capt Buzz Lightyear" of Riverton, left Kalamunda on 26 August to reach Albany on 26 November.

**Jane Greenwood** of Hamersley completed her end-to-end between April 2001 and May 2005. She walked parts of the Track north to south, and other parts south to north. She says 'walk south to north if you want more social interaction'. Among her comments is a note that her dread of snakes has so completely disappeared she is now disappointed not to see one! A highlight was sharing Monadnocks with 20 scouts and 10 adults. Not surprisingly she suggests taking a tent in spring, and avoiding school holidays. When Jane participated in a Women's Weekend Escape, four years earlier with Annie and Bonnie, she little dreamed she would eventually walk the whole track.

**Elsie Grygiel** (64) "Me & Gryglie's Bear" from Embleton, loved the whole experience and was super fit when she got to Albany on 4 November, after 60 days on the Track. She urges walkers to throw their doubts to the wind and take it a day at a time. Read Elsie's story on page 10.

**Charmaine Harris** (53) "FOF#1" from Maida Vale completed her end-to end in January 2006. She started in April 2004 and also walked some sections north to south and others south to north. It would seem she walked with a friend, Wendy "FOF#2" because she includes Wendy's backpack among her best equipment— because Wendy carried the port! She notes visits from quendas at Gringer Creek and Torbay, and aggressive snakes encountered at Frankland and Boat Harbour. Charmaine records many fond memories of what was a hard but fun filled and satisfying journey.

**Paul Wiseman** (53) of Duncaig loved the walk. He left Kalamunda on 2 October to reach Albany on 21 November. En route he met the walkers from the Canberra Bushwalking Club, but otherwise came across fewer than 40 walkers in the 40 days.

**Mark Whittome** (68) "Grandpa" from Dianella took 59 days to reach Albany on 11 November. It was a great experience and his best walk yet. He urges those who intend to attempt an end-to-end to seek advice from those who have done it.

Also from Dianella was **Harry Jackson** (53), who coincidentally also reached Albany on 11 November but had left Kalamunda 3 days earlier! He says it was fantastic to see WA at its best and he urges everyone to do the walk. Harry says the correct boots or shoes are most important and should be properly worn in.

**Neil Johnson** (43) of Kenwick was in a hurry, taking just 30 days to reach Albany on 7 December. The highlight of his walk was his dinner and bed at Dwellingup. He urges walkers to take care when drying boots by a fire, as one of his was badly damaged at Lake Maringup. Neil had an interesting experience canoeing across the Irwin Inlet. He had to cross five times. The first with his backpack, the second and third dragging

canoes back and the fourth and fifth returning two paddles!

**William Kammann** of Manjimup reached journey's end on his 69th birthday. He started at the Brockman Highway in February 2003 and completed his walk at Pemberton in May 2005

Completing each new challenge was a highlight. He is now introducing his older sister and her friend to the Track. William found Steve Sertis' 'Food in a Fuel Stove' very helpful.

**Gayle Kealley** of Kewdale walked into Albany on 11 November – a popular arrival date – having left Kalamunda on 15 August. She enjoyed the companionship of other walkers along with the unexpected changes of scenery and the quality of the facilities. She highlights the need for preparation, fitness and keeping ones pack as light as possible.

Vistas to die for and the beauty and abundance of plant life were highlights for **Debbie Kenrick** (47) of Craigie, whose walk by stages began in December 2003, and ended in December 2005. Debbie says the Track gave her an opportunity for solitude in which to rediscover herself, to face her fears and push her physical, mental and spiritual boundaries.

**Janet and Peter Lake** (both 45) of Roleystone walked the Track in two stages between August 2004 and December 2005. Janet says her favourite sections were the flat bits that weren't flooded, along with the amazing wildflowers! Peter liked the isolation and natural beauty. They



Photo by Tim Parker

both felt a sense of satisfaction and achievement at the end.

**John Larsen** (63) of Medina walked from Perth to Northcliffe between May and August and from Albany to Northcliffe in November. He walked the Track to prove he could do it.

Another to walk in sections was **Nancy Lindon** (52) of City Beach, who with her sister-in-law Dolly Meates (see below) started in September 2002 and finished in September 2004. Nancy's highlights included whale watching from the West Cape Howe campsite and facing each day without feeling pressure, other than the need to decide what to cook that night. Dolly said the Track has got into her blood and her ambition is to complete an uninterrupted end to end! They have both walked the Routeburn in New Zealand. Nancy plans to walk the Coast-to-Coast Track in England in May this year.

**Dolly** (51) and **Geoff** (55) Meates of Lesmurdie completed an end-to-end in 2005, reaching Albany on 30 October after 59 days on the Track. They both loved the Track and rate it as good as any other walk they have done. Special memories include meeting other walkers and losing weight. Dolly's advice is to plan well, use towns en route for support, and travel light.

Mary A Long travelled all the way from Derby and headed south on 14 October to reach Albany on 1 December. The highlight was making it to the end. She recommends travelling light.

"Sunshine Nellie" aka **Helen McCutcheon** (28) of North Perth, reached Albany on 19 November, 62 days after leaving Kalamunda. Having previously read 'Promises to Keep' she enjoyed really realising what it all meant. Getting fit, living the simple life and coming up with songs for each day were highlights.

Take a bow, Jim Freeman, because meeting you at Sullivan Rock was one of two highlights for **Ollie McPartland** (45) of Martin, who reached

Albany on 12 December after a walk lasting 48 days. The other was meeting up with his wife and two sons on weekends at various towns on the way.

Understandably, **Gideon Mettam** (17) walked from south to north, because he lives at Goode Beach near Albany. Leaving Albany on 10 October he reached Kalamunda on 10 December. He was amazed to think he walked the whole way. His best gear was his camera and his advice is to regard the walk as a holiday not a chore.

**Tony Miller** (44) "The Limping Lizard" of Collie, left Kalamunda on 28 August and reached Albany on 7 November. His highlight was watching bats feeding at the Tom Road shelter. He suggests using your backpack as a footrest at least once a day to get even for having to carry it all day!

We apologise to **June Anderson** (49) of Kalgoorlie for not recording sooner that in April 2004, she completed a walk that began in October 1998. The northern half was walked with her friend Maureen Quirke and the south coast with her sister Bev Visser. Coming from a semi-arid and flat area, she found the hill climbs hard going. Canoeing across the Irwin Inlet and wading thigh deep in swamps were new experiences.

We also apologise to **Marlene Sevelj** (58) of Pinjarra for not mentioning her in an earlier edition. Her walk started on 27 April 2003 in Albany, and ended in Kalamunda on 22 June the same year. It was character building and a great challenge. Marlene says the other walkers she met were so friendly and helpful. She prefers the Bibbulmun Track to the Cape-to-Cape Walk.

(55) "Kingsway Epic" of Carine began her journey in October 1999 and completed it on 1 December 2005. She walked in March, or over the spring months of each year, and found that walking with groups of students was quite different to having three or four adults for

company, but none the less enjoyable! Each hut had its own special significance for Leanne.

**Kristine Sheehan** (49) from Roleystone started on the old track in April 1999 — before it was realigned—and finished in Albany in November 2005. Highlights included walking in autumn 2002 with the Herbert family in the Dwellingup area, and meeting the "Extreme Walkers" at Hidden Valley. She loves the Track — so different to those in the South Island of New Zealand — and will keep on walking it as long as she can put one foot in front of the other!

**Caroline Smith** (47) "Log Lady" of Woodlands arrived in Albany on 17 November after 58 days on the Track. She expected it to be amazing but it was far more than she could have imagined. Even when she was exhausted and in pain she loved it. Many of us will relate to Caroline's comment that she never wants to see TVP again! Finally we must mention her close encounter with a really large male kangaroo that refused to move off the path until she had taken its photo three times!

Starting on 25 September, **Paul Szijarto** (56) "XYZ" of Noranda, completed his walk on 11 November. He has written a marvellously detailed report on his journey, but unfortunately we don't have the space to include it in this edition. His conclusion: "A fantastic experience, 963 kilometres of hiking trail that has something for everyone. From the Jarrah and Wandoo forests of the hilly north, to the river valleys and the majestic Karri trees and giant Red Tingle in the south, followed by the vista of the southern ocean. It is just magnificent".

**Darryl Sinclair** (46) of Kingsley, was one of several walkers for whom the Pingerup Plains and the south coast were highlights. His journey began in July 2004 and ended in August 2005.

Finally we correct the misspelling of Kevin Glover's surname in Issue 35 where it was given as Slover. Sorry, Kevin.

A final quote from Timothy Walsh: "Make use of the great support available from the Bibb Track Foundation staff (esp Gwen) and all CALM staff and don't forget to make a donation or become a life member"

The lack of space has prevented us from mentioning many comments from walkers about food, favourite sections, wildlife and equipment.

Virtually every section and campsite got a mention, and none were unfavourable.

There were many references to types of food consumed, and positive comments about favourite eateries in the towns en route.

In addition there were many comments regarding first time sightings of flora and fauna. 🌿

**Congratulations to all of you on your achievement.**

Compiled by Don Briers, Fondation volunteer and end-to-ender.



## Track Town - WALPOLE

Surrounded by the Walpole-Nornalup National Park is the idyllic town of Walpole.

Established in 1930 through the Nornalup Land Settlement Scheme for city families hit by the Great Depression, Walpole is located an hour and a half drive from Albany in the east and Pemberton in the west.

There's so much to see in Walpole— the vast spreading views from Mt. Frankland, the mirrored reflections in the quiet rivers, the glory of the wildflowers, the majesty of the trees, the beauty of the inlets and the rugged grandeur of coast and islands.

There is so much to do— boating and sailing, fishing, bush walking, scenic drives and climbing.

Take time to explore the forest on Hilltop Road and wander the magical 800-metre walk trail

to the Giant Tingle Tree between the soaring karri trees and the great-girthed tingles, rising 70 metres to a high leafy crown. Drive on further to Circular Pool, a beautiful pool in the Frankland River. Select a portion of the Bibbulmun Track which passes through spectacular coastal and forest scenery. Drop-offs and pick-ups can be arranged.

