



Freeze dried food has come a long way throughout the years, although this is not to say peoples' perceptions of freeze dried food has developed as much as the taste. Our biggest marketing tool however, would be for people to taste Back Country Cuisine just to see how much it has progressed over the years.

Back Country Foods was taken over by Kara and Brent Crossan in early 2009 who brought with them a whole lot of fresh ideas and ways to improve the product to make it what it is today. With the introduction of new machines, improvements to processing and ingredients, and a whole new marketing perspective the product has gone from strength to strength.

The result of all of this hard work is evident throughout the factory and all the way to the shelves where the product is being stocked into sports, hunting and adventure stores throughout Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. So if you were to gain anything from reading this it would be to get out there and see just how much freeze dried food has improved, then we would have converted one more happy customer!



Bibbulmun NEWS

APR '12 - JUL '12
ISSUE # 59
RRP \$6.00



Newsletter for the friends of the Bibbulmun Track

Bushfire Closes Track



“Bushfire!”

Not many words strike a stronger chord of fear. Certainly the bush needs fire for purposes of regeneration, but an intense fire can be a relentless destroyer of flora, fauna, and in the extreme property and human life.

On Thursday February 9th, multiple lightning strikes initiated a fire south of the town of Northcliffe, 365 kilometres south of Perth. Weather conditions were at their worst—high temperatures and strong, blustery winds. The fire was racing through the bush but after about a week of incessant battling the fire fighters believed they had it contained, only for worsening conditions to allow the blaze to break through the containment lines and continue its relentless march towards Northcliffe.

By February 20th the fire had reached within eight kilometres of the town, and residents in its immediate path were advised to evacuate their homes.

Wildlife carer Lesley Harrison packed nearly 30 animals in her van and fled the area.

“I have eight kangaroos, seven ducks, four magpies, four woylies, two bandicoots, an owl and a tawny frogmouth,” she said. She hoped to let the kangaroos out at the Pemberton visitor centre later in the day for a run-around.

By that time the fire had burned more than 25000 hectares of bush.

More than 150 fire fighters were employed to fight the fire, backed up by fire trucks and air-craft.

Eventually, through the work of these incredibly brave men and women, who worked to the point of exhaustion and beyond, the fire was contained with no reported loss of life or property.

The Area of the Fire

As this article is being written the fire is contained and under control. However, contained does not mean that the fire is out and people in the area still need to remain alert in case conditions change. DEC will continue mopping up, which includes extinguishing burning logs and checking containment lines. The final area burned is currently estimated to be well in excess of 34,000 hectares.

And the Track? Well, fire affected 51 kilometres of the Track and a major diversion is now in place between Northcliffe and a point on the Track just before Dog Pool campsite, which means both Gardner and Lake Maringup campsites are closed. Gardner campsite was outside the fire zone and the Lake Maringup shelter was saved by the DEC fire fighters who built a fire break around it before the

fire arrived. Our sincere thanks go to DEC and to all the fire fighters who put in such an amazing effort in fighting this massive conflagration.

We're not sure how long the diversion will be in place but will post information on the Foundation's website and Facebook pages as soon as we receive it. Walkers should always check the Track conditions pages for the latest news before heading out anywhere on the Track.

To finish, a word about bushfires along the Track. Should you feel in danger from a fire, follow these common sense rules. Unless you are within easy reach of a bitumen road or a property, stay on the Track, preferably at a campsite. This is where your rescuers will head for in the event of fire threatening walkers. And please, always fill in the information requested in the green log books in the shelters, even if you are just passing through and not overnighting. In the event of a fire or other emergency the information in those books will greatly aid the emergency services in locating walkers.

For further information on fire survival techniques, visit our website or contact the staff in the BTF office.

With grateful thanks to our sponsors:

<p>Premier</p>  <p>BODDINGTON GOLD</p>	<p>Diamond</p>  
<p>Silver</p>  	<p>Key Partners</p>  
<p>Bronze</p>      	

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DUNNY DONOR APPEAL

Many thanks to all those who have generously donated to our Dunny Donor appeal. We have raised over \$15,000!

Facebook Caption Competition

For all those not on Facebook, here are the results of our Dunny Donor Facebook caption competition:

Congratulations to Mark McLaughlin with this caption:



"Don't you hate it when you leave your underpants on!"

Mark won a Pocket Trowel (formerly called an Ipoode), kindly donated by sponsor Sea to Summit



Congratulations to Emily Pinkus for the most number of 'likes' for her photo.

Emily won a Go Girl, the neat, discreet, hygienic device that allows you to pee while standing up! She has promised to give us a full report!

Now it's your turn. Send in your best caption of Steve upon his throne for your chance to win a Pocket Trowel from Sea to Summit.

The following Dunny Donors donated \$500+ and will be immortalised on the back of a dunny door!

Action Outdoors Association x2	Helen Rowles
Adventurous Women	Ian & Veronica Rae
Angela Bowman & Bec Lloyd	Julie McAllister
Angela Loucaides	Lesley Walker/Gwen McNaught
Ben Blomfield	Mary L Harris
Bernie Renwick	Peta Maiklem Jenny
Bunbury Adventure Pursuit Club	Ashbolt Wendy
Bushwalkers of Western Australia	Colley, Libby Pardoe
On Track Hiking Hire	Ros Holgate & Nye Evans
Caro Knight	Scotch College
David Forster	Sherrylee & Darryl Bassett
	Susan Bunt

Many thanks to the following people who also made generous donations to the Appeal...

Alan Thurlow	Leanne Sammels
Alice Stubber	Lesley Kerr
Ashok Arasu	Linda Grieve
Barbara Turner	Linda Watson
Ben Seery	Lothar Helbig
Bob Oxlade	Malcolm Ferrier
Brian Waldron	Margaret Ellis
Chantal Morchio	Margie Sutherland
Colleen and Richard Clayden	Maria McAdam
Corinne van Burgel	Mark Whittome
David Bond	May Thompson
David Ross	Merrily Alexander
Dawn Finnie	Neil Douglas
Diana Smith	Nigel Harris
EC Mullally	Pam Bradley
Elwyn Alexander	Pam Nicholls
Esther Hall	Robyn McWilliams
Frances Brewer	Ron Evans
Gary Williamson	Ros Butler
Gunilla Charlesworth	Rosslyn Pavy
Hans Hoette	Shannon Clarke
Harold Levison	Sheila Ferguson
Ian Thompson	Suzanne Hicks
Jane Greenwood	Terri Evans
Jean Stanley	T Hite
Jeff & Elizabeth Gresham	Trevor Knox
Jenny Dewing	Trevor Martin
Joe and Beth Gilks	Val Large
Josephine Cummins	Vicki Grincer
Julia Stafford	Vince Harding
Kathryn Choules	Wayne Houston
Kaye and Rob Sheardown	Western Walking Club
Kevin Anderson	Winsome & Raymond Richards
	YAHOO Over 55's Walking Club

To donate!

With each dunny costing around \$6,000 for materials alone, there is still a long way to go - we welcome any donation large or small.

All donations go into the Bibbulmun Track Trust Account. No administration fee is charged - 100% of your donation will go to the Dunny appeal.

DONATIONS BY THE FOLLOWING METHODS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

A receipt will be issued.

DONATE BY PHONE

Call 08 9481 0551 and have your credit card details on hand to donate over the phone.

DONATE BY MAIL

Post a cheque or money order to: PO Box 7605 CLOISTERS SQUARE WA 6850

DONATE IN PERSON

Visit us at Level 1, Mountain Designs Adventure Building, 862 Hay St, Perth City Look for our sign on Hay St between King St and Shafto Lane (opposite Cloisters Arcade)

DONATE ONLINE

Donate through the secure GiveNow website - you'll find the link on the Bibbulmun Track website.

GiveNow takes no commission for this service - 100% of your donation reaches us (less 1.228% credit card fee for Visa and MasterCard / less 1.43% card fee for AMEX). **(Please note: Donations via the GiveNow website are not tax deductible)**



FROM MY Desk



Welcome to the autumn edition of Bibbulmun News.

Firstly, our sincere thanks to everyone who has donated to our Dunny Donor appeal to date - so far we have raised over \$15,000.

We are acutely aware of the fact that people are continuously asked to donate by a huge range of causes and we appreciate the response we have received to this appeal.

It is a fact that finding money to build a new trail is easier than finding money to maintain it. The Bibbulmun Track is just one of hundreds of trails on 25 million hectares of DEC estate and we are fortunate that, due to its length and the quality of the experience, the Track has been able to attract members and volunteers to support it.

As most of you reading this will be aware, DEC allocated \$700,000 for major works on the Track over the past three years and we anticipate that the use of enduring materials such as marine ply and stainless steel will ensure that these facilities will remain in good shape for many years to come.

However, what I have come to realize over the past few years is that maintaining the Bibbulmun Track is a bit like maintaining a character home - just when you think "the list" is getting shorter new things arise to add to it! Sealed vault dunnies and more effective boot cleaning stations being the latest additions. And, of course, the ongoing regular "chores" of pruning and weeding, clearing the gutters and sweeping the floors.

We are so fortunate that so many people who walk the Track get the "Bibb in their blood" and volunteer their time and energy to help. Five such volunteers were recognized with DEC Outstanding Service Awards in December (see page 10). Steve Sertis, Jan and Colin Read, John Chellew and Jim Freeman were all part of the original group of volunteers who joined the Eyes on the Ground Maintenance program in February 1998 and they each have continued to maintain their sections ever since.

It is very enjoyable to attend the various volunteer 'thank you' events each year and to meet many of the people who are such an important part of the Foundation and the Track. John Hardman and Dene Edmunds were two such people and we were shocked and saddened to hear that both of them passed away this week. John after a long battle with cancer and Dene after a sudden illness. Our hearts and thoughts go out to their families and they will be sorely missed. A short tribute to each of them is in this edition of Bibbulmun News.

Of course, not everyone has the time to volunteer, and financial contributions to the Track through membership and donations are another way to ensure "the list" continues to get done. Donations to the Dunny Donor appeal are still very welcome.

Linda Daniels

Executive Director

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN HARDMAN

We were very sorry to hear that John Hardman, popular long-time Foundation volunteer, died following a battle with cancer. Our deepest sympathy goes to Emily and family on such a sad loss.

John was one of our most experienced guides, with a special interest in the Mountain Designs Bibbulmun Team Challenge. He was responsible for making equipment used in challenges presented to participants during the four day event. As well as being a regular guide on this event, John also led many day and overnight walks, helping to introduce inexperienced walkers to the Track and to pass on his love of bushwalking.

As a maintenance volunteer, John had maintained the section around Swamp Oak Campsite since 1998, initially with a group of Venturer Scouts, but more recently working alone. John's pride in his section was evident and he was always happy to pass on his skills and knowledge of maintenance. He was instrumental in developing realignments which made his section safer and more enjoyable.

John will be remembered by those of us fortunate to have known him as a gentle man, with a love of the bush and the Bibbulmun Track. His tall stature, quiet presence and ready smile will be missed by all.

Farewell 'Wandoo'

Thank you
Thank you
Thank you

A sincere thank you to the following walkers and organisations for their generous donations.

Alcoa thanks to volunteers Charlie Soord and Phil Batger

Alcoa thanks to volunteer Michael Paterson

Energy West Social Club

Lewis Churchill and Associates

Marty Lehner

Bibbulmun Track photo album

If you come into the office, be sure to take the time to look through the beautiful photo album presented to the Foundation by the Laughing Ladies. The stunning photos were taken by various members of the group over the years and will inspire and delight walkers.

