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Bibbulmun NEWS

AUG-NOV 2008
ISSUE # 48
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Newsletter for the friends of the Bibbulmun Track

10th Anniversary - the journey of a decade

And they're off!...



Events Manager and lead guide Steve Sertis with Environment Minister David Templeman and Jim Freeman who has walked the Bibbulmun Track end-to-end 11 times.

Walkers and supporters parade down York Street on their way to the southern terminus.

The End-to-End walkers outside the Town Hall

With grateful thanks to our sponsors:

Premier



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Gold



Silver



Bronze



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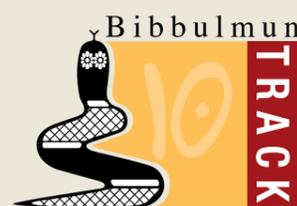
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10th Anniversary
1998 – 2008

the journey of a decade

After many months of detailed planning and negotiations the day finally arrived. On Wednesday 16th July, the Bibbulmun Track 10th Anniversary Celebrations kicked off with an official reception at the Albany Town Hall followed by the start of Bibb Walk 2008.

The focus of the celebration was not only to farewell the walkers, but to recognise and thank all those involved in the initial building of the Track, the regional DEC personnel and volunteers who have maintained it over the last decade, and the City of Albany for its support.

Invited guests enjoyed a breakfast reception, which was followed by a stirring address from the Minister for the Environment and Conservation, the Honourable David Templeman, regarding the need to recognise the importance of the Track to the health and well being of all West Australians.

Mike Wood, Chairman of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation, presented a plaque to the Mayor of Albany, Cr. Milton Evans, in recognition of the support given to the Track by the City of Albany, including tourism operators, local members and volunteers.

In response, the Mayor spoke about how the Track had become an important attraction for the region and an excellent recreational resource for local residents.

The ten end-to-enders, including the two walk leaders, Mike Wood and Steve Sertis, the Foundation's lead guide and events manager, together with eight sectional walkers, were anxious to get going. The Albany sky had threatened all morning and the drizzle started as the walkers formed a procession with the well-wishers and dignitaries. Led by bagpipers and drummers, and bearing the Track's flags and banner, the group created a colourful sight

against the grey Albany sky as they headed down York Street to the Southern Terminus with a full police escort.

Nyoongar elder, Lynette Knapps, provided a 'Welcome to Country' at the Southern Terminus and after the obligatory group photograph it was time to set off. On cue the heavens opened but the rain failed to dampen the walkers' spirits. Although faced with a very wet, cold and windy walk ahead, the group formed a happy bunch as many friends, family members and well-wishers accompanied them for the first seven kilometres.

Over eight weeks the end-to-enders will be joined by different groups of 'sectional' walkers who will accompany them from town to town, enabling more than 100 people to take part in the walk. A community celebration is being held in each town to welcome the walkers and to thank the community for their involvement and support over the last 10 years.

The anniversary celebrations will culminate in a mammoth gathering at the Northern Terminus in Kalamunda as the walkers arrive on Saturday 13 September 2008. **We hope you will join us as we greet the walkers and celebrate 'the journey of a decade'.**



Join in the Celebration!

Take part in the big finale in the Perth Hills on September 13th.

There's plenty to see and do so make a day of it and bring your family and friends to welcome the walkers as they take their final steps to the Northern Terminus in Kalamunda and take part in the party that follows.

Enjoy a sausage sizzle and explore the area with your free copy of the 'Welcome to Kalamunda' voucher booklet, full of discounts at local cafes and businesses - you can take advantage of the great deals on the day or save it for the next time you visit.

Bring the kids along to meet 'Charlie Chuditch' and take them to see the 'Wonders of the Wildlife Ark' from 1pm to 3pm at the Perth Hills National Park Centre, near the

Mundaring Weir. They can learn all about the native animals at a cost of just \$7.50 per person.

Why not take a walk yourself on one of the many walk trails, including the Golden Pipeline Trail across the Mundaring Weir wall or visit the Golden View Lookout? You can see the No 1 Pump Station and take a tour at a special BT 10th Anniversary concession rate!

Take the scenic route from Kalamunda along the 207 Tourist Drive down Mundaring Weir Road, then head back to Perth via Mundaring stopping in at the John Forrest National Park on Greenmount Hill.

Thank you to the sponsors of the 10th Anniversary celebrations...



One last photo before the start of Bibb Walk 2008.

New look for Bibbulmun Track Trailheads

New Trailhead panels have been designed and are currently being installed at the 12 locations along the Track. The new panels include more detailed information on the Leave No Trace and Healthy Parks Healthy People messages, interpretation about the area and suggestions for other walks close by to encourage visitors and locals to explore more trails.

The design, writing and gathering of interpretive material was coordinated by Annie Keating as a special project before leaving DEC earlier this year. A large interpretive display for the Bibbulmun Track has also recently been installed in the Albany Visitor Information Centre.

Many thanks to Lotterywest for providing a grant for this project.



FROM MY Desk



Welcome to the latest edition of Bibbulmun News. By the time you read this, the 10th Anniversary walkers will have reached the half-way point of Bibb Walk 2008.

They will be joined at Donnelly River Village by friends, family, members and volunteers for a knees-up at the village hall and a well-deserved rest day. You'll find a recount of the first stages of the walk from Mike Wood, the Foundation's Chairman, on page 8. You can also follow their journey and see the latest photos on our website.

The community celebrations in Denmark, Walpole, Northcliffe and Pemberton provided a wonderful opportunity to thank the communities for their support and to meet local members and volunteers as well as tourism operators, school students and DEC staff. We are looking forward to the same opportunity in the towns of Balingup, Collie and Dwellingup - and of course, the final "hoorah" in Kalamunda on September 13. A round-up of all the community events will be in the December issue of Bibbulmun News and we thank all the towns for giving the walkers a warm welcome.

In Walpole, officials from the Department of Corrective Services and minimum security prisoners from the Walpole Work Camp joined the end-to-end walkers at Coalmine beach. The Walpole work camp also celebrated its 10th Anniversary this year and the article on page 24 is an interesting insight into the contribution made by prisoners to the building of the Track - an association that continues today.

Something else that continues today is the enthusiasm of three of our staff members who all joined the Foundation a decade ago. Gwen, Steve and Jean tell us how they got started as volunteers and their recollections of the early days on pages 22 and 23.

We are busy working on our submission for the 2008 WA Tourism Awards and preparing for the upcoming Team Challenge and the Perth Royal Show. On a broader level, the Adventure Activity Standards for bushwalking are nearly finalised and the Top Trails marketing project, which I am coordinating, is progressing well. In fact, we are very close to completing the selection process and the branding.

On a final note, I am very pleased to welcome our new Gold Sponsor, Sea to Summit. As the supplier of quality outdoor equipment, Sea to Summit is a welcome addition to our loyal band of sponsors and will provide some great prizes for our members.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of Bibbulmun News and that you will join us at the Kalamunda celebrations.

Wishing you a wonderful Spring season of walking.

Linda Daniels
Executive Director



Welcome to our new Gold Sponsor

We are very pleased to welcome Sea to Summit as a Gold Sponsor of the Foundation.

For more than 20 years, Sea to Summit has been the leading manufacturer of thoughtfully designed, lightweight backpacking and adventure travel gear in Australia.

As the founding sponsor, Sea to Summit helped introduce the Leave No Trace concept of minimal environmental impact to Australia in 2003. The company was named in honour of co-founder Tim Macartney-Snape's incredible 1990 solo expedition from the Bay of Bengal in India to the top of Mt. Everest.

Sea to Summit constantly strives to meet the needs of the hard-core minimalist, as well as the discerning traveller who demands gear that's reliable, versatile and durable - all in the smallest load possible. Whether your adventures take you to the sea or to a summit or places in between, Sea to Summit's products will more than earn their space in your bag.

Sea to Summit's products can be found at all Mountain Designs, Ranger Outdoors and Paddy Pallin stores.

Thank you! Thank you!

A big thank you to all our Board Members who bring a wide range of experience and knowledge to the Foundation:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Steve Crawford | Bruce Manning |
| Stuart Harrison | Jim Sharp |
| Simon Holthouse | Patrick Tremlet |
| Leonie Kirke | Mike Wood |
| Geoff Klem | |

NOTICE OF AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation will be held at 5.00pm on Thursday October 30, at Level 1, Mountain Designs Building, 862 Hay St, Perth.

RSVP to Gwen 9481 0551 email: friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation, one member of the Board, Leonie Kirke, has completed her term. However, she is eligible for re-election for a further term and offers herself accordingly for re-election at the AGM on October 30, 2008.

Geoff Klem will be retiring from the Board and nominations are invited for the vacant position.

YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor

We were saddened to read of the death of Geoff Gibson reported in the last issue of Bibbulmun News. We first met Geoff and Kerry in 2001 on our first visit to Western Australia. We were planning to walk the Bibbulmun from Walpole to Denmark and they very kindly drove us to Peaceful Bay to drop off a food parcel. We stayed with Geoff and Kerry again in 2003 when we walked our first End-to-End. After completing our hike at Albany, we caught the bus back to Walpole and spent the whole of Christmas week with them. We stayed with Geoff and Kerry again in 2006 when we made our second End-to-End. My enduring memory of Geoff will be of him dealing with the laundry in the mornings. We communicated infrequently by email and I always enjoyed reading his messages. Our next visit to Walpole will not be the same without you, Geoff. Our thoughts and prayers are with Kerry and her family at this time.

Barry and Margaret (the silvertops)

Hi

I hope the 10th anniversary walk meets all the expectations of those involved.

Best Wishes and keep up the exemplary work.

Antony Harris

Hello Gwen

Apologies for the delay in getting this to you following our amazing and memorable end to end trek!

Having now completed the whole Track as opposed to sections at a time, we are even more impressed and the fact that there are no bookings required, no "costs" involved, having the overall Track in very good condition and the comfortable and more than adequate facilities at each campsite make it something we will be encouraging friends/family to do and already considering doing again ourselves!!

Rob and Sylvia Mutch

Hi there

My husband Duncan and I did the North to South 'end-to-end' from October 07 to December 07 raising money for our dear friend Tyler James who is suffering from cancer. Your foundation published a newsletter for us back in November, thank you.

We absolutely loved the walk and I really didn't want to go back to reality. We met some fantastic 'end-to-enders' most of them more than double our age and so much fitter than ourselves... made us very humble! I really wanted to turn around in Albany and do the whole thing back to Kalamunda. You feel absolutely free of stress and in your own magical 'harry potter' world of your own with all the beautiful mystical feel of South West WA. Thank you so much for making such a wonderful track.

Many thanks

Catherine Johnson

Hi to Charmaine and Vince (Ed - two of our great volunteer guides!) Thanks for the great two days. Well done!

Took home:

More knowledge,

Renewed desire to get out there,

Sore hips,

Visions of an exploding dunny,

Sense of achievement and

About 15 TICKS firmly embedded from ankle to armpit and all stops in between!

Thanks and Regards

Teresa and Glen

Bibbulmun Trek for Beginners May 2008

To the people of the BTF:

I cannot tell you how changed I feel since I have done two walks. Just two walks—but how life changing! I feel a better person since. I have more courage to tackle problems and nothing is impossible!

I am sure the more walks I do I will feel so much better about myself. I had to dig deep but got over the pain and mental inclination to give up. I have a far greater respect for backpackers: living with your house on your back is not easy. Please continue to do your good work. You change people's lives!

See you soon on the Track!

Mrs. Sylvia J. Szabo

What a pleasant surprise getting a drink bottle as a 2nd prize for renewing my subscription. I will be back on the Track during August and September. I completed the north to south walk during May and June last year. I intend doing the Cape to Cape and Stirling Ranges and then I will complete the end-to-end double. So I guess I'll be wandering about your backyard for quite a while in 2008.

Regards,

Robert McCudden.

Gosford NSW.

Hi Guys,

I wanted to share a photo with you of my three year-old son Cameron on the Bibbulmun Track with me.

The photo was taken at Big Brook Dam, Pemberton on Cameron's third birthday. He managed to walk about three kilometers, part way around the dam. He had a great time as he had really wanted to go hiking with his dad. We stopped numerous times along the way so he could pretend to fish with a stick he found. We were staying at the nearby Pumphill Farm Cottages for the week. The locals were very friendly and the rain stayed away. Thanks Pemberton!

Cheers

Mark McLaughlin



BODDINGTON GOLD MINE

Eyes on the Ground

MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME



Donnelly District volunteers enjoying morning tea at Boarding House campsite

I've just returned from Field Days in the southern districts - cold, cold and even colder - thermals were obligatory!

These Field Days give me the chance to thank the volunteers for the terrific job they do in looking after their sections of the Track.

Albany District

Torbay campsite was the venue in the Albany district. Martin Lloyd from DEC was a special guest, as were Don Priest and Graham McCaughey, two of the original group of volunteers, now retired. Martin was the man who selected the alignment for the Track through the Albany district and oversaw the construction. He was able to give us a fascinating insight into how it all happened—not an easy process, to say the least!

Frankland District

The Frankland volunteers met at the Tree Top Walk. The weather was threatening, so we elected to use the school room there instead of heading off to Giants Campsite. After lunch the sun shone briefly and we took a walk along the Track to examine the signage, pruning, tree falls and other maintenance matters. I was very pleased to welcome special guest Andrew Thomas, one of the original Frankland volunteers. Andrew selected the route over Mt Hallowell, as well as other sections in the district. He was able to tell us many stories of the early days of planning and building in the area, which were highly problematic given the long distances involved.