Of the many inlets along the South Coast of Western Australia, none is more beautiful than the magnificent sheet of water that makes the Walpole and Nornalup Inlets.

Comb one of our magnificent south coast beaches at Mandalay Beach, Conspicuous Cliff or Peaceful Bay.

A visit to Walpole wouldn't be complete without driving into the heart of the wilderness and stepping your way to the summit of Mt. Frankland.

A few kilometres west of Mt. Frankland lie the winter falls of the Deep River at Fernhook Falls.

Take time to paddle the rivers in a canoe, unpack the fishing rod and snare a wily black bream.

You can also cruise the inlets, visit local art and craft galleries, see and touch local reptiles and birds.

There are many restaurants and cafes dotted throughout the townships of Walpole and Nornalup, ranging from licensed a-la-carte to BYO cafes. The region also offers all standards of accommodation— cabins and chalets, motels, budget accommodation, backpackers, bed and breakfast, holiday homes and caravan parks.

Tree-clad hills, wide spreading estuaries and rugged coastal scenery makes Walpole a "MUST" for the visitor. 🌿



"Guests quickly warm to this sprawling open-plan house and it's casual, social atmosphere." - Lonely Planet 2004.

## WALPOLE LODGE

Situated right in town, our premises are clean and well equipped. Television and video area, pool table, book exchange, board games and internet facilities are for your enjoyment. The huge grassed area caters for more active pastimes, sports and barbecues. There is laundry, pay phone, tour desk and mountain bike hire on site for convenience. For comfort, we have couches on the verandahs, a big wood fire, ducted heating, warm doonas on beds, and carpeted rooms. The social scene is set with the huge fully

equipped kitchen and the immense dining and relaxing area that are in our open plan design. For solace, the reading area, garden and verandahs offer the quiet needed to finish a good book.

Walpole lodge is listed in the top fifty "Most Memorable" hostels in Australia. - Footprint publications international 2004.

**WALPOLE LODGE PO BOX 61 WALPOLE WA 6398**

Ph/Fax: 98 40 1244 Email: info@walpolelodge.com.au Web: www.walpolelodge.com.au

## TINGLE ALL OVER BUDGET ACCOMMODATION & WALPOLE TAXIS AND TOURS

Discounts for FOBT Members

For clean, comfortable and quiet accommodation, stay at Tingle All Over with your hosts Kerry and Geoff. We offer single, twin, double and family rooms with all bed linen provided.

There are laundry facilities, a fully equipped communal kitchen, lounge and internet access.

Coming to Walpole to enjoy some of our Bibbulmun Track day walks? Talk to Kerry and Geoff aka Walpole Taxi and we will give you all the information and tips you need to enjoy the many forest and coastal day walks around Walpole.

Walpole's licensed transport provider. Drop off / pick up service anywhere between Pemberton and Denmark.

ph: (08) 9840 1041 mob: 0428 401 041

email: tingleallover2000@yahoo.com.au



David Large, Neville Esau and Timothy Walsh from the ACT completed their three year project to walk the Track in November 2005.



Towards the end of every year, we formally acknowledge the tremendous commitment and support given to the Track, and the Foundation, by our 348 volunteers.

The contribution made by Peter Dear, a long-time office and maintenance volunteer, was recognized at the annual CALM function at Matilda Bay Restaurant. Peter was presented with an Outstanding Service Award. Five office volunteers, with whom Peter works, accompanied him on the day. A profile of Peter was published in the last edition of Bibbulmun News.

Fifteen volunteers represented the group at the Rio Tinto Volunteers Recognition Breakfast, held at Burswood on Swan in December. Another group attended an evening at Perth Zoo, arranged by the Department for Community Development, Office of Seniors Interests and Volunteering.

The Foundation "Volunteer Thank You Lunch" was held at the Hills Forest Discovery Centre, in November. Approximately 60 volunteers were present. Linda Daniels, Executive Director of the Foundation, presented the volunteer awards, including T-Shirts, backpacks and Swiss cords, which were generously donated by Mountain Designs. The awards were based on volunteers' contributions made over the 2004-5 financial year.

These formalities were followed by an activity arranged by CALM, which involved blindfolded volunteers using their other senses to guide themselves along a track strewn with various obstacles. The result was lots of laughs, some amazing manoeuvres but surprisingly no stubbed toes!



Volunteers at the 'Thank you' day received their Awards, generously donated by Mountain Designs.

## VOLUNTEER AWARDS

### 100+ HOURS

- Claire Adams** Office volunteer
- Jim Baker** Office volunteer, hire equipment, trip-planning advice, Bibbulmun News sub-editor.
- Trish Bird** Maintenance and volunteer guide
- Mylene Bonnin** Office volunteer
- Linda Daniels** Bibbulmun News editor, volunteer guide, community events
- Dene Edmunds** Volunteer guide and maintenance
- David Foster** Maintenance
- John Hardman** Maintenance volunteer since 1998, Team Challenge and volunteer guide
- James Harrison** Maintenance
- Bonnie Hennessy** Maintenance volunteer since 1998 and volunteer guide
- Tony Jennings** Maintenance, volunteer guide, community events and Team Challenge
- Alan Jones** Office volunteer and maintenance
- Lesley Kerr** Office volunteer and community events
- Chris Plunkett** Community events and Team Challenge
- Don Priest** Maintenance volunteer
- Ronda Priest** Maintenance volunteer
- Colin Read** Maintenance volunteer since 1998, volunteer guide and Team Challenge
- Jan Read** Maintenance volunteer since 1998, volunteer guide and Team Challenge
- Guy Spouge** Maintenance volunteer
- Peter Sweetman** Office and maintenance volunteer
- Adrian Taylor** Asset audit



Steve Sertis, the Foundation's events manager and lead guide extraordinaire, taking part in the activities

### 300+ HOURS

- Peter Dear** Office volunteer and maintenance volunteer since 1998. 2005 CALM Outstanding Service Award
- Hans Hoette** Office and maintenance volunteer
- Gwen Plunkett** Maintenance volunteer coordinator and Team Challenge
- Edith Thomas** Office and maintenance volunteer

### 500+ HOURS

- Jim Freeman** Office volunteer, asset audit, Team Challenge and maintenance volunteer since 1998
- Andrew Newton** Office volunteer, Team Challenge volunteer guide, community events and maintenance
- Steve Sertis** Team Challenge, volunteer guide, community events and maintenance volunteer since 1998

**All the assistance given by volunteers is greatly appreciated, regardless of the number of hours. Without the generous donation of their time, we would be unable to promote and maintain the Bibbulmun Track as a world-class walk trail.**

**Gwen Plunkett**  
Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator

## Getting into Gear - STAYING DRY IN WINTER



The south west of Western Australia receives nearly all of its annual rainfall in the four months of winter. Unfortunately this coincides with some of the best bushwalking months of the year. In fact, walking through a forest where it has just been raining, and the heavy drops fall from the leaves and branches above, is one of the reasons to actually go walking at this time of the year. The cleansing smell of rain, the heavy silence and the wet chill all combine to produce the unique experience of walking in the south west.

However, if you are going to walk in this environment you need to stay warm and dry. There's no need to be uncomfortable during this time of the year. You can walk all through the winter and not be uncomfortable as long as you dress properly. The first layer of defence is thermal underwear. If you get wet while wearing polypropylene or merino wool you will still be warm. I often tell people not to buy a cheap nonbreathable waterproof jacket if they can't afford a breathable one as it's pointless. If they just have thermals and get wet, at least they'll be warm, and they don't have to carry a useless piece of extra weight!

Many bushwalkers will tell you that they've never really appreciated their waterproof jacket until they've really needed it. If you are going to buy a waterproof jacket you need to consider the following things; is it really waterproof?! Does it really breath?! It's quite easy to make a waterproof jacket, just get a plastic bag! Making waterproof and breathable, that's the trick. Manufacturers of these fabrics have different ways of doing this. Some, like W.L Gore, who own the Goretex fabric, use a membrane that has millions of minute holes that allow water vapour through, but not the larger water drops. They also require gear manufacturers who use their fabric to submit their designs for approval before they are allowed to make any garments. They must buy approved seam sealing equipment to completely seal all seams so water cannot leak through

stitching holes in the garment. While Goretex is probably the most well known, there are now many other fabrics available to gear companies, such as Reflex, Hydronaute, Repel and Event.

The design of your jacket is important too. If you have a long jacket that comes down to the tops of your knees, then gaiters that cover the top of your boots and finish just below your knees, you negate the need for waterproof pants. This saves not only money but, more importantly, weight! A hood is very important too. Many people tend to forget about them and even find them inconvenient. However, when the bad weather starts a good hood is essential. A peak stops the rain dripping in your eyes and drawcords tighten the hood, fixing it to your head so when you turn your head you take the hood with you thus giving you much better vision. Pockets should be accessible, so put your pack on to see if the hip belt covers up your jacket pockets!

Speaking of packs, how about a rain jacket for your pack? When your pack loses its waterproofing as it gets old, or you have a canvas pack that is absorbing water, get a waterproof packcover and keep your pack, and gear inside, dry. Of course, every experienced bushwalker will also tell you to line the inside of your pack with a waterproof bag, taking particular care of your sleeping bag.

So don't let the wet winter stop you from bushwalking, it's a great time to get out and enjoy the bush. 🌿

**Mike Wood**  
Mountain Designs WA



## WATERMARK KILNS FARMSTAY



Situated only 200m from Schafer Campsite, these renovated heritage listed tobacco kilns are ideal for groups, couples and families. Hot showers, comfy beds plus linen, washing machine, dryers, BBQ: all in picturesque karri forest and farmland surrounds. Marron, the world's best freshwater crayfish, are for sale. Relaxing and secure with friendly hosts keen to support your walk. Meals by arrangement.

