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\* Offer excludes refrigeration, camper trailers, GPS systems, generators and kayaks. Bibbulmun Track Foundation members receive 10% off these items.

<b>Balcatta</b>	Cnr Wanneroo Rd & Amelia St	9344 7343	<b>Joondalup</b>	Shop 45 Joondalup Gate 75 Joondalup Dve	9301 1622
<b>Bentley</b>	1163 Albany Hwy (Cnr Bedford St)	9356 5177	<b>Kelmscott</b>	2938 Albany Hwy	9495 4444
<b>Bunbury</b>	Cnr Strickland St & Blair St	9791 2828	<b>Mandurah</b>	65 Reserve Dve	9583 4800
<b>Busselton</b>	Home Depot, Strelly St	9754 8500	<b>Midland</b>	Midland Central (Cnr Clayton & Lloyd Sts)	9274 4044
<b>Canning Vale</b>	190 Bannister Rd (Cnr Willeri Dve)	9455 5875	<b>Morley</b>	1/129 Russell St (Opp Galleria Bus Station)	9375 5000
<b>Geraldton</b>	Homemaker Cntr, 208 NW Coastal Hwy	9965 3766	<b>Osborne Park</b>	44 Hutton St (Freeway off ramp)	9444 9633
<b>Jandakot</b>	South Central Cockburn Unit 11 87 Armadale Rd	9417 4644	<b>Port Kennedy</b>	Unit 8/1 Sunlight Dve	9524 6350

# Seasons Greetings

# Bibbulmun NEWS

DEC'09 - APR'10  
ISSUE #52  
RRP \$6.00



Newsletter for the friends of the Bibbulmun Track

## New Track developments to cater for Outdoor Education



Lotterywest granted \$123,950 to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation to build two satellite campsites and a spur trail into the Wellington National Park to cater for outdoor education groups. L to R: Linda Daniels, Foundation Executive Director, The Hon Michael Mischin MLC, Mike Wood, Foundation Chairman and Peter Sharp, A/Director Parks and Visitor Services, DEC

Department of Sport and Recreation  
lotterywest supported  
The Lotterywest Trails Grants Funding Program is administered by the Department of Sport and Recreation.

The Track is an increasingly popular resource for schools and youth groups. In 2008 253 Groups, representing 2610 individuals undertook walks on the Track. The number of days on the Track totalled 551. This is an increase of 87 groups from 2007. An increase was anticipated due to a renewed emphasis on Outdoor Education in schools. However, it may also reflect a greater number of groups actually registering their walks – which prevents overcrowding and enables individuals to plan around them.

A number of strategies have been developed to cope with this increase in group usage. It is anticipated that these will be completed within the next year.

The key strategy is to build satellite campsites at selected high-use sites along the Track. These satellite campsites will not have sleeping shelters as they are not required by outdoor education groups. However, they will provide a cooking shelter, which will capture water for the tank, a toilet, picnic tables, and tent sites.

The first satellite campsite will be built approximately 200 metres away from Yabberup campsite south of Collie. A spur trail will be built between the

campsite and Wellington National Park which has a popular recreational site for schools offering a range of trail options and canoeing. An additional satellite campsite will be built along the spur trail providing a 3-day/2-night option between Collie and the Wellington National Park with vehicle access at both ends.

Lotterywest has granted \$123,950 towards this project, the Foundation has allocated \$23,000 from fundraising and DEC has granted \$30,000 through a Community Environment Grant as well as providing in-kind support to undertake the work.

Another satellite campsite will be built approximately 500 metres from Mt Cooke campsite. This is a hugely popular campsite and Alcoa has granted \$60,000 towards this. Two other satellite campsites funded by Alcoa will be built in other high-use areas in coming years.

The Foundation is also assisting and encouraging DSR, DEC and the Curriculum Council to develop resources and promote the use of other trails to reduce the environmental impact on the Bibbulmun Track and to retain the quality of the experience for individual walkers.

### With grateful thanks to our sponsors:

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### THE BIBBULMUN TRACK FOUNDATION

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## Have you seen the new trail marking? Tell us what you think!

If you were out on the Track during spring, you may have come across some new signage – did you notice it? What did you think?

DEC wishes to standardise its trail signage across the State and is seeking your feedback.

Two adjacent sections in the Perth Hills have been marked to enable a comparison::

- Piesse Brook to Fern Rd (2.9km) in red ezi-drive posts
- Fern Rd to Asher Rd (2.5km) in grey ezi-drive posts

### OTHER SECTIONS INCLUDE:

- The new Mumballup realignment with red posts (and some wooden posts, as the new metal posts arrived late.)
- Walpole District is trialling the red and grey posts in a coastal section near the Mandalay lookout.

The standard markers on these posts are square, so the Waugal trail marker is now a yellow triangle on a square reflective background. All the triangular Waugal markers in these sections have been removed.

### WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

DEC wishes to standardise its trail marking for the following reasons:

- It no longer wishes to put markers on trees as they can get covered with sap over time. They also believe there are too many Waugals along the Track in some places.
- Trees do not exist on some of the southern sections of Track and using wood for posts

is not sustainable and can be hard to find or costly

- The type/size of post used to mark the Bibbulmun Track is not consistent along the Track
- Their preference is the grey post as it blends into the environment.
- Having a standard post for use on all trails makes it easier for the DEC Rangers as they do not have to store different coloured posts for different trails.
- DEC can buy in bulk to reduce costs.

### THE FOUNDATION'S VIEW:

- We understand wood is becoming a scarce commodity and that these posts would be good for use at campsites, road crossings and where no trees, fences or tree stumps etc. are available.
- We feel that the environmental impact of manufacture, shipping, painting and installation of each post would be far greater than the environmental impact of fixing a marker to a tree.
- We believe the Bibbulmun Track has developed a character, and the existing Waugal, be it on fence posts, old tree stumps, or trees, is a big part of that, along with the rustic red sign posts.
- Already some of the trial posts in Kalamunda have been knocked out or are very loose or the marker has been removed.
- Replacing damaged signage will significantly increase the workload for DEC Rangers – and may take a long time depending on their work

schedule, leaving sections where the Track may not be properly marked.

- Posts are expensive: \$30 as opposed to \$6 for a trail marker. Special equipment is required for installation which has to be transported along the Track.
- Changing the signage takes an important job away from our maintenance volunteers. If one of the new posts gets damaged or the marker removed, a volunteer can no longer replace it.
- The posts are short and will quickly be overgrown in some sections of Track – or covered in sand in coastal areas. Also they will not be sturdy in sand on the south coast.
- The industrial look of the posts does not reflect the rustic nature of other facilities on the Bibbulmun Track which are sympathetic to the environment and walkers alike.

**Tell us what you think – Answer the quick survey on our website – or write to us with your opinion.**

I think Bibbulmun Track marking should:

1. Leave existing markers on trees and posts as they are and replace with metal posts as and when required
2. Leave existing markers on trees and replace when necessary with triangular Waugals on trees. Use metal posts at campsites and/or where there are no trees.
3. Remove all markers from all trees and wooden posts and replace them all with metal posts.
4. The colour I prefer is grey or red
5. Other comments



## FROM MY Desk



Thank you!  
Thank you!

It's funny sometimes. An old friend from England arrived last week. It appears that, with the distance, our communications must have got a bit scrambled at times. Indeed for the five years or so I have worked for the Foundation, Sarah has been under the impression I am working from a rustic wooden shelter, with snakes and kangaroos leaping at the laptop, at a checkpoint somewhere in the middle of the Australian outback. I did wonder what the slight look of puzzlement on her face was when we took the train into the city with office buildings and streets and everything.

Which brings me to the point. There is sometimes a big difference between people's expectations of an experience and the reality – particularly when going on holiday and the glossy brochures make everything appear bigger, more colourful and twice as exciting! So it's very reassuring to see that 7 out of 10 walkers surveyed said that the Track far exceeded their expectations and 87% of users rated the Track as a 6 or 7 out of 7 in terms of how pleased they were with their walk. (See more survey results on page 11.)

We love receiving the positive letters, emails and photos from people who have completed their walk – be it a few days or an end-to-end – and we now have a new website where walkers can share their stories and photos – simply sign up at [www.trailtalk.com.au](http://www.trailtalk.com.au).

Regrettably, there are small sections where major maintenance, such as relocating toilets, installing steps or cutting the rampant sword grass is well overdue and the experience may not be as good as we would like. Unfortunately, for these tasks we rely on the availability of DEC staff, and with 25 million hectares of parks, forest and reserves to manage the Track is only one of many facilities and, understandably, not always a priority on the 'to-do' list.

With the extra funds allocated by DEC to the Track this year, we anticipate that many of these major works will be completed over the coming months and that we will be able to continue to promote the Track with pride as a world-class experience. In the meantime, please continue to provide us with your feedback – both good and bad – and know that we are working on it!

Many thanks to all our members, volunteers and sponsors for your support and enthusiasm during the year – may you all have a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2010.

And now, I'm taking Sarah for a walk in the Perth Hills to find a rustic wooden shelter...

Linda Daniels  
Executive Director

*Seasons Greetings  
and Best Wishes for 2010!*

The office will close on  
**Friday 18th December and reopen  
on Monday 11th January.**

### VOLUNTEER DAY – 4 DECEMBER

THANK YOU! We couldn't do it without you

The Foundation has over 400 volunteers who contributed in excess of 16,500 hours last year. Whether maintaining the Track, sitting on the Board, answering enquiries, manning displays or guiding events, each volunteer makes an invaluable contribution to the Foundation and to the Track and we thank each and every one of them.

Special mention must be made for Edith Thomas, Charmaine Harris, Chris Plunkett and Jim Freeman who volunteered in excess of 500 hours and to Tony Jennings, who received an Outstanding Service Award from DEC.

Our volunteers have been invited to various "Thank you" events throughout November and December in the city, Point Walter, Denmark and Albany

We look forward to giving you an update on these events in our next newsletter.

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

Adelaide ARPA Buswalkers  
Adventure Wild  
Pat Fleming  
Bob Gillespie  
Yvonne Henky  
Jennifer Jones  
Patrick Matthews  
Bob McNamara  
Susan Moore  
Terry Moore  
Colin Norris  
Lorraine Price

### 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.





# WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S TOP TRAILS REVEALED



Fifty four of WA's top trails were unveiled by Minister for Foreign Affairs, The Hon Stephen Smith MP, at the official launch of the TopTrailsWA project in September.

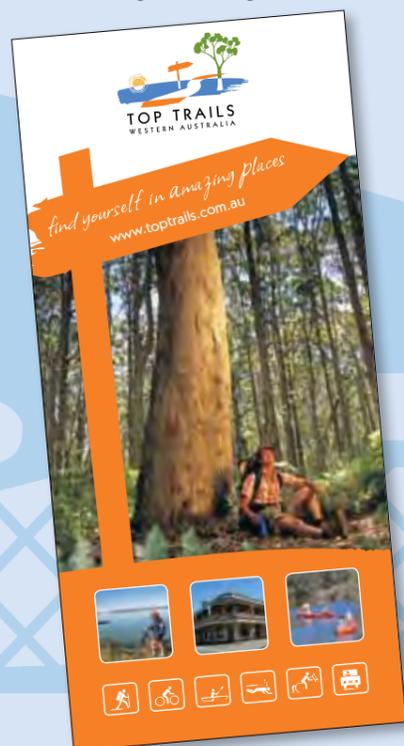
The launch was the culmination of nearly two years work by the WA trails community to identify and prepare collaborative marketing to showcase the most engaging trails WA has on offer.

The Top Trails range from hour-long urban walks to adrenaline-filled mountain bike rides; paddles and snorkels in pristine waters to long-distance bush walks and outback drives to discover gold-rush towns or spectacular gorges.

Attracting visitors and locals alike, this collaborative project was funded through the federal government's Australian Tourism Development Program with a focus on providing tourism and associated economic benefits to regional Western Australia.

With over 600 trails in Western Australia, the TopTrailsWA Assessment Panel, including government and community representatives, had a task to select the 54 trails that made the final list from the original set of 160+ trails nominated throughout the community.

Visit [www.toptrails.com.au](http://www.toptrails.com.au) to discover WA's Top Trails – or pick up a booklet from the BTF office, your nearest visitor information centre, a Mountain Designs or a Ranger Outdoors store.



From left to right: David Färdig, EMRC Chairman, Mike Wood, Foundation Chairman, the Hon Stephen Smith MP, Julie Mizen, Regional Manager AusIndustry, Linda Daniels, Foundation Executive Director, Ron Alexander, CEO Department of Sport and Recreation. Front: Stuart Harrison, Coordinator DEC Recreation and Trails Unit.



The Hon Stephen Smith MP takes a tour of the TopTrailsWA website at the launch in September.

# YOUR LETTERS

To whom it concerns

## Lost keys found on Bibbulmun Track.

Thanks to Dawn and Sam, who found my car keys on the Bibb Track at the end of May, one week after I dropped them. They were found close to the Cascades turnoff, out of Pemberton, walking towards Northcliffe.

Also thanks to Alan from the Bibbulmun Break motel in Northcliffe, who phoned me when the ladies reported the found keys to him. I was very lucky that they were returned to me by these ladies on their way back through Dawesville; they were God's angels.

The mot to is; keep all valuables in a safe place in your backpack!

I have appreciated all the help Millie gave me to organise our Bibbulmun Break.

Thank you again.

Regards  
Anne Hill



## Dear All at HQ,

I'm coming to realize that there's life before the Bibbulmun and then – there's life after the Bibbulmun! I found myself writing this in a letter to a friend. "I can see why people do it over and over again. It's a bit addictive... it has a magic and a delight all of its own. It is certainly not just a 'bush walk', especially if you do 'End-to-End' – it becomes a real journey then".

I've been quite crook with a vicious cold, caught in WA between Albany and my departure on October 1st – I wish I'd stayed 'out there'. It may have been windy, wet and cold, but I never felt better and didn't encounter any cold viruses!

I hope all are well. It was so nice to have met you at the coal face and if I weren't so far away I'd be a regular.

Love to those whom I met; keep up the good work!

Annie Diddcott  
ACT



## Jean and Millie

I wanted to tell you what a wonderful walking holiday we all had on the Bibbulmun Track – and how faultless was the organisation and execution. There wasn't a dud day or even part of one, and we even dodged most but not all of the impressive rainfall that that part of the world enjoys.

Thank you for your great planning and advice. I kept getting plaudits from our friends on the trip for "organising" it, but I invariably gave credit where credit was due i.e. to you and the Bibbulmun team. Incidentally, we couldn't really think of any other established walk in Australia that has such a switched on supporting organisation. The walks were varied, the terrain memorable and always fascinating and flora brilliant. The maps and walking notes were invaluable.