Donnelly District

Donnelly Field Day was also very cold, but the rain held off, so we decided to be brave and go for a walk after lunch, which of course was the signal for the rain to start!! Our special guest for the day was Tim Foley from DEC. Tim recalled the fun he had selecting the route and building the Track, although with the benefit of experience, Tim now feels a few sections might have been better aligned.

Blackwood District

We met at the DEC office in Kirup, where Dave Lathwell escorted us through their fabulous new offices. Kirup is a vital centre for the region during the fire season and has all the facilities necessary for combating the huge problem of wildfires in the south west. After morning tea, Dave outlined the history of the development of the Track, explaining the problems of the terrain, which were quite different to those experienced in the more southerly sections.

DEC (formerly CALM) plays a vital role in looking after the Track. DEC undertakes the tasks which require manpower or equipment beyond the capacity of the volunteers, as well as routine management and large maintenance tasks. The volunteers receive great support from DEC district officers who are always happy to offer advice or assistance.

Over the next few weeks the 10th Anniversary celebrations in each town along the Track will provide the opportunity for all our volunteers to participate in the commemoration of the opening of the Track in 1998. 🌸

Gwen Plunkett
Volunteer Coordinator

We currently have around 300 maintenance volunteers...

However, over the past ten years there have been as many more again. Many reluctantly gave up their sections due to ill health. For others there has been a change in family or work commitments. A few have moved overseas or interstate and, sadly, some have passed away. To all of these people we say thank you. Without your commitment the Track would not be what it is today.

Thank you!
Thank you!
Thank you!

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

- Darling Range Soroptomists
- Kerry Gibson from Tingle All Over
- Mary Leighton
- Gwen McNaught
- Graham Bell
- Ray Banvill
- Tracey Hadley who donated a 35 litre Backpack to the Foundation to be used for child's hire.

Donations are Tax Deductible!

Through the National Trust, donations made to the Foundation are put into a special account and assigned specifically to projects which enhance the environmental sustainability of the Bibbulmun Track. The National Trust provides this service free of charge so you can be sure that 100% of your donation is used for Track projects.

To make a tax deductible donation cheques need to be made out to The National Trust and sent to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation with your name and address. Cash and credit card donations are also welcome of course! We will then provide you with a receipt from the National Trust receipt book which indicates the donation is specifically for the Bibbulmun Track.

All donations, large and small, are gratefully received and all help to preserve our beautiful Bibbulmun Track.

Entertainment™ Book Thank you for your support!

The Entertainment Book again proved very popular and we sold 200 copies, raising a total of \$2,600.

Many thanks to everyone who supported us by making their purchase from the Foundation...we hope you make the most of your book!



L a t e s t T r a c k N e w s AND CONDITIONS

The following Track news is accurate and up to date at time of printing. For more current updates, refer to the "Latest Track News" accessible from www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Notification of Intent for Organised Non-Commercial Groups Conducting Overnight Expeditions on DEC Tracks and Trails

The DEC Tracks and Trails Unit request any group of 8 or more people intending to conduct an overnight expedition on any DEC track or trail to notify the Unit prior to their planned activity. The notification process is used to help to manage and record group usage, and to preserve the conservation values and the enjoyment level of all track/trail users. The information collected assists DEC during emergency response situations such as a wildfire. We would also appreciate any group of 15 members or more planning day walks to notify the Unit of their intentions.

For a Notice of Intent Form, contact the DEC Tracks and Trails Unit on 9334 0265.

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

Prescribed Burning Operations.

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

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

NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS:

Perth Hills District.

Kalamunda to the Harvey-Quindanning Road.

Map 1& 2 or Sections 1 to 20 in the Northern Guidebook

Contact: Elisa Skillen - ph. 08 9295 9100 or elisa.skillen@dec.wa.gov.au

The North Bannister Roadhouse is currently being renovated and therefore is providing limited services. Walkers will be able to purchase basic snack foods but not meals or camp food supplies.

Campsites in the Perth Hills area are the most heavily used on the Track. Please use tank water sparingly.

A possum and baby possum have taken up residence in (and near) Gringer Creek campsite. Please do not touch, encourage, feed or harm the possums and please make sure that all your foodstuffs are securely 'locked away' for the night. At night walkers are advised to remove all food items from packs, and hang them in food bags from the centre of the roof poles on a piece of string. Smearing insect repellent on the tops of bags and poles may help to deter the possum.

Walkers are cautioned that timber harvesting operations will be occurring in the State Forest to the east of Track, between the White Horse Hills and Mt Wells campsites. The Track will be affected only where it is aligned along the road crossing the South Dandalup River, for approximately 350m either side of the river. This section of road will be used by trucks removing timber.

Caution signs will be installed prior to the harvesting operations taking place, and walkers are requested to follow the signs and take extreme care when walking in this area

Western Power work is continuing on the power lines south of Mt Wells campsite. The work will continue until late September 2008. The Track crosses the work area three times between Mount Wells and Chadoora campsites - once across Wells Form Road and twice across the power line corridors that are being upgraded. Walkers need to watch out for construction vehicles and to exercise caution when crossing power line corridors.

Wellington District (Collie and Harvey)

Covers Harvey -Quindanning Road to Mumballup

Map 3 or Section 20 to 25 in Northern Guidebook

Contact: (08) 9734 1988

Overall the track is in good condition with no major obstacles, although there have been reports of some very wet and muddy spots throughout the Wellington District.

General maintenance to remove fallen trees and weeds will be performed over the next few months.

Prescribed burns will take place in spring as follows:

Chalk Burn, which is a burn that was not completed last year. This will include the Possum Springs campsite area. A diversion and temporary campsite will be set up when this burn takes place.

Westralia Burn, which will be located adjacent to the Collie townsite and Surface Burn, which will be directly east of Harvey. Neither of these burns will affect campsites but diversions will be in place when the burns occur. For your safety, follow onsite signage and directions from DEC staff.

The trailhead notice board in Collie has been removed due to an upgrade of the visitor centre car park by the Collie Shire. The visitor centre is back in its original location on Throssell Street. The trailhead will be returned to its original position at the completion of the works.

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 dave.lathwell@dec.wa.gov.au

Winter brings plenty of rain for the Blackwood Valley and that means the loamy soils are often slippery especially when wet. Walkers should apply caution.

There are two planned prescribed burn areas:

Greenbushes, where a short section of the Track south of Spring Gully Road will have a diversion in place along Spring Gully road.

Ellis Creek, south of the Millstream Dam, where the diversion is yet to be determined. Diversion information will be posted and the track marked as usual with temporary white waugal markers.

Neither diversion is likely to create a significant change in the distance to be walked.

Trail marking is currently being renewed by DEC maintenance crews.

Timber treatment is being performed on the Balingup Brook Bridge. This is a new treatment and any feedback from walkers regarding the condition of the bridge would be appreciated.

Some grass sections of the Track are currently being sprayed—this is an annual procedure.

Manjimup and Pemberton – Donnelly District

Covers Willow Springs to Pingerup Road

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

Contact John Hanel (08) 9776 1207 or john.hanel@dec.wa.gov.au

The walk bridge at the Cascades Recreation site (Map 5b) has been declared unsafe and is no longer available for walkers to use. The bridge was used as part of a walk trail to link to the far side of the Lefroy Brook and also as a link to the Bibbulmun Track from the Cascades. It is not part of the Bibbulmun Track itself. Hence vehicle access to the Cascades Recreation site remains unchanged for visitors, but walking access across the Lefroy Brook and linking to the Bibbulmun Track is now unavailable.

The autumn prescribed burning season for the DEC Donnelly District was officially closed on Tuesday 22 April. All prescribed burns directly affecting the Bibbulmun Track have been cancelled. These burns will now be added to the next burn program, commencing in spring. Details will be posted on the DEC website as soon they become available.

Vehicle access to Big Brook Dam is now open to the public after the site was closed for road upgrade work. Due to wet weather, bitumen sealing will now be programmed for November/December 2008.

Work on the Beedelup Falls access road has now been completed. The vehicle access point for Bibbulmun Track walkers at Beedelup Falls is accessible again.



'During the recent storms in the south west, a giant tingle tree fell at Giants campsite destroying the shelter. The tingle could not have hit more perfectly than if it had been aimed by some malevolent force. Crashing straight down the middle crushing the central metal support bracket and driving the roof into the ground. Fortunately, no one was inside that night.'

Walpole-Frankland District

Covers Pingerup Road to Denmark

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

Contact Chris Stewart (08) 9840 0400 or Chris.stewart@dec.wa.gov.au

The area around Sappers Bridge, including the bridge itself, has been inundated. Walkers intending to walk this section of the Track should check with the district before setting off, since diversions may be in place which would prevent them using the Frankland campsite. Note that this situation could change on a day to day basis depending upon the weather.

Due to storm damage the Giants Bibbulmun Track shelter has been closed. A temporary campsite has been setup at the Tree Top Walk overflow car park. DEC will supply the temporary campsite with water and a portable toilet until such time the Giants Shelter is repaired.

The Parry Inlet is flowing but can be crossed with caution. As always walkers are advised to contact the District office for up to date information before they set out.

Walkers are reminded that all campsites from Mt Chance to Albany are no camp fire sites - fuel stoves only.

Albany District

Covers Denmark to Albany

Map 8 or Sections 53 to 58 in the Southern Guidebook

Contact Luke Coney (08) 9842 4500 or Luke.coney@dec.wa.gov.au

Recently there have been a number of storms along the South Coast and walkers may come across wind blown debris on the trail. Please negotiate sensibly and with caution. Reports on locations of fallen trees are welcome.

The Wilson Inlet sandbar has been opened and walkers need to find an alternative method of negotiating the Wilson Inlet.

The Torbay Inlet is flowing out to sea. Walkers should use extreme caution in assessing whether it is safe to cross it or not. If in doubt walkers should follow the diversion around the inlet, which is marked in green on the map.

A very big thank you to all Bibbulmun Track Volunteers, DEC staff and the Bibbulmun Track Foundation for their ongoing support to the Track. 🌸

WESTERN POWER'S FIRST BIBBULMUN TRACK MAINTENANCE SESSION OF 2008

Western Power employees and their families recently completed the first maintenance session of 2008 on their section of the Bibbulmun Track and the adjoining Yabberup Campsite, just south of Collie. Volunteers also conducted maintenance on the five kilometre section south of Yabberup campsite to lend a hand to a fellow Bibbulmun Track volunteer group.

Western Power's Vista team were enthusiastic participants in this Bibbulmun Track maintenance session. "Our team used this weekend event as a team building opportunity," said Vista Manager Dave Fowler. "We are so busy at work during the week that it was nice to have some time away from the office to spend quality social time with each other."

"We had a great maintenance experience on the Bibbulmun Track and I encourage other groups across the business to sign up for this exciting and rewarding opportunity," said Dave.

Gwen Plunkett, Volunteer Coordinator of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation, is pleased to see Western Power actively involved in maintaining the Bibbulmun Track. "Western Power's maintenance team is one of the largest groups taking care of the track. The Foundation is excited to have so many dedicated volunteers helping to maintain one of our state treasures," said Gwen.

Western Power's Corporate Maintenance Team consists of more than 50 employees and their families, with each session limited to 15 volunteers. Weekend maintenance sessions are held every six weeks. Western Power has committed to sponsor the Bibbulmun Track Foundation for three-years to improve the provision of training and resources for staff and volunteers to ensure the Bibbulmun Track remains a quality walking trail of international standard.

This sponsorship is significant, as Western Power's electricity supply network intersects with the Bibbulmun Track on more than 70 occasions, resulting in potential impacts to the trails visual amenity.

Western Power has been a proud sponsor of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation since 2007.



Volunteers from Western Power's Bibbulmun Track Maintenance Team

Walker Story...

Bibb Walk 2008

The story so far...

by Mike Wood



"Our first challenge: Crossing Torbay Inlet. Only two days in and already we were walking around in our underwear!"

ALBANY TO DENMARK

I've never before started a long walk with pipers leading me out at the start. It was a unique experience and one that I can recommend to all potential bushwalkers on the Bibbulmun Track. I wonder whether the Foundation shouldn't have pipers permanently on the payroll, based in Kalamunda and Albany, so that everyone can begin their walk with a parade down the main street!

It was great to have several people walk with us for the first 7km. It was even better to be finally out there. When we reached Hidden Valley Campsite we knew we were really on our way!

The first challenge was to cross Torbay Inlet. It was waist deep but not too difficult. It certainly was a bonding experience. Only two days in, and already we were walking around in our underwear!



Drying out in the shelter at West Cape Howe campsite.

On day three we arrived at the West Cape Howe campsite, situated in the National Park. The low-pressure system that pounded Perth drenched us with rain and strong winds during the day. We made it to the shelter, and for a while there was a lull in the wind and rain. We got our tents set up, finished eating and had cleared up by the time it got dark, when there was a roaring sound as the wind suddenly changed direction and began to pound the camp from the south-west. Foundation head guide Steve and I had set up our tents in front of the shelter, as the best spots in the protected peppermint tree grove at the back of the camp had all been taken. Our tent pegs were being torn out of the ground and the tents were being lifted by the wind as it howled over the edge of the cliffs. Discretion quickly became the better part of valour and we moved our small one-person tents inside the shelter and erected them on the floor to escape the full force of the storm.