From \$30 pp (shared facilities), \$35 pp (private units). Special \$25pp for walkers without wheels!

**Ph: (08) 9776 7349**  
**Fax: (08) 9776 6003**  
**hulcup@westnet.com.au**  
**www.watermarkkilns.com.au**

## NORTHCLIFFE CARAVAN PARK

The ex-mill town of Northcliffe has many beautiful, natural attributes to enjoy for those energetic souls who want to get out and about. Northcliffe is the starting point for several walk tracks including the Bibbulmun Track as well as mountain bike trails.

The walker- and cyclist-friendly Northcliffe Caravan Park is perfectly located in the town centre, close to shops, service stations, pub and supermarket.

It is small and shady with ten fully powered sites plus camping areas. We also have an amenities room, bbq and on-site caravans.

**Zamia Street, Northcliffe**  
**Ph: (08) 9776 7295**  
**Mb: 0428 767 295**

*Northcliffe — plenty to see and do!*

# Reflections from the registers - end-to-enders

In this edition we hear the voices of End-to-Enders as they reflect on their journey

Wanted to try the world famous pie & pint in Albany. Thought I'd walk there to increase my hunger and thirst. Two months 'till I get it. Better be worth it. Love the track!

**Graeme from Perth , Hewetts Hill campsite,  
17 Oct 2003**

I can't believe this to be the last Hut before the end at Albany. I started on my own and finished on my own. The experience has been good for me and my soul. How can it not be good for anyone? I will take this opportunity to say congratulations on your end to end journey and thanks for the inspiration Jim and Val.

**Frederick NZ, Hidden Valley Campsite,  
30 April 2004**

Oh my God! This is our last night on the Bib Tack from Albany. It has truly been an eye-opening experience. To not worry about the stresses of the normal day, bills, times, money, fuel. The time out here really slows down. To allow yourself to think, to motivate yourself for the tasks in the future. To set goals. I will miss it!

**Kylie, Ballcreek Campsite,  
8 June 2004**

After a wonderful walk from White Horse Hills this morning in beautiful sunshine, we arrived to a silver service, gourmet lunch brought in by two loving supportive friends, who also brought fresh supplies to see us through to the finish of our end-to-end. This time next Sunday we will be back in our homes after two months of wonderful freedom on the track - how will we cope? Will our new look at life stand the strains of day-to-day stress? If you have time consider an E-E you will not regret it.

**Jude & Ross (2 stick ladies). Gringer Creek campsite,  
19 May 2002**

44 days on the track. It's drawing to an end. It's been great. We started good mates and finished good mates. We loved the walk and sharing it with each other and all the wonderful people we have met. We would like to thank all the walkers for their advice and help and the people that made this track possible. We thank you.

**The Jim and Harry show, Hewetts Hill campsite,  
13 Nov 2003**

I would like to take the opportunity to thank The Foundation, CALM, all the volunteers, sponsors and to everybody who was involved with the Bib Track's creating and maintaining. It is a fantastic walk in one of the most beautiful, scenic and diverse regions of this planet. A real gem. For me it was a "walk of a lifetime". I enjoyed it very much; it was also a great challenge for body and mind. But I got many rewards for the body-pains, sore feet, sleepless, cold nights. There is "bitter sweet" finishing the track today.

**Hanspeter, Hewetts Hill campsite,  
27 March 2004**



# BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

## Patrick Tremlett



Patrick Tremlett

I was born in Kenya where we lived on tea plantations. In the Rift Valley, I had my first experiences of walking in the wild in such places as Hell's Gate and Mt Longnot.

In 1968, we came to WA where I finished my schooling and got my first taste of bush walking, including a memorable walk up the Avon valley from Walyunga to Northam.

The section from Toodyay to Northam was walked overnight on hard road surfaces, resulting in many blisters— character building!

After school I stumbled into law and from there into a job as a lawyer with the Government, a job I have done ever since apart from a couple of years off on a walkabout. The upside is that it helps pay for the odd trip to feed the rat (as Al Alvarez put it). Trouble is the rat seems to need feeding more frequently.

So I have managed to walk, kayak, sail and cycle tour in a few places. I enjoy being active, as the day job is mental gymnastics. I don't ride if I can walk and I don't drive if I can ride or walk. Getting outdoors, whether on to the water, the Bibbulmun Track, a farm or into the bush or the outback is always a tonic. I go rogaining occasionally and it's well worth a go if you have not done it.

I have kept myself broadly informed about the Bibbulmun Track since way back. I have been on the Board for a year or so and it provides interesting issues to deal with, as well as some the chance to meet some interesting characters. It's amazing what a success the Track has become. Those whose idea it was deserve great credit. The Foundation is very well served by its staff and volunteers, whose enthusiasm seems boundless. Long may it continue. 🌻

## Boddington Gold Mine 'Eyes on the Ground' Maintenance Programme

Over the past few months we have welcomed a number of new volunteers to the Maintenance Programme and said farewell to others. It was particularly sad to say farewell to Roy Hillier, one of our original volunteers from 1998 who retired recently after 8 years. Thanks Roy, for looking after your section of the Track, including Mt Cooke Campsite, for so long and doing such a great job.

Field Days have been arranged for 2006 and I am looking forward to meeting the many new volunteers, particularly those in the regions. Our main topics this year will be safety for volunteers and practical demonstrations of pruning and disposing of the cuttings.

If you have been considering looking after a section, please let me know. There are some vacant sections in both Walpole and Donnelly Districts.

Thank you to all volunteers, for the great commitment you have for the Track.

**Gwen Plunkett**

**Volunteer Coordinator**



**in - spire [in'spir] verb meaning to fill someone with the urge to do something, especially something creative, and, to breathe in (air) or inhale.**

On 28 May 2006 Mark Strathern and his father Kirk will be walking over 3,500km from Adelaide, South Australia to Perth, Western Australia (via Esperance, Albany and the Bibbulmun Track) to raise funds and awareness for Cystic Fibrosis (CF) - the most common life threatening genetic disease in Australian Children.

The walk will take over two months to complete and will finish at Scarborough Beach on 9 August 2006.

The money raised from this walk will help to fund new groundbreaking research into a cure for CF. Funds will help Cystic Fibrosis WA and SA as well as PMH continue to provide vital care and support to children with CF and their families.

To read about the walk or to make a donation, visit [www.theinspiretour.com](http://www.theinspiretour.com) or ring **Cystic Fibrosis WA on 1800 678 766**

## Track Trivia - WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By Jim Baker

If you've been out there and read the stuff in the red books—and let's face it, there's often nothing else to read—you must have wondered about some of the track names.

The Mad Axeman; Pseudo Solo Steve; Dad's Army; Batty and Babu; Finnish and Irish; Mr Zippy; Hobbit...and hundreds more.

How do people get them, how do they think them up? Why do they want them?

As a volunteer, I give advice to walkers about how to organize trips on the Track, how to plan end to end walks. And what's my Track name?

Wrong Way Jim.

In my early days, all I did was walk out of Collie, turn the wrong way on the spur track and walk ten kilometres north instead of south. A simple mistake. After about three hours, during which I had decided the author of the guidebook was an idiot, I realized the sun was in the wrong place.

Being a Pom who had recently moved to Australia...

It's the only time I have ever used a compass while walking the Track.

I made the mistake of telling the story to someone I met, later that day, in the Yabberup campsite (much later, in fact, since I had to walk back to Collie and then another 18 kms south).

"Well, Wrong Way Jim," he said...

And the name has stuck.

But don't worry. I've taken Aussie citizenship. If you need any trip planning advice, I'm happy to give it.

As soon as I find my way out of the office broom cupboard. What Waugal...? 🌻

# The Bibbulmun Track

## Another way to extend the journey?

Annie Keating talks to Scott, a monk at the Bhodinyana Monastery, and reflects on the spiritual journey to be found along the Bibbulmun Track.

No sooner had the latest version of the Bibbulmun Track been completed in 1998 when people started to ask the question – “When is it being extended to Esperance?” “Why don’t you put it through to Yancheep, or better still to Geraldton?” I used to puzzle about exactly why people wanted the Track to get ever longer and longer and it seemed that the challenge of the great length of the Track had become the goal in people’s minds that often took precedence over the actual experiences that were to be had along the way. Wouldn’t it be great if, instead of extending the physical Track, we could take all of those wonderful experiences and attitudes of mind that we have while walking, back into our everyday lives. I met someone quite recently who seems to have done this in a very unique way.

For Scott Andrews an end-to-end trek on the Bibbulmun Track became literally the first few steps on an extended pathway that he has chosen to go down for perhaps the rest of his life.

In early 2000 Scott, a welfare worker in his mid twenties, was waiting for a visa to go to Bangladesh as a volunteer with Australian Volunteers International. He had finally received a posting with them after registering in 1996 and needed something to do to fill in time until the visa arrived.

This enforced waiting time was a great opportunity to go walking and, being a quiet and thoughtful sort of young man, he did a few solo shorter walks on the Bibbulmun Track and completed the Cape to Cape Track. He found that the solitude and peace of the bush suited him very well. With several months still to wait for his visa, he decided to enjoy a prolonged experience of that solitude and tranquility by walking the whole Track.

Scott set off in February 2000. His main aim was to enjoy the experience and the fact that he would walk the track end-to-end was merely a by product and not his goal. Like many other walkers the enormous satisfaction and enjoyment derived from just being in the bush and being totally immersed in nature, day in and day out, was the main draw card.

Like many end-to-enders before him and since, the first few weeks were fraught with cravings – for hot showers, for ice cream (he started in February), for hearty home cooked meals, for entertainment and for a nice soft bed. Gradually though, the bush wove its magic. Without really being aware of why, he started to experience some very peaceful moments out of which

contentment began to grow. Scott described to me a turning point at around the fourth week when he began to feel unaccountably happy despite the monotonous food and the complete lack of comforts. Rather than seeking these out as he had earlier, he started to avoid towns, choosing instead to cram as many supplies as he could into his pack in order to avoid contact with ‘civilization’.