Many thanks to all the Laughing Ladies for this beautiful gift... Narelle Goodall, Rosie Powell, Deborah Badger, Martie Lotter, Diane House, Jenny Altham, Judith McDougall, Mary Bock, Sara David



Steve with the Bibbulmun Track photo album presented by the Laughing Ladies.



YOUR LETTERS

Dear Office Team

Reading the last couple of Bibbulmun News magazines it struck us that so many people refer to the sunrise in the Warren shelter as one of their most memorable moments on the Track.

We had the same experience when we walked end-to-end N-S in 2009. This year we decided to enlarge another of our photographs that we took during the trip. And yes, this happened to be the sunrise at Warren. Since a couple of months this piece of canvas is now hanging in our bedroom, opposite to a huge blown up Banksia cone (see photo). So each time we enter our bedroom we are reminded of a trip we made in the beautiful south-west of WA. And especially these dark days, waking up and seeing the sun peek through the magnificent karri trees remains a treat.

We wish many people to have an unforgettable time on the Track and thanks for the regular Bibbulmun News. It's great to read about the Track that stole our hearts.

Happy walking,

Lennard and Daphne Koster, Holland



Thanks for finding my phone and posting it for me. Now I'm in Albany. The Track is awesome and the people I met along the way are kind and friendly like you. All of them and you make me much more like Australia!! Thanks again. You (BTF) sell the postcard but maybe never receive it. Now I post it to you to express my heartfelt thanks)

Chu-Han Wang

(Ed: Chu's mobile phone was found by Lewis Kemp at the bottom of Mt Cooke and eventually returned to her, as described in Newsletter #58 "Track Trivia" on page 27. She sent us this message on a Bibb Track postcard from Albany and subsequently came in to the office to meet us all.)

Hi Gwen

Emily Pinkus in her article in the current Bibbulmun News refers to counting her steps whilst getting into her stride on her Bibbulmun Track end-to-end. It reminded me that I used a step counter on our last end-to-end in 2009. It's worthy of note that during the time at a shelter I easily did a further 2000 to 2500 steps exploring the bush, gathering firewood, hiking to the dunny, etc., and a further 1000 to 1500 steps in the morning before setting off. So, if you're setting off on an end-to-end, you can expect to do around 1.5 to 1.6 million steps.

Best wishes to everyone in the office for the New Year. Hope you all had a good summer break. And, a big thank you to all the volunteers and Scott for all the work they do to maintain the Track.

Barry Bryan (The Silvertops), UK

Hello,

Please find enclosed a cheque for \$100 that I would like to donate to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation. I wish I had more to donate as I think it is wonderful that a facility like the Bibbulmun Track is available for everyone to use free of charge.

This September I am planning to walk the Track myself. I hope everyone who lives in WA appreciates the wonderful work that your Foundation does to have this facility on their doorstep.

Thanks to all the volunteers for the wonderful work you do to keep the Track to a world class standard.

Regards,

Diane Clayton.

Hello Bibbulmun Track Staff,

Please find enclosed my membership fees and in addition a donation in appreciation of the excellent shelters and toilets on the Track.

I would also like to register my first exciting end-to-end, begun in October 2005 and completed September 2011. The highlight was when my couch potato spouse decided, due to my ongoing breast cancer treatment, that I needed looking after, which he did by giving me laughs between Walpole and Peaceful Bay. His snake dance was the funniest thing to see. Having completed many sections solo, I found having a first time 'trackie' very amusing. Upon reaching Peaceful Bay and affectionately renaming me McDuff, hubby decided he needed more looking after than me, and with much relief waved me on to complete my long-time dream, once again solo. I arrived in Albany 12 months to the day of having breast cancer surgery.

Hubby is now thinking maybe this walk thing is a good idea after all.

McDuff (who soldiered on) aka Esther Hall

Dear Friends,

Here is a good story to remind you that there are friendly people who regard Bibbulmun Track walkers as worthy of encouragement and a kind word.

My husband and I were walking into Albany after completing five days on the final section between Denmark and Albany. This is not the first time we have walked this section. We are end-to-enders but we keep coming back to walk favourite sections of the Track.

It was a hot afternoon in October 2011 as we trudged the streets of outer Albany. My husband said to me, "I would dearly love a beer."

My reply was, "Don't be silly. Just keep on walking!"

As we paused at a busy intersection to wait for cars to pass through, a young man stopped his car, leaned across and said, "Would you like a beer mate?" My husband said, "You must be joking!" "No" said the young man reaching into a carton on the seat beside him "Here, have this bottle. It has just come out of the cooler."

We thanked the young man and watched him drive away with big, happy smiles on our faces. The people of Albany certainly know how to make weary Bibbulmun Track walkers feel welcome at their journey's end.

Beth and Joe Gilks

Dear Friends,

Thank you very much to Sea to Summit and Bibbulmun Track Foundation from the February membership renewal prize recipient. Cannot tell you how surprised I was when I went to the letter box last week and discovered that I was the winner! I will be putting my new "Gizmo Led" Headlamp to good use and can't wait to use it.

Once again thank you Bibbulmun Track and especially to our silver level sponsor, Sea to Summit.

Kind regards

Vincent La-Rosa

Mother's Day Gift Ideas

Short of ideas for Mother's Day? Has Mum been threatening to walk on the Track, but never gets the time to organize anything for herself?

A Bibbulmun Track gift voucher can be redeemed for: An exclusive Womens' Only event from the Calendar of Events or for Bibbulmun Track merchandise.

Here are some ideas:

Wildflower Book, Bibbulmun Day Pack, Nalgene Water Bottle, Day Walk Map Pack, Ladies Fitted T-shirt

Every mum deserves a break, so why not spoil her with a Bibbulmun Walking Break Gift Voucher? Let us organize her escape to the peace and tranquillity of the Bibbulmun Track with our stress free, self-guided walking and accommodation packages. She'll only need a small day pack as there will definitely be NO CAMPING OUT! Mum will be transformed in just two days, we'll organize some lovely accommodation, meals and transfers to the Track.

Call Kathy on 94810551 or email tourism@bibbulmuntrack.org.au.

For more details visit: www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au



Bibbulmun Team Challenge - WE WANT YOU!

Registrations open for the 2012 Bibbulmun Team Challenge

Get your team of 4 together and get on board for the time of your life!!

- Walking 50km and camping over 4 days.
- Leadership, problem solving & environmental awareness activities.
- Physical and mental challenges.

There are 4 heats to choose from between October and November.

Become the 2012 Bibbulmun Team Challenge Champions and win some fantastic prizes. All proceeds go to the upkeep of the Track.

For more information visit bibbulmuntrack.org.au/events/team-challenge.aspx or call 9481 0551.



Before you go...

ALWAYS CHECK THE LATEST TRACK NEWS & CONDITIONS

For updates, refer to the "Latest Track News" accessible from 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 Track conditions and are aware of any changes that may impact on your journey. Refer to the 'Latest Track News' accessible from www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au or contact the appropriate DEC District (see contact details below).

There may be maintenance or construction projects near or on the Track that result in temporary diversions or changes. These will not be marked on your maps. 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'.

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 from our website or contact the Recreation and Trails unit.

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:

Recreation and Trails Unit

tracksandtrails@dec.wa.gov.au
Ph: (08) 9334 0265

DEC DISTRICT OFFICES

Perth Hills District (Mundaring and Dwellingup)

Kalamunda to the Harvey-Quindanning Road
Map 1& 2 or Sections 1 to 20 in the Northern Guidebook
Contact Elisa Skillen on (08) 9538 1078 or elisa.skillen@dec.wa.gov.au

Wellington District (Collie)

Covers Harvey -Quindanning Road to Mumballup
(Donnybrook-Boyup Brook Rd)
Map 3 or Section 20 to 25 in Northern Guidebook
Contact Nick Evans on (08) 9734 1988 or nick.evans@dec.wa.gov.au

Blackwood District (Balingup)

Covers Mumballup (Donnybrook-Boyup Brook Rd)
to Willow Springs (Gold Gully Rd)
Map 4 or Sections 25 to 30 in the Northern Guidebook
Contact Andrew Sandri on (08) 9731 6232 or andrew.sandri@dec.wa.gov.au

Donnelly District (Pemberton and Northcliffe)

Covers Willow Springs (Gold Gully Rd) 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 7095 or john.hanel@dec.wa.gov.au

Frankland District (Walpole)

Covers Pingerup Road to Denmark River mouth
Maps 6, 7, 8 or Sections 42 to 53 in the Southern Guidebook
Contact Howard Manning (08) 9840 0400
or howard.manning@dec.wa.gov.au

Albany District (Denmark and Albany)

Covers Denmark to Albany
Map 8 or Sections 53 to 58 in the Southern Guidebook
Contact Luke Coney (08) 9842 4500 or luke.coney@dec.wa.gov.au

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



Danielle Stone, Trails Coordinator

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

DEC Recreation and Trails Unit

Hi all, my name is Danielle Stone, I have recently stepped back into the Recreation and Trails Unit as Trails Coordinator. Over the past 12 months I have been managing recreation with DEC's Swan Region, and before that I undertook various roles within the Recreation and Trails Unit. Given my background I aim to hit the ground running with the array of projects that are underway on the Bibbulmun Track and in the broader trails community.

The unit has a couple of other new faces with Larissa Chalmers and David Lindner recently joining us, taking over from Andrew Kemp and Antony Sercombe. Larissa and David will be assisting in the day to day management of the Bibbulmun Track and the Munda Biddi Trail, as well as supporting the Unit's expansion into the coordination and management of other recreational activities across DEC's vast estate.

Next time you're out for a hike you may notice some of the hard work Scott Hunter and Josh Dibua have been doing over the past few months, including upgrades to various parts of the Track, Mt Dale, Harris Dam, Giants and Torbay campsite upgrades, repositioning toilets at Noggerup and Grimwade, and replacing steps at Long Point, Lake William and Quarram Beach.

Scott has been cracking the whip with his crew of BTF volunteers who beat a record and installed a kit bridge at Mt Cooke in six hours! Two weeks later the record was challenged but not broken at Yarragil Form where Scott and volunteers installed another kit bridge in six hours and 11 minutes.

Down on the South Coast Pip Tilbrook has been progressing with the re-alignment of the Track next to the wind farm. Site works and tent pads have been completed at the new campsites with shelters currently being prefabricated ready for installation over the coming weeks. Names have been chosen for the two new campsites

– the western shelter will be called Mutton Bird and the eastern shelter called Sandpatch. Hidden Valley will be closed on completion of the project.

DEC Project Officer Nick Evans has been working hard on the Bibbulmun Wellington Spur Trail which is almost complete. Both campsites have been completed, 95% of the trail has been constructed and trailhead signage is currently being developed. Keep an ear out for news of the opening!

On that note I'd also like to send a big thank you to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation, Track volunteers and DEC staff who help to keep the Track to a world class standard. I am looking forward to crossing paths with familiar faces, and meeting some new ones over the next few months.

Happy walking!

Danielle Stone – Trails Coordinator



The recent fire near Northcliffe affected 51km of the Track and a major diversion is now in place. Big thanks go out to DEC Donnelly District staff members who put a diversion in place so quickly. Donnelly District is currently assessing the damage so we can get the Track repaired as quickly as possible.