I thought that we'd avoided the worst of the storm during the day, but it had only been delayed. Throughout the whole night the wind howled and the rain poured. Jim Freeman (aka as the Mad Axeman, who is on his eleventh—yes eleventh—end-to-end) found his tent had collapsed around him during the night and ended up moving into the shelter. Eventually the storm passed, and the next day dawned grey but calmer.

As I write this we are relaxing in Denmark, enjoying cooked breakfasts, coffee and soft beds. The walkers were welcomed into Denmark by locals and Foundation volunteers with a parade from the river mouth. Tonight we will meet a new group of sectional walkers, who will accompany us to Peaceful Bay and I for one can't wait to get started.

DENMARK TO PEACEFUL BAY

After a relaxing day off in beautiful Denmark we left on a clear, dry morning to begin the next stage of our journey. A quick stroll down to the river mouth to pick up the Bibbulmun Track and we were off again heading west towards Mount Hallowell one of the highest hills on the south coast. Some of our group had climbed Hallowell before and were not looking forward to the ascent. However, the long steady climb was rewarded with spectacular views over Wilson's Inlet below us, the powerful Southern Ocean and mountains like Mt Barker, the Stirling Ranges, the Porongorup's and other distant peaks off to the east.

On the way down the other side we bumped into Dave and Sean, a DEC maintenance crew, who were busy clearing fallen trees from the Track. They told us that recent storms had downed trees



Enjoying the views and a cuppa at William Bay

all over the south west and they were working hard to get the Track cleared. One shelter, Giants, near Walpole, has been destroyed by a fallen tree so we have had to make plans to sort out where to stay for that night.

Eventually we walked into the William Bay campsite to be greeted by a 360 degree view from a high granite outcrop near the shelter. There is nothing more relaxing and satisfying than sitting on top of a hill after a day's walk where you feel that you've actually achieved something significant. With a hot drink steaming in your hand surrounded by friends who also appreciate the effort to get to this view and looking on to the hazy future direction of the journey.

The next day presented an obstacle called Parry's Inlet, we had been told that the Inlet was impassable but after a quick inspection the previous day we decided that, with caution, we could wade the quiet stream without too much risk. The group all assembled on the shore of the stream at the shallowest and narrowest point, undid our waist buckles of our packs (in case of falling over) and dressed in our best undies, we proceeded to wade across to the other side.

By now the rain had returned and was getting heavier by the minute, we walked along the hard beach sand hoping to get to the Parry's Beach camp ground where one of those unexpected things happened that make journeys like this so special. The volunteer caretakers of the Parry Beach camp ground, Eunice and Taffy, had baked a carrot cake when they heard we were coming. We strolled into their warm, comfortable and very dry beach shack, with its front sun room, to be greeted with tea, coffee and carrot cake. It's simple human gestures, the offer of a hot drink, the offer of shelter, the conversation from friendly locals, that bring home the pleasure, the unexpectedness, the adventure of a long distance track like the Bibbulmun Track.

The beach at Boat Harbour would have to be one of the best beaches in the south, extremely



Tent city at Boat Harbour campsite.



Lunch at the Irwin Inlet canoe crossing.

protected, isolated, and a place to bring the kids on a camping holiday. The campsite was not far up the Track tucked in the saddle between two hills. The rain kept up all night, showers coming and going with regular monotony, the wind was only slight however so we all got a good sleep. We were all looking forward to getting to Peaceful Bay and drying out. The rain was fairly constant but between showers we could stop and appreciate the spectacular views that just kept coming on this section. The Southern Ocean looked angry and the sea was lumpy with that dull grey look that it gets when you know there's some serious punch behind those waves.

We arrived at Irwin Inlet after passing through the 'Show Grounds', an extremely unusual clearing of land that looks like the sweeping grass plains of grazing country in the middle of a national park, that's never been grazed by cattle, just mobs of kangaroos and emus. It was quite unexpected and a real pleasure to stroll over the undulating hills, so different from the dune country close to the coast.

We had lunch next to the shed where the canoes are stored to cross the Irwin Inlet, the rain had stopped and we looked across the 120 metre crossing hoping that the wind would stay away and we could make the crossing quickly. It all went according to plan and in half an hour we were all on the other side with no mishaps and with no one falling in either!

For our arrival in Peaceful Bay we were greeted by one of our volunteers with pumpkin scones and hot drinks, and a Birthday carrot cake for Alan, who turned 60 on the Track. It really is the journey of a decade, or a lifetime. 🌻

Keep track of the walkers' journey and see the latest photos on the Bibbulmun Track website – the link is on the Bulletin Board on the home page.



Meet and greet in Denmark.

Virtual Walk takes off!

Step Up to the Challenge

www.WalkingwithAttitude.com

Nearly 200 people are taking part in the virtual end-to-end walk which started on the same day as Bibb Walk 2008.

106 participants are from WA, another 74 from around Australia and a dozen from overseas including the UK, US and NZ.

Feedback from the virtual walkers has been fantastic including the following from one of the WA participants...

"I am on my first challenge, trekking the Bibbulmun Track. So far (day 8) I have reached 10,000 steps every day except one.

I am really inspired by the challenge to the point where I took Mum and the kids to venture on the real Bibbulmun, which I'd never done before.

We started at the Northern Terminus and walked about 2 km in before turning and walking back. The wildflowers were out, the air was fresh, and the bush was glorious. The kids did so much better than I thought, so I am all keen to make family bushwalking a bigger part of our lives. Feeling very motivated now!"

Nicole, WA
25th July 2008

FREE Trip Planning Advice

GOING ON AN EXTENDED WALK OR END-TO-END?

Our free trip planning advice service is just one of the many benefits of being a member.

Experienced walkers will help you to plan your journey. If you can't make it into the office, then this service is also available via email. This is particularly popular with our interstate and international visitors.

NEW!! Bibbulmun Walking Breaks in the Perth Hills...

Escape on the Bibbulmun Track and enjoy the peace and tranquility of the natural bush while relaxing in luxurious comfort... only 30 minutes' drive from Perth CBD.

The Foundation can now offer two unique packages:

PACKAGE ONE

Treat yourself with

- two nights' B&B accommodation, staying in a comfortable QS guest room or semi self-contained spa unit
- your choice of cooked Aussie or continental breakfasts, and packed lunches

From \$440 for two people.

PACKAGE TWO

The ultimate in indulgence, this sumptuous package includes

- two nights' accommodation staying in a 4.5-star tastefully appointed spa cottage
- full gourmet breakfasts, gourmet packed lunches and delicious three-course dinners
- a 70min massage per person
- an exclusive quality lightweight Bibbulmun day pack with padded adjustable harness and internal pocket, along with two Bibbulmun water bottles

From \$1,580 for two people.

Both packages include:

- licensed transport to the Bibbulmun Track for two days walking (8.7km and 9.5km or 6.3km and 11.9km walks)
- a Bibbulmun Track map along with walk notes for four suggested day walks, a forest discovery wheel interpretive guide, town notes, useful information and tips for walkers

Call Millie on 9321 0649 for further information and bookings. Gift vouchers available.



TRACK TOWN Kalamunda

"HOME IN THE FOREST"

Kalamunda, a special and unique "home in the forest" for its residents and visitors alike, offers a true Western Australian country town experience at the very start of the Bibbulmun Track.

Just 30 minutes away from most Perth suburbs, Kalamunda feels a world away from city life.

Explore the relaxed and informal coffee culture of its main, tree lined, Haynes Street; experience a small town shopping experience and be amazed by the thriving individual gift shops. A range of bookshops, jewellers and furnishing shops will provide bargains, treasures and charming accessories for all tastes and the most discerning of shoppers.

A range of sophisticated boutique dress shops offer individual stylish creations at reasonable prices. Discover that friendly service, obliging staff, and time to chat is the charm that is Kalamunda.

Relax at one of Kalamunda's traditional hotels, housed in heritage buildings. Dine at a range of first class restaurants or take home award winning gourmet sausages, or sought after European foods.

Away from the hustle and bustle of Perth, enjoy the natural environment of the Perth Hills. With an additional 40 walking trails, the shire of Kalamunda has a special walk for everyone. Flora and fauna abound with fragrant bush settings. Rare orchids and spring flowers, dappled light and tranquillity transform the forest and encourage you to breathe deeply as you walk.

Flocks of endangered cockatoos will greet you within the lush valleys of Bickley and Carmel; a mere five minutes scenic drive from Kalamunda along the Mundaring Weir Road. Meander through valleys of vineyards and fruit trees, bordered by state forest. Delicious local, homemade preserves, organic chocolates, jarrah

honey, fresh fruit, vegetables from road stalls, and flowers, all straight from the growers, provide a real taste of country living.

The Bickley and Carmel Wine Trail will introduce you to enthusiastic, award winning wine makers keen to discuss their craft. Enjoy hand crafted wines from lovingly nurtured and handpicked vines, and take home a stunning bottle or more of your favourites, to complement your next dinner party.

Panoramic views, autumnal colour, spring blooms and stunning wines will have you wishing to return to experience each season in and around Kalamunda. Parks, garden centres, rose farms and open gardens will add to your exploration and enjoyment of the Perth Hills.

Home to the monthly Kalamunda Markets, first Saturday of the month, Kalamunda is truly the place to discover local crafts. With over 150 individual stalls, this market is a highlight of Western Australia. Art studios, galleries and coffee shops showcase Kalamunda artistic community and festivals and exhibitions welcome you to savour community spirit at its best.

Details of current events, walking maps and local and regional information is available from friendly, well informed staff at the Kalamunda Visitor Centre, open 7 days a week at the Kalamunda Library. Look for the flags and signs at the top of Haynes Street. A range of walking maps, flora and fauna booklets and Bibbulmun Track merchandise will enrich your walking experience.

Extend your country experience and take time to relax for a night or two at luxurious retreats, home-style bed and breakfasts, lodges and guest houses to suit all tastes and budgets. Spa facilities, fine dining, individual attention and country style breakfasts are just some of the treats that await you. Relax, rejuvenate and savour the hospitality

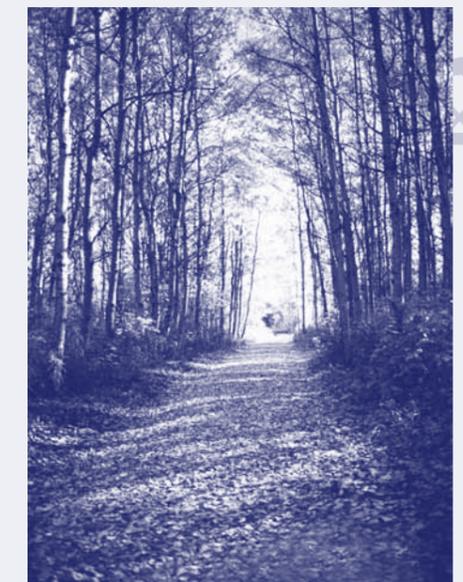
of Kalamunda and its beautiful surrounds.

Complete your journey of exploration by savouring the panoramic views of Perth City from the Zig Zag Scenic Drive. A memorable experience, as you view the city lights from the Perth Hills.

As you return home, contemplate on your "time out" and promise to return to further replenish your soul and discover more of the considerable delights of the Shire of Kalamunda.

A true "home in the forest" where locals are welcoming and happy to share their relaxed, country atmosphere and lifestyle with their visitors. 🌿

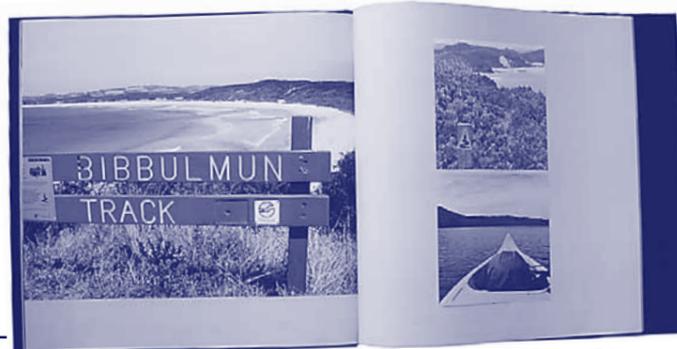
For further information on any of the experiences mentioned in this article, please contact the Kalamunda Visitor Centre at the Kalamunda Library, Railway Road, Kalamunda or visit www.kalamundatourism.com.au



COMMEMORATE YOUR JOURNEY!

Create a beautiful hard cover photobook using your own Bibbulmun Track photos from just \$95. Various options to suit you.

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TURNING PHOTOS INTO BEAUTIFUL BOOKS
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Yes, THEY DID IT!

In this edition we recognise another 44 end-to-end walkers.

3 CAME FROM OVERSEAS, 8 FROM INTERSTATE AND THE REMAINING 33 FROM WA.

Ages where shown relate to the date of completion of the walk and unless otherwise stated given dates relate to 2007.



18 (41%) of the end-to-enders completed the walk in one go, and 26 (59%) in sections. First of all we salute those 17 walkers (39%) who are members of the Foundation.

MEMBERS WHO COMPLETED THE WALK IN ONE GO, ALL WALKING NORTH TO SOUTH.

Pride of place should perhaps go to **Edward Parr** of Coogee in New South Wales who, at the age of 71, left Kalamunda on 24 March and reached Albany on 7 May. For him the highlight was walking with his daughter Sara between Balingup and Donnelly River Village. Edward found the walk more difficult than expected.