Scott finished in Albany in April 2000 and gradually acclimatized back into that chaotic, stressful place that we all like to call the ‘real world’. This would usually be the end of a fairly normal end-to-end story on the Bibbulmun Track but in Scott’s case there is a twist that didn’t finally unfold until last year. He did end up going to Bangladesh and worked for several years as a volunteer in a drug rehabilitation centre. More significantly he was introduced to Buddhist meditation, a compelling interest that he investigated further by attending a retreat in Penang on his way home.

Over the course of several years he continued to study and practice Buddhism and meditation while working again in the welfare area developing programs for the disabled. During much of this time he was also the live-in caretaker at the Dhammaloka Buddhist Centre in Nollamara, which gave him plenty of opportunity to observe many monks at close quarters. Eventually he decided to do the three month ‘annual rains retreat’ at the Bhodinyana Monastery in Serpentine which occurs between late July and October. This tradition, which started at the time of the Buddha 2500 years ago, means that the monks are confined to the monastery for three months during which time they are freed from other duties to concentrate on intensive meditation practice. A small number of lay men and women also go on retreat during the ‘rains’.

Remembering the beautiful, peaceful experiences he had on the Bibbulmun Track in 2000, Scott decided that another long walk on the Track would be a great way to get into a good frame of mind for the retreat. This time he set off from Albany in June and, instead of walking all the way to Kalamunda, diverted onto the Munda Biddi at Dwellingup and arrived at the front gate of Bhodinyana Monastery on Kingsbury Drive in time to start the retreat in late July.


Scott had only intended to stay for three months but, similar to his original Track experience, something within him changed along the way. Contentment and peace and a sense of belonging grew. Monastery life is, if anything, more rigorous than a Track walk although it shares the peace and beauty experienced in the tranquil forest surroundings. The day starts at 4AM. There is only

a thin mattress on the floor of unheated rooms that are around 2m by 3m in area. All personal possessions can usually fit into one small cloth bag and there is only one main meal of the day, just before noon, because no food can be consumed between noon and dawn the next day.

Despite the Spartan lifestyle Scott is still living very happily at the Monastery. He has become an Anagarika, which is the first step on the path to ordination as a Buddhist monk. Within a year he will join the 20 or so other ordained novices and monks at the monastery when the current extension of his personal path is completed at novice ordination and the next, longest journey commences.

**Afterword:**  
During the first six months of my year’s leave from CALM I am working full-time as a volunteer for the Buddhist Society of WA. Some people think I’m mad and perhaps I am because I have been given responsibility for overall coordination of the 4th Global Conference of Buddhism that is being held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre on 10 & 11 June. Strangely enough I cannot see a huge difference between doing this and coordinating the Bibbulmun Track. I’m helping people on a different journey. Both journeys have shared experiences and lead to peace, contentment and happiness.

At the conference will be many speakers, mostly Buddhist and representing monks, nuns and lay people who represent many different views. The conference theme is ‘Confronting the Controversies to Create a Better World’ and the various sub-themes are guaranteed to provoke lively discussion and debate.

For more information about the Global Conference, which incidentally, is receiving some very generous sponsorship from Mountain Designs thanks to Mike Wood’s wonderful generosity, visit this website: 

[www.globalconferenceonbuddhism.org](http://www.globalconferenceonbuddhism.org) or ring 9345 1711 or email [admin@bswa.org](mailto:admin@bswa.org).

Annie Keating



Scott at Bhodinyana

## NOTICE BOARD

### Walking Companions Wanted

Fellow hikers, young or old, to join enthusiastic lady hiker based in Perth on easy to moderate walks, overnighing at any Bibbulmun Track campsite in the northern section.

**Contact: Rosalind**  
**Phone: 9271 9248 after hours**

### Hiking Boots For Sale

Columbia (Trail Grinder). Lightweight, very sturdy and hardwearing. Size: women’s UK 6, USA 8, EU 39 (CM 24.5). Colour: Camel/Olive. Material: a combination of mainly leather, and some rubber and water-resistant synthetic. These shoes are brand-new and have never been worn outside!! Cost \$250, will sell \$125 ono.

**Contact: Gerri or Martien**  
**Phone: 92270609**  
**Email: G.Box@murdoch.edu.au**

### Pure Silk sleeping bag/ sleeping bag liner for sale

\$30. Best quality 100% silk, can be used as liner in sleeping bag or on its own in hotter climate.

Feather-light, very small when folded & quickly dry. Sleeping bag liner in sleeping bag provides extra comfort, warmth & keeps bag cleaner for longer. Silk is superior to any other fabric as it allows your skin to breath and it feels AMAZING against your skin.

**Contact: Thao**  
**Phone: 0423175382**  
**Email: cocochine@westnet.com.au**

### Walking Companions Wanted

Starting an End-to-End early May, North to South. Join us for a section if you wish.

**Email: petezinger@yahoo.com.au**

### Wanting Advice & Looking to Buy!

Wanting to talk to someone who has walked the Appalachian Trail. I’m starting on April 1 2007.

Also wanting to buy a Gortex bivvy bag. If you have one to sell, let me know.

**Contact: Kevin**  
**Phone: 9496 0741**

### Guide Books Wanted

Wanted: Second Hand (current edition) Northern and Southern Guide Books.

**Contact: Paul**  
**Phone: 0407 514 519**  
**Email: cayleyst@hotmail.com**

### Walking Companion Wanted

Walking partner wanted to walk Track 1 – 2 days per week. Preferably day walks of approximately 12kms in the Northern Section. Possibly some overnights at the campsites.

**Contact: Graeme**  
**Phone: 0402 117 580**

### Walking companion wanted

Self-sufficient 30-year old woman seeks young female company on Track for 2 to 7 day walks over long weekends and school holidays. Interested?

**Contact: Khalin**  
**Phone: 9446 8190**

### Women’s hiking boots for sale

Vgc, hardly worn, female size 8 (41), Scarpa Lady Trek, lightweight leather, resoleable, \$290 new, will sell \$150 or nearest offer.

**Contact: Sabena**  
**Phone: 9337 5025**  
**Email: sabenalund@yahoo.com.au**

### Walking Companion Wanted

Reasonably fit 52-year-old female, lives in Albany, looking for hiking companion for Bibbulmun Track walks. Have completed half the Track. Mostly w/ends, long w/ends or one week hikes.

**Contact: Johanna**  
**Email: johannaengwerda@hotmail.com**

### Gear For Sale

Frankland Mainpeak S/bag. Synthetic Du Pont Quallofil 7 insulation. 1640g. 0-5 deg. Used once & never left in stuff bag. \$50.

**Contact: Anthony**  
**Phone: 9437 4257 a/h**  
**Email: antonyaugustus@netspace.net.au**

### 1 pair womens ASOLO Axis ML shoes

Vibram sole, colour grey; UK 6-1/2, US 8, EU 40 Shoes are brand new: they have never been worn as size is not correct.

Cost \$169.00, sell \$85.00 ono.

**Contact Joy - 9291 6795.**  
**email: jamvray@bigpond.com**

### Want To Advertise on our Notice Board?

If you are a member just send us an email with your details, membership number and your text.

If you are not a member please phone us during office hours. Cost is \$5 for 3 months on the web and one edition of the newsletter if still current. All items will be deleted after 3 months if not renewed

**Phone: (08) 9481 0551**  
**Email: friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au**

# Upcoming Events

Joining one of our events is a great way to experience the Track and meet other like-minded people at the same time!

## BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL ON ALL EVENTS

Book online at [www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au) Email: [events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au](mailto:events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au) for a booking form or fax/post the booking form from the events calendar.

## GOT A GROUP? WE'VE GOT THE GUIDE!

If you see an event that you like and you have a group, call us to schedule your own private event on a date that suits you! Just contact us with your details and we'll do the rest! Minimum numbers required, prices and dates subject to resource availability. Private groups only – organisations, schools or clubs may contact us for our corporate or tourism packages.

## Day Walks

### P-PLATES DAY WALK 2 footprints

Already done a few day walks and want to get into overnight trekking? This innovative and challenging 15km circuit walk will teach you all you need to know for overnight bushwalking. Experience breathtaking views while walking to a typical Bibbulmun campsite. Experienced guides will introduce you to the equipment they use for overnight trekking and answer all your queries (1.5 hrs from Perth – own transport required). BYO lunch.

**Date:** Sunday 28th May, 9am – approx 4pm.

**Cost:** \$30 members, \$40 non-members. Includes morning tea on arrival, map and trained guides.

### PUB, PUMPS & PIPES (NEW!) 1 footprint



Did you know that we have the longest fresh water pipeline in the world? On today's walk (approx 6.5km) we explore the history and controversy surrounding the construction of the Mundaring Weir, the pump stations and



the pipeline which transports water a massive 560km! With our guide from the National Trust, we follow the O'Connor Trail, the Bibbulmun Track and the Weir Walk. Enjoy a cuppa inside the No1 Pump Station and also visit the No2 Pump Station. Our tour of one of Australia's most significant industrial heritage sites ends at the historic Mundaring Weir Hotel. Supported by the National Trust.

**Date:** Sunday 25th June, 8am – approx 1pm.

**Cost:** \$20 members, \$30 non-members. Includes National Trust guide, BTF guide, entry in No1 Pump Station, and tea and coffee. Beverages and lunch at hotel not included.

## Overnight & Extended Walks

### BALINGUP WEEKEND EXPLORER 2 footprints

One of our most popular events – this is the next level up from our Bibbulmun for Beginners walk. It is set in the beautiful yet challenging Blackwood area. Experienced guides will instruct and support you in overnight trekking based on a typical distance walked during a day on the Bibbulmun Track. Spend Friday night in Balingup before being transported 40kms south

for a two day walk with packs back to town, camping out on Saturday night. Freshen up on Sunday afternoon with a hot shower before being transported home.