Weir Wall Closures

Due to upgrade works on Mundaring Weir, sections of the weir wall will be closed for intervals over the next six to twelve months. At this stage, the exact timing and length of closures are unknown so please check the Track conditions pages for updates prior to walking in this area. A diversion will be put in place.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please! Do not leave any food anywhere at the Bibbulmun Track campsites.

- Food left behind attracts animals to the site
- The presence of small animals attracts snakes
- Food is not secure from animals even when left in tough plastic containers
- It is inappropriate to feed native animals and it could kill them
- Food left for any length of time may no longer be safe for human consumption

If you are not going to eat it, then please carry your food out with you. This includes food in sealed tins and other containers. Please consider our Maintenance Volunteers as they have enough to carry without the extra burden.

Walker Story - "You must have breakfast!"

End-to-enders Fred and Brian Appleby walked the Track from north to south in September-October 2006. They had many interesting experiences, including a meeting with a very friendly Asian couple, which Brian describes. Read on:-

Yap Say Jhiong was very excited when he and his wife greeted us at the top of the steps leading down to Mutton Bird Beach.

"What army are you from?"

It took some time to convince him that we weren't in the army, just walking the Bibbulmun Track and taking a 'smoko' break.

We explained to him where we had started and where we would finish. Having cleared this up, he exclaimed, "You need breakfast, you need breakfast!"

We tried to convince him that we had eaten breakfast before we left the Torbay campsite, but he wouldn't listen.

"No, no, no! You must eat breakfast!"

With that he went down to his car. We followed and he appeared with two bread rolls containing ham and other meats, which we are pretty sure were for their lunch. You can see the half eaten rolls in the photograph below, and also that Yap Say has Fred's backpack on, to test its weight.

He told us that he had done the equivalent of National Service training in the Singaporean army. We spent a wonderful 45 minutes with them.

The rolls were great, but really not what we really needed at the time. However, I believe that Singaporeans are really friendly people and if offered, you are expected to accept food from them.

Our great experiences on the walk are too many to write about, and this was just one of them. Thanks again for keeping this wonderful Track open to us all.

Brian Appleby

(Ed note: I lived in Singapore for six years and Brian is absolutely right!)



Fred, Yap and Brian

Walker Story - The 10 year Trek

Carolyn Earle and Russ Davis are perfect examples of sectional end-to-enders. Their achievement epitomizes the Bibbulmun Track ethic: 'it doesn't matter how long you take, how many stages you walk or which way you go, as long as you walk every step of the Track you are an en-to-ender'!!

We finally did it - after 10 years we have conquered the Track!

What started off as a casual eight kilometer walk from Asher Road to the Kalamunda Terminus became a 10 year adventure.

It all started on November 25th 2001 when we decided to try a walk on the Track. We were totally unprepared with the wrong shoes and clothes, incorrect food and no walking sticks. Then and there we decided that we would learn about walking the Track and set about doing it in sections. As we don't like camping we took on the challenge of doing the Track completely by day walks and our dream was almost realized, but we did have to overnight on some of the longer sections inaccessible by car.

People might think that this was a slow way of doing it, but to us it was a delight. We set our target of 10 years and walked the final stretch into Albany on November 25th 2011.

By doing the walk this way, it has been slow and steady and we have been able to stop and smell the flowers. The longest walk was 26 kilometers and the shortest a mere 600 meters. We did walks north to south and south to north depending on the terrain and so we ended up with quite a mixture.

We have utilized the services of the many operators along the way who offer accommodation, meals, Track drop-offs and pick-ups. In fact we have met so many great operators over the years that many have become friends. The Track towns and the small businesses that support the Track do an excellent job and it has been a pleasure supporting the economies of the towns along the way and at the same time being able to complete such an amazing journey through some very unique areas.

We particularly want to pay tribute to the volunteers at the Bibbulmun Track Foundation who were always eager to assist with information on Track condition, detours and support infrastructure. We found them a great bunch of devoted people who care so much about this amazing environmental treasure which we have been delighted to be part of.

We have received our certificates which hang proudly in our home as a reminder of a wonderful journey that we feel incredibly humble to have taken part in.

Thank you all

Carolyn Earle and Russ Davis

Track Town - Kalamunda

The town of Kalamunda is home to the northern terminus of the Bibbulmun Track. For walkers who are tackling the Track end-to-end in one hit, Kalamunda represents either a state of pent-up excitement at the start of their adventure or a huge sense of achievement as they walk into the town at the end of their trek.

But it's not only walkers that are catered for in Kalamunda. Anyone who visits the town should make their way to the newly opened Zig Zag Cultural Centre, located at 50 Railway Road, named after the Kalamunda Zig Zag, part of the Upper Darling Range railway line built in the 1890s. The Centre houses the visitor centre, art gallery, meeting facilities and a café.

At the visitor centre, staff will advise you of the many attractions in the town and the surrounding Perth Hills district. It is open from 9am to 4pm and 10am to 4pm on weekends and public holidays. The Bibbulmun Track register is located in the Centre, together with the bell that end-to-enders should ring to proclaim their feat (See Bibb News #55, Track Trivia). On a practical note walkers have access to free showers at the Centre (BYO towel), which can be the equivalent of ambrosia to those who have not seen civilisation since they left Dwellingup!

Kalamunda town centre has a quaint village feel and offers a range of gift stores, character eateries and a vibrant farmers market on Sunday mornings. Art, music and history play a big part here with several heritage building sites in town. A visit to the town library will reward you with views of the largest community built stained-glass window in Australia.

The Kalamunda History Village, close by the Centre, is on the site of the old Upper Darling

Range railway station built to service the Zig Zag line. It is the largest local museum in Western Australia, depicting the unique hills life and industries that developed in the area.

Kalamunda is also a great staging point for visiting the breathtaking Bickley and Carmel Valleys, renowned for their wine and local produce. Considering its Mediterranean climate of hot dry summers and cool wet winters, and with the first vineyards in the region planted in the 1880s, it comes as no surprise that the Perth Hills now boasts a well established wine scene.

A trip to the Hills allows you to truly get away from it all in a gorgeous setting where nature and culture meet. Indulge yourself by enjoying some local wine, visit a day spa, immerse yourself in art or take a leisurely stroll in the bushland and soak up the view. Retreat to the national parks and the cool of the forests to indulge your love of the natural environment. The hills are blessed with a series of more than 40 bike and walk trails, as well as scenic lookouts and picnic spots.

Visitors to the Perth Hills will also be impressed by the range of excellent restaurants and the level of sophisticated accommodation to be found. There are gracious country bed and breakfasts, spa retreats and private luxurious hideaways.

A place of interest well worth a visit is the Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, located in Lesmurdie. Kanyana cares for sick, injured and orphaned wildlife, brought to the centre from all over the state. The centre is open seven days a week and has over 120 volunteers who care for wildlife, are a part of the education team, or do office and maintenance duties. The Foundation holds events in conjunction with Kanyana. Check out the Calendar of Events.

For the more active visitors a walk on the Bibbulmun Track, a cycle ride on the Munda Biddi trail or a swim in Lake Leschenaultia all beckon. For the less athletic, the region has many art and craft studios including the Cultural Centre's Scrap to Sculpture exhibition, in which roadside throwaway materials have been transformed into fascinating pieces of art.

Information on all of the above can be obtained from the visitor centre by phone: (08) 9257 9998 or email: zzcc@kalamunda.wa.gov.au



The new Zig Zag Cultural Centre



NEW licensed Shuttle Services in Perth Hills

Save on back-tracking your trail journey. We make the trip more enjoyable by picking you up at the start, transporting you (and bike for those on the Munda Biddi trail) to your preferred destination, you ride or walk back to the start. A very family friendly alternative to "....are we there yet?"

- Railway Reserves Heritage Trail (5 stops Swan View to Wooroloo)
- Mundaring to historical Weir precinct
- Bibbulmun Track & Munda Biddi Trail transfers (track-accommodation-track or airport-track) - prices on application.

**For more information visit www.mundaringtours.com.au
Email mundaringtours@bigpond.com
or call 0407 429 904**



Carmel Valley is renowned for its local produce

NEW

BIBBULMUN TRACK WATER BOTTLE
NALGENE N-GEN TRITAN BOTTLE 750ML

The bottle has a 53mm opening - perfect for easy filling and drinking.. The cap features a molded in loop, providing a convenient spot to clip or a nice finger loop for simple, comfortable carrying. Graduations are molded right into the bottle. The cap also has a soft touch material for easy gripping.

- Extremely durable
- Resistant to staining
- Resistant to retaining odours
- Recommended for "extreme" adventures
- Dishwasher safe (top rack only)
- Withstands temperatures from -40F to 212F
- BPA Free

Only \$12.95

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS

We are very aware of the tremendous contribution made by our 300 volunteers and it is always a pleasure to see so many at the annual Thank You Day and to be able to meet and thank everyone personally.

This year we invited volunteers to morning tea at the new ZigZag Cultural Centre in Kalamunda. This gave everyone the opportunity of an early morning visit to the Kalamunda Farmers Market, before admiring the new Visitor Information Centre, including the toilet and shower facilities available for walkers coming off the Track. Afterwards there was the chance to visit the Kalamunda History Village.

Volunteer rewards were presented by Board Member Leonie Kirke, who reiterated the Foundation's appreciation of all the help given by our volunteers. This ranges from those maintaining the Track, spreading the word at Community Events, delivering bundles of the Calendar of Events, and being part of the office team to those sitting on the Board. Some are able to give only a few hours each year, while others can manage many hundreds of hours. Any time given at all is appreciated and when it's all put together, volunteers give well over 16000 hours each year to support the Foundation and the Bibbulmun Track.

Gwen Plunkett
Volunteer Coordinator



Board Member Leonie Kirke thanks volunteer Jack Busch



Volunteers John Chellow, Jim Freeman and Steve Sertis received their Outstanding Service Awards from Peter Sharp of DEC. Jan and Colin Read were unfortunately unable to attend.

VOLUNTEER GATHERING IN DENMARK

Maintenance volunteers often make the difference between hikers having an enjoyable experience as they walk the Track, or mumbling and grumbling as they push their way through overgrown branches and prickly bushes that try to reclaim the trail. Or the difference between a clean, well-kept campsite to welcome weary hikers, or a shelter that needs some housekeeping before they can even open their packs.

So it's no surprise that maintenance vullies are appreciated and, in Gwen's absence, I was pleased to be able to attend the 'thank you' function for the volunteers based in the Albany and Frankland districts. An afternoon tea was held in the delightful garden belonging to volunteers Peter and Kathy Burgess.

A delicious afternoon tea was devoured and I enjoyed catching up with fellow vullies, hearing their stories, answering their queries and promising to follow up for them on some of the curlier questions. It was also a good excuse for the region's volunteers to catch up with each other in a happy and casual (rake-hoe and secateurs free!) setting. There was lots of laughter and chatter as both experienced and newer volunteers shared their experiences and advice with one another.

Many thanks to Peter and Kathy for the use of their home, and to all the volunteers for the part they've played in making a difference. You are appreciated.

Charmaine Harris

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS 2011

Congratulations to Steve Sertis, Jan and Colin Read, John Chellow and Jim Freeman who each received DEC Outstanding Service Awards in recognition of their enthusiasm and commitment to the Bibbulmun Track.