We next mention **Hessel Kiewiet** (57). Hessel arrived in Albany on 12 May after a 61 day walk with the highlight being walking along the south coast, and travelling part of the way with a school group from Gingin.

Vince Marchetti (42) of Maida Vale reached Albany on 10 May after leaving Kalamunda on 11 March. Vince loved the hills down to Donnelly River Village and the way tree trunks had been sculptured by fire. The section from Northcliffe to Walpole was exceptionally beautiful, highlighted by the views from Mt Chance, Woolbales and Mt Pingerup. His overall reaction was awe and wonder all the way through sweat and pain. He urges walkers to take note of expiry dates on packaged foods and advises against shopping on an empty stomach!

Martin White (45) who lives in Margaret River reached Albany on 24 May after departing Kalamunda on 7 April. This was his second end-to-end. His favourite section was Northcliffe to Walpole which he considers to be the most diverse part of the Track. He was glad to see a quokka, and echidnas at several shelters. His advice is to pack light and travel at your own pace.

MEMBERS WHO COMPLETED THEIR END-TO-END IN SECTIONS

Herman (62) and **Anneke** (60) **Lieven** 'Hermanneke' from Berlicum in the Netherlands first walked from Kalamunda to Mt Chance in September and October 2003 when they had to take an unexpected break for health reasons. They resumed from Pemberton last January and finished in February. Every section was special but mention is made of the Valley of the Giants and the cliffs on the coast as well as the hills between Kalamunda and Dwellingup. Coming from Europe they appreciated the wide views, the loneliness and the different type of countryside.

South Perth residents **Ron** and **Jan Lutz** (both 67) walked from south to north between October 2006 and June 2008. This was their first major bushwalk but they will be doing a lot more from now on. They enjoyed sharing shelters and meeting people with a highlight being 3 days spent early on with **Jim** and **Mavis Freeman**, from whom they learnt a great deal. The coastal sections were very difficult and Ron would have to think twice before doing them again. They saw a lot of wildlife—some in the shelters at night that weren't very welcome! Their advice is talk to the people at the BTF office and start walking early in the day.

Mike Armstrong (45) 'Roughnut Mike' from Warnbro covered the Track between November 2005 and May 2008. He walked some sections north to south and others south to north. He loved hearing the birds in the mornings and evenings. The highlights were the great diversity—ocean, beach, forests, plains, outcrops and rivers, and meeting such wonderful people on the way. He followed a diet of pasta and tuna on his first trip and lentils and rice on his second when he lost 7 kilograms.

David Broughton (62) of Kalamunda walked the Track in 10 sections between July and December 2007. He had expected to meet up with other walkers but was on his own until he reached the southern areas. Somewhat unusually David started from the Brookton Highway and headed north. When he resumed from the same point he continued in a southerly direction. The southern coast and the hills between Dwellingup and Kalamunda were

his favourite sections. Walking the Track is the toughest thing he has ever done. He advises taking a light weight pack and comfortable boots.

Joshua Di Bua (16) 'The Gino' of Lesmurdie completed his walk between August 2007 and May this year and always headed north. He walked with Luke Smith of whom we have no details. Walking the Track is the most amazing thing he has done to date. He now wants to do a double end-to-end. Joshua selected Walpole to Northcliffe as his favourite section and his best experience was simply arriving at each campsite. By way of a final word he thanks someone named Michael for finding his camera!

Dianella resident **Sue Dicker** (59) walked the northern section in 1999 with her husband—who went on to finish the walk—and completed the rest between 2000 and 2008. She says the amenities are the best she has experienced. Sue loved it all but has a special word for Albany to Denmark when the wild flowers were out. Her advice is to listen to talking books on an iPod when covering short sections.

Dean Edmunds (57) 'Wandering Hands' of Gooseberry Hill took 5 years for his walk, which he completed in November 2007. He enjoyed the simple life, peace and tranquillity as well as sharing the Track with many wonderful companions, which resulted in the formation of good friendships. He says the Track is unique and as enjoyable as any walk he has done in Australia and overseas. His best piece of equipment was the bladder containing red wine/port!

Suzanne Fielding (58) 'Rock'n'chicks' from Nedlands commenced her walk in June 2003 and finished it in January this year. Her reaction is to record that the Track is wonderful and that she enjoyed it all.

Antony Harris (38) who lives in Beeliam first set out in September 2003. Not always heading in the same direction he finished in Walpole in March this year. The Pingerup Plains and crossing the Irwin Inlet by canoe were memorable experiences. He had some wonderful encounters with wildlife including meeting a friendly quenda at Torbay. Antony says freeze dried food is great as precious tank water can be saved because there is no need to wash up. He recommends taking lightweight gear.

Three-time end-to-end walkers **Elaine** (66) and **Garry** (67) **Keymer** of Goode Beach found this walk to be the hardest yet due to injury. They had planned a double end-to-end over a four month period but after setting out from Albany on 29

January Elaine injured her back on Mt Hallowell, causing them to leave the Track at Boat Harbour on 13 February. They resumed from Kalamunda on 26 March but just outside Collie Elaine slipped and suffered a mild concussion which led to another stoppage, this time at Blackwood. Eventually they were able to resume and complete the walk on 26 May. Talk about persistence! Highlights included meeting many people and seeing wallabies, quokkas, increasing numbers of birds south of Albany Highway, fungi in many places and Chatham Island framed under a rainbow. Their advice: carry an EPIRB and guide books and fill in the campsite registers.

NON MEMBERS WALKING NORTH TO SOUTH.

Karawara resident **Steven McGellin** (45) arrived in Albany on 15 May after a 48 day walk highlighted by the sightings of wildlife, the fresh air and the absence of noise and cars. He can't wait to walk the Track again some day. As Steven says, it is a wonderful thing to have right on our back doorstep.

Mary Leighton (60) of Wembley took just 43 days to finish on 22 April. Mary was delighted to meet **Jane Salter-Durie** and her two young boys at Mt Chance. (They are mentioned later). She liked the timbered areas from Balingup to Pemberton and the south coast, where at times the weather would be bad with white caps as far as she could see and then on the following day barely a swell. Mary's husband gave her good support with food supplies.

Catherine Johnston (38) 'Walking for Tyler' of Burpendgary in Queensland walked with **Duncan Johnston** of whom we have no other details. They left Kalamunda on 11 October last year and arrived in Albany 52 days later. 'Wow! A thoroughly amazing experience, with beautiful countryside, wonderful landscapes and interesting people' she writes. She has walked elsewhere but this is the best trail she has yet been on. Highlights included the first sighting of the ocean after all the forests, the views from Blackwood shelter and being blown over between Long Point and Mt Clare. Her advice is to take dehydrated food and send parcels ahead.

John McBride (48) from Bronte in New South Wales reached Albany on 15 May having left Kalamunda on 1 April. This was his second end-to-end and he found it more enjoyable than walking from south to north. He took dehydrated food and was careful to include plenty of protein. He liked the Walpole to Denmark section and recalls walking in a gale between Hidden Valley and Albany. On this walk he made sure that all his gear was ultra-light.

Reiner Schade (53), a resident of Buxheim in Germany, arrived in Albany on 6 February. His walk took just 30 days.

Arthur (63) and **Gail** (60) **Tacko** of Eagle Point in Victoria left Kalamunda on 2 March and arrived in Albany on 23 April. Arthur found the going hard but very rewarding. He appreciated the karri and tingle forests and coastal dunes. Gail says it was a privilege to be able to spend 53 days on such an amazing journey. Arthur recommends that walkers be sure they know what their food requirements are, as they fell a bit short of their needs on the section between Kalamunda and Collie. They felt that the walk provided a personal and physical challenge like no other and is certainly the most varied in Australia.

Sven Thiede (25) from Ahausen in Germany reached Albany on 1 November last year, 40 days after setting out. He thanks everyone who made possible his amazing experience and appreciated all the help he received along the way. Crossing the Irwin Inlet and meeting other people are noted as highlights. Sven was amazed by the wildlife he saw: 50 snakes including a python, echidnas, and scorpions and—though not many would have mentioned them—mosquitoes!

'All the towns were welcoming to get another Bibb walker. It was an experience of wellbeing and wonderment and I feel fortunate to have the Track on my doorstep for future use.'
- **Vince Marchetti**

NON MEMBERS GOING NORTH

Robert (56) and **Sylvia** (58) **Mutch** 'Mfazi & Madoda' of Busselton left Albany on 18 March and reached Kalamunda on 12 May. It was a wonderful trip and they both enjoyed it more than they expected. They felt it to be an amazing project, and that it is a pity the Track is abused by the few who drop litter and ride track bikes. Compared to other walks the Track is great because it does not require bookings, it is not crowded and has great facilities. They relied on food drops and made purchases in towns. In particular they found the Donnelly River Village general store to be well stocked.

Mt Helena resident **Charles Robin Gill** (62) reached Kalamunda on 18 May after 57 days on the Track. It was a great walk in kind weather. His further comments can be read in the letter on page XX of this newsletter

Alison (56) and **Digby** (58) **Gotts** 'The Capetribbers' came over from Cape Tribulation in Queensland. They left Albany on 21 January and arrived in Kalamunda on 12 March. The Track is memorable for Alison who has walked many long distance trials around the world, for the 'rhythm of life' it creates—'get into the groove and just keep going!' They found the hospitality at various B & B's extraordinary. Digby notes the excellent infrastructure with shelters and water but is concerned by evidence of mining activities going on within earshot. Everything south of Mt Chance was special. They found re-supply of food was difficult in the small towns.

NON MEMBERS GOING EVERY WHICH WAY

Sue Abbotts (55) of Mt Hawthorn and **Helen Clark** (62) of Wembley started at different times—September 1997 and October 1998 respectively—but having joined forces in April 1999 they completed their walk in April 2007. It was a great challenge for Sue who was delighted to finish after so many years. Helen, who comments that the Track was in excellent condition, was especially attracted by the diversity of vegetation and bird life. She compiled a list of the birds she saw.

Michael (69) and **Angela** (67) **Brennan** from Mt Lawley walked the Track in two halves, firstly during April and May 2005, and secondly in April 2007. Total walking time was 8 weeks 6 days. It was a fantastic experience. The scenery was stunning and they met many wonderful people. Food supplies were easier to obtain in the southern half than in the north.

Cameron (10) and **Lachlan** (8) of Victoria Park walked with their mum **Jane Salter-Durie** (43), one of whose track names was 'Akela'. Going from south to north they began on 24 March and finished on 18 May 2008. The boys thought it was cool, fun and challenging. Cameron says he had plenty of food but isn't complaining! Lachlan says 'Mum overfed us. Why did she carry so much food?' For them, highlights were the coastal section and cute snakes, fires and marsupials. Mum records that it was an amazing trip physically, psychologically and emotionally. Her boys were inspirational.

It is always pleasing to record the achievements of groups of young walkers who keep coming back determined to finish their end-to-end.

Scotch College students **Tyler Caldwell**, **Matthew Harding**, **Joseph Sippe**, **Gerard Shadbolt**, **Edward Moir** and **Toby Paterson-Miller** are in this category.

Now aged 16 or 17, they have come together on no less than 13 occasions since February 2004. Always walking north to south, they finally reached Albany on 1 March 2007. Comments ranged from 'great fun walking in a group, great feeling to finish, awesome time, marvellous experience, incredible but a bit tiring at times and glad to have done it but sad to finish'. Highlights included many epic card games and cricket matches. Virtually every section of the Track had an appeal for one or other of them.

It remains to make space for a couple of observations.

Firstly, we do appreciate walkers who come from other parts of the world—some more than once—to walk the Track. Of course, that isn't to say we don't appreciate walkers from WA!

Secondly, walking poles are the most useful piece of equipment mentioned. Thirdly, gas canisters and 'walker friendly' food are not always available in some of the towns on route, so plan carefully before setting out.

Compiled by **Don Briers**, Foundation volunteer and end-to-end.

Have you got your End-to-End BADGE?

Only \$7.50 + pp



To everyone at the Bibbulmun Track Foundation

Dear All,

Firstly, thank you very much indeed for the wonderful Bibbulmun Track. I recently completed an end-to-end and enjoyed every bit of it. I left from Albany on March 8th and arrived in Kalamunda on May 13th, exactly eight weeks later. I am 62 and had wanted to do it in one go for many years and the walk was a delight from start to finish.

I walked most of it alone, but my wife started with me in Albany and rejoined me twice during the trip (she loved it too and ended up walking 300 kilometers herself). My son joined me for a few days as did some friends, which all worked to give me a great mixture of sometimes company and sometimes solitude, an ideal combination.

I chose autumn and south to north because I thought the weather would be kinder; I usually walk north to south—how lucky can you get? I put my poncho on, generally briefly, on only six occasions and the wettest day was the one into Kalamunda. Temperatures were moderate, flowers were out, swamp areas were dry, the bush was in good condition all the way and the Track was not heavily populated. Animals and birds were out and about too, although probably not as many as I'd anticipated. It was a good season to walk and coming the "other way" made it different too.

Even though I have used the Bibbulmun Track and the shelters many times over a number of years I was amazed at the high standards right through. The track was well maintained from end-to-end (all right, I don't like the stretches on roads and firebreaks but I understand and accept why they are there) and all the shelters were in outstanding condition—just for the record all but two of the most accessible ones were even provided with the unexpected supply of toilet roll! Thank you very much to everyone concerned with and responsible for the provision of such excellent facilities.