**Planning night:** Friday 28th April, 6.30pm.

**Date:** Friday 12th (5pm) to Sunday 14th May.

**Cost:** \$230 members, \$245 non-members. Includes comprehensive planning night, trip preparation manual, map, return transport from Perth and bus transfer to start of walk, plus accommodation on Friday night, showers on Sunday and equipment hire. BYO food. Max 10 people.

### WILDFLOWER WANDER 3 footprints

Enjoy the beauty of the spring flowers as you spend four days hiking almost 70km in one of the most scenic sections of the Bibbulmun Track. Starting from Kalamunda, you will be amazed at the scenery 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.

**Planning night:** Friday 15th September, 6.30pm.

**Dates:** Friday 29th Sept to Monday 2nd October (long weekend).

**Cost:** \$245 members, \$260 non-members. Includes return transport ex Perth, comprehensive planning night, trip preparation manual, map, a copy of 'Wildflowers of the Northern Bibbulmun Track' and equipment hire. BYO food. Walkers must be fit and have previous overnight experience carrying full packs.

### 8-DAY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BIBBULMUN TRACK TOUR



This itinerary has been carefully compiled to enable you to experience a cross section of the Bibbulmun Track from the spectacular ocean views and coastal heath-lands in the far south, through the magnificent karri and tingle forest and up to the rolling hills and jarrah forests in the northern section.

Enjoy a range of full- and half-day guided walks as we transport you to the Track each day. Experience a number of unique eco-tourism attractions and boutique wineries in the region. Each evening we will return to comfortable accommodation to relax and enjoy a delicious dinner.

On the walks, you need carry only a small daypack. From the rocky escarpments that provide exhilarating views to the tranquility of the tall forests, our itinerary caters for all levels of experience.

**Date:** Monday 18th – Monday 25th September.

**Cost:** POA (twin share basis). Includes motel/chalet accommodation, all meals from lunch on day 1 to lunch on day 8, Bibbulmun Track day pack and water bottle, all transport, entrance fees and permits to national parks and attractions including Tree Top Walk, WOW Wilderness Cruise and Forest Heritage Centre, Bibbulmun Track guide and driver/guide. Single supplement available most nights upon application. Phone 9481 0551 or email [events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au](mailto:events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au) for a complete dossier. Maximum 13 people – hurry!!

## Women-Only Walks

### WOMEN'S ONE NIGHT ESCAPE! 2 footprints

Time for a fun and challenging weekend on the Bibbulmun Track. Gain confidence, outdoor skills and new walking friends as you don a backpack for a more challenging walk (11km each day),

spending Saturday night at Helena campsite perched over the delightful Helena valley. Finish the next day with a chance to have a relaxing afternoon at the local pub.

**Planning night:** Friday 12th May, 6.30pm.

**Date:** Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st May.

**Cost:** \$135 members, \$150 non-members. Includes experienced guides, trip preparation manual, comprehensive planning night and equipment hire. BYO food. Own transport to Mundaring.

### MARCHING MAIDENS 2.5 footprints

For those with a little more overnight trekking experience, join experienced guides walking 36km over 3 days from North Bannister to Sullivan Rock via the new Mt Cooke and Nerang campsites. Wander through a section of bush undergoing nature's amazing process of regeneration after wild fire and experience some amazing views from the top of Mt Cooke. At the end of our walk on Monday afternoon we are picked up and taken to the Jarrahdale tavern before returning to Perth.

**Planning night:** Friday 26th May, 6.30pm.

**Dates:** Saturday 3rd to Monday 5th June (long weekend).

**Cost:** \$230 members, \$245 non-members. Includes transport ex Perth City (public transport to walk start, private bus on return), comprehensive planning night, trip preparation manual, foot balm, map and equipment hire. BYO food.

## Seminars & Workshops

### FOOD IN A FUEL STOVE

Tired of eating the same old food when out on the Track? Join Lead Guide and end-to-ender, Steve Sertis, for a fun and interactive evening learning exciting recipes and innovative ideas for preparing healthy food on a portable stove. Bring your own fuel stove to try out if you like! 6.30pm, Book now.

**Dates:** Wednesday 26th July.

**Cost:** \$45 members, \$55 non-members. Includes ingredients, menu, fuel stoves and recipes. You will be cooking and tasting!

## Beginner's Guide To The Bibbulmun

Regardless of age or fitness the Bibbulmun Track has something to offer everyone. Join the Foundation for an introduction seminar to walking the Track. Experts will help you learn all aspects of bushwalking from planning your walk to food, equipment and minimal impact. Just the encouragement you need to stop dreaming and get going! Ring UWA Extension for bookings on 6488 2433 or visit [www.extension.uwa.edu.au](http://www.extension.uwa.edu.au).

**Date:** Tuesday 9th May, 6pm – 9pm.

**Cost:** \$44. Part proceeds go to the Foundation.

## End-to-ender Workshop (New!)

Planning an end-to-end or just dreaming about doing it? This workshop takes you through what you need to do to begin planning your epic journey. Learn how to develop your own itinerary, organise food and food drops, plan effective rest days, cross the various inlets and consider the various emergency options available to you. Take on board what our end-to-enders suggest and you will move one step closer to completing one of the biggest achievements in your life! Places strictly limited. City location.

**Date:** Tuesday 16 May, 6pm to approx 8.30pm.

**Cost:** \$5 members, \$12 non-members. Includes a cuppa.

## Get Lost With Steve!

Do you have little or no direction in your life? Do you really know how to use a compass? Today we go through a series of practical and theoretical exercises on and near the Track in Mundaring. Get Lost with Steve and you will have fun learning and perfecting basic map reading and compass skills. BYO lunch. Own navigation compass required.

**Date:** Sunday 18th June, 9.30am – approx 4.30pm.

**Cost:** \$60 members, \$70 non-members. Includes morning tea, map reading booklet and Track map.

## Kid's Events

### CHILDREN'S CAMP KITCHEN 1 footprint

A 4km return walk to a typical Track campsite. In a beautiful bush setting children will learn camp cooking through hands-on experience! Just bring refreshments, snacks for kids and lunch for adults. Max two kids per adult. 1hr from Perth. 10.30am – 1.30pm during school holidays.

**Dates:** Wednesday 26th April. Tuesday 11th July.

**Cost:** Kids: \$28 family members, \$33 non-members. Ages 5 and up. Adults Free. Includes ingredients for kids' light lunch. Max 2 adults per child.

### SANTA'S BIBBULMUN VACATION 1 footprint

For the young and young at heart! An easy 5km return stroll to meet Santa and friends on holiday from the North Pole at a Bibbulmun Track campsite! Enjoy a BYO picnic while listening to Santa's stories. Then experience a magical return by torch light following the reflective Waugal trail markers. Location advised after booking. 1 1/4hr from Perth. Ages 3yrs and up. Max 2 kids per adult.

**Date:** Saturday 15th July, 3pm to approx 7pm.

**Cost:** Family member kids: \$15 for first child, \$10 thereafter. Non-member kids: \$18 for first child, \$15 thereafter.

**Adults:** members free, \$5 non-members. Max 2 adults per child. Includes small gift for children. Suitable for robust pushchairs

## BLACKWOOD WALK WITH MUM OR DAD 1 footprint

Remember what it was like to discover and explore the bush with your mum or dad? This is your chance to pass this childhood experience on. Get to know each other better and rediscover the Australian bush on this walk (9.5km each day) to a typical Bibbulmun campsite in the magnificent karri and jarrah forest near Bridgetown. Max 2 kids per adult.

**Planning night:** Friday 5th May, 6.30pm. Bunbury location.

**Date:** Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th May.

**Cost:** \$145 (1 adult and 1 child), extra child \$35. Includes map (1 per team), guided walk, comprehensive planning night, trip preparation manual and equipment hire. Own transport to start point near Bridgetown.

## TEEN TREK 2 footprints

A three day expedition for teenagers, camping out and experiencing the fun and camaraderie of being in the bush with others their age. Along the way they will be given some mental and physical challenges. Stimulate their minds and bodies and get them away from the X-Box and Playstation! Participants have the opportunity to join the Duke of Edinburgh program as part of this event.

**Planning night:** Friday 14th July, 6.30pm.

**Date:** Wednesday 19th to Friday 21st July (school holidays).

**Cost:** \$120. Includes return transport ex Perth, Track map, comprehensive planning night, trip preparation manual, equipment hire and experienced guides. BYO food (advice given).



# entertainment™

## The Entertainment Book is back!



Save big money and support the Bibbulmun Track at the same time!

The Entertainment™ Book 2006/07 is filled with valuable 25% to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers from the best restaurants, cafés, family dining, accommodation, theatre, sports, and much more.

The books will be available mid-May for a limited time only and they are sure to sell out quickly... So reserve your copy online, by post, call 9321 0649 or email friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au now!

Only \$60 collected from the office, plus \$6 for regular postage or \$8 for registered post (as we cannot replace books lost in the mail, we strongly recommend choosing registered post).

Remember, you only have to use the Book a couple of times and it's paid for itself!



### Stay On Your Feet WA

## STAY ON YOUR FEET WA - FOR OVER-65s

Falls are the leading cause of injury-related death and hospital admissions in people over the age of 65. 'Stay on your feet' is a community-based programme designed to assist seniors with maintaining their mobility by reducing the risk of falls. In conjunction with the Injury Control Council of WA (ICCWA), the Bibbulmun Track Foundation is running a free day-walk of up to 3km in length for the over-65s who do not regularly bushwalk. ICCWA is sponsoring the transport.

The walk will be held on Sunday 28th May from 9.30am to approx 2pm. If you would like to make a booking, call the Foundation on 9481 0551.

## Golden Pipeline Trails

Recreational trails are a significant component of the National Trust's Golden Pipeline project. The Weir Walk (1.9 kms) and the O'Connor Trail (5.3 kms) are situated in and around the Mundaring Weir precinct. Richly interpreted, the trails give information about the technology of the scheme as well as the communities that built and operated it.