They were all part of the original group of volunteers who joined the Eyes on the Ground Maintenance program in February 1998 and they each have continued to maintain their section ever since. In fact, these five volunteers are now the only ones remaining of this group.

The award ceremony was held at the WA Conservation Science Centre in Kensington on Friday 2 December 2011. Deputy Director General Parks and Conservation Jim Sharp hosted the ceremony, while Parks and Visitor Services Director Peter Sharp presented the awards to winning volunteers.

IN MEMORY OF DENE EDMUNDS

On Saturday 31 March I was deeply saddened to hear that one of our volunteer guides, Dene Edmunds, had passed away. It was a very sudden passing and has left many of us in shock.

Many Bibbulmun Track guides, volunteers and walkers knew Dene. Only a few weeks ago, our volunteer guides had the pleasure of his company at a first aid course.

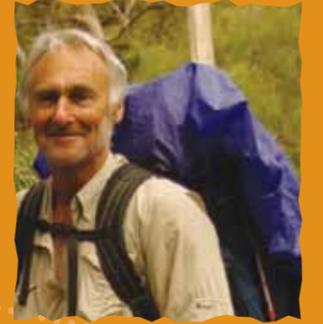
I have known Dene for a number of years. I, as all of us, will remember him as a passionate and enthusiastic person with many fabulous qualities.

In particular I will always remember the time we spent on the Track together, including a walk from Donnelly to Northcliffe with friends some years ago when, due to his skill as a trained masseur, he got his Track name "Wandering Hands".

We will all miss Dene immensely and our hearts go out to his family.

Steve Sertis

Events Manager and Head Guide



CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU TO ALL THE REWARD RECIPIENTS.

500 Hours

Isobel Busch
Jim Freeman

Elsie Grygiel
Charmaine Harris

300 hours

Jim Baker
Trish Bird
Richard Clayden
Colleen Clayden
Peter Dear

Colin Gee
Chris Plunkett
Peter Sweetman
Edith Thomas

100 hours

Greg Arnold
Jenny Arnold
Alan Barker
Julie Bessant
Jack Busch
Mal Cooper
Karen Dowling
Malcolm Ferrier
Mavis Freeman
Ken Graham
Mary Gray
Stuart Gray
Hans Hoette
Beth Hutchison
Tony Jennings
Ce Kealley

Gayle Kealley
Lesley Kerr
Heidi Martin
Kevin Martin
John Murphy
Kerry Ovens
Jeff Ovens
Chris Piggford
Gwen Plunkett
Valerie Preston
Guy Spouse
Adrian Taylor
Diane Tinker
Peter Whittle
David Woodworth
John Wynn

A TYPICAL DAY IN THE LIFE OF A BTF VOLUNTEER

Yesterday I had the opportunity to get out and about, and enjoy myself, while at the same time doing something to assist the Foundation. It was easy and anyone could have done it. So what did I do?

- I drove through the rain-freshened bush of the Perth hills, resplendent in its colourful wintry wattle foliage.
- I shared a stranger's story and experiences over a cuppa on a warm, sunny veranda surrounded by the bush and the sound of birds.
- I enjoyed an up close and personal encounter with a very relaxed and inquisitive mother kangaroo and joey.
- I spoke to friendly roadside workers, library staff, DEC staff and Visitor Information Centre staff, and received information in return.
- I learned about some local history and facilities available for BT walkers.

If you'd also like the opportunity to participate in a similar twice-yearly activity in your local area, then contact the BTF office.

...who says that delivering BTF Event Calendars is boring??

Charmaine Harris

IN THE COMMUNITY – HYDE PARK FAIR

The Bibbulmun Track was once again represented at the popular Hyde Park Fair over the Labour Day Long Weekend. Despite the heat wave, we had a constant stream of visitors to the stand and our volunteers did a brilliant job promoting the Track and the services provided by the Foundation.

Many thanks to: Jim Baker, Alan Barker, Barbara Calcraft, Mike Carter, Jenny Holycross, Shirley Howlett, Merle Milentis, Sandi Nielsen, and Wolfgang Schlieben



Deep purple native wisteria

WILDERNESS FIRST AID TRAINING FOR OUR GUIDES

Over the long weekend in March, 14 of our volunteer guides took part in a three-day wilderness first aid course conducted by Wilderness First Aid Consultants (WFAC). As Bronze Sponsors of the Foundation WFAC provided five free places, and a professional development grant from the Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) paid for an additional six places. The grant came at just the right time for the Foundation as we are in the process of training a number of new volunteers and it was excellent for them to be able to attend the course together along with some of our more experienced guides.

The course was immensely successful and beneficial for all participants, as evidenced by the quotes below:

"It was really good and everyone enjoyed it. Instructor Shaun didn't waste time on things that are not relevant to us as bushwalking guides; consequently, it was a lot more relevant. It was also great having just the volunteer guides there – again, it made all the questions relevant. And it was an excellent opportunity to get to know fellow and future guides better. All in all, good stuff. Thanks for arranging!"

"Thanks to DSR and the BTF so much for the opportunity to do the course. Shaun was a great instructor, he made it easy to learn and we had a lot of fun. I learnt so much especially the difference between urban first aid and being in an environment away from medical help."

We thank DSR and Wilderness First Aid Consultants for their support.



Department of
Sport and Recreation

Yes, THEY DID IT!

Our CONGRATULATIONS to
another 54 walkers on
achieving their end-to-ends.
3 came from overseas, 16
from interstate and 35 from
Western Australia.



Spring weather last year brought many walkers out onto the Track, either to walk a through end-to-end or to complete their sectional end-to-end. As usual, our walker summaries are in chronological order of completion with overseas and interstate visitors mentioned first, followed by walkers from within WA.

Our congratulations go to all of them on their achievements.

Richard Savage (58) came from the USA to walk the Track (N-S, 11.08.11 to 04.10.11). He enjoyed the varied forests, the beaches, walking high above the ocean and even wading through the plains, which was a new experience for him. The section south of Boarding House was a favourite, and highlights included the karri forests, and watching a wedge-tailed eagle from the top of Mt Cooke. Resupplying in towns worked well for Richard, though he would have liked supplies at North Bannister, and he looked forward to reaching each town for a real meal. He was surprised that he didn't meet more walkers. Richard maintains that trekking poles are vital for anyone with knee troubles.

Paul Star (55) who hails from New Zealand thought his walk (N-S, 28.09.11 to 21.11.11) was a very worthwhile venture in all respects, and would like more New Zealanders to know about it. He liked the remote soggy areas across the Pingerup Plains and also observing the WA landscapes and environment. Reaching the south coast and meeting other end-to-enders were special highlights. Paul was happy to find he was still physically fit and felt emotionally sane. The fact that the Track and its campsites are free sets it apart from other Tracks

that he's walked. Wildlife he saw included a tortoise trying to get through the new fence into the wilderness sanctuary on the Nullaki Peninsular. Paul didn't anticipate the cold nights and would have preferred a warmer sleeping bag. He advises not carrying extra food, as supplies are so plentiful in the towns.

The favourite section for Reiner Schade (57) of Germany, also known as Ricco, when he completed an end-to-end (Sectional 18.02.10 to 30.12.11) was from Nerang to Gringer Creek, as he anticipated a cold beer at North Bannister. Having now completed a lot of walking, and several end-to-ends on the Track, Reiner is now dreaming about serviced campsites.

Kathy Saw (68) and **David Large** (72), both from the ACT, have each registered two end-to-ends (Kathy S-N, 29.09.08 to 11.11.08; David Sectional 03.10.08 to 04.11.10; and both Sectional, 15.09.10 to 01.11.10). Posting food drops plus resupplying in towns worked for them and they were pleased with supplies at DRV. They found the Track well marked and were happy to see the upgraded sleeping platforms in many shelters. "The Bibb has the best facilities of any medium/long distance walk in Oz." Favourite sections included Monadnocks to Nerang and Giants to Rame Head. Kathy enjoyed meeting other walkers and volunteers, and both enjoyed the almost constant company of black cockatoos. Fingerless gloves and cheap over-pants were Kathy's best equipment. They suggest leaving camp early each morning as it's the best time for wildflower photographs.

Megan (51) and Ellen (19) **Wines**, from Victoria, walked with **Cheryl McKean** as the Warrnambool Wanderers (N-S, 30.07.11 to 29.09.11). Megan enjoyed herself just as much as on her first end-to-end, and Ellen was impressed with the whole amazing set-up. Megan vows to never again eat Continental pasta mixes, and powdered milk just isn't the same according to Ellen. They found gas supplies easy to obtain in the towns. Neither enjoyed the swamps of the Pingerup Plains, but both loved the sight of the shelters at the end of each day's walk. A cute wild piglet, quendas, snakes, possums and emus were among the wildlife seen. In comparison with other walks, Megan declares "the Bibb Track rules!" Walking poles, Fixomul, Exped mattresses and swamp waders were best equipment. Ellen advises adjusting your pack to a comfortable fit, or 15kg will seem like fifty!

Ross Kendall (54), from the ACT, says anyone interested in bushwalking should do this Track. His end-to-end (N-S, 21.08.11 to 13.10.11) was even better than he anticipated. He found the towns were more than adequate for resupplying, and learned so much about WA history, people, flora and fauna. Favourite sections included Mt Cooke to Nerang, Frankland River to Giants and the wildflowers across the showgrounds. Highlights included reading other walkers' log entries and getting to know people that you will never ever meet. The Bibbulmun is the favourite of his long distance walks and has the best facilities of any Australian walk. Ross' 34 year old external framed backpack is still among his best equipment, but his sleeping bag wasn't warm enough for frosty nights at Nerang and Gringer Creek. He advises that when the going gets tough—just keep going because it will be worth it.

Joanne Smith (32) and **Matthew Gawler**, from Victoria, walked as the Matt+Jo Show on their end-to-end (N-S, 23.08.11 to 17.10.11). They loved their walk, spending time together, being able to see something new around every corner, and meeting other people who helped make the experience even more memorable and amazing. Food drops were posted to the Visitor Information Centres and supplemented by town purchases. Matt really enjoyed the Pingerup Plains and his first view of the Southern Ocean, whereas Jo liked the whole section from Walpole to Albany. She especially enjoyed meeting people along the way and learning about the different areas. The variety of orchids was a highlight for them, as was celebrating Jo's birthday with chocolates and champagne. Wildlife sightings were plentiful including baby emus, quendas, skinks, frogs and snakes. A trophy for Jo was finding a tail feather from a red-tailed black cockatoo. The Bibbulmun compares very favourably with other Australian long distance walks, being set apart by its facilities, community commitment and bio-diversity. They carried only six to seven kg each, using a light tarp instead of a tent and op-shopping for temporary town clothes along the way. They advise enjoying even the hard days because once you get to camp any problems are simply forgotten.

John Murray (62) and **Terrey Blackwell** (65) both from NSW, walked as Murray-Blackwell, when they returned to complete their end-to-end (Sectional, 12.10.10 to 27.10.11) after enjoying an earlier walk in the southern section. They liked the daily changes of scenery, the wildflowers and the variety of orchids. They didn't like the ticks so

much! Food drops were posted to towns, although they discovered that the towns were well-stocked for walkers. Highlights included the Ocean Beach crossing and walking along the Nullaki Peninsular near Denmark, the views from high vantage points, the beach walking and the bird calls through the bush. They say other walks in Australia are tougher but the Bibbulmun is well formed and well-marked. They suggest walking south to north as you encounter more people whose entries you can then read in the journals as you walk northwards, knowing who you are reading about.