We particularly enjoyed the guided walk with David of Out of Sight! Tours in Denmark and the WOW Wilderness Eco-cruise in Walpole with the unforgettable Gary in fullest flight.

The accommodation, with one exception, was excellent. The Bayside Villas at Walpole were particularly good and enabled us to self cater easily on two occasions as we did also at Pemberton in the Old Picture Theatre. The lunches and breakfasts were good to brilliant with a particular extra star for Dylan's on the Terrace at Albany that set an impossible standard for the rest and served a muesli yoghurt sundae concoction that was as flavoursome as it was visually striking.

The other point of comment of our group was the exceptional value – really at \$1047 per person. Even with car hire and dinners to add in, we did very well indeed. I hope there was enough in there for the Foundation too, as it does a great job, on the Track and in the office.

Once again, many, many thanks. We will spread the word.

Peter

**Ed note:** Peter from NSW asked us to help him organise an extended Bibbulmun Walking Break for his group of friends, made of six couples. In September they stayed at selected self-contained and motel accommodation in four towns on the southern half on the Bibbulmun Track. Their package included nine nights' accommodation, all breakfasts, packed lunches and licensed transfers to the Bibbulmun Track for six days walking, as well as Bibbulmun Track navigation material and Track town information.

For more information, visit the Bibbulmun Walking Break page in Trip Planner on

[www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au)

Dear Gwen

I am writing on behalf of Adelaide ARPA Bushwalkers as we have completed a camp led by Milton and Jan Turner.

ARPA walked the first half of the Bibbulmun Track in 2008 and sent a donation in appreciation.

This year, having walked the rest to Albany, we are sending a further donation of \$170.

We enjoyed the towering forests, the stunning coastline and the wildflowers were amazing, giving great pleasure to many members. You could almost call it a photography walk.

Thank you for building such an easy-to-follow track which made these two camps possible.

Yours truly,  
A. Beattie

## Dear Bibb Trackers,

I returned from my end-to-end on the weekend of July 30th after 53 walking days and 6 rest days. It was an emotional time as I sat under the tree by the Amity at the foreshore in Albany. I cannot put into words why I felt so choked up.

I have not thanked you all properly, particularly Steve Sertis, who was my 'phone a friend' contact when I could not find the resumption of the track at Little Quarram Beach. I had resisted taking the 3G phone but at that crucial moment it enabled me to confirm that I was where I thought I was.

Later that evening I did feel like I had won a million dollars. I was alone in the shelter and a number of 'roos munched around me. I said a quiet hello to each of them and they stayed quite close (no more than three meters), eventually settling for the night around the shelter. It was like being in a holy place. A day and a night I will never forget.

Peaceful Bay to Boat Harbour was a longish day of splendid variety. I loved it. Just the best day, with the canoe crossing, when the wind came up and blew me about. Showgrounds was a surprise with its grand openness. The coast was all sorts, with loads of oyster-catchers, whales a good way off shore, the aroma of the sticky white flowers across the headland to Little Quarram Beach and the dunes and views to the inland water system. Just fantastic!

Another unforgettable and exhilarating day was after the 35kms (diversion included) from Dwellingup to Murray. I got in about an hour and a half after dark after a late start, and as I was eating my dinner the clouds cleared to reveal a starry sky. There was the sound of the river splashing and gurgling in front of me, a magnificent sky, and Van Morrison singing 'Into the Mystic'. If I'd dropped dead then I would have died a very happy woman.

I am still processing the impact of my Track experience; I find other stories that are prompted by someone's enquiry or comment. The words are still unfolding. I am very thankful that my body took me all the way. I lost only 4kgs, and Fixomul and strapping tape are two new friends.

Thank you again. Every bit of help I gained from you was put to good use.

Cheers to you all,  
Valerie Preston



# DEC Recreation and Trails Unit

**Stuart Harrison, Recreation and Trails Unit Coordinator**

**Locked Bag 104 Bentley Delivery Centre 6983 Tel: 9334 0265 Email: tracksandtrails@dec.wa.gov.au**

We have been having a really busy time here in the Recreation and Trails Unit office! In what seems a never ending process, we have had to juggle our staff roles and works programs to address our priorities.

Kerstin Stender recently moved down to Albany and returned to her previous position as the Project Coordinator for the Munda Biddi Trail Project. Given the \$3 million injection into the project from the state government's Royalties for Regions program, she is busily employing additional staff along the south coast to assist in the planning and construction of the trail.

One of the Unit's Project Officer's, Danielle Stone, has been feverishly working away on developing operational guidelines for the management of the Bibbulmun Track, with the assistance of Foundation staff and the numerous DEC District staff involved in the length of the Track. As well as the operational guidelines, Danielle has also been working on a new volunteer maintenance handbook, which will be issued to the Track maintenance volunteers once it has been printed.

We have also had our Construction Supervisor, Scott Hunter, running the volunteer training days in conjunction with the Foundation staff.

We are hoping that the combination of Scott's experience and the new handbook will enhance the already valuable maintenance undertaken by the Foundation's volunteers!

Dave Lathwell, who was for many years the DEC Blackwood District contact for the Bibbulmun Track, has recently taken up a new Project Manager position within the Department, assisting with the management of some of the major capital projects. With the allocation of \$400,000 in capital for major maintenance on the Bibbulmun Track, Dave is now working closely with Scott and the Districts in prioritising urgent maintenance projects.

I'm sure all walkers will be happy to hear that toilet improvements is one of our main focuses! Possum Springs campsite has already benefited from improvements, with new larger capacity tanks installed and the toilets relocated for easier maintenance access. The campsite has also had new rainwater tanks, new bunks, new handrails and sections of the retaining wall replaced due to hungry termites! Quite a few other campsites will be receiving similar works in the coming months.

Along with the Perth Hills District and staff from our Landscape Planning Unit, we have designed a new satellite 'group use' campsite to be built near the existing Mt Cooke campsite. This campsite has been designed for tent based groups, with a basic shelter (only tables - no beds!), a cleared activity area, rainwater tanks, toilets and numerous tent pads. Our thanks to ALCOA Australia for their contribution of \$60,000 towards the construction of this new campsite, which will be undertaken in early 2010, and hopefully reduce the group overcrowding occurring in the original campsite.

This is only a snapshot of what the Recreation and Trails Unit and the Districts are working on - if you want to know more, you'll have to go for a walk! (or give us a ring!)

Can I finally take the opportunity to wish everyone a safe and fantastic festive season, and we'll see you back for bigger and better things in 2010! 🌸

**Stuart Harrison  
Recreation and Trails Unit Coordinator**



# WILDERNESS INTERVENTION PROGRAM (WIP)

Wendy Nelson is a long time champion of the Bibbulmun Track, not only as a volunteer, but also as part of a recent double end-to-end walk. As a high school chaplain, she is deeply involved with young people and their development.

**Here she talks about the Wilderness Intervention Programme:-**

Walkers often encounter groups of young people on the Bibbulmun Track. Usually they are outdoor education classes, schools, cadets or scout groups, but walkers may encounter groups concerned with the Wilderness Intervention Programme (WIP).

WIPs have been offered in state schools by school chaplains since the 1990s, and currently there are some ten chaplains offering the program to their students. I have been running WIPs since 1998.

*"I have learned that if I have confidence and believe in myself I can actually get where I am going"*  
**Jackson (13yrs)**

WIPs differ from other outdoor education programs. Students have no prior training nor experience other than a couple of workshops to meet other participants and run through the equipment required.

The students on WIPs are usually selected by the student services team at the school, for a variety of reasons. Personally, I offer WIP to students who have low self esteem and are in need of social skills - and to those who I like to term as 'behaviourally challenged'.

The major component of a WIP is sharing a journey together. The students become the decision makers, their objective being to get each member of the team to the campsite in a safe and responsible manner. The staff members facilitate the emotional and physical safety of the group.

The nightly debriefs are a time for each student to reflect on their day, and this is the time when other walkers will often comment that they felt 'moved' and wished to join in.

*"There are more ways than just punching to tackle my problems"*

**Braydon (13yrs)**

WIPs vary in length from five to ten days, and the relationships that are built are invaluable. This is particularly so of the trust and the bond that develops between the students and the staff who accompany them on their journey. Back at school, when 'the going gets tough' it is usual for the students to seek out one of their WIP staff for help.

During the years that I have offered this programme I have seen two of the participants become head boys, I have seen several of the participants go on to serve on student representative councils, and I have seen dramatically improved relationships between students and parents.

Further to this, I have seen students alter their lives, taking their parents on the Track and introducing them to this amazing free resource. I have had students walk on the 'Teens on Track' BTF event during their school holidays, and several of these participants have returned the following year to walk as mentors on a WIP.

Most of all, I have had the privilege of introducing many, many young lives to the beauty and the peace of what I call 'Bibbulmun Therapy'.

It isn't always pleasant to share a campsite with a dozen excited teenagers, but remember, these are our future bushwalkers in training. 🌸

**Wendy Nelson  
Chaplain  
Swan View Senior High School**



The Wilderness Intervention Programme offers a change of pace for troubled teenagers.



Nearly a year ago we started the planning for our office renovation and now it's hard to remember what it was like before. It has certainly made such a difference to the way we use the space and judging by the compliments from those who come in to see us, it's great for visitors too. If you haven't yet had the chance to, pop in to say hello when you are in town.

The winter exodus has turned into a spring retreat with Jim B in Nepal, Edith off walking some more of the Track to complete her end-to-end in time for the picnic next year, Peter W in Hong Kong, Gayle travelling along the south coast, hoping to get as far as Balladonia, Peter D sailing a yacht down the west coast, Jim F driving along the Canning Stock Route and visiting some amazing places in the Pilbara, Colin visiting family in London, Isabel spending time with her granddaughters in Tom Price, Peter S travelling between Kununurra and Sydney visiting his far flung family and Jean, Charmaine, Malcolm and Alan all enjoying Kakadu.

As usual the end of winter and early spring heralds the arrival of members from all over the world and other parts of Australia to commence an end-to-end. Where time permits, they come to say hello before setting out. Often we receive postcards or emails as they work their way south and it's great fun seeing their reactions to the wonderful wildflower displays they see along the way, the tall trees and the dramatic coastline of the south coast. We share the frustration and disappointment of those who have to leave the Track early due to illness or injury and celebrate the achievements of those who complete their end-to-end. Jean's photo gallery grows larger by the day!

The Mountain Designs Team Challenge is over for 2009. This is a busy time in the office with shirts and hire gear being collected prior to each heat, equipment being prepared each week and Steve, along with Charmaine, Jim, Jean, Edith, Alan and Isabel all involved out on the Track. It's all good fun though and it's interesting to hear the stories from the participants when they come in to drop off their gear after each heat- the highs and the lows- the ticks being a bit of a problem this year.

A huge thank you to the terrific team we have in the office. Everyone works so hard and it is incredible at times that we are able to achieve so much in a day. We regularly receive thanks from walkers for our prompt replies to queries and sending out orders. We always try to send things out quickly as we know how aggravating it can be waiting for that map or guidebook that is needed to plan a walk!!

We need to have a break though, so the office will be closed from Friday December 18 until Monday January 11. We wish you a Happy Christmas and New Year.

**Gwen Plunkett  
Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator**

For updates, refer to the "Latest Track News" accessible from [www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au).

Or contact the appropriate DEC District (see contact details below).

Before heading out on to the Bibbulmun Track it is important that you check the current conditions and are aware of any changes that may impact on your journey.

There may be maintenance or construction projects near or on the Track that result in temporary diversions or changes. These will not be marked on your maps. Temporary diversions are marked with white waugal trail markers (black serpent on a white background). If you encounter these when walking, follow the temporary markers, not your map. The Waugal Trail Markers will revert to the normal black on yellow when the diversion rejoins the main Track again.

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

### TOTAL FIRE BAN

A total fire ban is usually in place on the entire Perth Hills District section of the Track each year from November to mid-April. This means that no fires are to be lit from the Northern Terminus in Kalamunda through to the Harvey - Quindanning Road (south of Dwellingup) (Hewett's Hill Campsite to Dookanelly Campsite). All walkers must carry their fuel stoves to cook meals when staying at these campsites during the fire ban season.

### PRESCRIBED BURNING OPERATIONS

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

These burns are carefully planned but may cause some disruption to Track users. Where prescribed burning operations impact on the Track, temporary diversions will be put in place. Prescribed burning operations are 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.

### GROUPS ON THE TRACK

Non-commercial groups of walkers with eight or more members that are staying overnight on the Track are requested to fill out a Notification of Intent (NOI) form and submit it to the DEC Recreation and Trails unit. NOI forms can be obtained by phoning 9334 0265 or by emailing [tracksandtrails@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:tracksandtrails@dec.wa.gov.au)

### CAR ACCESS TO THE TRACK

Walkers are reminded that vehicles can only access the Track at designated points. These are marked on the maps and guidebooks as red or green car

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

### DEC CONTACTS:

#### Perth Hills District

*Kalamunda to the Harvey-Quindanning Road.  
Map 1& 2 or Sections 1 to 20 in the Northern Guidebook*

Contact (08) 9538 1078 or [glenn.hagan@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:glenn.hagan@dec.wa.gov.au)

#### Wellington District (Collie and Harvey)

*Covers Harvey -Quindanning Road to Mumballup  
Map 3 or Section 20 to 25 in Northern Guidebook*

Marie (Phoebe) Houghton (08) 9538 1078 or [marie.houghton@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:marie.houghton@dec.wa.gov.au)

#### Blackwood-Balingup District

*Covers Mumballup to Willow Springs  
Map 4 or Sections 25 to 30 in the Northern Guidebook*

Contact (08) 9731 6232 or [blackwood@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:blackwood@dec.wa.gov.au)

#### 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](mailto:john.hanel@dec.wa.gov.au)

#### 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](mailto:chris.stewart@dec.wa.gov.au)

#### 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.a](mailto:luke.coney@dec.wa.gov.a)



## Eyes on the Ground MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

The final Field Days for 2009 have been held, both with a different format from previous years.

The section from Brookton Highway south was badly eroded so volunteers from the Perth Hills District gathered in the pouring rain one Saturday to install about a dozen water bars under the guidance of Scott Hunter from DEC. The rain eased off, only to come again with a vengeance during morning tea. This was followed by sun, rain and hail at various times for the rest of the day! After a demonstration from Scott, it was all hands to the rake hoes and within a few hours we were finished.