Probably like most walkers I developed a real relationship with the Waugal over the trek so I've attached a few words in its praise,

Thank you again,

Robin Gill (Charlie -Rob)
May 30th 2008

See Poem - 'Some words for the Waugal'

Some Words for the Waugal

By Robin Gill



When you're walking it's the Waugal, it's your finger and your guide
Pointing onward, ever onward, up that hill or round this side.
Some are clustered close together, some are scattered far apart
So that when you finally find them then you once again take heart
That you haven't made a mis-turn, haven't gone and got it wrong,
So you happily hitch your knapsack up and cheerily trudge along.
Round the coast and cross the ridges, some on posts above the sand,
On the rocks and plains and mountains it will stay your guiding hand.
In the swamps and lakes and rivers, in the scrub it marks the Track,
On through karri, jarrah, marri shows the way and takes you back.
When you're worn and feeling lonely, haven't seen a soul for days,
Well, the wonder of the Waugal can help in other ways.
It can't talk but it can listen and will never tell a thing,
Whether you whinge or whine or chortle, shed a tear or laugh and sing.
You'll find some bright and gleaming, newly nailed and plain to see,
While there are others black and blistered, some near eaten by the tree.
But they're there from start to finish, they'll be there until the end,
The black snake on yellow background, your good triangular friend.

JETBOIL STOVE



Heat, eat, and drink from this ultra-compact 1.0 Litre unit. Ideal for coffee or tea on the go, soup, noodles, or dehydrated meals. Perfect for remote worksites, emergency kits, as well as hiking.

Jetboil's FluxRing technology provides incredible even heating and efficiency. Also available in the range; hanging kit, 1.5litre pot, utensils, and FluxRing frypan. The Jetboil Coffee Press is a must have for those people who refuse to drink bad coffee while on the trail. Available from over six hundred stores nation wide.



Getting into Gear -

END-TO-END PREPARATIONS



When I received my 10th Anniversary Walk Manual in February from Steve Sertis, the Foundation's head guide, I thought, "plenty of time, I'll just put off all the preparation until later". So of course what really happened was that I left everything until the last minute!

Finally I began getting my gear out and checking the weights of all the things I wanted to take. I told myself that this was indeed the time when I could legitimately update my older, heavy gear. If not now then when would I ever have such unquestionable justification to downsize, upgrade and rationalise all the necessary equipment for such an important long distance walk?

I was reluctant to change my footwear; "if it ain't broke don't fix it" is a good adage to apply to footwear. I'd take my old Merrell Boots for the wet south coast and my lighter more breathable Merrell Ventilator shoes for the (maybe!) drier northern half of the Track. I'd wear a new pair of Crocs around camp, with thick wool socks. If anyone turns up at a shelter that I might have to impress I'll put on my best Kiwi or Pommie accent and pretend I'm not an Aussie, so I don't let down my country with my bad dress sense. Once the tread goes on Crocs they are lethal so I needed to ditch my old pair. I almost killed myself a couple of times on the last Nepal trek so they needed to go.

The next question was which tent to take. I ended up trying to choose between a Black Diamond First Light tent with a single skin, and a MSR Hubba HP, a lighter version of the Hubba with a better waterproof head on the floor, (10,000mm instead of 5,000mm). In the end the MSR won out. Even though I'd tested the Black Diamond in Nepal this year and it was great, I still like a double skin tent—and at 1.36kg with lots of headroom it won me over. I packed the fly and inner separately into waterproof stuff sacks from Sea to Summit, since that way the wet outer fly won't wet the dry inner – yes, I am the eternal optimist! I'll carry the poles separately down the side of my pack.

Which backpack? I'd been tossing up between my 75litre Mountain Designs Foxlite made from Paclite that I used on Aconcagua in South America four years ago, or the canvas 65 litre Mountain Designs Main Range that I've used on the Track several times. In the end my partner Holly liked the Main Range, and was keen to use it during her walk along one of the sections, and I thought the larger size of the Foxlite might be advantageous over the whole Track. Another pack that I considered was the One Planet Strezlecki which I think is one of the best bushwalking packs available today. It is made in Australia (it's true!), with Australian canvas, and with an attention to detail that would send all gear freaks into raptures. We're carrying the One Planet range now in WA, and OP's founder Andrew King has been a friend for years, so I was sorely tempted—maybe next time.

For my fuel stove I finally selected the new Jetboil from Sea to Summit, which is so fast that you can't start it up without water in the pot or you'll burn the pot. A very good stove, particularly if you're cooking for one. My fellow walkers are very worried because Back Country Cuisine, one of the Foundations sponsors, has supplied me with all my freeze dried food for dinners. (Thanks guys!) "Lucky for you you're in a one person tent" was all my mates have said by way of explanation for their concern.

For wearing around the campsite in the evenings I'm taking the Mountain Designs Bonfire, a synthetic filled jacket, like a down jacket but with Micro Thermic fibres. It packs up into one of its own pockets and takes up very little space. Combined with wool thermals I should be as warm as toast. If it gets really very cold in the Karri forests I'll just get into my toasty down sleeping bag that I've been using for the last five years. I've used it at minus 15 degrees in the Himalayas so I should be fine in south west WA.

Finding food to put into the food boxes that are going to be dropped at twelve locations along the Track, and not go over the use-by dates, was an issue. In addition to the freeze dried meals mentioned above, I've included some dehydrated Indian MTR meals.

Added to these are various breads such as naan, chapattis and tortillas, together with vegemite, salami and sachets of tuna for lunchtime.

Tea bags of course, a tube of condensed milk and a tube of three in one coffee as luxuries. In the end the cheese I chose was blue Kraft Cheddar; I liked it when I was a kid, it doesn't go off, and if I mix it with vegemite it'll bring back fond memories of bushwalking and canoeing in Victoria and Tasmania all those years ago. At least I won't have to put up with inane debates about the merits of round jaffle irons over square jaffle irons—Victorian readers will understand.

I made sure to pack my gaiters, my zip-off leg Khumbu pants, wool thermals to walk in and a light weight Photon waterproof jacket and pants. We shouldn't kid ourselves – it's going to be wet! Holly chose a book for every food box; this walk will be a great chance to read and catch up on some of the classics. My only worry is that Holly's a lot smarter than me, so I hope I won't be out of my depth. I remembered to pack the Petzl Tikka Plus headlamp for the long nights in bed — on my comfortable Thermarest Prolite 4 self inflating sleeping mat. Yes, I chickened out and went for the thicker one.

If you have any comments to make about gear please let me know. As we arrive in towns we'll no doubt be checking our emails. I still have a business to keep an eye on, although it always seems to run better when I'm away, and a family that I will definitely miss profusely over the eight weeks of this historic walk.

I hope to see you soon out on the Bibbulmun Track.

Mike Wood
Mountain Designs WA



Many thanks to Backcountry Cuisine
for supplying Mike with a range of
meals for his end-to-end.

Accommodation, Tours and Services

The following business have supported the Track by becoming an Affiliated member. Please take a look and remember them when you next book a tour or accommodation. The Foundation is happy to welcome COMFORT INN KARRI FOREST MOTEL and OLD PICTURE THEATRE HOLIDAY APPARTMENTS 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 |
|---|----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| ESCAPE DAY SPAS | PERTH | Health | (08) 9383 4328 | |
| ON TRACK HIKING HIRE | PERTH | Equipment | 0401 625 668 | |
| MUNDARING WEIR HOTEL | MUNDARING | Accommodation/ Restaurant-café | (08) 9295 1106 | No. |
| DWELLINGUP ADVENTURES | DWELLINGUP | Tour | (08) 9538 1127 | 10% on self-guided tours. |
| DWELLINGUP CHALETs & CARAVAN PARK | DWELLINGUP | Accommodation | (08) 9538 1157 | No. |
| BLUE WREN B&B | COLLIE | Accommodation | (08) 9734 7939 | On application. |
| COLLIE RIVER VALLEY TOURIST PARK | COLLIE | Accommodation | (08) 9734 5088 | 10%. |
| COLLIE VISITOR CENTRE | COLLIE | Tourist Bureau | (08) 9734 2051 | 10% on souvenirs. |
| WHISPERING PINES B&B | COLLIE | Accommodation | (08) 9734 3883 | 10%. |
| GLEN MERVYN FARMSTAY | MUMBALLUP | Accommodation | (08) 9732 2208 | To groups of ten or more. |
| BALINGUP BUDGET ACCOM. - "THE HIKERS HIDEAWAY" | BALINGUP | Accommodation | (08) 9764 1049 | Special rate of \$24. |
| BALINGUP LAVENDER FARM | BALINGUP | Attraction/Café | (08) 9764 1436 | 10% off essential oil of lavender. |
| BALINGUP ROSE B&B | BALINGUP | Accommodation | (08) 9764 1205 | |
| CHESTNUT BROOK COTTAGE | BALINGUP | Accommodation | (08) 9764 1606 | 10% (direct bookings only). |
| JALBROOK COTTAGES - KNITWEAR GALLERY | BALINGUP | Accommodation - Attraction | (08) 9764 1616 | Sun-Thu only, outside school holidays. |
| TASTE OF BALINGUP | BALINGUP | Food | (08) 9764 1344 | 10%. |
| CORD ON BLUE Pty Ltd | NANNUP | Food | (08) 9756 0616 | 10% off orders over \$150. |
| DONNELLY RIVER HOLIDAY VILLAGE | DONNELLY RIVER | Accommodation | 1800 819 650 or (08) 9772 1244 | No. |
| SOUTHERN FORESTS WA | MANJIMUP | Information Provider | (08) 9771 7777 | |
| BIG BROOK RETREAT | PEMBERTON | Accommodation | (08) 9776 0279 | |
| COMFORT INN KARRI FOREST MOTEL | PEMBERTON | Accommodation | (08) 9776 1019 | |
| KARRI GLADE CHALETs | PEMBERTON | Accommodation | (08) 9776 1120 | |
| KARRI VALLEY RESORT | PEMBERTON | Accommodation | (08) 9776 2020 | 10% on rack rate. Conditions apply. |
| OLD PICTURE THEATRE HOLIDAY APARTMENTS | PEMBERTON | Accommodation | (08) 9776 1513 | |
| PEMBERTON BREAK-AWAY COTTAGES | PEMBERTON | Accommodation | (08) 9776 1580 | 10%. More for stays of four days or more. |
| 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 FARM CHALETs | PEMBERTON | Accommodation | (08) 9776 1290 | 10%. |
| PEMBERTON VISITOR CENTRE INC | PEMBERTON | Tourist Bureau | 1800 671 133 or (08) 9776 1133 | |
| PUMP HILL FARM COTTAGES | PEMBERTON | Accommodation | (08) 9776 1379 | |
| BIBBULMUN BREAK MOTEL | NORTHCLIFFE | Accommodation | (08) 9776 6060 | No. |
| WATERMARK KILNS | NORTHCLIFFE | Accommodation | (08) 9776 7349 | |
| CHE SARA SARA CHALETs | WALPOLE | Accommodation | (08) 9840 8004 | |
| COALMINE BEACH HOLIDAY PARK | WALPOLE | Accommodation | (08) 9840 1026 | 10%. |
| STARGAZERS B&B | WALPOLE | Accommodation | (08) 9840 1553 | \$5 on accommodation. |
| WOOZ & SUZ CAFÉ | WALPOLE | Restaurant/Café | (08) 9840 1214 | No. |
| NUTKIN LODGE | PEACEFUL BAY | Accommodation | (08) 9840 8650 | |
| PEACEFUL BAY B&B | PEACEFUL BAY | Accommodation | (08) 9840 8353 | Afternoon tea on arrival. |
| PEACEFUL BAY CHALETs & BACKPACKERS | PEACEFUL BAY | Accommodation | (08) 9840 8169 | Accommodation at \$20pp. |
| BLUE WREN TRAVELLERS REST | DENMARK | Accommodation | (08) 9848 3300 | 5%. |
| OUT OF SIGHT! TOURS | DENMARK | Tour/Transport prov. | (08) 9848 2814 / 0427 234 388 | 10%. |
| DENMARK VISITOR CENTRE | DENMARK | Tourist Bureau | (08) 9848 2055 | |
| DENMARK WATERFRONT MOTEL | DENMARK | Accommodation | (08) 9848 1147 | 5%. |
| THE COVE | DENMARK | Accommodation | (08) 9848 1770 | 10%. |
| WINDROSE B&B | DENMARK | Accommodation/ Transport prov. | (08) 9848 3502 | 10%. |
| CAPE HOWE COTTAGES | LOWLANDS BEACH | Accommodation | (08) 9845 1295 | 10% off normal tariff. |
| BAYVIEW BACKPACKERS YHA | ALBANY | Accommodation | (08) 9842 3388 | Same as YHA-card holders: \$3. |
| ALBANY VISITOR CENTRE | ALBANY | Tourist Bureau | 1800 644 088 or (08) 9841 1088 | No. |
| FREDERICKSTOWN MOTEL | ALBANY | Accommodation | (08) 9841 1600 | |
| NORMAN HOUSE | ALBANY | Accommodation | (08) 9841 5995 | 5%. |
| ORANJE TRACTOR WINE | ALBANY | Winery | (08) 9842 5175 | |

Albany

YHA BAYVIEW BACKPACKERS

Located in the historical part of town the building dates back to the late 1800's. Old world charm cheerfully blends with modern amenities to create a relaxed, easy atmosphere. The views over Princess Royal Harbour from the top story are magnificent. Large windows line the corridors overlooking the picnic tables in the center grassed area. We are a green hostel, environmentally aware with active recycling principles. Only minutes to the center of town, yet the quiet, leafy location ensures a peaceful night's sleep...