The multi-use Kep Track (for walkers, cyclists and equestrians) runs approximately 75 kms between Mundaring Weir and Northam. A large event, for all types of users, is scheduled for May 2007 to launch the project, although many people have already enjoyed the Kep Track as stages have been constructed over the past five years. Following the old rail formation for much of its length, the trail not only provides a vehicle for interpretation of stories associated with CY O'Connor's Goldfields Water Supply Scheme, it also tells a railway story. The railway was used to deliver pipes and other material for the construction of the pipeline.

The rail formation provides a low gradient and wide surface area. The trails are well compacted making them suitable for people with a range of disabilities.

For further information on the Golden Pipeline trails, contact the National Trust on 9321 6088 or visit the website [www.goldenpipeline.com.au](http://www.goldenpipeline.com.au). You can also pick up brochures or more information at No 1 Pump Station, Mundaring Weir.

## Prize Winning Members

Congratulations to the winners of the monthly membership renewal prizes...

**Cameron Taylor** (December) won a 'Buff' kindly donated by our Bronze sponsor Paddy Pallin.

**Garry Woods** won the 2nd Second prize of a hat and water bottle.

**The Bassett Family** (January) won a Gor-Tex hat kindly donated by Paddy Pallin.

**Malcolm Johnson** won the 2nd Second prize of a hat and water bottle.

**Pauline Kelly** (February) won a 'Coolmax' T-shirt kindly donated by our Gold sponsor Mountain Designs

**The Parker Family** won the 2nd Second prize of a hat and water bottle.

**Ray Willis** (March) won a great 'Buff' kindly donated by our sponsor Paddy Pallin.

**Jan Allen** won the 2nd Second prize of a hat and water bottle.

**Geoff Bell** won the Life Members draw for the last 6 months of 2005 and received a 'Bibbulmun' rucksack kindly donated by Mountain Designs

The Annual Life Members prize draw for 2006 was won by **Sue Aston**. Sue's prize was a half day beach and forest off-road adventure kindly donated by Pemberton Discovery Tours.

**Maintenance Volunteer Prize Draws**  
The winner for the September quarter, **Peter Dodd**, received a Mountain Designs daypack. Peter maintains the section of Track which includes Possum Springs Campsite.

The December winner, **Jason Young**, maintains the section from Monkey Rock to Ocean Beach Rd. Jason's prize is a Mountains Designs Fleece.

## Help us to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the 'new' Bibbulmun Track

On the 13th September 1998 the 'Perth to Albany Track' - known as the Bibbulmun Track - was officially opened. In preparation for the 10th Anniversary of this event we are asking you, our members, for your input.

Please complete the survey below and return it to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation via post or fax (see details on back cover) by 12th May.

For each question please circle your answer(s).

- If we planned a walk would you join in?
  - not at all
  - for a day
  - for a weekend
  - for a week or more
  - for an End-to-End
- Would you join in on a walk
  - on your own
  - as a group of friends/family/ club

- If we planned a gathering over a weekend would you attend if it was...
  - in the Perth hills
  - at the half-way point (e.g. Donnelly River Village)
  - if it was in Albany

- Would you prefer...
  - one big event
  - several smaller events along the length of the Track

- Would you prefer...
  - one big event
  - several smaller events along the length of the Track

- Would you be prepared to volunteer to help with...
  - logistics
  - administration
  - both of the above
  - unable to assist as this time

- (if affirmative we will contact you closer to the anniversary)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your time.

Your response will be collated and once an event is decided upon you will be notified!

## Booking your 'Walk With the Friends'

Walk With the Friends (WWF) is a series of social Sunday walks led by trained volunteers. The walks are free for members using vouchers.

Each edition of Bibbulmun News contains a list of WWF dates and two printed WWF vouchers. Adult members are entitled to two vouchers per newsletter, so if you have a family membership and only receive one newsletter you can request two extra vouchers.

When you book your first one or two WWF, enclose the voucher/s with the booking form found in Bibbulmun News. When you go on the walk you receive the voucher back to book another WWF from the programme of walks found in the same newsletter.

Members can go on all WWF, but can only book a maximum of two walks at any one time. If you don't turn up, or you cancel your booking, you forfeit your voucher.

Each edition of Bibbulmun News (issued every four months) contains new vouchers and a new WWF programme.

### Why the voucher system?

Many walks were being booked out far in advance precluding others from attending. Many of those that booked simply didn't show up, without any notification, which meant that we had no opportunity to contact those on the waiting list.

The voucher system prevents the walks being booked out in the first week of the schedule being released - and helps to ensure that people attend the walks they book.

walk with  
the friends  
(value \$12)

Please send this voucher with your booking.  
You'll be given a replacement when  
you attend the walk.

Expires 27 August 2006

voucher

walk with  
the friends  
(value \$12)

Please send this voucher with your booking.  
You'll be given a replacement when  
you attend the walk.

Expires 27 August 2006

voucher

	QUANTITY	TOTAL COST
Individual Maps		
Map 1 Darling Range		\$11.50 per map
Map 2 Dwellingup		
Map 3 Collie		
Map 4 Blackwood		
Map 5 Pemberton		
Map 6 Northcliffe		
Map 7 Walpole		
Map 8 Denmark/Albany		
Map Packs		
Northern Map Pack (Maps 1-4)		\$42.00
Southern Map Pack (Maps 5-8)		\$42.00
Northern Guide Book 2nd ed.(Pocket size with maps and track notes)		\$35.00
Southern Guide Book 2nd ed.(Pocket size with maps and track notes)		\$35.00
Northern & Southern Guide Book combo		\$66.00
'Getting on Track' video or DVD (packed with useful information)		\$27.45
NEW! Bibbulmun Track Accommodation & Services Guide Places to stay, attractions, transport and tour ideas!		\$12.00
NEW! Bibbulmun Track Poster (Full colour 594 x 825mm) Features Shelters, National Parks & Track Photos ADD \$7pp within Australia		\$12.00
Polo shirt teal (with logo and 'Western Australia' on front) No. of shirts per size: S M L XL XXL		\$27.95
Polo shirt cream (with logo and 'Western Australia' on front) No. of shirts per size: S M L XL XXL		\$27.95
T-shirt Logo plus 'Western Australia' on front, '1000km end to end' on back BUTTERNUT No. of shirts per size: S M L XL XXL		
OLIVE No. of shirts per size: S M L XL XXL		
CORNFLOWER No. of shirts per size: S M L XL XXL		\$27.50
Brushed cotton cap with suede peak & logo with 'Western Australia' (cream & camel)		\$12.95
Cotton Bushwalker's Hat (cream with logo) S M L		\$14.95
Car Window Sticker		\$2.00
NEW! 'waugal' pendant (handcrafted in silver with an adjustable black cord)		\$16.00
Souvenir 'waugal' trail marker (plastic, real size with nail hole)		\$3.00
Souvenir 'waugal' fridge magnet		\$2.20
Latest Bibbulmun News Magazine		\$6.00
Hand-made, Personalised Bibbulmun Walking Sticks		\$98.00
Special for members \$75.00 (No additional discount applies)		\$75.00
'Bibbulmun Track on the South Coast' – interactive CD		\$37.00
Wildflowers of the Northern Bibbulmun Track & Jarrah Forrests Field Guide, over 300 plants, glossy full colour (\$2.50 postage) Special for members \$20 (no additional discount applies)		\$24.00
The Cape to Cape Track Guidebook. Includes maps and description		\$21.95
Water Bottle (white with logo)		\$6.60
Exclusive Bibbulmun daypack (Navy) & water bottle		\$39.95
Forest Discovery Wheel. An easy guide to 18 of Western Australia's best known southern forest trees & plants.		\$6.60
Ocean Giants Look-out Kit (Albany)		\$3.95
On the Trail of the Red-Tail - Day Walk Map Packs includes map carrier, map, new walk notes, bird info & postcard plus prepaid sighting record card: choice of 6 locations COST: \$20 ea (includes donation to Cockatoo Care)	Darling Range	
	Dwellingup	
	Balingup	
	Pemberton	
	Walpole	
	Denmark	
BUSH BOOKS (POCKET SIZED, PRACTICAL FIELD GUIDES BY CALM)		
Wildflowers of the Sth-W	Fungi of the South-West	\$6.50 per book
Beachcomber's Guide to the Sth-W	Mammals of the South-West	
Common Trees of the Sth-W Forests	Bush Tucker Plants of the Sth-W	
Common Birds of the Sth-W Forests	Common Wildflowers of the Sth-W Forests	
Orchids of the Sth-W	Frogs of Western Australia	
Snakes of Western Australia		
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>		
Friends' Member discount (minus)	10%	
Postage and packing Australia (if not collected) (plus)	10%	
<b>TOTAL</b>		

**PLEASE PAY BY**

Cheque, payable to  
'Bibbulmun Track Foundation'  
or  
Credit Card & post to:  
Box 7605, Cloisters Square Perth WA 6850  
or  
Fax to  
9481 0546  
Telephone:  
9481 0551 or 9321 0649

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

- I have enclosed a cheque (tick)
- I would like to pay by credit card. (tick)

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
VISA MASTERCARD  
Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## HIRE EQUIPMENT 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
EPIRB	\$20.00	\$30.00
All prices include GST and are for one to seven days		
PACKAGE A	\$60.00	\$80.00
INCLUDES: Backpack, sleeping bag/liner, sleeping mat, stove		
PACKAGE B	\$90.00	\$115.00
INCLUDES: Backpack, sleeping bag/liner, sleeping mat, stove, tent		

# WALK with the friends



A series of social walks with Foundation volunteers. BOOKINGS WITH THIS FORM ESSENTIAL

**BOOKING FORM**  
(PLEASE ALSO SIGN AND DATE CONDITIONS BELOW)

**PERSONAL DETAILS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email for confirmation to be sent: \_\_\_\_\_

Friends membership No: \_\_\_\_\_

Tick here if you wish to car pool. Your first name, phone & suburb will be given out to others wishing to car pool.  
Cost \$12 for non-members. Free for members (vouchers required). All proceeds support the 'Eyes on the Ground maintenance Programme'.