At Collie, a bus took us close to Possum Springs Campsite and we enjoyed morning tea in the forest followed by a very pretty walk into the campsite where Scott had a couple of fun projects lined up. The fire ring had to be dismantled - brute strength required here - and a new one installed. This was done by lunchtime and the billy was boiling by the time those working on the new railings were ready to stop for lunch. Railings in place, it was off down the Track to install the ever-necessary water bars before we walked back to the bus and home.

Thanks to Scott and Elisa for their assistance with the Field Days.

The updated Maintenance Guidelines are almost complete and the search is now on for suitable photos to be included. We hope that we will be able to distribute the guidelines early in 2010. Thank you to Foundation volunteer Charmaine Harris for the many hours of work she has put into this project, and to Western Power for sponsoring the update of our volunteer training programmes.

Although we have a team on most sections of the Track, there are always some spaces somewhere, especially in the regions. We'd love to hear from you if you would like to know more.

I must pass on to all maintenance volunteers the sincere thanks from the great number of walkers who appreciate the dedication of our 300 or so volunteers. A programme such as this is not common on walking trails throughout the world and often comes as a pleasant surprise. 🌻

Thanks to you all

Gwen Plunkett  
Volunteer Coordinator



A new fire ring and railings were installed during the Wellington District Field Day.



Maintenance volunteer, Kelvey Pearson, repairing a badly eroded area on his section Kalamunda to Fern Road.

## End-to-Enders Picnic

Are you an End-to-Ender?  
Have you registered your end-to-end with the Foundation?

If you have, you will receive your invite to the End-to-Enders Picnic in the coming months.

Have a chance to meet the people you have only read about in the register books and those who followed your journey. Selected campsite registers will be available for viewing! Bring your photos and stories.

Details of the picnic will be sent to all registered end-to-enders soon. Make sure we have your up-to-date details!

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

## 2010 'BEST OF THE BIBBULMUN' TOURS

**Tour 1** Bibbulmun & Beyond departs 10th May 2010 and ventures beyond the Bibbulmun Track into the Stirling Range National Park near Albany.

**Tour 2** The 8 day Highlights of the Bibbulmun Track, departs 6th September 2010 in the midst of the spectacular wildflower season.

Both all-inclusive tours are expertly led by Steve Sertis from the Foundation, and showcase the very best the Bibbulmun Track has to offer. The itineraries have been carefully compiled to combine a variety of day-walks with off-track accommodation and the specially selected full and half-day walks take in some spectacular scenery.

Maximum 16 people

Visit our website to download the dossier and registration form for Bibbulmun & Beyond and an Expression of Interest form for the 8 Day Highlights



DEC staff member, Scott Hunter, demonstrates the finer points of water bar installation in the Perth Hills District.



Light Horse Memorial and Mt Clarence



Sandpatch and the Albany wind farm

# TRACK TOWN Albany

## BURSTING WITH HISTORY AND UNLIMITED NATURAL ATTRACTIONS

The City of Albany is set on the rugged south coast of Western Australia and is the southern terminus of the Bibbulmun Track.

If you are attempting the long walk down from Kalamunda, 200kms out from Albany you leave the towering forest of the Karri and Tingle trees and reach the southern coast. The Bibbulmun Aboriginal language group previously inhabited this area, after whom the Track is named. You will trek through the dramatic West Cape Howe National Park with the large granite cliffs and pristine white sandy beaches and along rugged cliff tops, which provide magnificent views of the southern ocean. This wild landscape provides solitude to reflect on the past days, weeks of your trek or perhaps of the exciting days of the journey ahead.

Albany is the first European settlement in Western Australia (colonised in 1826, three years before the Swan River Colony) and because of this, the area is bursting with history but also has unlimited natural attractions which draw many tourists to this diverse region.

Albany has plenty of interesting history, but one of the more significant, which is relatively unknown to the passing tourist is the ANZAC connection.

In 1914, several convoys carrying ANZAC troops to Gallipoli and Western Front assembled in King George Sound. Albany islands, rugged cliffs and brilliant white sandy beaches for many was their last sight of Australia.

The first dawn service was inaugurated in Albany on Mt Clarence and this tradition has continued through to today. The Light Horse Memorial stands defiant on Mt Clarence and is well worth the visit for the views alone.

Albany boasts some of the finest foods and premium wines in the area and if your stay falls over the weekend, you can sample some of the freshest produce at the weekly Farmers and Boatshed Markets. Fine selection of seasonal fresh fruit and vegetables, fish, meats, dairy products and seafood is available and this is where you will find the locals on a Saturday and Sunday morning. Albany prides itself on 'back to basics' where you can buy your produce directly from the farmers themselves. You won't find anything fresher than hand-picked vegetables or fish caught that morning!

Between June and November is one of Albany's busiest times being the peak of our wildflower and whale watching season.

Our wildflowers are world famous as over half of the 10,000 plant species in Western Australia occur naturally throughout the South West.

Albany is a gateway for wildflower areas including the Stirling Range National Park. The Stirling Ranges is one of the most important areas in the world for flora with 87 plant species that occur here are found nowhere else on earth.

Porongurup Ranges are also in this region and are one of the earth's oldest mountain ranges, dating back to more than 1,000 million years old. There are over 700 species of flowering plants and 78 species of birds. The wildflower season run predominate from August to November. Two beautiful areas, which are well worth a day trip from Albany.

Closer to town there are several of walks on offer which you can find flowers blooming which most of them come hand in hand with breathtaking views of Albany and the coastline.

Albany's prime industry from colonisation up until the late 1970's was whaling. Our natural deep water harbour was a safe haven for many passing sealing and whaling boats which sailed and hunted on the enduring Southern Ocean. Amazingly after all these years of hunting, whales are returning and using the Albany waters as a refuge before heading on the long trip down to Antarctica. From June through to October is the peak whale watching season where you are able to watch the magnificent Humpback and the endangered Southern Right Whale frolic with their young. The Whales venture close enough to land that you are able to sight them from scenic walks and trails in the Albany area.

Albany has a little bit of something for everyone, if you are a history enthusiast, adventure seeker, food and wine lover or simply looking for a relaxing place to put your feet up after a hard days trek, Albany can cater for all.

Happy trekking from Albany!



ALBANY VISITOR CENTRE

Old Railway Station, Proudlove Parade

Ph: 9841 9290 – www.amazingalbany.com

# Bibbulmun Track

## USER SURVEY

The 12-month user survey was completed in October 2008. 18 sections of Track, from remote to high-traffic areas, were used for observations and interviews. A systematic schedule of sessions covering all times of the day and week was outlined for each section, and 458 of these sessions were completed by BTF volunteers between September 2007 and October 2008. 6,179 walkers in 2,201 walking groups were observed during these sessions, and 592 walkers were interviewed.

This was a huge undertaking, and the Foundation would like to acknowledge the efforts of volunteer coordinator, Gwen Plunkett, and volunteer Peter Whittle, who coordinated the sessions and followed up to make sure all the sections were adequately covered. And a special thank you to the many volunteers who conducted the observation and interview sessions for the study – which in many cases meant getting out to the Track at the crack of dawn regardless of the weather. Over 3000 volunteer hours were given for the survey.



### KEY RESULTS INCLUDE:

- Around 167,200 walks are made on the Track each year.
  - 7 out of 10 enjoy day walks – from a short stroll to a full day.
  - 2 out of 10 walk for 2 to 6 days.
  - 1 in 10 were walking for 7 days or more and around half of these were walking for more than 6 weeks – resulting in 434,500 days on Track\*.
- (\*Days on Track are the basic unit of observation for the study, as during a multi-day walk it is possible that a walker would be observed on more than one occasion. A 'day on track' does not refer to any specific length of time – the walk could be anything from a few minutes to the full 24 hours.)

### TRACK USERS

- 53% Male and 47% Female
- 3 in 10 are under 25 years of age.
- 87% of walkers interviewed were from WA.
- 6% from interstate and 7% from overseas.
- Overseas and interstate visitors tend to walk for longer periods, and 1 in 3 had planned to walk the Track before arriving in WA.

### USER SATISFACTION

- 87% of users rated the track as a 6 or 7 out of 7 in terms of how pleased they were with their walk.
- 7 out of 10 walkers said that the Track far exceeded their expectations.
- 89% of people interviewed on the Track intended to reuse it (and 98% of walkers from WA).
- 30% of the interstate and international visitors surveyed said they would return to WA to walk more of the Track.

### ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE TRACK

- Based on the 167,200 walks estimated to take place each year, \$39 million is spent each year as a result of walkers on the Bibbulmun Track (\$28 million excluding equipment).

## 4-DAY SOUTH COAST ESCAPE

### The perfect holiday for those who love walking but not camping!

This self-drive, 4-night/3-day itinerary enables you to complete the 45.6km section of the Bibbulmun Track from Sandpatch to Eden Road between Albany and Denmark – and enjoy comfortable accommodation and meals at Cape Howe Cottages each evening.

The entire package is arranged for you and includes all meals, car shuffle transfers (from cottages to the Track), a Southern Guide Book and Map 8 (Denmark/Albany).

Price: from \$552 per person for 2 people, or from \$429 per person for 4 people

### OPTIONAL EXTRA:

Extend the above package: stay another night and walk a 4th day to complete a 58.9km section of Track.

From \$130 extra per person for 2 people, or from \$105 per person for 4 people

Call Millie at the Foundation on (08) 9321 0649



# Yes, THEY DID IT!

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

3 came from overseas, 17 from  
interstate and 24 from WA



Western Australia's wettest winter for many years didn't dampen the walking spirit of hikers as they continued to cover the ground on the Track between Kalamunda and Albany. To many, the Track has a unique beauty in the winter months.

CONGRATULATIONS go to all the following walkers on achieving their "End-to-End" status over the past few months!

**Franck Villard** (44) came from Switzerland to walk the Bibbulmun again (S-N, 23.05.09 to 11.07.09), after already walking N-S in Spring, 2005. He says that, coming from the other direction, it was like a new track. Special highlights included watching dolphins play with surfers at Mazzoletti Beach, and seeing the mist-filled valley at Blackwood. And his first campfire at Dog Pool was a great occasion! He enjoyed the variety of wildlife, and found the whole experience very different to walking in Switzerland.

**Allan Perry** (54) and **Dave Chambers** (54), both from Dunedin in New Zealand, found that meeting other walkers and spending time with them was a highlight during their trek (N-S, 10.08.09 to 25.09.09). The Track and the shelters exceeded Dave's expectations and Allan agreed the Track was good, but found a lot of over-hanging bushes in places. Food drops were used, and supplemented by supplies in the towns – most of which were good. Dave's favourite sections were the lowlands and coastal parts, and Allan loved the coastal section from Mandalay to Albany. Both remarked how totally different the Bibbulmun was to their usual

tramping environment in New Zealand! Allan's best equipment was duct tape!! (Are there some stories here?) They advise others to give it your best shot, be well prepared, follow the markers and have fun.

**Peter Green** (58) from Kariiong in NSW was better known as "Betty Swollocks" during his walk (N-S, 03.07.09 to 25.08.09). It was very much a solo walk, with 32 nights on his own, including 11 consecutive track-days when he saw no-one! Peter "enjoyed every minute of every day" on the Track – even the hail! Frankland River was his favourite shelter. The Bibbulmun is the longest trek that Peter has made, but he says he'd do it all over again, despite missing his family. He advises others to use a proper bush-walking pack, not a travel-pack, and put everything inside your pack, and ditch the plastic ponchos because they get shredded by the wind.

*'Good, bad, easy, hard, wet, dry, hot, cold (actually freezing), rainy, sunny, hope, despair, fear, courage, elation, nostalgia. SPECTACULAR!'*

**Fiona Ronchi**

Brothers **Dave** (34) and **Greg** (27) **Ball** from Mt Nelson in Tasmania (N-S, 01.09.08 to 11.11.08) were impressed with the level of co-operation shown between walkers, communities and government agencies in the provision and maintenance of the Track. This magnificent infrastructure made it an easier walk than some completed in Spain, Nepal and Tasmania. Greg walked himself back into good health and condition after a long illness, helped by posting their own dehydrated vegies to track town post offices along the way. These were also supplemented by whatever was available in shops. A special highlight was meeting the 10th Anniversary walkers between Mts. Cuthbert and Vincent. Dave found it was unique to combine hills, bush, coast, towns and camping in a very Australian environment. They advise others not to be in too much of a hurry to finish – have some days off in the shelters to enjoy the scenery and weather.

**Edward Parr** (72) was accompanied this time by his daughter, **Lisa Barry** (41), when he returned from Coogee in NSW to complete another end-to-end (N-S, 26.03.09 to 09.05.09). Lisa is

hooked on the Bibbulmun and would love to return to enjoy again one of the most rewarding long-walk experiences she has ever had. Lisa found the lack of fresh food was difficult, but Edward loved the fresh coffee at villages and towns, especially Balingup and Graphiti Café. Both were appreciative of the volunteers' efforts in maintaining the shelters and making the walk possible without support. Lisa loved the solitude and quietness of the forests, the Tree Top Walk and seeing the ocean and Edward's favourite section was Walpole to Demark.

**Bob Gillespie** from Slade Point in Queensland (N-S, 24.02.08 to 30.04.08) said the shelters, Track and water all combined to make his trip most enjoyable. He passes on his thanks and congratulations on the management of the Track.

**Marika Andersson** (29) from Whitfield in Queensland was part of "Team BMT" along with **Anthony Raudino** and **Byron Prowse** (N-S, 22.02.09 to 10.04.09). She found the Track was well-maintained and signposted, with little risk of getting lost. Track towns had adequate and varied supplies for restocking. It was too hard to choose a favourite section, but Blackwood campsite was 'truly magical'. Marika appreciated the opportunity to be able to reflect upon her life, clear her mind and gather ideas about her future. But she still had to decide what to eat for dinner and to remember to keep drinking! Wildlife included quokkas, snakes, schools of salmon, dolphins, emus, wild pigs and mozzies! Marika was amazed the Track is free. Advice for others is to take your time, appreciate every moment and let it teach you lots about yourself.

**Jennifer Sparrow** (66), **Gaynor Alder** (64) and **Paul Sharp**, all from South Australia, were successful in their second attempt at an end-to-end (sectional, 18.07.07 to 08.06.09). They said they learned much on their first attempt, so were much better prepared for their second. One improvement was Paul's wife being able to help with food drops so they could carry less weight. Gaynor's favourite section was Blackwood, and Jennifer also liked Beavis and Rame Head. The interesting people she met were highlights for Jennifer, and Gaynor loved the feeling of achievement at the end of each day. They were a little disappointed that they didn't see as much wildlife as they had hoped. Advice for others includes training with a pack in all terrains, and just getting out there and doing it.