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Email: albanyyha@westnet.com.au
www.yha.com.au



Albany

FREDERICKSTOWN MOTEL

Frederickstown Motel is the only motel located in Albany town centre, a short stroll from the main street, the Visitor Centre, the TransWA bus terminal and the Bibbulmun Track Southern Terminal. With a 3½ Star AAA rating, the motel offers clean and comfortable rooms. Guests are spoilt with our 24 hour free in-house movies and great harbour views. Wireless hot spot is now available for your convenience.

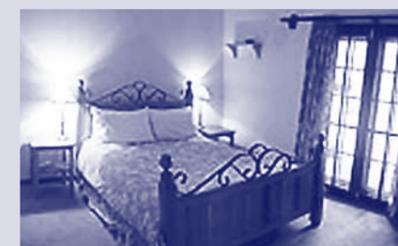
Cnr Frederick Street
& Spencer Street, Albany
FREECALL: 1800 808 544
www.frederickstownmotel.com.au



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ALBANY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Balingup

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10% off Standard Room Rates for Bibbulmun Track Members.
Offers – Weekend – Stay 3 Pay for 2 nights \$280/c, Mid-Week – Stay 2 nights \$240/c Conditions Apply

Tel: 08-97641205
www.balinguprose.com.au

208 Jayes Road
Balingup WA 6253

Pemberton

PEMBERTON OLD PICTURE THEATRE APARTMENTS



We are right on the Bibbulmun Track. Situated Cnr Ellis & Guppy Street in the centre of Pemberton, the Track passes our front door.

Stay over night and use our hot tub at our four and a half star fully self contained accommodation from \$132.00 for 2 people per night. Walk In Walk Out Drop Offs - Pick ups can be arranged

info@oldpicturetheatre.com.au
www.oldpicturetheatre.com
(08) 9776 1513



Pemberton

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Comfort Inn Karri Forest
Your home away from home...
No ordinary stopover, 3.5-star affordable superior accommodation for the discerning traveller. 26 units in award-winning cottage garden setting with pool and barbecue-gazebo area, fusing into the tranquillity of the region. Located just over 1 km from the Gloucester Tree. Quiet, Comfortable & Convenient
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1998 - The Journey

of a decade - 2008



Building a Better Bibbulmun Track -

The project set out to turn the Bibbulmun Track into one of the world's great walk Trails...

The Track was realigned away from mining areas and off gravel roads to pass through the most scenic areas of the south west and link nine communities so walkers could re-supply.

48 campsites with sleeping shelters and water tanks were built to provide a welcome haven at the end of a day's walk.



Then - CALM crew constructing Beraking Campsite



Now - Beraking campsite today

Volunteers

1998

32 volunteers signed up for the Bibbulmun Track's 'Eyes on the ground' maintenance programme.



2008

Our volunteers contributed over \$250,000 worth of volunteer labour last year. The maintenance programme now has over 300 dedicated volunteers; a further 100 volunteers assist in the office, as guides or at community displays.



Community Support



In 1997 the Friends of the Bibbulmun Track (FOBT) was formed. By 1998 there were 300 members and the office opened three days a week with one staff member and one volunteer each day.



The FOBT is now the Bibbulmun Track Foundation (BTF) with 2500 members and strong support from a range of sponsors. The office is open five days a week with up to five staff members and usually two or three volunteers in the office every day.

Geoff Shafer's original vision 'to encourage urban people to go bush' has been achieved...



Today, more than 137,000 walks are taken on the Track each year - with women now in equal numbers to men.



The Bibbulmun Track won the prestigious WA Tourism Award for Significant Tourist Attraction in 2004 and 2006 and was 'highly commended' in the 2006 Australian Tourism Awards.

25% of the 835 registered end-to-enders are from interstate or overseas.



The 8-day Highlights tour and Bibbulmun Walking Breaks have proved popular with those who enjoy both bushwalking and their creature comforts!



Over 80 guided events conducted each year have introduced thousands of West Australians to bushwalking.



The Mountain Designs Bibbulmun Team Challenge is in its 7th year.



The Track is a popular outdoor education resource for schools and youth groups - with 166 group walks registered last year.



The Track provides economic benefit to the south west with walkers spending over \$13 million a year on accommodation and services.

Office Gossip

Anyone who visits the office at the moment will quickly realize from the décor that the 10th Anniversary is fast approaching and that the celebrations and the walk have begun.

Display boards were set up and changed every day as Jean and Ashlee selected photographs and posters for the community event displays in the towns along the Track. Boxes containing shirts and backpack covers in assorted colours for the walkers brightened up one corner, while the corridor is still stunningly decorated with delicately balanced towers of ten different sized boxes, each bearing a brightly coloured label to indicate different locations. These are the food drops for the end-to-enders. This masterpiece has begun to gradually dwindle away as the weeks go by and the walkers progress towards Kalamunda.

A Gold Star Award must go to Dale Holley and her friends, The Tiara Trekkers who were at the Albany Town Hall at 7.00am to help us set up for the celebration then, after bidding the walkers farewell, dashed off to Little Grove. The walkers arrived to find the site gaily decorated with 100 balloons and the Tiara Trekkers wearing their tiaras.

While we are all involved with the anniversary celebrations, we still fit in time to attend to the more routine jobs—memberships, merchandise orders and event bookings, as well as giving assistance and advice to walkers. The walker survey continues with some excellent results coming in. If you would like to help out with the survey, please let me know.

It's a very busy time but we seem to thrive on the challenge of getting it all done and despite some good-natured grumbling when we are really busy, we are all having a great time.

We welcome Richard Pen-Dennis who recently joined our team and wish Lesley and Hans safe travelling in Europe, Jim Baker a happy holiday in England, Alan an exciting time in South America and Jim Freeman and Elsie a great time as end-to-enders on Bibb Walk 08.

Hopefully we'll have the chance to meet many of our members at one or other of the community celebrations.

Gwen Plunkett
Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator



Louise Yeaman and friends conducting a dawn to 10.00am walker survey.
Photo courtesy of Bruce Miller.

"Helena, Frosty sleeping bags, sub-zero temps, full moon, beautiful beautiful bush wilderness and serenity all around, another magnificent Bibb Track experience. 10 out of 10, again. How lucky are we to have this on our door step?"



The end-to-end walker's food parcels are colour coded to take to each drop-off.



The Tiara Trekkers met the walkers on their first day out of Albany.



Prize Winners

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

April

Joanne Agostinelli of St James won a stainless steel Sigg water bottle kindly donated by Bronze Sponsor Paddy Pallin

Robert McCudden of Gosford won 2nd prize of a water bottle

May

Barry Tregenza of Karrinyup won a Hammock Bliss hammock kindly donated by Bronze sponsor Paddy Pallin

Chris King of Hillary's won 2nd prize of a water bottle

June

John Champan of Laburnum, Victoria won a copy of "Urban Antics, Tales of an urban naturalist" by John Hunter, kindly donated by WA Naturally.

Hellen Cloughton-Bingley of Australind won the 2nd prize of a water bottle.

July

Robynnann Davies of Warwick won a Microsoft Windows Vista Ultimate pack kindly donated to us by The Silvertops – Barry & Margaret Bryan – who are Bibbulmun Track members and "world walkers".

Basil McIhagga of Darlington won 2nd prize of a set of light weight cutlery kindly donated by Mountain Designs

ENJOY A DAY AT THE ROYAL SHOW - FOR FREE!

A brand new permanent site is being prepared for the Landcare Pavilion at the Royal Show and the Bibbulmun Track will form an integral part of the exhibit. This is the perfect place to showcase the Bibbulmun Track – the Landcare exhibit has always been an escape from the hustle and bustle of the Show, much like the Track is an escape from the hustle and bustle of our hectic lives!

As always we will need some help in manning the display. This involves giving a few hours of your time to talk to people about the Track and your experiences. A free pass allows you to spend the rest of the day enjoying the Show.

If you are interested call Jean on 9321 0649 or email: marketing@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

NOTICE BOARD

GEAR FOR SALE

Wanderer 100 sleeping bag, Cost: \$ 89.95 Sell \$55.00. (Synthetic, 5 to 15 Degrees Celsius, 1065 grams)

Item used for only 9 days.

Phone: 08 9271 8625

Contact: Jonathon

WANTED - SECOND HAND THERMAL CLOTHING

I am doing a Community Project trek in Nepal at the end of September and wish to collect thermal clothing to leave at the health mission and to distribute amongst the porters. Any size and condition (within reason) would be appreciated. So if you are thinking of replacing any of your gear I would be happy to collect any discards. Phone between 6pm and 7pm.

Phone: 9291 8995

Contact: Angela

END-TO-END COMPANION WANTED

End-to-end walker wanted leaving Kalamunda on 18 August (TBC) with one other (male).

Phone: 0418 250 927

Contact: Julian

OSPREY BACKPACK FOR SALE

Osprey Luna 75 backpack (colour: eggplant), new in 2004 and used only 2 or 3 times. Women's size medium. Features: Hydration pocket in convertible top lid/bum-pack, zippered access to main compartment, solo convertible daypack, and more. \$200 ono.

Phone: 0404 856 148

Contact: Karen

FOOD DEHYDRATOR & SEALER WANTED

I am after a food dehydrator and a vacuum sealer for storage bags. Please contact me if you can help.

Phone: 9592 4243

Email: jbess@bigpond.net.au



TREK THE TRAIL 2008

Mundaring is the place to be on Sunday 21 September, as the Perth Hills community celebrates Trek the Trail 2008. Now in its fifth year, this annual free event starts at the Sculpture Park in Mundaring. Walkers and cyclists will travel 7km along the Railway Reserve spur line, passing through scenic forested countryside on the way to the iconic Mundaring Weir.

Along the way participants can enjoy art, entertainment and historical displays as well as being able to experience the natural beauty of one of the State's best walking trails. The event culminates with a community celebration at the Weir including festival stalls and a range of activities.

For more information visit www.trekthetrail.com.au

Walking with God

Walk the Bibbulmun Track with a spiritual guide*, to explore and experience the remote and beautiful Walpole area in October, 2008.

If you would like to be part of a small group (of three or four fellow travellers) for a two or three day journey to explore what the Celts call the sacred 'Way' in nature and our relationship to it (or would like more information), contact Simon Holthouse at holthouse@esat.net.au or on 0428 910737.

* Simon Holthouse is a member of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation and is a member of Dayspring where he is undergoing studies as a Spiritual Director. Dayspring is an ecumenical centre for Christian Spirituality and Counselling and is an open community offering a safe and sacred space for nurturing the journey towards wholeness in God

FREE ENTRY TO THE ROYAL SHOW!

In return for a few hours of your time at our stand in the Landcare Pavillion. See full details in the article on opposite page.

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 or email us to arrange your advert. Cost is \$5 per 3 months. All items will be deleted after 3 months if not renewed.

Phone: 9481 0551

Email: friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au



The 7 principles

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimise campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of visitors

MEMBER, STAFF & VOLUNTEER PROFILES

Steve, Jean and Gwen



Gwen, Steve and Jean at the Albany celebration.

All staff at the Foundation are also members and contribute volunteer hours. Here we introduce three people many of our members will be familiar with. All three have been with the Foundation since the beginning, with both Gwen and Steve being amongst the very first maintenance volunteers.

I believe that the commitment and genuine enthusiasm for the Bibbulmun Track of these three individuals has contributed enormously to the success of the Track and of the Foundation. They're not only very good at what they do but great fun to work with and I hope they're all still here another ten years from now!

Linda Daniels, Executive Director



STEVE SERTIS – EVENTS MANAGER AND HEAD GUIDE

I don't recall the exact date but I do recall the first time I set foot in the Foundation (then FOBT) office in 1998. I had already been inducted as a maintenance volunteer about two months prior in the stinking heat of a Perth February. I was approached by the City of Stirling to do a presentation about the 'new' Bibbulmun Track. Needing some resources (display, maps, brochures etc), I found my way through the maze to the office.

Back then of course we didn't have Waugal trail markers at the office nor did

we have the current front office. This used to be Gondwana Repairs and I remember scrambling over backpacks and other gear that looked like they were in for their 100,000 km service and practically knocking on death's door to get to the FOBT office. There in the office were Becky Shrimpton and Annie Keating, frantically trying to rehearse their presentation for a

trails conference. So getting sidetracked, as one still does when coming to our office, I helped out as a sounding board. I recall there only being two computers in the office, one phone, a few bookshelves, some merchandise and the centre table which we still have – a pretty small, but busy operation. Some Bibbulmun Track Foundation minutes later (3 hours), I walked out not only with the resources I required for my presentation, but had also been recruited onto the fledgling volunteer presentation team!

Well, it went from there. Before the end of 1998 I was also a volunteer guide, leading some of the very first FOBT day walks. Then one day in Spring 1999, I went back into the office to pick up the walk list for the next day walk – not much was emailed out back then!! Becky was in the office on her own, frantic with phone calls (I think there were 10 calls that day compared to the usual three) and event bookings. I walked in, she looked at me with immense relief and said "Steve, would you like a part-time job here in the office running the Calendar of Events and some paid guiding work?" I don't recall saying yes – but I figure I must have, given I am still in the same job now, albeit with a massively expanded duty list! I guess I was also in the right place at the right time – I was getting ready to give up hospitality and sit in the bush – didn't think I was going to get paid for it though!