**PAYMENT DETAILS:** Please make cheques payable to the BIBBULMUN TRACK FOUNDATION

Please also join me as a member, I have included  \$30 concession,  \$60 Senior plus (couple)  
 \$40 individual or  \$65 family for membership  \$600 Life Member

Cheque enclosed to the value of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or debit my  Visa  Mastercard  Bankcard

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Card name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONDITIONS**

I acknowledge & assume all risks associated with participation in any events being conducted by the Bibbulmun Track Foundation & will hold the Board, Executive Director, employees, servants & agents free from all liability, caused of action, debt claims, & demands of every kind & nature whatsoever which may arise out of, or in connection with the use of facilities, equipment, &/or participation in the events I have chosen.

Walks are based on conditions at time of printing & may be subject to change. Event details will follow via email or post.

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation reserves the right to cancel a tour with a minimum of 24hrs notice.

**NO REFUNDS OR EXCHANGES**  
(Except where an event has been altered or cancelled.)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

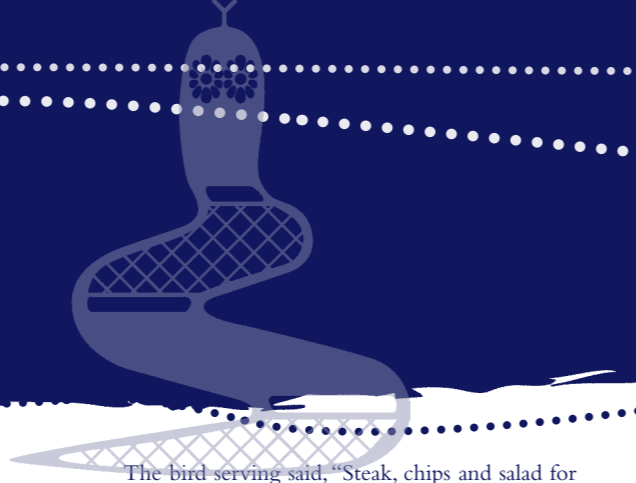
In making a booking I acknowledge that I, and any other persons that I am booking for, understand and agree to the above conditions & I have included full payment/vouchers for the event/s in which I wish to take part. I understand that many events have limited places & that if my application is not accepted, my moneys/voucher will be refunded in full.

**BOOKINGS CLOSE AT 12 NOON ON EACH THURSDAY PRIOR TO AN EVENT**

WALK RATINGS: 🐣 BEGINNERS 🐣🐣 INTERMEDIATE 🐣🐣🐣 EXPERIENCED		
WALK BOOKINGS	No of Adults	
11 June 8.30am 🐣🐣🐣		16km return walk from Inglehope Crossing to Chadoora Campsite (Dwellingup district)
19.5km return walk from Dale Road to Beraking Campsite		6 August 9.00am 🐣
18 June 9.30am 🐣🐣		16km return walk from North Bannister to Serpentine River
10.6km return walk from River Road to Swamp Oak Campsite (Dwellingup district)		13 August 9.00am 🐣
25 June 9.00am 🐣🐣		9km return walk from Fern Road to Hewett's Hill
14km return walk from Albany Hwy to Boonering Hill		20 August 9.00am 🐣🐣
2 July 9.00am 🐣		12km return walk from Kinsella Road to Canning Campsite
7.4km return walk from Mundaring Weir to Ball Creek Campsite		27 August 8.30am 🐣🐣🐣
9 July 8.30am 🐣🐣🐣		22km return walk from Hills Forest to Helena Campsite
20.4km return walk from Kalamunda to Hewett's Hill Campsite		Send this back to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation, PO Box 7605, Cloisters Square, 6850 with vouchers or cheque OR fax to 9481 0546 with credit card details.
16 July 9.00am 🐣 or 🐣🐣		
12km return walk from Sullivan Rock to Mt Cooke Campsite or summit (add 4.2km)		

BIBBULMUN TRACK FOUNDATION

# Post Track



Achieving an end-to-end walk on the Track affects people in different ways. Here are some thoughts from an end-to-ender, Mark, after the realisation of his achievement had sunk in.



Mark & Gail - aka "Grandpa & Grandma"

It's three o'clock in the morning. We finished the Bib Track three weeks ago. I've been lying awake as usual, wondering if I'll ever be normal again. I've done lots of interesting and memorial things in my life, but this walk has thrown me to the dogs.

Steve Sertis (the Foundation's event manager) told me it took him about five weeks to get over his end-to-end. No wonder!

I'm still crazed up, and Steve's remark didn't make it any easier.

I guess I'm missing the everyday simplicity of it all. What's round the next bend, the individual personal stories, and finally the huge satisfaction of achievement.

It's harder to find new worthwhile challenges these days. I can now understand why the Jim Freeman, the Mad Axeman is about to do it for the ninth time. And yes, we even met gentleman Jim leading one of his many tours near his campsite.

## Of Money, Weight and Things:

Found a pile of coins on a ledge in a hut. My lucky day, so I thought. Wasn't till three huts later I discovered it was all USA silver. Left it on a shelf together with own surplus coins for the next idiot to carry on. At least I got rid of

some weight.

At this stage, we were doing everything to lighten our load. We'd thinned out our belongings four times and eventually I got my pack weight down from 23kgs to 16kgs. Even got rid of our 3kg tent, but soon discovered no tent wasn't a good idea, so procured a Hubba-Hubba 1.7kg which turned out a brilliant piece of gear. Highly recommended indeed.

Did discover the Galloping Gourmet went one better, he carried a 450gm old style lean-to for extreme emergency. Good stuff, Chris, and thanks for your company one wild evening. Our experiences at the campsites suggest that with more and more walkers on the Track, accommodation will become critical. Carry a tent to be sure of a comfortable camp.

One of our very useful items included a small roll of black, 50mm wide gaffer tape for using as a perimeter around hot spots on our feet. Cut out a circle, and then put on. Keeps the pressure off that spot. Works well till your feet harden up.

Started out with one walking stick each but discarded them very quickly and bought two sets of trekking poles – cushioned and lightweight. Found approximately 60% of walkers using trekking poles. Couldn't have completed without them.

Of gas bottles: Beware. In too many places where you might expect to buy them, no one knew what we were talking about.

Some Trivia and Things:

"Cooking in aluminium pots is bad for your health," she said, as she puffed away on a fag near Dookanelly campsite— absolutely true, I swear.

From a well-meaning friend: "I bet you go through one or two bottles of wine every night."

And from another: "Why are you doing this walk, it might rain and you'll get wet!"

"What if a snake gets you?"

My answer?

"It will die of alcoholic poisoning— I wish."

From an enquiring friend: "By the time you and Nanna get back, will you be talking?" And in case you're in the wondering department —Well, it wasn't honeymoon every night, but the overnight stay at the Mumballup pub was kind to us – early one morning!

At the Balingup eatery, three of us trekkers walked in for the evening meal.

The bird serving said, "Steak, chips and salad for three?"

"How did you know that?" I asked.

"I can pick you types, and that's all you ever want," she replied.

Of wet boots: We gave up trying to dodge the water. Better to have soggy boots than a broken ankle or leg trying to jump from hillock to hillock.

Carry plenty of water: We both got dehydrated and it took a Collie doctor to diagnose the problem.

On maps: At first, we carried both the northern section book and all the maps. We quickly discarded the maps. Had the southern section book posted on to us— indispensable.

Worst track section: Final walk round Frenchman's Bay to the Southern Terminus —trip about to end.

What we missed: A big booze up in Albany to celebrate.

More from well meaning friends: "Don't forget to take your shotgun" — wonder what gauge he meant?

"If you rode your bike —would that be easier?"

"I'll go if I can use my hairdryer."

We can blame young Jim Freeman for that. His fame has spread

And the little classic from my well meaning brother and sister in law at Collie:

"You both look thin, tired, hungry and awful. We insist we take you home for good, away from this horrible experience".

By the way, don't forget to take your camel. You will need it to get to the toilet at Beedleup campsite. Something to eat and drink on the trip would come in handy too. Heaven help you if it rains on the way.

We both lost weight – Nanna nine kilos, Grandpa eight kilos.

On reflection, it was a huge personal achievement for us both, and we don't rule out doing it again. Our lives now have another slant. What next?

Many thanks to all the people who made this adventure possible. 🌸

# Bushwalking Off the Bibbulmun Track?

# Bhutan Trek

October 2006

Join Mike Wood on a trek to the Jhomolari region of Bhutan departing Perth Friday 13 October and returning 1 November.

This trek will be as much about the cultural aspects of Bhutan and its Buddhist heritage as it is about trekking in the high Himalaya. Bhutan is truly an isolated Shangri La, which only a limited number of travellers are allowed to enter each year. The Bhutanese carefully guard their culture from the corrosive influences of western civilisation by limiting the numbers of tourists and trekkers.

You will visit nunneries and monasteries such as Taktsang and the ruins of Drukgyal Dzong; visit the National Library in Thimbu which is stocked with ancient Buddhist manuscripts; and visit the Painting School where students learn to paint the incredibly complex Thankas that depict famous Buddhist scenes.

The trek will take you through heavily forested river valleys teeming with birds and butterflies; small picturesque villages; and across two Passes, the Nyele La (4,700m) and the Yale La (4,950m). During the trek we will have spectacular views of Jhomolari (7,314m) and numerous other Himalayan peaks.

For more information about this incredible adventure contact Mike on 9322 4774 or email [mtdesign@inet.net.au](mailto:mtdesign@inet.net.au) 🌸



Mike Wood

If walking the Bibbulmun Track has awakened your appetite for bushwalking and wild places think about tackling some class 5 and 6 tracks. It greatly increases bushwalking options and is considered by some walkers to be bushwalking at its best. These walkers are often members of one of Western Australia's organised bushwalking Clubs, as most of the Clubs organise bushwalking groups using these tracks and have programmes to pass on skills and knowledge to others.