**John** (65) and **Lorraine** (64) **Hodgkins** from Pambulo NSW (N-S, 28.07.09 to 23.09.09) both described the Bibbulmun as unique. John feels it has a 'spiritual' side in addition to the physical challenge. Lorraine liked the unique flora, fauna, fungi and vistas away from the noise of everyday life – despite the wild weather on the south coast. They found North Bannister and Balingup to be the most difficult for re-stocking, and were pleasantly surprised at DRV supplies. But the best meal on their trek was the mixed grill at the Northcliffe pub! The Pingerup Plains was a favourite section for both, with John also liking the tingle forests, and Lorraine the Monadnocks-Mt Cooke section. Highlights were many – seeing the campsites at the end of the day, Torbay's quenda, reading the journals and reaching the Southern Terminus. They felt a great sense of achievement when finished, admired the dedication of the volunteers and felt the pride that even WA non-walkers have in the Track. They advise to plan, train and just do it! Once started, the doubts will disappear – each day will be special. And never pass up a good log to rest on!

**Bruce Kentish** (58) and **Luke Adorni-Braccesi** (50) both travelled from Bendigo in Victoria for their end-to-end (N-S, 03.08.09 to 23.09.09), agreeing it was a great walk – fantastic and challenging. Luke was very grateful for the shelters, given that the weather was not the best! They sent food drops ahead to visitor centres and found good general supplies in the towns. Bruce's favourite section was Walpole to Albany, whereas Luke preferred the Donnelly River and tall timber areas. The whole walk was Bruce's highlight. Luke liked the challenge, meeting other walkers, and being able to complete the walk with a friend. He is grateful that the Track exists and is looked after by so many volunteers. Emus, roos, quokkas, pigs, bandicoots, bush rats and snakes were seen along their journey. Bruce recommends it as a great way to lose weight!

**Michael White** (34) of Watson's Bay NSW was also known as "Stepper" during his end-to-end (N-S, 31.07.09 to 22.09.09). He describes the Bibbulmun as a significant natural resource and an asset for WA to be proud of. He found towns had adequate supplies and there was no need for food drops. A favourite section was Frankland to Rame Head. He felt the walk was a worthwhile exercise and enjoyed the isolation which allowed much contemplation. This was Michael's first major walk and his Paddy Pallin 'Swift' pants were among his best equipment. His advice is to

use food containers provided in the shelters to keep food safe, and to just start!

**Annie Didcott** (64) of Chifley in the ACT was "Annie D" as she walked (N-S, 23.07.09 to 21.09.09) on her "voyage of discovery, a wonderful adventure, a golden thread linking infinite precious jewels, a meeting place for new and special friends, a healing and sustaining entity – the Bibbulmun Track!" Mailing parcels ahead was no problem as people in the track towns are willing to hold them for walkers. Her favourite section was Schafer to Mandalay Beach, with highlights too many to mention. Annie was overwhelmingly impressed with the quality of the Track, signage, maps, public support and interest and encouragement. In her considerable walking experience, the Bibbulmun is unique! Her advice is to travel light – make as many items as possible serve more than one purpose. Annie carried a spare pack-liner and sewed it into a skirt to keep her shorts dry in the driving rain!

**David Anderson** (40) of Brunswick deserves special congratulations as his achievement has earned him 'membership' of the small band of Double end-to-enders! (N-S, 22.04.09 to 09.06.09 and S-N, 10.06.09 to 21.07.09). He says "What a trip!" It was a great holiday and he met some amazing people along the way. His favourite section was the White Horse Hills. Highlights for David included the south coast and walking back into Kalamunda at the end of his 'double'. He felt an amazing sense of achievement after 91 days. Much wildlife was seen and David's pack was his best equipment. His advice for others is to always carry one more day's food than needed.

**Julie-Anne Elkins** (24) from Morangup walked with **Jeevan** (as reported in Issue 50) to complete her end-to-end (Sectional, 06.10.08 to 23.04.09). She describes the Bibbulmun as a wonderful, well set-up Track and thanks the volunteers who help to make it work. Julie-Anne made many wonderful friends along the way, and had such a fantastic time that she can't wait to do it all over again! She found food supplies were not so good

**Ed note:** the North Bannister roadhouse, called Three-Ways, doesn't stock walker supplies but the owners are happy to hold parcels that walkers post to them. Supplies have improved at the Balingup General Store thanks to the efforts of the new owners.





fitness improved through the calming experience; Jeanne's fitness also improved and she enjoyed the challenge. Both Julie and Dale have got the bug and have gone on to do other walks, and Amanda and Elizabeth agreed it was a fantastic experience! They enjoyed looking out for wildlife (even for the snakes!), and Julie found the red-headed mouse spider to be very impressive! Advice is unanimous – just get out there, do it and enjoy yourself! You can do it “your own way”, as they did; enjoy the company of others; travel light and don't worry about being too prepared – you can always improve things along the way!

**Melanie Niblett** (44) undertook a solo end-to-end (sectional, 15.10.07 to 05.12.08). She posted some food parcels but found there was no problem obtaining food supplies along the way. Melanie's highlights included the scenery/landscapes on the high points, especially in the northern section. She also liked the karri trees and the first glimpse of the ocean. Lots of cockatoos were seen, as were tiger snakes south of Beavis. A possum chewed through the top of her new pack at Beavis!

**Geoff Heasman** (55) from Kingsley completed his end-to-end over several years (sectional, 22.09.97 to 10.07.09), walking most of it during winter and spring months. Highlights for Geoff included walking some sections with his son, **Jarryd**; the inlet crossings; Monadnocks and Mt Cooke; the coastal sections; the karri and tingle trees and his first ever walk on the Track. He found his time on the Track to be very peaceful, allowing him to “recharge”. Wildlife included cockatoos, emus, roos, raptors and quendas. The Bibbulmun compares well with interstate and overseas walks that Geoff has completed. His best piece of equipment was his Thermarest, much better than a foam sleeping mat! He advises others to walk in winter as it's less crowded on the Track.

**Richard Clare** (66) of Yealering was “Tricky C” while he had a great time (sectional, 13.04.09 to 14.09.09) walking to fundraise for the St John Ambulance Volunteer First Aid Service, in an effort to upgrade their life-saving equipment. Well done Richard, in raising several thousand dollars! Richard planned his own food drops, but thought it would have been better if something decent was available between Kalamunda and Dwellingup. His favourite section was Walpole to Albany. While he saw the wildlife he was expecting to see, a solitary echidna was a pleasant surprise. Best equipment included his Columbia boots and Bridgedale socks. He advises others to plan thoroughly, and just “do it!”

**Jan Thomson** (66) from Erskine is an experienced Bibbulmun walker who developed a desire to do a solo trek. After successfully completing this (N-S, 30.03.09 to 09.05.09), she found it was such a memorable and wonderful trip that she would like to repeat it all over again! Previously burying food supplies along the way worked well for her. Jan loved the solitude, enjoyed the whole Track, and was overcome with tears when she finished in Albany. She saw a lot of wildlife, but hated seeing so many feral pigs. Walking poles were Jan's favourite equipment. She advises others to try the Track alone for a

marvellous experience, to take good equipment and to travel light.

**Gabriella LaBianca** (23) from Hammond Park and **Kylie Dybing** (24) from Warnbro called themselves “Gobby and Yobby, the Tea Merchants” during their walk (S-N, 11.05.09 to 02.07.09) when they encountered some of “the worst, shocking, coldest weather”. Gabriella sometimes wanted to give up, but kept going and Kylie says she overcame so much pain that she knows she can now do anything! They kept to fairly basic food supplies bought from towns, and had one food drop. The coastal section from Albany to Peaceful bay was Gabriella's favourite section, but Kylie preferred the hills closer to Kalamunda. Highlights for them included getting to Balingup (for the mushroom pies!), conquering massive hills, and the unexpected early sight of the shelter after a long day. Gabriella found the whole experience to be very peaceful, but Kylie found it hard coping with the cold! ‘Multi-talented walking poles’ were Gabriella's best equipment, and Kylie liked her backpack. They suggest carrying extra clothes for warmth in winter, securing your food bags at night, and being well-prepared with blister treatments.

**Fred Smart** (73) of Camillo attained a lot of pleasure and satisfaction from his solo end-to-end (S-N, 23.06.09 to 18.08.09) during which he had 30 nights to himself! A great sense of achievement was felt because he had been forced to end an attempt last year due to a bad bite/sting. He posted dried vegies ahead, and supplemented them with supplies from the towns. A food drop was also organised for North Bannister. Favourite sections included Mandalay Beach and Mt Cooke, and Fred's highlights were watching whales in the Southern Ocean, and his reception at Kalamunda. A lowlight was seeing the Track disappear into the Donnelly River FIVE times north of One Tree Bridge! He enjoyed seeing lots of small birds at the campsites, also saw snakes and roos, and heard some pigs. Fred was happy with all his gear, but especially liked his boots, MSR reactor cooker, walking poles and Hubba Hubba tent. He gave himself quite a scare at the Irwin Inlet crossing, so advises others to put up their tent in stormy weather!

**Peter Stubbings** (64) from Mt Nasura called himself “Cephus” during his walk (S-N, 29.07.09 to 09.09.09). He enjoyed the experience and will be out on the Track again as soon as possible. He dropped food supplies to pubs along the way and had no trouble finding food available in towns. It was too difficult to name a favourite section, and highlights included meeting fellow hikers along the Track. He was on his own for most of the walk and found it very easy to “fall into Track life”. There were lots of roos in the southern sections, and Peter also saw eagles, quokkas, bandicoots and foxes. The excellent, free facilities along the Bibbulmun helped make him feel that this walk was better than many others he has completed. His “Jetboil” stove was his best equipment. Advice to others is to plan well, ask questions and follow advice before setting out.

**Cliff Morris** (60) from Karragullen walked with BTF Volunteer **Tony Jennings** (52) of Duncraig (N-S, 27.07.09 to 15.09.09). Cliff was

impressed with the effective “Track culture” shown between DEC, the BTF and the Track users. Tony was very happy to achieve a goal he set himself 10 years ago. They supplemented their light food supplies at towns along the way, including ‘Backcountry’ meals as an occasional treat. Tony's favourite section was from Walpole to Denmark, whereas Cliff preferred the section between Lake Maringup and Long Point. Cliff enjoyed their early starts which meant they could spend lazy, relaxing afternoons in the shelters. A huge variety of wildlife was seen, and the wildflowers continued to become more impressive as they moved southward. Tony was very pleased that he was able to handle the walk, as it had been an unknown quantity for him at the start. For Cliff, it was like moving through a palette of landscapes, ecosystems, geology and human habitation. He has trekked extensively overseas, but says nothing compares to the shelters and the vegetation along the Bibbulmun. While Tony liked all his gear, both listed their ‘Thermarest’ mattresses as best equipment. Cliff wishes he hadn't relied on his old, tired boots! They say to listen to advice from experienced walkers about equipment and food, and to make sure your boots are the best.

*“What a trip! It was a great holiday and I met some amazing people along the way!”*

**Martin Cabalt** (54) from Kalamunda was “Martin the brelli man” when he completed his second end-to-end (S-N, 05.08.09 to 02.10.09). He found the Track to be generally well-maintained and well-signed, with a section near Quarram Beach being the only exception.

His favourite section was from Denmark to Pemberton, taking in both the coast and the tall forests. Martin's highlights included seeing a bilby at Giants and a quokka at Warren. He enjoyed meeting other trekkers, especially those from overseas, and talking around the campfires. A vast range of wildlife and birds was seen, including three eagles. He feels the Bibbulmun is “up with the best in the world”, and the shelters make it easier for walkers of all ages. His umbrella which acted as a walking stick was Martin's best equipment, along with his rain gear. He advises others to take their time to soak it all in, mentally break it into small sections, take lots of photos for memories, and wear gaiters south of Northcliffe!

**Bob Camden** (62) of Dianella (sectional, Oct 99 to 03.10.09) said the Track was an invigorating challenge, exposing him to many wonderful experiences with nature. Highlights for him included tenting in a casuarina forest between campsites, crossing Torbay inlet, the tingle forest and seeing wedge-tailed eagles around Mt Wells. Bob saw a huge variety of birds along the way in addition to emus, roos and snakes. He also enjoyed the orchids and the wildflowers on the south coast. Being able to relax away from the rush of work was appreciated. He advises others to prepare well, as good preparation will enhance the enjoyment. 🌸

## TIARA TREKKERS

# We've done it. It's all over!



We went out with a bang completing 79kms in five days. Staying at Elizabeth's brother's place for two nights, on the track for 2 nights and 1 night at the Mundaring Weir Hotel.

On Sunday 5th July we walked either 22kms or 24kms (depends which map you are reading) from Randall Road to Brookton Highway. On Monday carrying full packs we walked the last 57kms into the Kalamunda terminus arriving after 4 days on Thursday 9th July.

Looking back, I can say now that the hills were beautiful and scenery fantastic and the weather amazing (considering it was July). Having said this, I do remember at the time saying a few rude words under my breath along the lines of “When was the last #@%hill going to @%\$## finish.”. But I guess it was fitting that we had to put in the hard slog for the last of the Bibbulmun Track walks, we appreciated the finish all the more.

We have a lot of people to thank that helped us achieve this final walk. Elizabeth's brother Roger for allowing us to stay in his house, Beth and John for taking us to the drop off on the last lap and for parking our cars at their place. Ken and Marg for the drop off and being there with balloons at the end. Amanda and Jemimah for presenting our medals, placards and chocolates. I don't think anyone expected that good a welcome at the end. Then off to the pub with helium balloons above our heads to celebrate.

Thankyou also to our family and friends, both those there at the end to wish us well and those that have done without us at home for the last 3 years for their support.

It's with a little sadness that we are finished, I doubt that there will ever be a walk that long that we can complete. How lucky we are to have such a fantastic track right at our back door.

**Thankyou Bibbulmun Track Foundation, we had an amazingly wonderful time.**



# Accommodation, Tours and Services

The following businesses have supported the Track by becoming Affiliated Members. Please take a look and remember them when you next book a tour or accommodation. The Foundation is happy to welcome BALINGUP HEIGHTS HILLTOP FOREST COTTAGES, NELSONS OF BRIDGETOWN, DWELLINGUP OUTDOOR & LEISURE SUPPLIES and NATURALLY WALPOLE TOURS who have joined recently. Thanks to all our Affiliated Organisations for their support!