Perry (52) and **Sandi** (54) **Mowbray**, from NSW, found their end-to-end (N-S, 06.09.11 to 29.10.11) to be very satisfying even though their experiences were affected at times by bad weather. They liked the fabulous daily variation in landscapes and fauna, and appreciated the shelters with their water supplies and toilets. Woolbales to Long Point was a favourite section, and other highlights were Mts Cooke and Hallowell, the Harris River flats, Pingerup Plains, sunrise at Torbay, coastal flowers, birdsong and getting into the Mumby pub just seven minutes before a hailstorm. They did a food drop run beforehand and left supplies at caravan parks in the towns. Sock liners and Fixomul worked well, but wet weather gear failed them. They say each day's walk is not difficult, but advise not to underestimate the effect that cumulative walking day after day can have on your body, nor the surprisingly recuperative effects of a pack-off rest.

John Drysdale (32), from Queensland, loved experiencing the varied environments of south-west WA (N-S, 25.09.11 to 06.11.11), and was happy to see a government investing funds in such a worthwhile asset. John had no problems resupplying in Track towns, but warns against arriving in some towns on a Sunday. He preferred the southern half and highlights included the tall forests and grass trees, sighting the Southern Ocean and swimming at Green's Pool at William Bay. He met some wonderful people along the way. John saw his first ever quenda on the Bibbulmun, along with many snakes and black cockatoos. Campsites made the walk very comfortable and meant he didn't have to pack up wet gear. His stove was his favourite equipment, and he was happy that Osprey replaced his pack when the harness broke. He advises supporting the Track towns and not rushing the journey.

Ros Holgate (71) and **Nye Evans** (73) from Tasmania were The TTs during their end-to-end (N-S, 07.09.11 to 16.11.11). They thought the shelters were ideal and each well-placed along the

Track, and found supplies were adequate at all towns along the way, particularly at Northcliffe. Their favourite section was the Pingerup Plains, and the views from Blackwood campsite were a highlight. So too was the sunset from Waalegh with its amazing views back down the Helena Valley, followed by a full moon. Most interesting features for them both were the stick ant nests and they wanted to find out more about them. Both experienced walkers, Ros and Nye found the length of the Bibbulmun threw up challenges that you don't get on shorter walks. Walking poles were their best equipment. They urge other walkers to take their time because it's not a race and there's no hurry.

Mary Comer (73), from Queensland, is most appreciative of everyone involved in the Bibbulmun Track's development and maintenance. Signage, shelters and water-tanks were all wonderful. She found her end-to-end (N-S, 30.09.11 to 29.11.11) to be challenging at times, being the longest solo walk she has done. Food drops worked well, but supplies at North Bannister would have been good. Although it was too hard to select just one favourite section, Mary's highlights included Mts Cuthbert, Vincent and Wells, and reaching the Southern Ocean. Wildlife sightings included many 'roos, emus, snakes, birds and even dolphins. Two walking poles bought at Northcliffe were among Mary's best equipment and she advises other walkers to select their gear well in order to travel light.

Ben Kober (33), from the ACT, thought walking the Track (N-S, 28.10.11 to 03.12.11) was the best way to see the south west of Australia—its forests, rivers, lakes, people and towns. Ben organised five food drops and never carried more than three days worth of food. His favourite sections were Dookanelly to Harris Dam and Woolbales to Long Point. He thinks the southern section in itself is a brilliant walk that he'd like to do again to reexperience the sights, plants, animals, smells and emotions. Another highlight was surviving a heavy thunderstorm on day seven! In comparison with other walks, Ben felt the Bibbulmun was relatively easy. His legs were his best equipment, but his hat never fitted properly. He says there is only so much planning you can do before you have to actually take that first step...

Mechelle Owen (33) and **Aaron Gates** (34), of Duncraig, found some challenging sections on their end-to-end (Sectional, 30.09.07 to 13.04.09) but enjoyed the variety and changing landscapes. Mechelle would now like to walk the Track in one go. They took or made their own food on each of their trips and got many great food ideas from people they met on track. Northcliffe to Walpole was a favourite section for both, and shared highlights were the Lake Maringup area and their first night at Waalegh. Another highlight for Mechelle was the first time she was able to climb a hill without needing to stop. Aaron loved the conversations with people of all ages after a hard day and Mechelle felt a real sense of achievement on reaching each campsite. Many ticks were amongst the wildlife they saw. A Deuter pack and a Mountain Designs sleeping bag were their best gear. Their advice is to plan ahead, take your time and enjoy the scenery.

Nicolas Massu (26) originally from Chile, but now of Shoalwater, walked the Bibbulmun Track (S-N, 09.05.10 to 15.07.10) as a stepping stone to a walk across Australia. He says the Bibbulmun is a great walk that anyone should love. A favourite section was the area around Mundaring Weir. Nicolas likes mashed potato after being introduced to it by a co-walker, Richard. He saw plenty of snakes, kangaroos and emus on his walk. His backpack was his worst equipment as he would have liked one capable of carrying more gear.

John Bornholdt (75), of Kiara, became known as JB on his solo end-to-end (S-N, 27.04.11 to 29.06.11) as he enjoyed the peace and solitude of his journey. He thought the shelters were great, and the towns delightful. He also enjoyed meeting fellow walkers and sharing experiences with them. John restocked his supplies at towns along the way. A favourite section was Denmark to Walpole, but he was particularly relieved to walk into Hidden Valley at the end of his first day. Kangaroos, emus, snakes, bandicoots, possums and a fox were amongst the wildlife he saw. John says the Bibbulmun compares very favourably with walks in New Zealand. His walking poles were his best equipment and he urges those planning a walk to seek advice from experienced walkers.

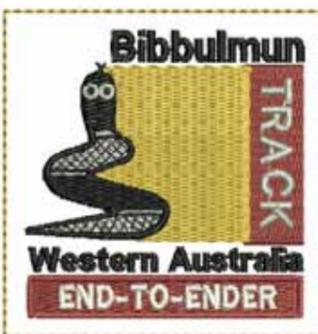
David Anderson (42), from Brunswick, was Pack Animal during his end-to-ends (S-N, 28.07.11 to 04.09.11 and 22.09.11 to 10.11.11), and he simply reported "all good".

Esther Hall (56) of Nabawa began as Esther and finished as **McDuff** on her end-to-end (Sectional, Sept 05 to 26.09.11) and she is appreciative of those who work to keep the Track a safe place for everybody. She was joined for part of her trek by her couch potato spouse who afforded them at least one hearty laugh every day. Esther's favourite section was from Walpole to Peaceful Bay and she loved waking up in the shelters and watching the sun rise. Her walk was relaxing and varied with great campsites and smell-free loos. Lots of wildlife was seen, including seals and dolphins. A lightweight polar fleece rug was among her best equipment. Esther and her husband are now planning a through end-to-end and urge others not to let health problems deter them from having a go.

Another member of the Laughing Ladies group, **Jenny Altham** (56) of Pingrup has become an end-to-ender (Sectional, Oct 06 to 21.10.11) after a start when she questioned what on earth she was doing! But it wasn't long before she was addicted and looking forward to the next trip along the Track. Before she knew it she was well on the way toward an end-to-end, and became determined to complete it. The joy of mastering a hill, waking to birdsong in the mornings, the serenity of the bush, meeting some amazing people and sharing laughter with good friends all helped to make the experience so worthwhile. The glorious wildflower display along the south coast was spectacular. Jenny was joined on her last section by her husband and friends and was surprised in Albany by the raucous celebratory welcome she received from the other Laughing Ladies. Jenny thanks them for making her journey so much fun, and is appreciative of having such a wonderful asset in our own backyard.

Have you got your
End-to-End BADGE?

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



Martyn Tompkins (56) from Balcatta completed his walk in three major sections (Sectional N-S, 01.10.07 to 21.10.11) and found the scenery along the south coast to be his favourite part. His first section from Kalamunda to Collie was hard-going with 12 days of ups and downs. He stocked up with supplies in towns along the way. Martyn's gas stove and sleeping bag were his best equipment, and his old backpack was his worst. He advises other walkers to take their time and smell the roses.

Phil Lehmann (60) of Leeming wasn't keen on the diversion near Hidden Valley, but thought the rest of the Track was great (Sectional, 25.09.10 to 24.10.11). He found food drops were not really necessary, apart from Kalamunda to North Bannister, where Sullivan rock is ideally located. Phil's favourite section was between Long Point and Mt Clare—which also happens to include his volunteer maintenance section. Memorable days for him were wading the Pingerup Plains and walking through a hail storm between Boarding House and Beavis. Kangaroos and heaps of tiger snakes were seen. An Exped mattress was good, but Phil thought he carried too many unnecessary gadgets. He suggests animal body bags from vets are ideal for waterproofing your gear!

Adrian Mettam (55) of Menora loved the contrasts of the Track (N-S, 21.09.11 to 30.10.11) and his favourite section was from North Bannister to Dwellingup, through the White Horse Hills area. Meeting other people but still being able to experience the isolation on the Track was a highlight for Adrian. He had many shelters to himself in the early days of his trek. There were no problems resupplying along the way but he would have liked some more variety at DRV. Adrian was pleased to see so many red-tailed black cockatoos. His new air bed and his old pack were his best equipment, but next time he'll take a smaller stove. He urges others to "just do it".

Jack Van der Bijl (55) from Shelley was Jacko as he completed a walk (N-S, 29.09.11 to 04.11.11) that ticked another item off his bucket list. He purchased food in the towns and ate lots of noodles. He found parts of the walk very hard as he was on a tight schedule, but favourite sections included Mts Cuthbert and Vincent at dawn. He liked the people he met along the way, and saw a variety of wildlife, including a frog that jumped on his head at midnight. All of Jack's equipment worked well for him, particularly his stove. Next time, he'd take more time.

Matthew Silvester (35) of Lesmurdie was Matt during his end-to-end (N-S, 21.09.11 to 08.11.11). He found this through end-to-end to be quite different to an earlier sectional one. Lots of food was dehydrated beforehand and made up into food packages. Matthew loved every section, but particularly seeing the Southern Ocean for the first time after weeks of walking through the forest. Lying in the shelter at Beavis looking out at the majestic karri forest was also memorable. Matt felt

as though the world was perfect when he walked along a pristine Mandalay Beach after four days of wading through the swamps. His mozzie net became his best piece of equipment along the south coast as it warded off the swarms of mozzies. He suggests not trying to over analyse everything, just be organised and go and do it.

Nick Flux (52) and **Tim Law** (53), both from Carine, began walking the Track as a hobby before their end-to-end became a goal (Sectional, 12.07.03 to 08.11.11) and, eventually, a badge of honour. Eleven days was their longest section, as Nick needed normal food after that time. Both loved the karri forests near Pemberton, and a highlight for them was reaching the south coast. Tim also liked seeing the shelter each day and meeting wild animals, but he's not sure about the possum that bit his toe while he was sleeping at Monadnocks! Nick loved the wildflowers and took many photos. Tim feels very proud of his achievement, having overcome all challenges to make it happen. He says it's far less crowded than other tracks like the Overland Track, and it's great to hear overseas walkers say how lucky we are to have our Bibb. They improved their equipment after each walk, and urge others to do it sooner, be courageous and to learn from others.