"What's a Class 5 or Class 6 track", you ask? The Standards Association has a six stage grading sequence for tracks, from Class 1 tracks that are suitable for wheel chair access where people using the track can expect many facilities and to see lots of other users, up to Class 6 tracks, where there are no markers, no facilities, an almost unmodified terrain and users can expect to see no-one else.

Most organised bushwalking clubs are affiliated with WA's peak bushwalking body, The Federation of Western Australian Bushwalkers Inc.; carry appropriate public liability insurance, and in some cases personal accident insurance. They have standards and practices for minimum impact bushwalking, for minimising the risk associated with their bushwalks, for the conservation and preservation of the bush (and in WA to minimise the spread of dieback), and to ensure that the purity of water supplies is never compromised. Their members set the modern alignment for the Bibbulmun Track over Mt Dale, Mt Randal, Mt Vincent, Mt Cuthbert, Mt Cooke, Boonering Hill and the White Horse Hills – thought by many to be the best parts of the Track. The Federation also arranged the funding of seven of the huts of the Bibbulmun Track.

The members of these clubs have a huge range of skills. Some are expert in long distance walking. They know how to avoid getting wet, and how to best behave if they do. They know how to camp in comfort in the bush; how to harvest water; how to avoid getting heat stroke, and the best way to treat someone who has (got heat stroke). They know how to avoid getting cold, and what to do if someone is too cold. Many have first aid skills and even Wilderness First Aid qualifications. They all have a huge willingness to share these skills and knowledge, and common sense, and love of the bush, with other people.

The Federation has seven member clubs. Each Club has a unique style; some are bigger, some smaller, some older and some younger. Some are much more energetic than others, some are more adventurous. They have different leaders

(who themselves have different ideas about what makes an excellent walk), different ideas on how 'challenging' (in terms of energy output, agility, dexterity, navigation skills, etc) walks should be, and different ideas on what is 'average' for their activities. A 'medium' walk with one Club may be much harder, or easier, than a 'medium' walk with a different club. All the Clubs have some social component. Each will introduce new and different walking areas and have members with whom it is possible to arrange additional walking activities. In many clubs there are members who use four wheel drives to expand their choice of available walking areas, and give added security and peace of mind in doing so. All welcome new members.

These clubs are (in order of date of incorporation):

Western Walking Club Inc  
(08) 9487 0423

[www.wwc.iinet.net.au](http://www.wwc.iinet.net.au)

Perth Bushwalkers Club Inc  
(08) 9487 7990

[www.perthbushwalkers.asn.au](http://www.perthbushwalkers.asn.au)

Action Outdoors Association Inc.  
(08) 9487 2548

[www.aoa.iinet.net.au](http://www.aoa.iinet.net.au)

Bushwalkers of WA Inc.  
(08) 9341 6043

[www.bowa.iinet.net.au](http://www.bowa.iinet.net.au)

WA Family Bushwalking Club Inc.  
(08) 9385 7668.

Albany Bushwalkers Club Inc  
(08) 9841 2844 or (08) 9841 3574.

The Hiking Club of WA Inc.  
(08) 9362 1614.

Interested? Have a look at the Clubs' websites. Talk to the person responsible for membership. Ask about the Club's activities. Go on a walk or two with each Club to see whether they offer what you are looking for. What is their position with insurance? How much do they charge members?

When you have found what you want join up and look forward to lots of really good bushwalking.

Ian McDonald

The Federation of Western Australian Bushwalkers Inc. 🌸



# The Milford Track – NEW ZEALAND

Members Jane Greenwood & John Faris recount their experience on the Milford Track.

The Milford Track is one of the Great Walks in New Zealand and the world, running from Lake Te Anau to Milford Sound in Fiordland in the SW of the South Island. It follows the Clinton River from the head of the lake, crosses the McKinnon Pass and then descends down the Arthur River to Milford Sound 53.5km later. It passes near the Sutherland Falls which are 580m high and the fifth highest in the world.

We booked the Milford Track hike in July 2004, as soon as bookings opened. The Department of Conservation (DOC) only allow 40 un-guided walkers a day and the walk is always booked solid between October and March. Because of the changeable weather, and to conserve the environment, hikers must stay in the DOC huts. Tents are not allowed.

So, after many months of planning, we finally left Perth on 14 December 2004.

We flew into Queenstown on the 15th, collected a hire car and drove to Te Anau where we stayed the night at the YHA.

## DAY 1 (5km)



Jane Greenwood and John Faris at the start of the Milford Track

There is a short drive further up the lake to Te Anau Down where we caught the 10.30am ferry (about 50 mins) to the mouth of the Clinton River and the start of the Milford Track. The boat had a mixed load of travellers – guided day walkers, guided four-day hikers and the rest freedom/independent hikers (us!!) Only a short walk to Clinton Hut. The weather looked awful – grey sky and low cloud- but as the day



The first night is spent at Clinton Hut progressed the weather got better and better and by mid afternoon we had blue sky, sunshine and heat!

After lunch we walked down to the Clinton River, which we had followed all the way to the hut. Fabulous spot.

The Clinton Hut is nestled in a valley surrounded by huge mountains and a waterfall. The site has two bunk rooms – 20 bunks in each plus a separate kitchen/dining room with a wood heater plus 12 gas burners. We brought our own stoves as we didn't know how many burners would be provided. Sinks with cold running water and two loos (with flush) and sinks and taps. All a novelty, as we only had the Bibbulmun Track shelters to compare with! Mattresses are supplied on the bunks, which made quite a difference to the weight of our packs without our thermarests.

## DAY 2 (16.5km)

Had a wonderful sleep. Despite the 20 hikers in our bunkroom, there wasn't one snorer, although we found out the other bunkroom had two or three very loud ones! Set off at 7.45am but not a good day. Looked as if the drizzle would clear but the rain became very heavy. The scenery continued to be stunning – waterfalls, cascades and huge mountains. The walk was very easy apart from the last two to three kilometres. The track is surrounded by snow capped mountains and wanders through a valley and canyon.

The Mintaro Hut is at the head of the Clinton Valley next to Lake Mintaro. Stunning. The hut has a large kitchen/dining area with two bunk houses which sleep 8 each (we were in one) and a huge dormitory over the whole area which sleeps 24. There was a pot belly stove in the dining area

which had a huge area to heat. Not too effective. The bedrooms were freezing. Only just warm enough in our WA hiking gear!

At 7.30 each evening the hut warden gives a talk on what to do and not to do in the huts and gives a run down on what to expect on the hike the following day. We were told that snow was forecast for the next day!



The spectacular Sutherland Falls

## DAY 3

(14kms plus 5km return to the Sutherland Falls)

Another peaceful night but the weather next morning was foul. The hut warden had warned us that the track may have to be closed and we couldn't head off before 7.30am, when she received the weather report.



Arthur River

Day 3 should have been the most stunning day of the walk as we ascended from Mintaro Hut at 600 metres to MacKinnon Pass at about 1,070 metres and then the highest point on the track at 1,154 metres – a climb of 554 metres. It took about two hours to reach the top of MacKinnon Pass, which has a memorial to Quintin MacKinnon, one of the early explorers in the area and the person who discovered the pass. Half way up the mountain we ran into snow. We were freezing by the time we reached the top. Kept warm while climbing up but once we reached the top there was a gale force wind blowing and we got cold very quickly.

About 30 minutes after the pass is a hut for hikers to rest and warm up again. The hut has a gas burner, kettle and water. A loo is also provided, with a superb view in good weather! It is known as the "loo with a view", but the window was iced over and the blizzard was still playing havoc with the visibility!

We couldn't help wondering when we were on the top of the mountain if we should really have been there. However, once descending we were completely out of the wind. The views from the top should have been stunning but the cloud was so low and the snow so heavy that visibility was often less than 100 metres. John said before the hike that he didn't care what the weather was like for the hike as long as Day 3 was good. The hike was quite strenuous because it was almost all rocks on the descent and very slippery in places.

Near the end of the hike we dumped our packs at Quintin Hut (another rest stop) and walked about 2.5 kilometres to the Sutherland Falls. Absolutely stunning in spite of the now rain. John very bravely walked behind the falls! The

walk up was quite steep and slippery. By the time we reached Dumpling Hut at 7.00pm we were shattered! The forecast for the next day was for rain.



MacKinnon Memorial

## DAY 4 (18 kms)

Sheer joy – blue skies and sunshine. None of us could quite believe it and didn't trust it to last, but last it did and it was the best day on the track. We had thought Day 4 would be very ordinary for some reason but it was wonderful. One fabulous waterfall after another; lovely beech (rain) forest and glades all the way and the ever present mountains looming overhead. The mountains were really looking their very best with snow capped tops against a blue background. Took far too many photos of waterfalls! We were feeling a bit weary after the epic journey crossing the Pass the day before. We had to be at Sandfly Point by 2.00pm to catch the boat over to Milford Sound which takes about 20 minutes. We had to walk at a fairly brisk pace to make it and wished we had woken at 5.30am so we could have spent longer enjoying the sights. We had never seen such beauty anywhere else. The forests, lakes,

rapids, waterfalls are all terrific and then you realise the mountains are still there overlooking everything else.

Once we arrived at Milford Sound we went on a one and a half hour's boat cruise. More mountains and waterfalls but this time from the water. We then caught a bus back to Te Anau Downs YHA where we had left the hire car – a two hour trip through beautiful countryside, seeing another view of the many mountains. Felt quite weary but had had an excellent four-day adventure and met some really great people.

DOC charges freedom walkers \$NZ120 per person for the three nights in the huts plus a further \$NZ82 for the boat trip from Te Anau Downs to the start of the track and the boat trip from Sandfly Point at the end of the track to Milford Sound township. It is also possible to do a guided walk at a cost of around \$2,000 staying in a different set of huts, with beds, showers and three meals a day provided. For information on the walk, see [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz) under Great Walks. 🌀

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