BUSINESS NAME	TOWN	TYPE OF BUSINESS	PHONE NO.	DISCOUNT OFFERED TO MEMBERS
ADVENTURE WILD	PERTH	Tour operator	www.adventurewild.com.au	
ADVENTUROUS WOMEN	PERTH	Tour operator	(08) 9467 7304	
ESCAPE DAY SPAS	PERTH	Health	(08) 9383 4328	
ON TRACK HIKING HIRE	PERTH	Equipment	0401 625 668	10%.
MUNDARING WEIR HOTEL	MUNDARING	Accommodation/ Restaurant-café	(08) 9295 1106	No.
DWELLINGUP ADVENTURES	DWELLINGUP	Tour	(08) 9538 1127	10% on self-guided walk & canoe tour.
DWELLINGUP CHALETs & CARAVAN PARK	DWELLINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9538 1157	No.
DWELLINGUP OUTDOOR & LEISURE SUPPLIES	DWELLINGUP	Equipment	(08) 9538 1049	
TADDY CREEK	DWELLINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9285 1727	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 HEIGHTS HILLTOP FOREST COTTAGES	BALINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9764 1283	
BALINGUP LAVENDER FARM	BALINGUP	Attraction/Café	(08) 9764 1436	10% off essential oil of lavender.
BALINGUP ROSE B&B	BALINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9764 1205	10% (direct bookings only).
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.
OAKFIELD COUNTRY HOUSE B&B	BALINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9764 1641	10% off standard rates (direct bookings only).
ORIGINS CENTRE	BALINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9764 1109	10%.
NELSONS OF BRIDGETOWN	BRIDGETOWN	Accom/Rest-café	(08) 9761 1641	
YOHO PIZZA	SOUTH WEST	Catering	(08) 9756 0616	10% off orders over \$150.
DONNELLY RIVER HOLIDAY VILLAGE	DONNELLY RIVER	Accommodation	(08) 9772 1244	From \$20 pp.
SOUTHERN FORESTS WA	MANJIMUP	Information Provider	(08) 9771 7777	
OLD PICTURE THEATRE HOLIDAY APARTMENTS	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 1513	Sun-Thu (direct bookings only).
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 & CAR HIRE	PEMBERTON	Tour/Transport prov.	(08) 9776 0484	10% off tours, Track transfers and car hire
PEMBERTON FARM CHALETs	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 1290	10%.
PEMBERTON VISITOR CENTRE INC	PEMBERTON	Tourist Bureau	(08) 9776 1133	
PUMP HILL FARM COTTAGES	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 1379	
RIVERWAY CHALETs	NORTHCLIFFE	Accommodation	(08) 9776 7183	10%.
WATERMARK KILNS	NORTHCLIFFE	Accommodation	(08) 9776 7349	22%.
CHE SARA SARA CHALETs	WALPOLE	Accommodation	(08) 9840 8004	
COALMINE BEACH HOLIDAY PARK	WALPOLE	Accommodation	(08) 9840 1026	10%.
NATURALLY WALPOLE TOURS	WALPOLE	Tour/Transport prov.	(08) 9840 1019	
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	10%.
DENMARK VISITOR CENTRE	DENMARK	Tourist Bureau	(08) 9848 2055	
DENMARK WATERFRONT MOTEL	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 1147	5%.
KARMA CHALETs	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 1568	
PENSIONE VERDE ORGANIC ACCOM.	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 1700	[add] 10% on ensuite rooms.
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 standard rates. Free Track drop-off.
BAYVIEW BACKPACKERS YHA	ALBANY	Accommodation	(08) 9842 3388	10% off full pricing. Plus free 30min Internet.
ALBANY VISITOR CENTRE	ALBANY	Tourist Bureau	(08) 9841 1088	No.
FREDERICKSTOWN MOTEL	ALBANY	Accommodation	(08) 9841 1600	
NORMAN HOUSE	ALBANY	Accommodation	(08) 9841 5995	5%.

## Hikers Hideaway



**Cosy & Comfortable, Central to Cafes, Tavern, Craft & Bus Suits singles, groups or families.**  
Fresh linen provided, towels for hire, laundry with dryer.

Reception at Post Office bookings recommended.

**Balingup Budget Accommodation**  
Ph 08 9764 1049  
www.wn.com.au/hotbunks  
email: hotbunks@wn.com.au

## Bridgetown

**NELSONS OF BRIDGETOWN**



Restaurant open daily for breakfast, lunch & dinner... Phone now to book a table

Looking for something fun & different to do on a Friday / Saturday night?

Grab a group of 20 & have your own Murder Mystery Night...

Package Deals Available. Includes Meals, Mystery & Accommodation if required

Work it into your Christmas / Work Function

Come in & have a look at our menu / function facilities for you upcoming event... weddings, birthdays, corporate meetings

38 Hampton Street, Bridgetown, WA, 6255

Ph: (08) 9761 1641

Fax: (08) 9761 2372

www.nelsonsofbridgetown.com.au

nelsons@westnet.com.au



## Denmark

**PENSIONE VERDE ORGANIC ACCOMMODATION**



A small intimate Guesthouse and organic cooking school set in the bustling village of Denmark on the South Coast of Western Australia.

Denmark hosts a vibrant arts, food and wine scene all easily accessible from this centrally located in town Pensione.

We can cater to guests with organic and special dietary needs breakfasts, picnic baskets and evening meal platters.

Every Track walker receives a 10% discount on a queen or twin room with ensuite bathroom.

www.denmarkaccommodation.com.au

or 9848 1700.



## Taste of the Bibbulmun

2-4 day fully-guided walks



## Ever wanted to walk the Bibbulmun Track but don't have the confidence to do it on your own?

Rediscover nature on our small group guided walks in the Denmark area. We carry the heavy packs and you enjoy the scenery.

Each night you return to the serenity of Karma Chalets, nestled in the karri forest. There's nothing better than a comfy bed in a cosy chalet after an exhilarating day's walk. Leave behind the stresses of modern day life and get some good Karma!

Choose from 2, 3 or 4 day guided packages. Each itinerary has been carefully selected to showcase the diverse landscapes and vegetation of the region. Includes accommodation, breakfast, lunch and snacks, dinner for one night, track transfers, and an expert guide who provides interpretation throughout your walk. Numbers are restricted. Packages start from \$695 per person.

Call or email David or Lenore at Wilderness Getaways for your holiday package today.

(08) 9848 2814  
bookings@wildernessgetaways.com.au



# Getting into Gear

## Walking in Summer



The other day I bumped into Charmaine, one of the BTF volunteers and member of the FOFs, who are mentioned in Track Trivia page 23.

"Wendy and I are off on another end-to-end", she said.

"When?"

"This summer."

"Summer!" I raised my eyebrows.

"We wanted to try something different".

"Good luck!"

I hoped that my slightly disparaging body language conveyed what I thought of a summer end-to-end!

For those of you reading this who don't know, it gets hot here in the summer - like 40 degrees plus at times, and walking in those conditions is not only uncomfortable, it can be very hazardous.

**Let's look at the top half.** (The body, not the Track!)

With all the sweating that is inevitable during a summer walk I prefer to avoid synthetic fibres. I know there's lots of promotional material out there from fabric manufacturers about treatments like coolmax, or silver, or wicking, or

breathability of synthetics, but I keep coming back to Merino wool. I have yet to find a synthetic fabric that compares with Merino in wicking, quick drying and, some would say most importantly, the 'lack of stink' factor.

I use a lightweight Merino top, 150 grams a metre in weight, and I find that I don't overheat or get smelly. At least that's my story! I have used one synthetic top made by a West Australian firm called Uveto, long sleeved, white, with a collar.

It may still rain! So make sure you have a decent waterproof jacket, and it can still get cold at night, so a lightweight fleece can be useful.

Sea to Summit make some good wide-brimmed hats, some with breathable mesh around the rim, although a lot of people like to use peaked caps. A wide-brimmed hat with breathing capability will protect the tops of your ears and the back of your neck. I sometimes use a cheese cloth style cotton scarf that I wet down with water and hang around my neck to cool down.

On the bottom half, I tend to use long pants with zip off legs to convert them to shorts, and I always use gaiters to protect my lower legs from snakes.

Summer is a time to use light weight breathable footwear rather than big, clunky boots. Avoid anything that inhibits "breathing", and moisture transference. Wear one pair of socks rather than two.

Sunscreen and lip balm are essential. Flies are everywhere, so take insect repellent and consider a fly veil. It may be worthwhile to have a mesh tent inner to protect you inside the shelter if mozzies are out in force.

Water is very important. Carry two litres minimum (ideally three), water bottles or bladder. Two tips: use a mineral replacement like "Gastrolyte" and drink at least half a litre of water before you set off in the morning.

You should always keep in contact with DEC, and log on to the BTF website whenever you get into towns, so you can stay informed about potential problems in the area and avoid getting caught up in an emergency. ⚙️

**Mike Wood,**  
Mountain Designs WA



## SEA TO SUMMIT'S SPINIFEX ANKLE GAITERS



Protect your shoes and socks from the stones, sticks, seeds and sand of the Bibbulmun Track with Sea to Summit's Spinifex ankle gaiters.

Made from either double-layered 450 denier Ripstop nylon or tight woven core spun canvas, these heavy duty minimalist gaiters are perfect for summer weather walking.

From RRP **\$29.95**

[www.seatosummit.com.au](http://www.seatosummit.com.au)



## Summer Walking On The Bibbulmun Track

The Bibbulmun Track is not always the best place to be in the height of summer especially in the northern section where the risk of bush fire is great and it is just too hot to be a pleasant experience.

As a general rule the Foundation doesn't recommend walking in the summer months, however, in some sections, for example deep in the tall karri country of Donnelly River and Pemberton or in magnificent Tingle forest just outside Walpole and even along the south coast, it is possible to have a very enjoyable and safe experience. Here are five short day walk suggestions in ideal locations. They're all return walks and include a Bibbulmun campsite where you can stop and enjoy morning tea or lunch.

Walk No. 1 Tom Road ( Donnelly Drive)/Panda Road to Tom Road Campsite  
Map 5 (Pemberton) - 5 km return

Walk No. 2 Beedelup Falls Carpark to Beedelup Campsite  
Map 5 (Pemberton) - 2.8km return

Walk No. 3 Beedelup Road (Karri Forest Explorer Drive Trail) to Beedelup Campsite  
Map 5 (Pemberton) - 7.4km return

Walk No. 4 Tree Top Walk to Giants campsite  
Map 7 (Walpole) - 3.2km return

Walk No. 5 Cosy Corner Picnic Area to Torbay Campsite  
Map 8 (Denmark/Albany) - 5.2km return

### EXTRA TIPS FOR SUMMER WALKING...

- ✓ Start off early in the morning.
- ✓ Take extra water - 3 litres per person per day is recommended.
- ✓ Slip, Slop, Slap - Protect yourself against the sun - apply sunscreen, wear a wide-brimmed hat and a long-sleeve shirt.
- ✓ Avoid walking on days of extreme fire danger

### SPECIAL SUMMER OFFER



The Bibbulmun Track on the South Coast CD - Mandalay to Albany  
**\$15 and only \$10 for members (rrp \$24)**

This interactive CD is bursting with information and perfect for inquisitive kids and adults alike - discover the land, history, peoples, plants and animals of the south west coast of Australia - even print out a Plant Guide to take with you on your walk - using the clue sheet, see how many plants you can spot.

#### Cape to Cape Track publications

If you're planning a holiday in the Margaret River area this summer remember we stock the Cape to Cape maps and guidebook. Another invaluable publication, 'Walking Around in Circles' details other short walks in the area and to complement this publication the author, Jane Scott, has just released a NEW wildflower guide, Find That Flower - rrp \$19.95. Remember BTF members get 10% off.

## Outstanding Service Award 2009

Congratulations to Tony Jennings who received an Outstanding Service Award from the Department of Environment and Conservation



Tony has been a volunteer with the Bibbulmun Track Foundation since 2000.

Initially he was a maintenance volunteer looking after a section of the Track just out from Kalamunda and including Hewetts Hill campsite, one of the most walked sections of the Track. Being such a well-used section meant that the need for ongoing maintenance was very high and Tony visited his section every few weeks.

Tony did a great job looking after this section until 2007 when he reluctantly relinquished it to take on the role of team leader of the Western Power Maintenance team. Western Power is a Diamond Sponsor of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation and looks after two sections south of Collie, including Yabberup Campsite.

In addition to being a maintenance volunteer, Tony is also one of our more experienced volunteer guides leading both day walks and overnight walks, including one of our most popular events, Walking with Dad. More recently Tony has been guiding one of the heats of the Mountain Designs Bibbulmun Team Challenge. The Team Challenge, one of our major events, is held over four weeks in October and November.

As an indication of his commitment to the environment Tony successfully completed a three-day training course to become an Honorary CALM Officer. As a guide Tony is frequently out on the Bibbulmun Track so is perfectly placed to talk to, and educate, trail bike riders, mountain bike riders and occupants of motor vehicles about the correct use of the Bibbulmun Track and the necessity of abiding by the rules governing access to forest quarantine areas.

Tony has been a staunch supporter of the Bibbulmun Track and the Foundation since 1998 and is one of our most popular guides. He has recently completed an end-to-end so has been able to experience at first hand the work done by his fellow maintenance volunteers.

An Outstanding Service Award is appropriate recognition of his professionalism, enthusiasm and commitment to the Bibbulmun Track. ⚙️

# Mountain Designs Bibbulmun Team Challenge 2009



## CONGRATULATIONS TO WARA, CHALLENGE CHAMPIONS 2009.



The Western Australian Rogaining Association's "Control Freaks" take the title for 2009. Team members were Ashley Horton, Claire Macleay, James Kelly and Alexia Horton.

At the Awards Night on Tuesday 10 November, the WARA Control Freaks were awarded the title of Challenge Champions for the Mountain Designs Bibbulmun Team Challenge 2009.

During October and November 64 participants in 16 teams competed in this unique team-building event – and raised over \$15,000 for the Track.

With special emphasis on outdoor skills, problem solving, environmental awareness and mental and physical challenges, the participants also walked 15kms each day along the Bibbulmun Track between North Bannister and Dwellingup. Each team also raced carts in Dwellingup and built an outrigger to race on the Murray River as part of the challenge.

Led by the Foundation's Events Manager Steve Sertis, the event involved 22 instructors and volunteers and we thank them for their time and enthusiasm.