Bernadette Benson (42) from Wembley found her end-to-end (N-S, 01.11.11 to 16.11.11) to be more challenging than she had anticipated. She was fully supported on her speedy walk, and discovered a highlight was meeting hardy souls doing end-to-ends with full packs. Her favourite section was from Mandalay Beach to Mt Clare, through the Long Point area. Bernadette saw a variety of wildlife, including an echidna. But she could have done without the tick bites and their resulting reactions which caused many sleepless nights. Leki poles were her best equipment and worst was her SPOT device that only worked when the antenna was set in a particular direction.

Jeanette Bunting (52) of Duncraig was simply Jeanette on her end-to-end (N-S, 26.08.11 to 16.11.11). She loved the awesome scenery and the beach walks on the southern sections and thought the wildflowers were spectacular. Crossing the Irwin Inlet by canoe was a highlight, and Jeanette also enjoyed meeting other walkers along the way. She loved the whole experience and was glad she was able to take her time and enjoy each campsite. Many birds and an echidna were amongst the wildlife she saw. Jeanette thinks the Bibbulmun is better than the Overland Track because it's longer. Best equipment was her e-reader (20 plus books for 210 grams) and her boots were her worst. She suggests trying boots in all weather conditions before you start.

Jessica Wolff (52), of South Fremantle, was Walking Wolff in the fulfilment of her dream (N-S, 06.10.11 to 17.11.11). It was wonderful to be able to slow right down, interact with nature and live in the moment. Her favourite section was among the tall trees from Pemberton to Beavis and she enjoyed waking every morning to the bird chorus. Jessica saw quendas, snakes, roos, lizards and ants, ants, and more ants! She thinks the Bibbulmun is the most walker friendly of all walks she's done, yet it still provides physical and mental challenges. Her boots and pack were her best equipment and she didn't need her pillow. Jessica urges walkers to look after their bodies and to travel as light as possible.

Pamela Fruin (59), from Perth, (N-S, 22.08.11 to 18.11.11) found it was a joy to be able to safely walk almost 1000km, by herself, with all the comforts that the Track offers. She prepared and dehydrated food beforehand, organised food drops at pre-booked accommodation and carried only four to five days food at a time. Pamela's favourite section was along the south coast from Walpole to Albany. Highlights included walking in her father's boots, being joined by family and friends for some sections and sharing rest days with them in towns. She also enjoyed meeting walkers from all over the world, sharing their experiences and counting native orchids. Boots, pack and poles all worked well for her. Pamela advises talking to other end-to-enders, seeking planning assistance from the BTF, attending information sessions and listening to the advice given.

Janet (51) and **Peter** (51) **Lake**, of Roleystone, were simply Peter and Janet (N-S, 20.09.11 to 21.11.11). This time around they found the Track a lot busier and enjoyed the company of many other walkers. The wildflowers were beautiful and Janet loved orchid-spotting; she photographed nearly thirty different kinds of orchids. They posted food drops before they left, but discovered that supplies in towns would have been varied and adequate. Possum Springs to Harris Dam was the favourite section for both, and Janet will always remember watching the sun set from the top of the rocks near William Bay campsite. Birdlife was fantastic—they were always singing. Peter says the shelters set the Bibbulmun apart from other walks he's completed. Janet's walking poles saved her knees and Peter liked his Osprey backpack. They advise packing light and allowing plenty of time to enjoy the Track and its inhabitants.

Lene Bolton (60) from Nedlands called herself Ozviking on her solo end-to-end (N-S, 27.09.11 to 21.11.11). She is appreciative of the Foundation, volunteers and DEC for making such a wonderful facility so readily available to all. The Track was great – except for the swamps which she hated. The scenery, the people she met and the great feeling of achievement were all highlights. This is the first long walk that

Lene has attempted and she feels very proud that it was done on her own with no support. She dehydrated her own meals, but wishes she'd dehydrated so much more. A variety of wildlife was seen, but particularly exciting were the encounters with quendas at Gringer Creek and Torbay. Best equipment were her Crocs which got her through five days of wading. Worst was her backpack which only got to Albany with the aid of safety pins. She advises "go light, go light, go light".

Wolfgang Schlieben (75), of Kenwick, was Walking Wolf 2 as he completed his end-to-end in two chunks (Sectional, 12.07.07 to 21.11.11). He relied on Track towns for supplies along the way and found them well-stocked for hikers' needs. Mt Cooke was a favourite section, and a highlight was the big, black, very much alive snake lying on the Track and scaring every passing walker near Rame Head campsite. A monitor lizard didn't appreciate Wolfgang trying to photograph it, and attacked him instead of posing! He appreciated the chicken-wire covers over wooden bridges which afforded a safer footing and he enjoyed the feeling of the wilderness—a drawcard to keep walkers coming back. Walking poles and a fly net were his best equipment. Wolfgang advises not trying to keep up with other walkers, but to go at your own pace.

Carolyn Earle (51) and **Russ Davis** (60), of Subiaco, feel very proud of their exact 10 year achievement (Sectional, 25.11.01 to 25.11.11), completed in the main by day-walks. Both are very appreciative of the Foundation and its volunteers. Russ never expected to become a tree-hugger but he fell in love with the forest and felt very privileged to be able to experience the natural wonders of the southwest. Carolyn also loved being at one with nature and liked the section from William Bay to Denmark with its beach views and the challenge of Mt Hallowell. Russ enjoyed the wonderful feeling at the finish of each day, and both felt a little sad in a happy way when their end-to-end was complete. They catered well with quality food, but Carolyn never wants to see another K-time bar—ever! They saw kangaroos, emu chicks, a wild piglet, plenty of snakes and birds, and loved the wildflowers too. Boots and walking poles were best equipment. They urge plenty of planning, then finding the balance between preparation and participation. Above all, take your time.

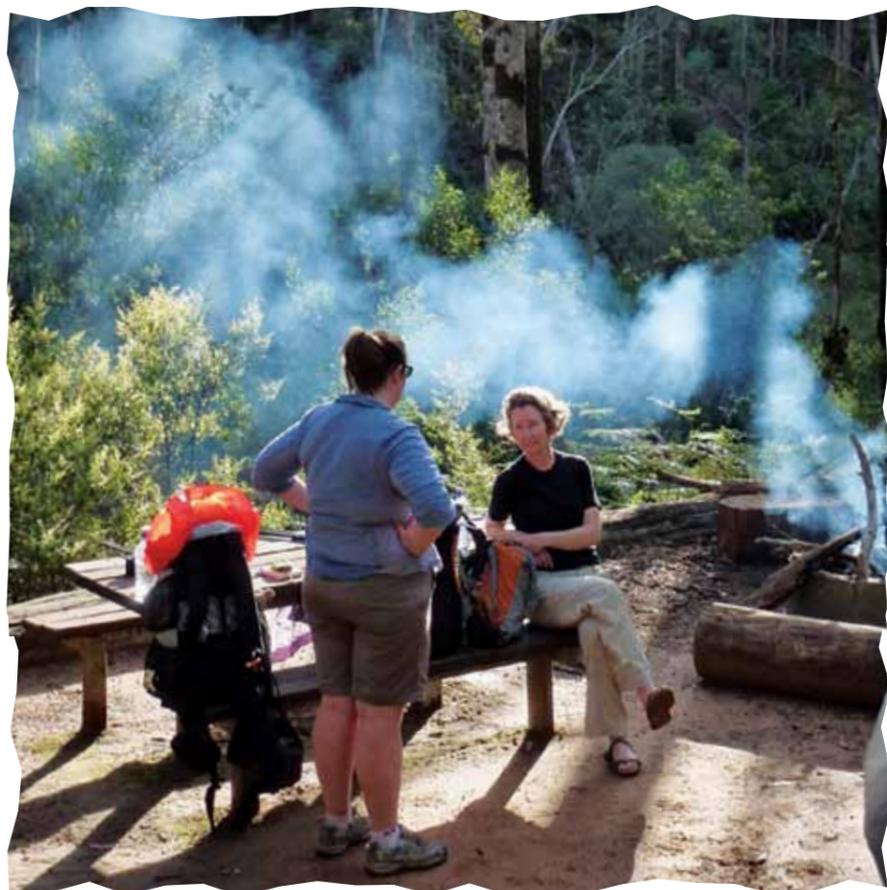
Joseph Laundry (26), from Ocean Reef, called himself Gumnut on his journey (N-S, 31.10.11 to 14.12.11), which proved harder than he had imagined. He slowed his pace in the second half and found regular rest days re-invigorated the walking-spirit. Adding meat to packet pasta provided extra protein in his meals. Joe's favourite section was from Pemberton to Woolbales and he liked waking before dawn and seeing the landscape shrouded in mist. Other highlights

were surveying the countryside from the top of Mt Cooke and viewing the Southern Ocean at Mandalay Beach. Being surrounded by nature, with many hours of silence afforded great opportunities for self-reflection. Joe saw plenty of snakes and was also lucky enough to spot a shy echidna. He found the Bibbulmun harder than the Camino because of the tougher terrain. His advice is not to rush your journey.

Mark Morton (41), of Warnbro, feels his solo end-to-end (S-N, 10.11.11 to 03.01.12) was one of the most valuable experiences of his life so far. He was out of his comfort zone, so completing the whole Track was a significant achievement for him. He didn't make any food drops, but found the town facilities and supplies were excellent. The White Horse Hills is Mark's favourite section and he also enjoyed the stars and sunrise while camping on Mt Chance, all the coastal views and meeting fellow walkers. Wildlife included an owl that greeted him on his way to Boarding House after a steep climb. A self-inflating mattress was Mark's best piece of equipment, and his watch was his worst. He advises everyone to be open-minded in finding your own routines during your walk.

Jacob Rowe (16) of Brentwood completed the majority of his journey (N-S, 06.12.11 to 21.01.12) as a solo walker, but has provided no other details.

Another group of Scotch College students has ended a 5-yr adventure along the Bibbulmun (Sectional, 16.03.08 to 03.03.12). The new end-to-enders are **James Brown** (16) of Baldviss, **Tim Carr** (16) of Anniebrook, **Ethan Caldwell** (17) of Badgebup, **Oli Falconer** (16) of North Fremantle, **Peter Fox-Slater** (16) of Esperance, **Hamish Lamond** (16) of York, **Alex Reid** (16) of Boyup Brook and **Brook White** (16) of Wandering. All said it was a great experience and good fun. Alex enjoyed the team experience, and James recommends the challenge to other students. Hamish thought he'd never complete it when he started in year eight and Brook found the walk was far more interesting in the second half. The southern coast was the favourite section for most, an exception being James who preferred the forest areas between Balingup and Pemberton. Fishing along the south coast was a highlight for Ethan and Oli, and they all enjoyed finally hitting the beaches. Another highlight was the snake skin on the toilet seat! Plenty of wildlife was seen over the years. Fishing gear was the best equipment for Ethan and Brook; Peter and Hamish liked their water bottles, and Tim's best equipment was his shoes. Their hootchies were the least favoured equipment for all of them! Advice for other walkers includes stay hydrated, stick at it, and just do it cos it's awesome.