I remember most days in the office were spent answering the odd phone call, waiting in line to use the computer and stuffing envelopes for all the mail outs – no mailing house to do it for us then! Well now it's a much bigger operation, I am full time and it's not just the Calendar of Events I look after. Among other things I look after the Mountain Designs Bibbulmun Team Challenge, group activities, school programmes, guide training and recruitment, the 8-day Highlights tour, the website and of course the 10th Anniversary walk. We have four phone lines, seven computers, two offices, many more volunteers (thank you!!!) a store room and no room! I think we'll have to build another storey!

It certainly has been a journey of a decade for me – and a fantastic one at that. Not sure what I would be doing right now if I didn't walk into the office that day. 🌸



JEAN BYRNE – MARKETING MANAGER

I must confess I did not become associated with the Track or the Foundation because I was an 'avid bushwalker'. It was more like being 'roped in' by Becky Shrimpton who had just started as Executive Officer of the Friends of the Bibbulmun Track and was planning the big '98 walk. My youngest had just started school full time and I made the mistake of saying that I had some time on my hands!

Things were a bit different back then. It was basically a one-man-band. I'd help out on an ad-hoc basis when something

needed doing and then began volunteering on a regular basis – answering phones, stuffing envelopes etc. But the lure of a regular income beckoned and I left for about a year when I was offered a contract at a UWA faculty.

Becky and I remained good friends and when my contract finished, knowing I had come from a marketing background in the UK, she asked if I would come in a couple of days a week to set up and market a new tourism product – Bibbulmun Walking Breaks. The office had grown substantially in that year with Steve sorting out the Calendar of Events, Gwen looking after the maintenance programme and a constant stream of willing volunteers. The office was only open three days a week but it was always a hive of industry, very casual with lots of laughs – some things don't change! Becky's enthusiasm was infectious but her catchphrase in the early days "I've had an idea" led us to run for cover as her 'idea' usually doubled our workload overnight!

The Foundation has two full-time and three part-time staff, 20 regular office volunteers, 20 volunteer guides, 300 maintenance volunteers and another 60 volunteers who assist as required at various events such as the Royal Show.

There wasn't enough room in the main office so I squatted at a home-made desk in the corner of the back store-room. It was my job to get the Walking Breaks off the ground which has led over the years to the establishment of the 'marketing/community awareness/tourism development/fundraising, anything-you-name-it department'! I am thankful to say that Millie Bonnin has taken over the Breaks bookings since and for this year at least I had an extremely capable assistant in Ashlee.

We haven't done a bad job either (even if I do say so myself!) when you consider the number of Breaks has jumped from 10 in 2000 to over 50 in 2007, and has included many multi-destination breaks, international clients and repeat customers over the years. We have built up some great relationships with service providers in the towns along the Track, our accommodation & services database numbers nearly 400 and we are now on our 4th edition of the Accommodation & Services guide. We have experimented with other tours, but have found the right mix with our 8-day Highlights tour which has run to full capacity since 2005.

The success of the Track as a tourism icon is phenomenal and was officially recognised in 2004 and 2006 by winning the Tourism Attraction category at the WA Tourism Awards.

We have come a long way since 1998 and I am proud that today walkers come from all over the world to experience the Track in many different ways.

Although I still wouldn't describe myself as an avid bushwalker (I don't get time with two teenagers!) I do love being out there in the bush and share the same passion and enthusiasm for the Track as the wonderful volunteers I have had the pleasure to have worked with over the last 10 years. 🌸



GWEN PLUNKETT – OFFICE MANAGER AND VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

As we prepare for the 10th Anniversary celebrations, I find myself thinking back over the past ten years with a great deal of pleasure.

In early 1997 I answered a call from DEC (then CALM) for volunteers to look after the Northern Terminus. This involvement led me to join the newly formed Friends of the Bibbulmun Track in September. I became one of the original maintenance volunteers when the Eyes on the Ground Maintenance programme commenced in

February 1998 – and who should I meet there but Steve Sertis.

My first day in the office in March 1999 was memorable. Becky Shrimpton and Jean Byrne were here and they promptly went off for morning tea, leaving me to look after things! There were only about three phone calls during the whole day, plus just a handful of letters. I went home feeling I could easily do this for a few hours each Tuesday.

Then a few hours became all day, which became two days, increased to three, four and now five. I can hardly believe that we worked with two computers, sometimes switching on just one of them, whereas now we have seven operating all day. The few phone calls became a flood and somehow it became my job to answer them all. As a result there are many jokes about me talking into two phones at once, and picking up the computer mouse when the phone rings and wondering why no one is talking to me.

The few letters soon became a tray full and now often amount to an overflowing basket load. We seemed to do a lot of mail-outs in the early days, although now I don't recall what of! Envelope stuffing occupied a lot of our time and we had a great deal of fun doing it, sitting around the tables in the office chatting and drinking lots of coffee.

The serious stuffing occurred when the Bibbulmun News was mailed out to members, and when we sent out the Calendar of Events. This remained under control until the number of Calendars to be mailed became too great to handle—thank goodness for Laser Mail.

Early on we had very few visitors, and any who did venture in were likely to find themselves cajoled into helping out. These days we have a regular stream of visitors and welcome walkers, members and non-members, from overseas as well as from WA and interstate.

Over the years I somehow found myself firstly coordinating the maintenance programme, then the office volunteers and finally managing the office. Having been here so long, I guess it is inevitable that I am now referred to as the grandmother of the Foundation.

It's been a great journey though, with lots of laughs. I've been busy, even frantic sometimes, but I have always found time to chat, albeit briefly to many visitors. I've walked about half of the Track, many of the sections more than once, in my role as maintenance coordinator. 🌸



Gwen became a proud Grandmother this year to twins, Charlotte (left) and Jamie.

Time Well Spent

A REFLECTION ON THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY PRISONERS

As this edition of the Bibbulmun News goes to press, groups of walkers are making their way along the Track to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of opening of the "New" Track. Completed in 1998, this involved the realignment and lengthening of the original track that first officially came into being in October 1979.



Bob Dixon at Waalegh campsite

The CALM Project to "Build a Better Bibbulmun Track" was set up in 1993 and after much blood, sweat and tears the Track was officially opened by the Minister of the Environment on 13th September, 1998. Many people gave vast amounts of time and effort to make the project a success, but there is one group whose endeavours are sometimes forgotten - the prisoners who worked on the project, and those who still work on the Track today.

Not many walkers perhaps realise some of the wooden shelters they reach thankfully at the end of the day were prefabricated in prison workshops and erected by prisoners, or that the steps in the hills that make their trek easier were carved out by the hands of those same men.

Not only the prisoners themselves deserve mention, but also those officials in the then Ministry of Justice (MOJ), now the Department of Corrective Services, for their vision and courage in promoting the schemes that allowed the work to be done.

So how did it come about? In 1994 the project was suffering from a shortage of funds. Just consider what the project team had undertaken - to build 965 kilometres of walk trail through the

bush, with all the facilities of 48 campsites, shelters and toilets; to produce maps and guidebooks - in all a daunting prospect. The project co-ordinator, Jesse Brampton, was struggling to work out how to do this on an extremely limited budget. It was not simply a question of cash, but also of assistance 'in kind' that was needed; labour, tools and materials.

Totally unexpectedly, Jesse received a phone call from Bob Dixon, then the Manager of Prison Industries. Bob, together with Denzell McCotter, the Director for Prison Operations, was interested in the possibility of using prison workshops to prefabricate Track facilities. These three visionaries got together and an agreement was reached to not only construct one shelter and toilet, but also to allow minimum security prisoners from Wooroloo Prison Farm to assist with erecting the facilities on site and in the construction of the Track.

The first project took nine weeks. For the first two, the prisoners shuffled around, heads down, uneasy and shy. By the end, they were at ease, taking pride in their work and offering suggestions for improvement of the facilities. The first campsite was named Waalegh and opened by Premier Richard Court in August 1994. Significantly, permission was granted for the prisoners who had constructed the campsite to spend a night there - the first time in Western Australia that a group of prisoners had been allowed to stay away from their prison farm overnight. In the following year, 1995, the first 68 kilometres of the Track were completed and a further three campsites constructed, all using prison labour and the MOJ budget.

In 1996 a federal grant made a huge difference to the realisations of the project team, but the relationship between the Ministry of Justice and CALM continued to develop. During 1996 crews from Karnet Prison Farm, 80kms south of Perth, and Pardelup Prison Farm, 40kms north of Albany, commenced work on the Track. Crews of eight prisoners and one prison officer set out each day to work on the Track and return to the prison at night. Prisoners who were allowed to work on the project were carefully chosen for their suitability to join a work crew.

Despite the hard work, to work on the Bibbulmun Track became a much sought after privilege and the efforts of individual prisoners were recognised in various ways. The growth of the self esteem of these men and the pride they took in creating the Track became very clear, and a strong rapport grew up between the prisoners, the officers and the CALM supervisors. By the end of 1998 the benefits to both CALM and the MOJ were becoming obvious and high level talks were held between the two agencies regarding

the use of prison labour for further projects.

As a result of these talks a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was set up between the two agencies and the first prison work camp was set up at Walpole, followed shortly after by a second at Badgingarra. Initially the prisoners stayed at the camp from Monday through Thursday night and returned to the prison on Friday afternoon; however since the beginning of 1999 the crews have been allowed to stay full time at the camps.

In 1998 the Premier's Award for Public Sector management was made jointly to CALM and the MOJ for their combined efforts in creating the Bibbulmun Track and at that time it was noted that the contribution "in-kind" of the Ministry to the project exceeded \$1.5 million.

Since that historic moment, when the Track was officially opened, the co-operation between the now Department of Conservation and Environment and the Department of Corrective Services has continued uninterrupted. Work performed by the prisoners, as well as cutting out the Track itself and shelter construction, has included the installation of water bars, erecting signage, and the formation of steps.



Prisoners clearing the Track

This year the work camp at Walpole has celebrated its 10th Anniversary, and currently there are seven work camps operating in different locations through the State, involved in a host of community work projects. Over the past ten years, staff and prisoners have contributed almost half a million hours of work to regional communities.



Track near Waalegh

So, as someone once said, from small acorns do mighty oaks grow. The one phone call, back in 1994, opened the door to a totally unexpected source of assistance that has enabled the Bibbulmun Track to become an icon of the State's tourist industry. At the same time, it was a precursor to the development of a very significant part of prisoner rehabilitation.

For the project, the gains were clearly tangible - a source of manpower and materials that enabled the early work to go ahead and which has greatly assisted in the development and maintenance of the Track ever since.

For the prisoners who participate and for society in general the benefits are perhaps not so measurable, but nevertheless are clearly there.

For example, no prisoner has ever tried to escape while working on a Bibbulmun Track Team. Furthermore, there are cases where prisoners, after their release, have returned to do more work on the Track, and have brought their children on walks, to proudly show off the work that they did outside while 'inside'. And there is strong evidence that prisoners who have been involved with community projects have a lower rate of re-offending than those who have not.

Exposure to the public - walkers stop and chat with prison crews working on the Track - enables many of them to gain confidence and a degree of social acceptance denied to them in the confines



Albany prison workshop

of the prison. The sense of working as a team and the tangible results of their labours invoke a sense of satisfaction that mundane jobs performed in confinement never could.

So the next time you set foot on the Bibbulmun Track, pause and give a few moments thought to all those who have made your walk possible, including the prison crews, past and present.

Author's Note: Much of the material in this article was taken from documents prepared by Annie Keating, recently retired from the DEC. My sincere thanks to Annie for granting me access to this material. Thanks are due also to Kathy Csaba, of the Department of Corrective Services, for her help and co-operation.

Jim Baker

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 will receive the voucher back to book another WWF from the programme of walks found in the same newsletter. This way you can go on as many walks as you like but you 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 23 November 2008

v o u c h e r

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 23 November 2008

v o u c h e r

| | 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 |
| Bibbulmun Track Accommodation & Services Guide Places to stay, attractions, transport and tour ideas! | | \$12.00 |
| Bibbulmun Track Poster (Full colour 594 x 825mm) Features Shelters, National Parks & Track Photos ADD \$7pp within Australia | | \$12.00 |
| Polo shirt bottle green (with logo and 'Western Australia' on front) No. of shirts per size: S M L XL XXL | | \$27.95 |
| Polo shirt white (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 TITIAN (RED) No. of shirts per size: S M L XL XXL | | |
| BARK (BROWN) No. of shirts per size: S M L XL XXL | | |
| CORNFLOWER (BLUE) 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 |
| '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 | | \$85.00 |
| Special for members \$70.00 (No additional discount applies) | | \$70.00 |
| '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 each |
| 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 | | |
| SUB TOTAL | | |
| Friends' Member discount (minus) | 10% | |
| Postage and packing Australia (if not collected) (plus) | 10% | |
| TOTAL | | |

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 |
| EPIRB end to end hire | \$135.00 | \$150.00 |
| 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 PHOTOCOPY OF THIS FORM IS ACCEPTABLE

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 \$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
_____ . _____ . _____ . _____ 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 |
|---|--|
| 12th October 9am | 16th November 9am |
| 15km return walk from Brookton Hwy to Plunket Rd | 15km Mt Cooke circuit walk via Mt Cooke Campsite |
| 19th October 9am | |
| 15km return walk from Sullivan Rock to Monadnocks Campsite | |
| 26th October 8am | |
| 22km return walk from Hills Forest Centre to Helena Campsite | |
| 2nd November 8am | |
| 19.2km return walk from Dale Rd crossing to Beraking 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. Bookings cannot be made over the phone or by email.