### FIRST HEAT

Sea to Summit won the first heat for 2009! NAB took the lead early on the first day but then trailed behind Sea to Summit by only 25 points! Newmont and Pitcher Partners were vying for third place with only 40 points between them by the end of the heat. The margins were tight over the four days, but in the end Sea to Summit flew to the peak with NAB in second place followed by Newmont and Pitcher Partners who fell into fourth place only because of a lack of TLC toward their fifth 'member' who was sadly lost on the first day.



The Sea to Summit team put their thinking caps on

### SECOND HEAT

Congratulations to OAM-Group for winning the second heat. They never failed to get our attention for some marvellous performances. Though the golden boys took the lead early on, they were very closely followed by the Geraldton Grammar girls in blue. Calibre Engenium (High Calibre) and WestOne were constantly fighting over third place but a few pencils were lost meaning that High Calibre came in third beating WestOne by only 40 points.



The OAM Group team hung on to their lead in the second heat

### THIRD HEAT

Congratulations to the Dept of Environment and Conservation (the Woggles) for winning the third heat. They immediately took the lead on day one, but Western Power (the Power Factors) were determined to show them that it wasn't going to be an easy battle. Women Overboard tried to step in and take over second place – but they were a little busy with their gourmet food and slipped to third place. The Shire of Kalamunda (Gumnuts) showed their resolve by sticking at it. By the final day it seemed that the Woggles were about to weaken. But alas they held on to victory, followed by the Power Factors, Women Overboard and then the Gumnuts.



The team from DEC get the wheels rolling

### FOURTH HEAT

Congratulations to the WARA Control Freaks for winning the last heat for 2009. From early on the team in green took the lead. Whelans were determined to steal the lead from them and constantly gave their utmost. The Life Members

and the Leftovers were hot on their tale on day one. As the days progressed, the scores between teams grew with Whelans taking second place, the Life Members taking third, followed by the Leftovers.

### THE WRAP-UP

Decision making was obviously very important but making the right decisions was paramount, especially when it came to packing. A few teams brought too much food, one brought the wrong food or at least in very heavy jars. Nevertheless the sheer grit and determination, and sometimes sense of humour, shown by all participants to go for gold was impressive – everyone rallied together showing magnificent levels of support and camaraderie.

My thanks go to all the participants for the amazing spirit and effort shown during the Challenge. I know it was way out of the comfort zone for some, especially those who had never donned a backpack before and who managed to complete the four days and all the challenges as well! It was a fabulous effort and I hope to see teams from you all in 2010.

Finally, thank you to everyone who helped with the event in any way – especially the many volunteers. The event would not have been such a great success without your help. There are far too many of you to mention here.

Steve Sertis  
Event Manager and Lead Guide

## The 2009 Challenge Champions

### WARA 'Control Freaks'



The team's name will be inscribed on the perpetual Team challenge Champions trophy which is kept on display in the Foundation's front office.

The team's name will be inscribed on the perpetual Team challenge Champions trophy which is kept on display in the Foundation's front office.

Additionally, each of the winners received a:

- a Bibbulmun Trophy each
- a hand-crafted Bibbulmun walking stick each
- a Mountain Designs Tellus backpack each thanks to Mountain Designs
- an X-mug each thanks to Sea to Summit
- a 2-day B&B accommodation package for two people each

Runners up – OAM Group received the following:

- a Wilderness Equipment Flash Back day pack each thanks to Sea to Summit
- an X-Mug each thanks to Sea to Summit
- a Stretch pillow each thanks to Mountain Designs

In 3rd place, Dept of Environment and Conservation (DEC) team members received:

- a Drylite towel each thanks to Sea to Summit
- a Bibbulmun Track T-shirt each
- an Alpalite cutlery set each thanks to Sea to Summit

In 4th place, Sea to Summit team members received:

- a Bibbulmun Track T-shirt each voucher
- an Alpalite cutlery set each thank to Sea to Summit (they loved that prize!!)
- a Micro towel each thanks to Mountain Designs

In addition, ALL of the heat winners received a:

- \$100 voucher from Mountain Designs
- Bibbulmun Track caps donated by Best on Ground
- Bibbulmun Track water bottles, Waugal trail marker magnets & car stickers

## The 2009 Challengers

Thank you to all the teams that made this year's Challenge a success!

With your support we raised over \$15,000, which will be used for Track maintenance projects in 2010

- National Australia Bank • Pitcher Partners • Sea to Summit • Newmont • WestOne
- Calibre Engenium • OAM Group • Geraldton Grammar • Women Overboard
- Western Power • Dept of Environment and Conservation • Shire of Kalamunda • Whelans
- Left Overs • Life Members and WARA Control Freaks.

## THE JIM FREEMAN AWARD - THE 'SPIRIT OF THE BIBBULMUN'

Each year, this award is given to the team that stands out in the areas of participation, environmental awareness, team spirit and consideration of others. During the course of the Challenge, all teams are watched very carefully and this award is given irrespective of scores and team performance in activities.

We are proud to announce that this year's Spirit of the Bibbulmun Award was awarded to the Women Overboard (from NSW) - Well done!



Jim Freeman presents the Spirit of the Bibbulmun award to Steve on behalf of Women Overboard from NSW. Team members were .....

## Thank you to our sponsors

Thank you to Mountain Designs as the major sponsor of the event and for providing the venue for the Award night and donating prizes.

Thanks also to GOLD sponsor Sea to Summit who sponsored many of the prizes given to participants and also updated some of the Foundation's hire equipment which was used by participants on the Team Challenge.

We also appreciate support from the following organisations for donation of prizes and equipment for the Awards night.

Jalbrook Cottages, Balingup    Oakfield Country House, Balingup  
Whispering Pines, Collie    BEST ON GROUND    AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS



# Online Survey Competition

## IN OUR LATEST ONLINE SURVEY WE ASKED THE QUESTION, "WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE GEAR AND WHY?"

Over 100 people responded. Boots were voted as the most favourite piece of gear. The top reasons being that they simply 'work' and are comfortable.

Other reasons for items being a favourite included: functional (66%), lightweight (50%), fool proof (47%), and robust (41%).

The table shows the top ten items of gear out of a list of 30.

44% of people had their gear for between one and three years and 35% for four years or more but when it came to replacing the gear 44% said that they would replace it at the first opportunity if it failed rather than either live with it or mend it – fussy we bushwalkers aren't we!

41% said that their friends perceive them to be gear freaks and 68% are members of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation.

Boots	19.0%
Sleeping bag	14.0%
Walking sticks	13.0%
Backpack	11.0%
Stove	10.0%
Sleeping mat	7.0%
Rain proof jacket	5.0%
Tent	4.0%
Fleece jacket	4.0%
Torch headlamp	2.0%

Congratulations to David Bodeker for winning the draw. David receives an X-bowl thanks to sponsors Sea to Summit. Your prize is in the mail!

**Stay tuned for our next online competition survey – Vote for your favourite Track Town!**

# Community Info Programme

We've had a busy couple of months promoting the Track and our activities beginning with the Top Trails launch in the Swan Valley early in September, and thanks to the Top Trails project were able to attend the extremely popular Kings Park Wildflower Festival alongside other key trails including the Munda Biddi, Kep Track, Cape to Cape and Swan Valley Trails. Thanks to Carol Jowett, Dianne Larsen, Dianne McCormack, Ron Lutz, Karen Dowling, Hans Hoette, Sandi Neilsen, Mike Allanson and Linda Daniels for their help.

A blustery day didn't dampen the spirits of those attending the Trek the Trail in Darlington. Again we joined forces with other trails under the Top Trails banner to promote the Track to a lot of wet walkers! Thanks to Graham Murdoch and Linda Daniels for braving the weather!

The Bibbulmun Track display at the Royal Show was bigger and better this year with an extension to the mock campsite, thanks to the carpentry skills of Travis Mark, and the addition of a picnic table and chairs. We were able to make it look more like a typical campsite by erecting a tent and supplying some hiking gear.

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 a complete escape from the hustle and bustle of our hectic lives!

As always we had a really great response for volunteers this year who were able to enjoy the show for free before or after their roster time.



## Thank you...

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Mike Allanson    | Lionell Lovell     |
| Jackie Ashford   | Jan Lutz           |
| Geoff Bell       | Ron Lutz           |
| Sue Bell         | Terry Manford      |
| Julie Bessant    | Travis Mark        |
| Colin Blampied   | Lari McDonald      |
| Percy Boyes      | Malcolm McGilvray  |
| Elliot Brill     | Joy McGilvray      |
| Karen Dowling    | Merle Milentis     |
| Karl Fuderer     | John Murphy        |
| Ann Foyer        | Sandi Nielson      |
| Don Hill         | Russell Peterkin   |
| Kerry Hill       | Gwen Plunkett      |
| Hans Hoette      | Chris Plunkett     |
| Jenny Holycross  | Wolfgang Schlieben |
| Junelle Jones    | Kris Sheehan       |
| Philip Jones     | Annie Sullivan     |
| George Kamman    | Kylie Taylor       |
| Lesley Kerr      | Adrian Taylor      |
| Rik Kort         | Diane Tinker       |
| Ross Leighton    | David Woodworth    |
| Debra Lethbridge | David Wrigley      |
| Nick Lethbridge  | Michael Wynn       |
| Angela Loucaides |                    |



No sooner than the Show was over Charmaine Harris, Gwen Plunkett and Carol Jowett were busy giving out information at the annual Walk the Zig Zag event in Kalamunda. People from all over Perth ventured into the hills to enjoy the spring flowers and entertainment as they strolled down the Zig Zag Scenic Drive.

The Track has also become a regular at Have a Go Day. This event grows in size and popularity each year and it is a great event for our volunteers to use their knowledge and experience to let seniors know about the Bibbulmun Track and the benefits of bushwalking.

A special thank you to Chris Plunkett Carol Jowett Mary Sprunt Elsie Grygiel Michael Wynn

**A big 'THANK YOU' to all who helped with the Community Info Program in 2009. What a tremendous effort – a total of 223 VOLUNTEER HOURS. We REALLY couldn't have done it without you.**



# TRACK TRIVIA

## Hi folks....

I took a walk on the Track between Pemberton and Balingup a couple of weeks ago to test my legs on a few hills before I wander off to the Himalayas. The bush was in great condition, with plenty of water around and the flowers in full bloom.

Although I didn't encounter it this time around, I have been made aware of a new phenomenon on the Track. The FOFs have been around for a while (and no, it doesn't stand for "Friends of the Forest" – if you really want to know, call the BTF office) but now there is a new group of marauders out there, the "Laughing Ladies".

The picture below shows what can happen when an innocent wanderer is accosted by this female team of ninja-trained strap adjusters.

Mike Round from Athelstone in SA was enjoying a quiet stroll down the Track when they struck. Mike is still recuperating from his ordeal at the hands of these crazed buckle tweakers. Take note of the desperate look in his eyes. I quote from an email sent to Mike from their leader, Deb Badger.

"I cannot get the smile off my face. I remember so clearly coming across you in the hills and your personality just shone through all those rain clouds and wind gusts. It really was such a moment that we all shared and enjoyed – five women who could not resist pulling or tugging at a few of your straps to make them fit better! Once one got started, that was it, the rest could not resist! So much attention – but to be honest, it did not look as though you had a problem with all the attention and pampering by strange women."

It seems there are eight of these female walkers, dressed in striking colours, who may materialise at any time, anywhere, on the Track. Be warned guys, keep your straps tightened up or suffer the consequences. More will be reported as further facts come to our attention.

### Some recent trivia:

Lady trekkers like water-bottles with black mouthpieces rather than white ones because black doesn't show their lipstick colour. True or false?

A round-up of the most curious items observed being carried by walkers on the Track includes:

A didgeridoo.

A box of marine flares. Don't ask, it's too complicated. I persuaded the carrier to get rid of them ASAP.

A miniature plastic kitchen sink, complete with taps. This was in the backpack of the male component of a couple doing an end-to-end so that he could produce it and say, "Yeah, she is carrying everything but the kitchen sink" as his partner unloaded vast quantities of, from a male perspective, useless gear from her pack.

A surfboard. I walked with this guy, so I know it's true. He spotted it in a shop in Walpole and carried it to Albany. No, I don't know why, it seemed rude to ask.

And this was a query recently received by email: "I am in Scotland, where my compass points to the north. Will it do the same in Australia?"

Further comment would be superfluous.

On perusing the red books in the six shelters between Pemberton and Balingup, I see the ever-lasting debate about toilet paper rages on. Good to know that walkers don't lose their sense of perspective after weeks on a diet of dehydrated food and rainwater. There are some interesting comments alooding (sorry!) to the provision of the said necessity but in the end, folks please—carry your own! After all, it doesn't weigh much.

Another entry regarding campfires brought home a more serious point. There are mixed feelings about lighting fires, but the fact remains that fires are permitted at certain campsites provided that no fire ban has been declared, and as long as walkers take a responsible attitude and follow



sensible precautions this should never be a problem. And let's face it, a fire on a cold night not only provides physical comfort, it also increases the social interaction of walkers.

At some campsites in the south it has become routine for DEC to provide timber off-cuts for firewood – but like toilet paper, don't assume it will be there!

The red-book entry in question was from someone who had walked into a campsite where firewood was available. It was a wet day and very cold, and the two children in the party were "soaked to the skin and shivering with cold"

The writer then went on to criticise the fact that the firewood provided was wet and it took so long to get a fire going that the children were "close to suffering from hypothermia". Why, the writer asked, could some form of protection not be provided to ensure the wood was kept dry?

Another walker had scribbled in red ink across this entry "Get the right gear!!" which makes a valid point – if you're going to walk in wet, cold conditions then ensure you have proper wet weather gear so that you don't get soaked to the skin. However more fundamentally, remember that the Bibbulmun Track is a wilderness trail – don't expect supplies of dry wood or other luxuries at campsites.

Thirdly, if you or your companions are cold and wet, don't waste time trying to light a fire in the rain using wet wood! Get the wet clothes off and dry yourself with the lightweight towels that you are carrying in your backpacks, the insides of which have been protected with a pack liner and a pack cover. Get into dry clothes, preferably including thermals and beanies, prepare hot food and drink on the fuel stove and get that inside yourselves as soon as you can.

Then once everyone is warm, get the kids into sleeping bags, with their beanies on, and make sure they are zipped up tight. They will become warm from the inside and the sleeping bag will retain the heat – a far more efficient form of protection than sitting by a smouldering campfire in the rain.