Laughing Ladies at Camp

Accommodation, Tours and Services

The following businesses support the Track as Affiliated members. Please take a look and remember them when you next book a tour or accommodation. The Foundation is happy to welcome Inspiration Outdoors, Walpole Lodge and Pelicans at Denmark who 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	www.adventurouswomen.com.au	
ESCAPE DAY SPAS	PERTH	Health	(08) 9383 4328	
INSPIRATION OUTDOORS	PERTH	Tour operator	(08) 6219 5164	
KALAMUNDA RAILWAY CARRIAGES ACCOMMODATION & THREE GUMS COTTAGE	KALAMUNDA	Accom/Track transfers	(08) 6293 1902	10% on accommodation
THE GOODLIFE B&B	KALAMUNDA	Accommodation	(08) 9291 3106	On application
MUNDARING WEIR HOTEL	MUNDARING	Accom/Rest-café	(08) 9295 1106	
DWELLINGUP ADVENTURES	DWELLINGUP	Tour	(08) 9538 1127	10% on self-guided walk & canoe tour.
DWELLINGUP B&B & CHALETs	DWELLINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9538 1155	10%
DWELLINGUP CHALETs & CARAVAN PARK	DWELLINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9538 1157	No.
TADDY CREEK	DWELLINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9285 2736	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 lanender.
CHESTNUT BROOK COTTAGE	BALINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9764 1606	10% (direct bookings only).
JALBROOK COTTAGES - KNITWEAR GALLERY	BALINGUP	Accom - 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).
Kirup Lodge	BALINGUP	Accommodation	0422 976 690	
KIRUP LODGE	BALINGUP	Accommodation	0422 976 690	
NELSONS OF BRIDGETOWN	BRIDGETOWN	Accom/Rest-café	(08) 9761 1641	
YOHO PIZZA	SOUTH WEST	Catering	0403 734 814	10% off orders over \$150.
NANNUP VISITOR CENTRE	NANNUP	Tourist Bureau	(08) 9756 1211	
DONNELLY RIVER HOLIDAY VILLAGE	DONNELLY RIVER	Accommodation	(08) 9772 1244	From \$20 pp.
BEST WESTERN PEMBERTON HOTEL	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 1017	
BIG BROOK COTTAGES	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 0279	
OLD PICTURE THEATRE HOLIDAY APARTMENTS	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 1513	10%.
PEMBERTON CAMP SCHOOL	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 1277	
PEMBERTON DISCOVERY TOURS & CAR HIRE	PEMBERTON	Tour/Transport prov.	(08) 9776 0484	10% off tours, Track transfers and car hire.
PEMBERTON VISITOR CENTRE INC	PEMBERTON	Tourist Bureau	(08) 9776 1133	
PUMP HILL FARM COTTAGES	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	(08) 9776 1379	
RAINBOW TRAIL CHALETs	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	0438 561 664	Complimentary bottle of Rambouillet wine on arrival.
BIBULMUN BREAK MOTEL & TRANSPORT	NORTHCLIFFE	Accom/Transport prov.	(08) 9776 6060	No.
CANTERBURY COTTAGE	NORTHCLIFFE	Accommodation	(08) 9775 1055	
RIVERWAY CHALETs	NORTHCLIFFE	Accommodation	(08) 9776 7183	10%.
WATERMARK KILNS	NORTHCLIFFE	Accommodation	(08) 9776 7349	On application.
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	On application.
WALPOLE LODGE	WALPOLE	Accommodation	(08) 9840 1244	
NUTKIN LODGE	PEACEFUL BAY	Accommodation	(08) 9840 8650	10% on standard rates.
PEACEFUL BAY CHALETs & BACKPACKERS	PEACEFUL BAY	Accommodation	(08) 9840 8169	[change] On application.
BLUE HOUSE DENMARK	DENMARK	Accommodation	0438 339 071	10%.
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	15%.
KARMA CHALETs	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 1568	5% - outside long weekends and school holidays
THE COVE	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 1770	10%.
WINDROSE B&B	DENMARK	Accom/Transport prov.	(08) 9848 3502	10%.
PELICANS AT DENMARK	DENMARK	Accommodation	0413 122 176	
CAPE HOWE COTTAGES	LOWLANDS BEACH	Accommodation	(08) 9845 1295	10% - not in conjunction with any other specials.
WILLIAM BAY COUNTRY COTTAGES	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9840 9221	On application.
1849 BACKPACKERS	ALBANY	Accommodation	(08) 9842 1554	
ALBANY BAYSIDE OCEAN VILLAS	ALBANY	Accommodation	0400 216 971	
ALBANY VISITOR CENTRE	ALBANY	Tourist Bureau	(08) 9841 9290	No.
BAYVIEW BACKPACKERS YHA	ALBANY	Accommodation	(08) 9842 3388	Same as YHA members.
EMU POINT MOTEL	ALBANY	Accommodation	(08) 9844 1001	
NORMAN HOUSE	ALBANY	Accommodation	(08) 9841 5995	5%.

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Volunteers have played an important role in a number of projects aimed at upgrading some of the infrastructure along the Track, including the refurbishment of campsites and rebuilding bridges. The following accounts describe the bridge building projects through the eyes of some of the volunteers.

MURRAY FIRELINE BRIDGE

What a great time I had! Everyone worked well together and had a lot of laughs. We started by taking all the gear down to the bridge site and after many trips up and down what became a very familiar hill all the gear was at hand to build a bridge. We did some assembly work and then Scott told us it was time to head back to camp and enjoy a cool swim. There was a lovely barbie for tea, my steak was perfect, compliments to our chef Josh. A few headed off to bed early while others chatted and we got to know each other better.



Early morning breakfast and then off to work we go. We all pitched in and as one bridge was being assembled the old one was being dismantled. Scott is a great leader and made the work easy and fun. We followed his instructions to dig footings, assemble the parts which ended up looking like a bridge and make sure the nuts were put on the right way with marked slots on the outside to show that the nuts and bolts were high tensile. I loved the power tools, I got to crawl in the dirt under the bridge and tighten all the coach bolts with a cute little rattle gun.

By the end of day everyone had worked very hard, we were all dirty, hot and satisfied. Back to camp for a refreshing swim, and then cold drinks and a few snacks while we all eagerly awaited Scott's famous camel stew... or was it road kill stew? There was mention of old socks and underpants as part of the ingredient list, which must be what made all the difference, because the pot was empty, the plates licked clean and everyone sat back contented. It

was a bit sad to know that the bridge had gone up in record time and tomorrow we would all be heading home.

It was great spending time with people from different walks of life, all with the same passion. Many stories were told around the table, tales from the Track. We laughed while reminiscing on hikes gone by. Before we knew it, camp was packed up and we were on our way home.

A very big thank you to Scott and Josh, you made us all welcome and cared for us well. Thank you to the other vollies...we made a great team and thank you to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation for the opportunity to give a little something back.

I love the Bibbulmun Track.

Shirley Howlett

YARRAGIL FORM BRIDGE

Build a bridge? As a complete greenie to bridge building and most things of a constructive nature, I willingly submitted to the request to be a vollie with no experience required.

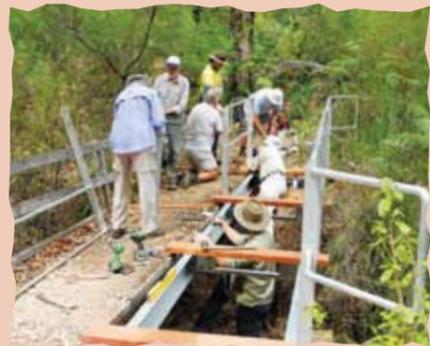
Able led by Scott from DEC, we were told what needed to happen. A bunch of vollies without egos hopped to and voilà, it happened. What an amazing experience to work with people who had great fun together, recognised what each could do best and got on with the job.

A twinge of sadness prevailed at pulling down the bridge that has supported the boots and packs of many a walker, but excitement was evident as the structure and sturdiness of the new one was revealed. It was entertaining to play with an adult sized Meccano set and to use the boys' tools, such as learning what a rattle gun was and how to handle it. That was lots of fun! After hammering, doing up loads of nuts and bolts, backfilling the ends so walkers don't have to step up and putting the final touches of

oil to the wood, it was awesome to sit back and look at what a group of vollies with little or no experience can do.

Camping along the Murray River at the Yarragil campsite provided everyone the opportunity to enjoy each other's company and a few drinks at the end of each day. Build a bridge? What a hoot! What an experience—I would do it all over again in a heartbeat.

Lari McDonald



MOUNT COOKE BRIDGES

At 9.30am on a Monday morning in February four likely lads—Alan B, Graham, Michael and Hedley—assembled at the Sullivan Rock car park waiting for DEC's track master extraordinaire, Scott, and his trusty sidekick Josh. Once the team was complete we headed for the Mount Cooke campsite, where we disturbed a lone walker, Alan O, who was taking a rest day on his walk from Dwellingup to Kalamunda.

Scott briefed us on the tasks we had committed to, which were firstly to install hand rails on the bridge which had previously been upgraded, and secondly to replace the wooden bridge on the old railway form between Mount Vincent and Mount Cooke. We dispersed to set up our individual temporary accommodations, which varied from Hedley's Taj Mahal tent to Scott and Josh's simple swags.

After a light lunch we sauntered about 400m up the Track to install the missing handrails. Alan B managed to scuff some skin and leak a bit of claret before we even started—not a very promising start. The temporary side rails were removed and the new handrails installed by 2.30pm. Graham and Michael took the opportunity to wander off and inspect the new Group Shelter 500m north of the Mt Cooke shelter, while Alan B set off up Mt Cooke, leaving the rest of the crew to finish off the domestic chores.

Dinner was a bang up affair of monster steaks and superb Italian snags cooked by Scott, all washed down with some light refreshments from each individual's private stash. All retired and were tucked up in bed by 8.00pm to get rested for the coming day's bridge demolition and new build.

At 8.00am we all took off including Alan O, our intrepid walker, who had decided to pitch in and help. We parked up and carried the assembled bits and bobs required to assemble the new bridge to the site. Once all the tools and bridge bits were stockpiled we split up into two groups, one to remove the old wooden deck from the bridge, and the other to start the assembly of the new bridge, which was a well-designed big boy's Meccano set that bolts together.

By 11.30am the steel bridge components had been assembled and holes for the concrete footings were completed. Back to the shelter for lunch and a hydration break, after which we returned to the site to drill the boards and attach them to the steel bridge frame. The final coat of decking oil was applied and the job completed by 3.15pm.

The motley crew assembled for a team mug shot, collected all the tools and tidied up the site. We then returned to Mt Cooke campsite, where we cleaned away the dust and dirt accrued from the day's labour. Once again we all enjoyed the wonderful food supplied by DEC and superbly cooked by our team leader—Scott's special feral bolognaise, pasta and salads.

After a peaceful night's rest all the temporary accommodations were disassembled and packed up, and the team dispersed to return to their homes, which ranged from Geraldton to Collie.

Many thanks to the Foundation and DEC for providing the opportunity to help in maintaining and upgrading the Track. Also thanks to Scott Hunter for his leadership, cooking and superb provisions.



Fitting railings to bridge erected in March 2011 by volunteers.



The old bridge on the rail formation



Out with the old



In with the new



A job well done Graham Murdoch, Hedley Amos, Alan Barker, Michael Marsh, ably assisted by Scott and Josh from DEC.

NEWMONT
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PRIZE WINNERS!

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

November

Dough McIvor of Jandakot WA won a Black diamond "Wiz" headlamp for kids.

2nd prize of a Bush Book –Common Wildflowers of the South West donated by DEC went to John Colby of Banora Point NSW.

December

Ros Firster of Cooropoo Queensland won a pocket towel.