BIBBULMUN TRACK FOUNDATION MERCHANDISE

Reflections from the Registers-

1998

FROM THE SOUTHERN TERMINUS REGISTER IN ALBANY:

"End-to-ender solo walker. Very happy to be here."

Stephanie Scurry, Tuart Hill WA (12/11/98)

"Bibb Track end-to-ender. Hard at times but very rewarding."

Peter Knight, Manning WA (12/11/98)

"End-to-ender. Wow!! I did it!!"

Tricia O'Neill, Manning WA (12/11/98)

"End-to-end. Both amazed and pleased to have made it! Spectacular scenery, incredible wildlife, stunning flowers—it truly doesn't get any better than this!"

**Eric and Claudette White, Meekatharra/Denmark.
(25/11/98)**

SWAMP OAK

"I haven't been on this part of the Bibbulmun Track for over ten years—what a great effort by CALM and the Friends. Great hut—it rained like billy-o but not a leak! I had deep philosophical discussions with Reggie the Raven about carrion and other cool things. Nice cool day for walking—now to tackle that Yarragil hill..."

Kevin (18/07/98)

MONADNOCKS

"Good to get away from the big smoke (Perth) and smell fresh air again. We camped out on the rocks last night and watched the billions of stars. This place is timeless; thanks for keeping it that way."

Ben (24/01/98)

BEEDELUP

"Yesterday was day 25 of my journey to Albany from Kalamunda. It was a special day. A day like no other. A day to behold. For some peculiar reason my body did not ache and I felt quite strong, so I decided to jump a camp and make it to here...which I did, but only by walking 35 kms on an intensely hot day. I saw a mere six snakes, and two funny looking skinks with incredibly short legs, which seemed to dangle from their bodies and have no apparent use whatsoever. Today I feel the call of Albany with particular intensity—Albany pulls me toward it."

Pedro (07/12/98)

WAALEGH

"Arrived from Ballcreek after quite a hard walk today as it was very warm out on the trail. Were going to have steak and chips for dinner, washed down with ice cold beer but decided to settle for two-minute noodles and water—yum yum!"

The Yorkshire Men on the Move (07/11/98)

NULLAKI

"The trip is almost over. Don't know whether to laugh or cry. An easy day (the first and probably the last) from Wilson Inlet. It's day 48 from Kalamunda for us."

Colin and Jan Read from Kelmscott (16/10/98)

MOUNT COOKE

"The walk was good at the start but then the time dragged from the middle to the end. We saw the little bandicoot thing but it didn't get too close. Soon we are going up Mount Cook. By the way, we saw a grizzly bear and it ate my little sister Ariel, but don't worry, I ate it. The bed was horrible because the wood was so hard. Overall it was good (sort of)!"

Pia Remund (05/10/98)

MOUNT COOKE

"So, this isn't Monadnock, huh? Methinks something went awfully wrong between Sullivan's Rock and here! Well, it was a nice walk anyway, but don't tell my shoulders, they are convinced that a weekend of idle pampering would have been better. Suggestion: perhaps the T-junction at Sullivan's map could be better marked or perhaps we could have brought the WHOLE MAP, not just the photocopied enlargement that my darling fiancé thought was a good idea! Anyway it looks as if I'll now be cajoled into climbing Mount Cooke, then home tomorrow."

Lovely spot, very impressed with the shelter."

Lara and Geoff (10/10/98)

Take a Trek Off The Track and Discover Greenbushes



Elias Tunnel on the Mining Heritage Walk.

The Greenbushes Discovery Centre has recently upgraded the interpretive signage on the Greenbushes Loop Walk trail which connects to the Bibbulmun Track.

The 15 kilometre Greenbushes Loop (Class 3) includes 5 kilometres of the Bibbulmun Track between Hay Road (Balingup side of Greenbushes) and Mt Jones Dam (5 kilometres from Southhampton Road and Blackwood Camp) and allows walkers to take a detour into Greenbushes.

While in Greenbushes visitors can enjoy two other short walks taking in the areas mining and milling heritage.

The 3 kilometre Mining Heritage Walk (Class 2) traverses jarrah forest adjacent to the town and takes in historic mining shafts, an old mining tunnel, historic buildings and the modern public mine lookout.

The 7 kilometre New Zealand Gully Walk (Class 3) skirts a chain of lakes created from historic mining activities and takes walkers to the historic North Greenbushes settlement – now the site of the Whittaker's Timber Mill.

All three walks begin and end at the Heritage Park on Blackwood Rd Greenbushes where there is a BBQ and gazebo.

Across the road is the award winning Greenbushes Discovery Centre. There you can descend into a replica underground mine, ride the bogger or set off a mine blast in the Discovery Decline. Or you can explore the virtual indoor "Discovery Forest" and learn about forest ecology through fun, interactive displays.

The centre is open 10am – 2pm Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays or by appointment. Phone: (08) 97643883. Entry costs \$5 per adult, \$2 per child/student and pre schoolers are free.



Forest and timber display at the Greenbushes Discovery Centre.

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.

For a full list of inclusions and planning night dates etc. see your Events Calendar or check out the website.

Book online at www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au Email: events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au for a booking form or fax/post the booking form from the events calendar.

BIBBULMUN BIRDS

Encounter the birds of the jarrah forest on a 10km walk in the Perth hills with Sue Abbotts, amateur ornithologist and experienced bushwalker from 'Birds Australia'. Includes 'Common Birds of the South West Forests' Bush Book (value \$6.50). Don't forget your binoculars!

Date: Sunday 21st September, 7am – approx 12pm.

Cost: \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

BUSH FIRE TRAILS

Come along to a relaxed evening walk to the new Mt Cooke campsite (6km return). Along the way see and hear about the results of the Mt Cooke bush fire in January 2003 and the deliberately lit fire of January 2005. We will be joined by Stuart Harrison from DEC who will talk about his experience with the fires. Hear how the fires started and what followed. Enjoy a BYO picnic supper at the campsite. Return to the vehicles in the cool of the evening.

Date: Saturday 15th November, 4pm – approx 8pm.

Cost: \$15 members, \$25 non-members.



WOMEN'S ONE NIGHT ESCAPE!

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 17th October, 6.30pm.

Date: Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th October

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

TEEN TREK

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: Tuesday 16th September, 6.30pm.

Date: Monday 29th September to Wednesday 1st October
(school holidays).

Cost: \$130, \$50 concession*.

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

Fathers Day Festival at Kings Park

SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER

The Bibbulmun Track is joining other DEC groups to provide a display under the banner of Healthy Parks, Healthy People. The festival is a great way to enjoy Father's day with lots of things for the kids to do and see.

See you there!

FATHERS DAY GIFT IDEAS

NEW Exclusive Bibbulmun Daypack with the Bibbulmun Track logo – pale blue or black – quality lightweight pack only \$49.95 (normally \$59.95)

Dad's very own special Bibbulmun Track 10th Anniversary mug – only \$10.50 for members.

Encourage Dad or Grandad to 'get out in the bush' with a Bibbulmun Track Membership – \$40, Senior \$30

Fathers Day Gift Vouchers (any amount) – can be used for merchandise, membership or an event from the Calendar.

Our great range of merchandise can be viewed and ordered online at www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au or pop into the office, above Mountain Designs, Hay Street, Perth.

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Freycinet National Park and Maria Island, Tasmania



All smiles on Maria Island

In March this year World Expeditions led a special eight-day trip in Tasmania for the Foundation, encompassing a variety of walks in Freycinet National Park, the Douglas Apsley National Park and on the historic Maria Island.

Most of the group arrived at the Penny Royal Hotel on the afternoon of 8th March. We took a leisurely stroll up Cataract Gorge, one of Launceston's premier tourist attractions. The weather was good, the walk was easy, and the group took the opportunity to get to begin to know one another.

The stragglers arrived later the same day and the early next day we were collected by bus, where we met with Sarah, our guide and her assistant Rob, who doubled up as the bus driver. Gear was sorted out; sleeping bags, mattresses and rain jackets were assigned, and we were on our way to Bicheno, a coastal resort 176 kms south east of Launceston.

There was no peace for the wicked; we were soon on our first real walk in the Douglas Apsley National Park, hiking along the side of a very picturesque gorge. Some of the party decided to walk back along the top, while the rest of us rock-hopped down the river bed—a very challenging procedure!

It was hot and tiring day, so some of the party took the opportunity to strip (well not entirely, no Full Monty here!), and go for a refreshing dip in one of the rock pools.

Day three saw us at Wine Glass Bay. This has been voted as one of the world's most beautiful beaches. Not only did it provide good walking, but also another superb opportunity for swimming. Sara and Rob produced a superb lunch, after which we crossed the isthmus and walked north along Hazard's Beach to Lemana Lookout. This completed the activities for the day, except for a great dinner, prepared by our tireless guides, and consumed by 16 hungry walkers.

After all this decadence, the "proper" camping was about to begin. Next morning our equipment was loaded aboard a trailer hitched on to the bus, and we headed for the Cape Tourville Lighthouse. It was a fairly steep climb up to the lighthouse, but the effort was well rewarded by spectacular views of Wine Glass Bay and the coast of Freycinet National Park.

After replenishing our energy with lunch in picturesque Swansea, originally the old garrison town of Great Swanport, we headed south to Triabunna, to catch the ferry to Maria Island. There was a boat moored at the wharf, so we unloaded our huge pile of gear and prepared to stow it on board. It was at this point someone pointed out that the luggage compartment was full already—with cartons of beer!

Some of the party thought it was a fair exchange, but then our consternation was compounded when a bunch of about 25 school children also lined up, intent on boarding the same ferry. However all was well in the end, when a much

larger vessel eventually came alongside and our party was successfully transported to Maria Island, complete with our camping gear.

Our campsite consisted of a large open area, populated by Cape Barren geese, pademelons (small marsupials), wallabies and two school groups. Tents were pitched, food secured against the prowling wildlife and we settled down for our first night under canvas. We learnt quickly of the hazards of animal poo on the long walk to the loos in the dark!



The Bishop



Walking the riverbed in Douglas Apsley National

Maria Island is steeped in history, and was once a penal colony. It is characterized by sheer cliffs tumbling into the sea and jagged rocky outcrops. The first European to sight Maria Island was Abel Tasman in December 1642. It was Tasman who, having named the main island after Anthony Van Diemen, the Governor-in-Chief of the Dutch East India Company in Batavia, named this small east coast island Maria, after the Governor-in-Chief's wife. The whole island is now a National Park.

Bright and early the following day we walked to the Fossil Cliffs, made up entirely of fossilised seashells deposited some 250 million years ago. For a number of years this material was extracted and converted into cement; an industry that fortunately ceased when the area was heritage listed. The limekilns are still in evidence, as are many other features on the island, such as the penitentiary buildings at the Darlington settlement and oast houses built during the days of hop growing in the area.

Half the group then tackled the climb to the summit of Bishop and Clerk Peak (599 m). This involved a trek of seven kilometres each way from the campsite and included scrambling up crumbling dolerite, a remnant of Jurassic era molten-rock intrusions forming a scree slope below the summit. The rest chose a more leisurely walk to the old, convict built reservoir, followed by afternoon tea at Darlington.

Darlington is the one 'town' on Maria Island and is a peculiar one by any standards. It lies near the northern tip of the island. Darlington is beautiful and historic and has many wonderful old buildings, but it has no permanent inhabitants other than a few park rangers. All the rest – up to several hundred during the summer holidays – are tourists who come and go.

Day six dawned and began with a real treat – cooked breakfast! Sarah and Rob did all the work, ably supervised by Mother Hen Gwen. Then it was boots on and away to Hopground Beach, where once again the warm weather and hiking encouraged some of us to plunge in to

the crystal clear water. Unfortunately a sneaky photographer caught a couple of the swimmers running for cover in their underwear – typical paparazzi!

In the afternoon we took the fast route back to Darlington, where some of the group had a look through a series of rooms in the Coffee Palace. This is one of the many buildings on the island constructed in the 1880's by Italian entrepreneur Diego Bernacchi. If you go there, though, don't expect coffee! Today it is an interpretive centre where you can take a virtual tour and relive the island's history. Our supper that night was a black tie BBQ affair.

Next day it was time to pack up camp and transport the gear back to jetty in trolleys. After a rough but uneventful ferry crossing we arrived back in Triabunna and took the bus to Richmond. The temperature was 40 degrees, the air was laden with choking dust and we were unable to find a winery that wanted our custom!

Some of the party went to have a look at the Richmond Bridge, the oldest bridge in Australia still in use. It was built by convict labour in 1823 and is said to be haunted by the ghost of a vicious prison officer, George Grover, who was beaten to death by convict workers and thrown into the river during construction.

The remainder of the group found their spirits elsewhere by downing a couple of cold beers in the local pub!

Finally we arrived at Hobart, where we had a farewell dinner and the next day we split up and went our various ways. All in all it was a great week of physical exercise, good walking, wonderful company and making new friends. The trip was very well organised by World Expeditions, and made all the better by our two excellent guides and cooks, Sarah and Rob. 🍷

Alan Barker

EXPLORE KAKADU & BEYOND WITH THE BIBBULMUN TRACK FOUNDATION & WORLD EXPEDITIONS IN AUGUST 2009

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