That's all for now, I have to go off to practise my yak handling skills. 🐾

**Pleasant walking!  
Wrong Way Jim (aka Jim Baker)**

# NOTICE BOARD

## LADIES BOOTS FOR SALE

Raichle Women's boots. Uk size 7.5, EUR 41, USA 9, Aust 8.5/9. Highly breathable and waterproof Gortex lining, Vibram sole, torsion control suited to multi-day backpacking on and off trail, highly supportive upper with padded and shaped cuff. Very comfortable, great for non-hiking travel and field trips. Dark blue Nubuk leather - so you don't look as if you've just walked in off a mountain. RRP \$429.95. Sell for \$295.

Phone Louise on 0417 911 700

## WALKING COMPANIONS WANTED

Looking for walking companions male or female, to get out on the Track more often. With summer now on us, I will start again next year planning some walks.

Phone Karen on 0414 751 179  
or email [crakar@inet.net.au](mailto:crakar@inet.net.au)

## WANTED FEMALE HIKING BUDDY

Do you like hiking on the Bibbulmun Track close to Perth for the occasional quick overnighter or day walk? Please let me know.

Phone Kathy on 0409 100 762  
or email [Kathy-b@inet.net.au](mailto:Kathy-b@inet.net.au)

## PACK & JACKET FOR SALE

Macpac Copland waterproof jacket. Mens, dark green, size large. Great condition. Basic rain jacket using reflex fabric. Weights approx 600gms. No rips, tears or zip problems. Has been hanging in my cupboard for a year. Non smoking home. Paid \$250, sell \$100. Golite Jam 2 pack. Unisex I believe, size L (fits me well at 178cm tall). Greyish colour. Used once or twice, minimalist ultralight pack. Great condition, again no rips, tears or zip problems. Weights approx 600gms. Note; this is for those with sub 13kg loads or as use as a daypack/rope bag. Selling as I have way too many packs. Think I paid \$180, sell for \$100.

Email Bill - [billfras@yahoo.com.au](mailto:billfras@yahoo.com.au)

## LOOKING FOR 'PHATHMANDU'

'Phathmandu' please contact 'Outback'

Phone Ron on 0415 742 667

## FEMALE WALKING COMPANION WANTED

Female walking companion wanted for 60 year old female. Cooler months of 2010. Keen to do mid-week hikes + 1 month hike in July. Christian lady so Sunday always a rest day. Also interested in doing the Cape to Cape.

Phone Vicki on 9440 4848

## WALKING COMPANION WANTED

Easy going casual hiker looking for companion/s for future hikes, starting with a few overnight walks. Planning on doing the end-to-end after gaining a little more experience, and would like someone to learn with. No age or sex restraints - but must have a good sense of humour :)

Facebook Isaac St Clair Burns,  
or email [sakatak@inet.net.au](mailto:sakatak@inet.net.au)

## Guides Needed for Group Activities

Do you have the skills and experience to be a guide for corporate groups on the Bibbulmun Track?

The Foundation is looking for people who have:

- the skills and experience to facilitate team building activities
- enthusiasm and an outgoing personality
- a sound knowledge of the Bibbulmun Track

If you think you fit this description and you are available to assist with programmes on weekdays, please contact Steve for application details on:

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

or 9481 0551

## Want To Advertise on our Notice Board?

Free for members - just send us an email with your details, membership number and your text. If you aren't a member please phone or email us to arrange your advert. Cost is \$5 per 3months. All items will be deleted after three months if not renewed.

Phone: 9481 0551

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

## FREE Trip Planning Advice

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

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

Experienced walkers will help you to plan your journey.

If you can't make it into the office, then this service is also available via email. This is particularly popular with our interstate and international visitors.



## The 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

## Protecting WA's unique natural heritage



by ensuring systems are in place to protect this unique heritage.

Prior to new power lines or substations being built, Western Power and specialist contractors undertake environmental impact studies to avoid building in areas of native vegetation with high conservation value. Solutions include re-routing electricity transmission lines, boring under vegetation and placing poles or towers to span protected areas.

One of the major threats to our biodiversity is the water mould called Phytophthora cinnamomi (dieback disease). This has the potential to infect and kill about 40% of WA's unique plants. The disease is spread in water, mud (on tyres etc) and vegetation. Western Power funds research by the Centre for Phytophthora Science and Management in the hope that better ways of managing this disease may be found.

In keeping with its Environmental Policy, Western Power recognises its obligations to the environment and to future generations by adopting and continually improving ways to protect the unique natural heritage in the SWIS.

Western Power has been a proud sponsor of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation since 2007. The Bibbulmun Track is located entirely within Western Power's poles and wires electricity network known as the SWIS (South West Interconnected System) which intersects the Track more than 70 times.

The SWIS network is located in the south-west of Western Australia, which also happens to be one of only 25 biodiversity hotspots in the world. A global biodiversity hotspot is an area of the world where natural ecosystems are largely intact and support a great richness of native species

rarely found outside the hotspot.

The diversity of plant and animal life in this region is quite unique - many of the wildflowers are found nowhere else and species endemic to the south west such as the woylie, sunset frog, Gilbert's potoroo and Carnaby's black cockatoo are some of the most endangered.

The protection of biodiversity is backed by tough State and Commonwealth legislation. Western Power works to comply with these regulations. In fact, in keeping with its Sustainability Policy, Western Power goes beyond normal compliance



Proud sponsor of the  
Bibbulmun Track Foundation

## BIBBULMUN NEWS Q & A

**Newsletter #51 was clearly enjoyed by Life Member Roger Williams, now living in the USA and he sent us his comments and questions, some of which were as follows:**

I enjoyed your latest issue more than ever; attractively designed and printed, well written and full of interesting articles, it was even better than usual. A perusal inspired numerous questions and comments:

I'd never heard of "Fixomul". (Walking the Bibb, p. 7; Track Trivia, p. 25). According to the latter article, it's similar to our Moleskin which is a sort of felt with an adhesive backing meant to cover blisters. It reduces the torment to the point you can actually walk on the bloody things. Unfortunately I forgot to take it on the Coast to Coast Walk across England where walking several miles on a paved cycle path to reach an ATM brought on a vicious set of blisters. They didn't have it over there; all they had was some junk called Compeed which was useless. After miles of torment the blisters finally healed.

"Gorp" (p. 25) stands for Good Old Raisins & Peanuts (or whatever you want, ie M&Ms, mixed nuts, etc.), our version of "scroggin". It's often called trail or energy mix. You can mix it yourself or buy it in shops.

Yes, They Did It! (end-to-enders, pp 12-14). As age and other problems slow me, I still dream of this. Walkers

came from places all over; I looked up their post codes on Auspost which often gave me some idea of where they were (where the heck is Baldvis? Girrawheen? Willetton?). Most seemed to come from Perth's hundreds of suburbs but some came from far afield, out of state, or abroad.

I'm familiar with the echidnas, or a spiny anteater; I saw one on Mt. Cope in the Victorian Alps long ago. What is a doona? A quenda?

The newsletter mentions air mattresses with slow leaks; back when I went out with YHAWA from Perth in the late 60s they were called Lilos. I wonder if these still exist. We didn't have such wonders as that Trangia stove back then; we made do with a tricky Primus or little fires of twigs.

In the US, Rogaine (p. 15) is a popular baldness remedy. Apparently in Australia it's a sort of find-your-way exercise analogous to orienteering.

Roger Williams, Boulder, Colorado USA, ex-Sandgroper and Life Member.

### EDITOR'S COMMENTS:

(a) "Fixomul" is the registered trade name for a hypoallergenic adhesive non-woven fabric which is extensively used in the treatment of burns. It is

inexpensive and available from pharmacies. Unlike Moleskin, Fixomul can be used to prevent the formation of blisters. The same material is sold in the UK under the trade-name "Mefix".

(b) Please don't be offended if you live in one of the Perth suburbs mentioned above - after all, do you know the names of the suburbs in Boulder, Colorado?

(c) I love the idea of an echidna, a doona and a quenda being grouped together! We could start a society of doona watchers of the Track! A doona is a down filled duvet (the word comes from a trade name, rather in the way "Hoover" has come to mean vacuum cleaner) A quenda is the common name for the southern brown bandicoot.

(d) "Lilos" (blow up rubber mattresses) are still going strong. Again the word is derived from a trade name "li-lo". If you want to be unpopular, bring one out to a shelter where others are trying to sleep. This type of mattress makes horrendous noises every time the incumbent moves!

(e) Rogaine hair restorer is available in Australia. Did the sport of rogaining get its name from those who tore out their hair when they got lost?

# Christmas Specials

Members receive an additional 10% off merchandise unless otherwise stated.

Give the gift that lasts the whole year (or three!)

## A Bibbulmun Track Membership

Individual - 1 yr \$40 OR - 3 yrs \$105

Senior - 1 yr \$30 OR 3 yrs \$75

### For the ladies

White short sleeved fitted t-shirt \$20 (rrp \$24.95)

### NEW Bibbulmun Daypack

Day packs now available in a NEW colour – sage (green). All colours on special (blue, black & sage) \$49.95 (rrp \$59.95).

### Bibbulmun Track Poster

Members only Christmas special \$8.00 (rrp \$12.00) – no further discount

### Perfect Stocking fillers

- Magnets \$2.20
- Waugal markers \$4.25
- Water bottles \$6.60
- Cloth badges \$7.50

### CAN'T DECIDE?

Christmas Gift Vouchers available (can be used on merchandise, an event from the Calendar or a Bibbulmun Walking Break)

### BRIGHT IDEA!!!

Use Bibbulmun Track postcards for your overseas Christmas greeting cards Large \$1.00 Small 70c



## Prize Winning Members

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

Rosalind Miles in July and Janet Danaher in August won a Nalgene drink bottle, kindly donated by our gold sponsor Sea to Summit.

Christy Tomaszek in July and Trevor and Frances Hoddy in August won an Australian Geographic compass with magnifier.

In September, Pat Gralton won a kitchen bits pack and Arnold Zeh won a travel clothes line & pocket soap, both kindly donated by our gold sponsor Sea to Summit.

In October, Bruce Lugton and Mary McNulty won a pocket day pack kindly donated by our diamond sponsor Mountain Designs while Max and Debbie Terlick won a T-shirt and compass key ring.

In November, the Gresham Family won a mesh stuff sack and travel pouch kindly donated by our gold sponsor Sea to Summit while Ray Halsall won an Australian Geographic compass with magnifier.

The winner of the mid-year renewal as a life member draw was Paul McNamara.

### UWA Extension information night:

Daniel Beard won a Turnstyle day pack kindly donated by our diamond sponsor Mountain Designs in the prize draw for those who joined the Foundation on the night.

## 2010 ADVENTURE RAFFLE — LET'S MAKE IT A WINNER!

An Adventure Raffle is planned for 2010 with over \$10,000 worth of prizes;

### Win Win Win 5 Fantastic major prizes

- World Expeditions Tasmanian Adventure Holiday for two
- Mountain Designs Outdoor Equipment package for two
- Sea to Summit Gear Freaks Extravaganza
- Ranger Outdoors Family Camping Package
- South coast 'Wilderness Getaway' for two

The lucky winner has the choice of any one of the prizes, the second prize winner may select from the remaining three prizes and so on.

Plus, for each book sold, your name goes into a draw to win a Beach and Forest Eco Adventure Tour for two, from Pemberton Discovery Tours.

After 10 years the Track is showing signs of wear and tear. A major works programme is planned and the funds raised from the raffle will be spent directly on projects to improve the Track and campsites.

To make our raffle a success we really do need your help. The raffle will run from March to May and we will be sending you a book of raffle tickets. There are only 10 tickets in a book and at only \$2.00 each AND these fantastic prizes they should be very easy to sell. Please let us know if you would like us to send more books to sell (the more books you sell the more entries in our prize draw!) or alternatively if you do not wish to be sent a book **phone Jean on (08) 9481 0551 or email: marketing@bibbulmuntrack.org.au**

Prizes generously donated by:



### SHOPPING CENTRE PROMOTION — CAN YOU SPARE 3 HOURS ?

In addition to promoting our raffle, Shopping Centre displays are great for general promotion of our events and services.

If you can help, please phone Jean on 9321 0649 or email [marketing@bibbulmuntrack.org.au](mailto:marketing@bibbulmuntrack.org.au)

Rosters of 3 x 3 hour day shifts with an additional evening shift on Thursday night will be made up.

## WALK with the friends

A SERIES OF SOCIAL WALKS WITH FOUNDATION VOLUNTEERS.



A PHOTOCOPY OF THIS FORM IS ACCEPTABLE

### BOOKINGS WITH THIS FORM ESSENTIAL (PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU SIGN THE EVENT CONDITIONS BELOW)

#### PERSONAL DETAILS

Name:  Membership No:   
 Address:  Postcode:   
 Home Phone:  Work Phone:  Mobile:   
 Email for confirmation to be sent:

Tick here if you wish to car pool. Your first name, phone & suburb will be given out to others wishing to car pool.

FREE for members – conditions apply\*  
\$15 for non-members.

\*A \$15 bond is required for each WWF booking. This is fully refundable if you attend the walk. Members who do not show on the day, or cancel after the Tuesday immediately prior to the walk, will be charged the \$15. This is to reduce the incidence of members not turning up simply because the event is free, whilst others miss out on the opportunity. Up to two walks can be booked at a time.

Please complete and sign payment details below and sign the Event Conditions.

#### PAYMENT DETAILS:

(\$15 payment or bond pp/per walk)

Please also join me as a member, I have included

- \$30 concession  \$30 Senior
- \$40 individual  \$60 Senior plus (couple)
- \$65 family  \$600 Life Member

Cheque enclosed to the value of \$

(Please make cheques payable to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation.)

or debit my  Visa  Mastercard

.  .  .  .  Expiry Date:  /

Card name:  Signature:

#### EVENT 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

28 March 3.30am	23 May 9am
8km return sunset walk from Mundaring Weir Hotel to South Ledge	12km return walk from Kinsella Rd to Canning Campsite
11 April 9am	30 May 8.30am
14km return walk from Albany Hwy to Boonering Hill	20.4km return walk from Kalamunda to Hewett's Hill Campsite. (Fit and experienced walkers only!)
18 April 8.30am	
20km return walk from Dale Road to Brookton Campsite. (Fit and experienced walkers only!)	
2 May 9.30am	
7km return from Driver Rd to Dookanelly Campsite (Dwellingup sth)	

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.

## 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
*PLB	\$35.00	\$45.00
*PLB end to end hire	\$170.00	\$200.00

\*PLB = Personal Locator Beacon

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

# Reflections from the Registers-

## Hidden Valley 30/12/2002

In another 20 kilometres we can add our names to the ever growing list of end-to-enders. We didn't break any records and there won't be any brass bands to greet us in Albany, but we did it and it has been great. We will leave with many wonderful memories and a great affection for the Track and for WA. Many thanks to all involved in its creation and maintenance - it really is a world class achievement.

## Trish and Graham Mossup (London)

## Hidden Valley 24/01/2003

Prisoners from Pandelup Work Camp oiled the building and cleared the paths this day. Next stop Torbay.

## Anon

## Hidden Valley 08/11/2004

Last full day on the Track, it's been a lot of fun. I've met a lot of good folk along the way, both on the Track and in the towns, and that is what I'll remember for a long time. My thanks to all you West Australians for following up on the original dream, producing the Track and keeping it in such good order. You have every reason to be proud of the Bibbulmun Track and the way in which it is managed.

## Bob Graham (Kiwi Bob)

## Hidden Valley 29/10/2005

Wow! Our last journal entry since leaving Kalamunda on September 5th. We leave you with a bit of verse and apologies to John Masefield:

"We must come back to the Track again,

To this vagabond gypsy life,

To the hikers' and the dreamers' way

Where our days are free from strife.

Where all we ask is a merry yarn

From a laughing fellow rover;

And a rowdy meal with a frothy pint,

When the long trip is over."

## Rodney Batkin & Peter Lyall, aka Batty and Babu. (NSW)



## Waalagh 04/09/2001

Arrived mid-day. Stopped at Helena on the way for muffins and hot chocolate, then followed the undulations to Waalagh where we savoured a nice drop of red with camembert and smoked salmon. Now we have decided to hoist our over-weight packs and head to Benaking, as we feel the view there will be more in keeping with the cold beer and pizza that we'll consume for dinner.

## F J Holden

P.S. Please excuse this, apparently I got delusional on the first hill after Helena.

## Waalagh 18/09/2002

My feet hurt, lots of blisters

My name's Craig, got two sisters,

Dinner time, quite nutritious,

Here at Waalagh Hut.

(Couldn't think of another rhyme, sorry!)

## Craig

## Mount Cooke 10/08/05

Arrived in pretty good nick today. My good leg is finally better than my bad leg again, meaning that I can move along more smoothly. I'm feeling confident that I could make it to Albany with the option of bailing out at Dwellingup. Feeling fitter, it's taken a lot longer than the mythical "three days".

## Ralph

(Editor's note. If anyone understands this, could they email their interpretation to the office?)

## Monadhocks 14/10/01

I have met some really friendly people out here. I have thoroughly enjoyed my walk from Mount Dale and I'm not looking forward to going home tomorrow. I would like to thank the FOBT very much for their maintenance work and stuff. CHEERS!

P.S. I hope the Track will be around for my children to enjoy.

## Anon

## Lake Maringup 04/10/98

Arrived yesterday about 2pm. Unpacked and soaked in this marvellous vista before us. Nineteen types of birds identified while we sat. The walk here was overcast with cool wind, perfect. This morning clear skies and sunshine. Can it get any better than this? Thank you to those who chose this site, and those who built the shelter. We will definitely return someday.

## Eric and Claudette

## Lake Maringup 28/04/99

A trip to WA wouldn't be complete without a walk on the Bibbulmun Track. Arrived here mid-day yesterday, enjoyed the walk, the vegetation is incredible with lots of bird life. Views from the hut fabulous. Not many places where you can lie in bed and watch the sun rising over a lake.

## Sue and Terry O'Brien ACT

## Frankland River 23/04/03

Wonderful to be back at this lovely place after so long. Also great to bring the girls in from Sappers Bridge. So rewarding to read of so many people enjoying the Track. Makes it all worthwhile!

## Jesse B.

# Walker Story...

BY ANNEKE AND HERMAN LIEVEN, HOLLAND



In 2000 Annette and Herman Lieven from Holland discovered the Bibbulmun Track. In September 2003 they began an end-to-end walk, which they finished in February 2008. This is their story.

In 2000 we planned to visit our daughter Monique, who was living in Fremantle. Knowing that we would like to do something active during our trip, she looked around for us and made us aware of the opportunity offered by the Bibbulmun Track for bush walking.

Our plan was to walk part of the Track for about two weeks, which we were really looking forward to. However, just five weeks before we took off for WA, Anneke hurt her knee badly while skiing in Austria. She was flown back home and our family doctor doubted if walking in Australia would be possible. However, after good treatment and exercise she was able to walk, but not with a heavy backpack and only for a few days at a time. So we were limited to shorter day trips on the Bibbulmun Track, but that gave us "the fever" and we decided that we would be back.

Monique returned to Holland, but we stuck with our plan to go back to Australia and meet the Bibbulmun Track again. We did a lot of serious training, including a two week walk in Spain. There, on the famous Camino de Santiago trail, we walked the first seven days carrying all our own food. We bought nothing extra, as we knew what to expect in Australia!

So, in the second half of September 2003, we took off from Kalamunda to walk all the way to Albany. It was a new experience, the quietness, the loneliness and the endless surprises that nature provided. We soon discovered that the relatively short distances were challenging enough to make us use our time carefully during the day.

The nights were very cold, mainly because the wind blew into the shelters, and we needed to wear all our clothes in bed to keep warm. Only after we reached Collie could we buy proper thermal underwear!

And so we continued along the Track. One night, after missing the shelter, we stayed in our mini tent somewhere in the forest; another time we were with a group of young scouts in a crowded shelter.

After forty-one days disaster struck, when Anneke developed an inflammation in her hip, at Mount Chance. After a very painful five-hour walk to the highway we were picked up by a car and ended up in Walpole. From there a friend brought us to Albany hospital. After some days Anneke could walk again, but our dream of our completing the Bibbulmun Track was over - for the moment.

Time passed, but the idea to complete our end-to-end trip never went out of our minds, and so in 2008 we returned to Australia again. This time we started in Pemberton and after twenty-five wonderful days we finished in Albany. A dream had come true!

Our Bibbulmun experience will always stay as a happy time in our memories and we hope that many others will be able to make this once in a lifetime trip. We thank everyone who makes it possible to walk the Bibbulmun Track. 🌲

## END-TO-ENDERS - WE WANT YOUR PHOTO!

The photo gallery will be put up in our front office - the ideal place to inspire our many visitors. So dig out the photo album or get onto the computer and please send us:

- a mid to close-up photo (so we can see who you are!) - ideally one taken whilst on your end-to-end journey. Size should be a standard 6" x 4"
- your name, your track name if you have one, dates of walk and where you are from.

We're looking forward to being inundated with photos!! Thanks for those pics already received - we will let you know when the unveiling occurs!

Email or post to Jean Byrne, BibbulmunTrack Foundation, PO Box 7605, Cloisters Square WA 6850.

[marketing@bibbulmuntrack.org.au](mailto:marketing@bibbulmuntrack.org.au)

# TRAILING AROUND THE WORLD

## The Great Ocean Walk A Compromise Approach.

by Richard and Joanna Kemp



The Great Ocean Walk, on Victoria's west coast, stretches 104 kms from the resort town of Apollo Bay to Glenample. Three generations of the Kemp family undertook to walk part of the track.

### THE DILEMMA:

- A disparate family group of ten people covering three generations, aged between eighteen months and sixty-eight years of age, wanting some experience of the Great Ocean Walk.
- Backpacking is not an option.
- Available time, three days.

### THE COMPROMISE:

To select a section of the walk and find appropriate accommodation. Six people to walk each day and two to baby-sit the toddlers and to cook the evening meal. One of the baby-sitters drives the walkers to the start point each day and picks them up at the day's end.

### THE WALK:

Having settled the approach, we rented accommodation at the Blue Johanna House, just a couple of kilometres from Johanna Beach, and arrived the day before our walk was to commence. The stretch of track we selected was the section between Cape Otway and Ryans Den, a distance of about forty-five kilometres out of a possible one hundred and four.

We squeezed in a quick visit to the Cape Otway Lighthouse, which was where our walk started. It was worthwhile to see the preservation of old technology which, until it was decommissioned in 1994, shone a beam forty-eight kilometres out to sea. The replacement solar powered automatic beacon has a lesser projection of only twenty-five kilometres.

Shortly after we set out, a visit to the Cape Otway campsite took us a few metres off the track. Campers there pointed out a large, contented koala perched in the fork of a eucalypt. The koala, with its very human facial expressions, paid us little attention.

After a short section of coastal scrub and heath, we were treated to the expansive seascapes we had come to see. We looked up the coast at foamy breakers rolling into the cliffs of headlands stacked up one behind the other, away into the distance. This scene repeated itself for our entire walk and each new sighting brought with it more "oohs" and "aahs" from us as we paused to admire and photograph.

When we arrived at a fork in the track that offered either a beach walk or a high track, we took the beach option in order to make a side trip to Rainbow Falls. We scrambled down a sand hill to the beach and although the tide was almost in, we decided that we had sufficient time to walk up the beach to the falls. Rock hopping around a headland took us to a point where we could see the mossy expanse of vertical rock over which the water spills. The marvellous variation of colours created as the sun sparkles on the water gives the falls their name.

We retraced our steps to the high track, where our reward was yet more magical ocean vistas, and a spot on the cliff top for our lunch break. Our day finished with a great view from the escarpment lookout up the coast beyond the coastal flats of the Aire River, which provided a pleasant contrast to the great ocean views that had filled our day.

Next day we started at Johanna Beach in order to avoid the high tide, and walked back to the Aire River. The tide was already well in as we commenced the two-kilometre beach walk. It was cool and windy on the beach and the onshore winds had blown bluebottles up on the sand.

We climbed the headland to make our way to Castle Cove, heading inland from the cliff-top. We were taken by the change in the environment from

the day before; there now appeared stands of robust eucalypts and at one stage we came upon a section of hundreds of vibrant grass trees, more profuse than we could remember seeing anywhere before. We stopped for a scroggin break and a breathtaking view across the coastline towards Castle Cove, where the Great Ocean Road briefly meets the track.

From here the track meanders to and fro for some distance just above sea level with the exposed clay cliffs of the coastal escarpment towering nearby, and eventually climbs again to wind around the cliffs above the ocean. We lunched at an open flat area overlooking the Aire River as it meets the sea.

Our final day saw us travelling west to east in order to manage the midday high tide. We walked a kilometre and a half down an unmarked 4WD track just east of Wattle Hill to the main track and continued west a couple of kilometres and up several flights of stairs, then climbed a steep gully to Ryans Den. Here there is a cosy campsite with stunning views across the cliffs to Cape Volney.

Returning east towards Milanesia Beach, the elevated coastline track is particularly picturesque. We disturbed several swamp wallabies and a dozen eastern grey kangaroos that were also enjoying the scenery. On Milanesia Beach we managed to keep our feet dry as the tide rolled in. We took advantage of the obvious lunch spot by the old stone hut nestled at the base of a hill offering views of the rugged headland of Ryans Den.

Well fed and rested, we began the steep climb up and out of Milanesia Beach. For the next five or six kilometres we followed a vehicle track up and down as it meandered inland through farmland. The final couple of kilometres of track rejoins the coast, descending to Johanna Beach. There, our party was greeted by the two youngest members of the group and their carers, proudly heading up the hill to meet the weary walkers at the end of an eighteen kilometre day.

In hindsight, an alternative to our last day would have been to hike eleven kilometres west from Milanesia Beach to Moonlight Head, eliminate most of the road walking. This offers hikers a great day of coastal views with easy vehicle access to the drop-off and pick-up points.

However, we all agreed that our plan had allowed us to sample some great sections of a wonderful track - the Great Ocean Walk. 🌿

## NEW ZEALAND THE REMOTE SOUTH

FEB 2011 (DATES & COSTS TO BE FINALISED IN EARLY 2010)

Join Linda Daniels from the Foundation with Peregrine Travel WA on a 9-day discovery tour of NZ's South Islands Fiordland National Park and remote Stewart Island.

This special tour will include the best of the tracks Fiordland National Park has on offer. Departing from Queenstown the group will travel to Te Anau, which will be the base for 2 nights while walking along sections of the famous Kepler Track (full and half day options will be available) Following this we will drive to Tuatapere, gateway to the less renowned but equally scenic Hump Ridge Track. The Hump Ridge Track has all the qualities of a great walk. The 3 day track winds across some of New Zealand's wildest land, leading us along an alpine ridge, through forest, across Maori land and deserted beaches of the south coast of the South Island.

Finally, before returning to Queenstown, the trip will end with 2 nights on Stewart Island - an un-spoilt, eco-friendly wonder that is a paradise for walkers, and home to an abundance of marine and bird life.

Enjoy stunning views of towering Mountain landscapes, rugged coastlines, rocky outcrops, golden beaches, and thick forest-this region has it all!

TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST FOR MORE DETAILS:

Contact: Nerida Roberts  
Tel: 9321 1259  
Email: [Nerida@peregrinewa.com.au](mailto:Nerida@peregrinewa.com.au)



## KAKADU AND BEYOND

In August this year I was privileged to escort a Bibbulmun Track Foundation tour to explore Kakadu and Beyond with World Expeditions. It had been a long held dream of mine to get up to the 'Top End' and it was all that I'd hoped for and more.

On the first morning our group of 16 loaded our gear into two 4WD troupies complete with trailers which were already stuffed to the brim with tents, swags, pots 'n pans, food, even the kitchen sink! This was going to be a self-sufficient wilderness experience and it seemed we were prepared for anything!

Our 7-day trip included so many diverse and memorable experiences, the highlights of which included a cruise on the Yellow River, where we had our first encounter with the infamous salt water croc, a challenging 12km walk to discover ancient Aboriginal rock art in the Nourlangie Region, a relaxing morning spent in the crystal clear waters at the foot of the Barramundi Falls and canoeing through the world-famous magnificent Katherine Gorge, but the major highlight for me was entering the magical world of Koolpin Gorge, a remote and restricted area accessed by only a handful of tour operators and locals.

On entering Koolpin the beauty and stillness of a huge crystal clear pool with white sandy beaches lined with Livistonia palms and ferns took my breath away. Scrambling over rocks and climbing a steep escarpment, we were rewarded with spectacular views of the Southern plateau and beyond. Exploring the gorge and swimming in the unspoilt rock pools are memories that will stay with me forever - an amazing place which I feel privileged to have experienced.

A sincere thank you must go to World Expedition guides Steve Trugeon and Sean Huddle for making this such an incredible experience. Their knowledge and professionalism were outstanding, our accommodation on the tour consisted of dome tents and swags which were incredibly comfortable, the meals were scrumptious and varied and the company was first-class!

Jean Byrne  
BTF Marketing Manager