2nd prize of a Bush Book –Common Trees of the South West Forests kindly donated by DEC went to Jenny Altham of Pingrup WA.

January

Sue Marsh of Bull Creek won a year's subscription to Landscape donated by DEC.

2nd prize of a two litre Dry Sac was won by Karen & Craig Dowling.

February

Vincent La Rosa of Kardinya won a Gizmo LED headlamp.

2nd prize of a clothesline went to Mal Dennett of Rossmoyne.

March

Winner of this month's membership renewal prize draw – Elvira King who wins a cotton sleeping bag liner.

2nd prize went to Elaine Geddes who won a 2012 WA Landscape Calendar.

ANNUAL LIFE MEMBER'S PRIZE DRAW

Congratulations to Jean Fitzgerald of Manjimup. Her prize was the amazing book – 'Exploring WA's Natural Wonders' and a 2012 Landscape calendar.

NEW LIFE MEMBER'S PRIZE DRAW

Congratulations to Tony Cole who won a \$300 voucher kindly donated by diamond sponsor Mountain Designs.

BIBBULMUN BYTES COMPETITIONS:

February: Stephanie Westphal won an X-Bowl.

March: Sarah Hudson won a cutlery set.

Winner of the online survey 'What Food should you be able to buy in Track Towns?'

Dianne Clayton from Queensland – Ultrasil dry sack.

FACEBOOK 'BE A DUNNY DONOR'

PHOTO COMPETITION.

Winner best caption – Mark McLaughlin – a pocket trowel.

Winner most 'likes' – Emily Pinkus – a Go Girl.



Unless stated otherwise, all the prizes mentioned above were generously donated by Foundation sponsor Sea to Summit. We love their gear and are sure all our prize winners will be very happy!



Walking on the South Coast. Photo by the Laughing Ladies

Office Gossip



After a well-deserved break the office reopened in early January with everyone back on deck. For me, the return marked thirteen years since I first arrived as a new volunteer— how things have changed!

I was greeted by Becky (then the EO) and Jean, who is still with us, and found myself answering the phone and dealing with mail. The office was open only three days a week and there was just one volunteer in each day to assist. It's hard to believe now that we are open five days a week with a team of twenty volunteers and staff.

We were pleased to see Elsie back after the break, looking wonderfully fit, and thanks to Caro who helped out while Elsie was away. With many of the team planning to travel during the year, I think Caro will find herself in demand to fill in right through 2012.

In November we farewelled Clare who had been with us for most of the year, and were delighted a few weeks later to see some lovely happy wedding photos of Clare and Ben.

In February Kathy joined the team, taking over from Clare to look after tourism and associated projects. Kathy is here two days a week and gradually getting to know everyone.

The last few weeks have been very busy with the new website. There is a vast amount of information to be uploaded including the selection, resizing and captions for hundreds of photographs, checking and rechecking of GPS coordinates, re-writing and proofing of all the text and integration of the volunteer management system and databases. We are very excited about the website and feel sure everyone will find it helpful, informative and most importantly, user-friendly.

After a hot summer the weather finally seems to have turned and those lovely autumn days and evenings are here and so is the time to dust off the boots, shake out the socks, make sure you still have your maps and guidebooks and start walking.

Members planning an end-to-end or extended walk are reminded that we do provide free trip planning advice so please call or email us for an appointment if you can come into the office, or email us if you live in the country, interstate or overseas and we will arrange for advice for you via email.

Gwen Plunkett

Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator

Harris Dam Campsite gets a facelift

Volunteers were again called upon to assist with some of the refurbishment work being carried out along the Track, this time at the Harris Dam campsite. Here one of the team describes their part in the operation.

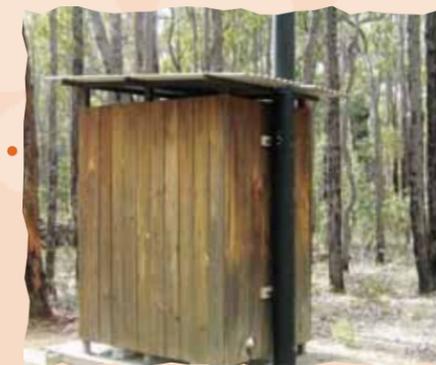
Just recently, I had the honour of presenting a US\$500 cheque to the BTF, donated by Alcoa of Australia, through their Bravo! program. The Bravo! Program recognizes individual employees who spend a minimum of 50 hours per calendar year doing volunteer work for an approved non-profit community organisation. Alcoa will make a contribution of US\$250 to the organisation and in this case the donation was on behalf of Charlie Sword and myself in recognition for work done on behalf of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation. Each Alcoa employee is eligible for one Bravo grant per calendar year.

The work I carried out, along with other volunteers, involved the refurbishment of the Harris Dam campsite last October. We undertook a variety of tasks and upon completion, we were all very proud to stand back and admire the difference our efforts had made to the shelter and facilities. There was also significant work carried out to regenerate and protect the surrounding area against impact and erosion issues.

The project was a very satisfying and positive experience. Making new friends with like-minded people was just one of many enjoyable and relaxing moments spent during the course of time we all experienced whilst carrying out the project.



Many thanks to Alcoa for the \$500 donation through its Bravo! Program which recognizes the volunteer work of its employees.



Oh my god...the food! We all wished every day on the Bibbulmun Track ended in such culinary delights. The biggest thank-you to Scott and Josh for all the wonderful meals dished out, much appreciated. We all ate like Kings and one Queen! One of the definite highlights was sitting around the campfire after a satisfying day's work, bellies full of good food and a drink in hand, having a yarn.

For my wife and I, this project was a very rewarding experience. Over the years we've gained so much from the privilege of having the opportunity to experience a world class walking track, virtually on our back doorstep. Being able to give something back to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation has definitely made it all the more special. We would recommend it to anyone who is considering volunteering for one of the many projects the Foundation carries out.

Phil Batger

Ed note - Many thanks to Alan Barker, Phil and Janine Batger, Jim Freeman, Ross Leighton and Tony Miller who oiled the shelter walls, cleaned and painted the gutters, replaced the sleeping platforms and bunk rails, installed and plumbed two new water tanks, upgraded the dunny including the ventilator, planed and oiled the timber table and benches and moved them to a better location and barrowed in tons of woodchips to help keep the dust down....Harris Dam campsite is now looking better than ever.

And many thanks to Scott and Josh from DEC for supervising all the action!

Walker Story ...

A FLORAL DANCE



The group in Dwellingup

Last year landscape gardener Barbara Steiner took part in the 8-day Highlights of the Bibbulmun Track walk. Her account of the experience clearly demonstrates her passion for the bush and its myriad of floral delights:

In September 2011 I took part in a guided 8-day walking tour along the famous Bibbulmun Track, and one of my long-held dreams came true. I saw the wildflowers of Western Australia in spring as nature intended.

We covered between 10 and 14.5km of the Track each day and no, we didn't do the camping thing, but stayed in very comfortable guesthouses and dined in style!

Western Australia had just had the wettest winter in 15 years and we were assured of a floristic treat. The State is famous for the abundance and diversity of its flowering plants, and the southwest in particular is home to one of the richest floras in the world. Over 8000 flowering plant species occur in an area west of a line drawn roughly between Israelite Bay and Shark Bay, and some 80% of these plants don't grow anywhere else in the world.

Our guides were Steve and Jim, both incredibly fit, knowledgeable, cheerful, extremely well organised and very caring – the best! Thank you for making this a most memorable adventure.

The walk was to start in Albany, so the first day was spent travelling down from Perth on the bus through very pretty, emerald green and rather English landscapes and rolling hills dotted with blindingly yellow canola. The day finished with a quick visit to the war memorial on Mt Clarence before we settled in to our accommodation in Albany, Western Australia's oldest settlement.

Our first day of the walk itself started early and took

the show. The mass of blossoms, each dotted in the centre with two white and green eyes, was simply breathtaking.

Day two of the walk took us through some magnificent karri forest with its characteristic understorey plants; karri oak with its attractive, deeply fissured corky bark, deep purple tree hovea and pure white, lace-like common clematis or old man's beard made for stunning sights. Scrambling over and around the numerous huge jumbled granite boulders – often on all fours – we got a closer look at the ground and spotted the first delightful snail orchids. The steady climb to the top of Mt Hallowell was well rewarded with spectacular views of the south coast, and then the Track descended through more karri forest past Monkey Rock, to Lights Beach and on to Williams Bay through more heathland. This coastal stretch revealed a different plant community, including grass trees, hot pink rose banjine and stunning blue and pink foxtails.

The next day, a relaxing wilderness cruise on the Walpole and Nornalup Inlets in the morning gave us more, and very energetically presented, insights into the ecology and history of the area. Then, our focus was on the forest giants, the massive tingle and karri trees. To gain a better appreciation of the sheer height and size of these trees, we enjoyed a bird's eye view from the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk.

Back on terra firma, we came to see one of the most intriguing trees in the Tingle Forest, the massive "pleated" red tingle tree with its magnificent, ball gown like base. No scientist can say why this tree grew twisted like that, but one thing is sure—it makes you want to dance!

Day four of the walk took us to another spectacular forest giant, the Giant Tingle Tree. The tree has been hollowed out by many fires, but at circa 400 years old it is still very much alive. To protect it and its roots from the tourists, a boardwalk has been constructed around it.



Stunning display of old man's beard



Abundance of wildflowers near the Albany windfarm

In amongst all these awe-inspiring giants, we didn't forget to have our eyes peeled for the smaller understorey plants, and at last I came across a Kangaroo Paw in flower—delicate pale pink and green, near the Frankland River, and nearby a small and wispy tree with a rather amusing common name of snottygobble.

A scenic two hour drive through the Shannon National Park on day five took us into the heart of karri country near Pemberton, where we started walking from the Beedelup Falls. A highlight of the day was the famous Gloucester Tree, the tallest fire lookout tree in the world. Standing at about 60m tall the lookout gallery at the top has become a favourite tourist attraction, which can be reached by climbing 153 steel spikes spiralling around the



Silky Blue Orchid



Barbara Steiner and the pleated red tingle tree

tree. Needless to say I wasn't game and relied on my imagination of the views from the top. Intriguing were the many semi-tame, cheeky western rosellas and ring-necked parrots.

Day six was the orchid spotting day, as we wandered in the rolling hills of Balingup through beautiful mixed jarrah and marri forest with its rich understorey. Golden yellow prickly

moses dominated the shrub layer. Groundcovers included the pretty rosettes of couch honeypot—and finally, with all eyes peeled to the forest floor, we spotted many exquisite ground orchids, which had everyone very excited! These gems included: pink fairies, cowslip orchids, white spider, reaching spider and leaping spider orchids, jug orchids and gorgeous silky blue orchids.

On our last day we took a beautiful walk through jarrah forest. Here, the understorey was very much dominated by tall bull banksia, prickly mosses with slender grass tree here and there. No fires have come through here for a long time, hence many grass trees were sporting beautiful skirts, not to mention their sharp haircuts! And to top off our list of orchid species, we were very fortunate to spot the bird orchid or bearded greenhood, shortly before heading back to Perth.

What fabulous eight days they were, each day filled with spectacular floristic and other highlights, leaving heart, soul, mind and body hugely refreshed and enriched, not to mention the further realisation that no landscape designer can ever design a garden as well as nature does!



Rose Coneflower on the south coast

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from 10 – 17 Sept. 2012.

VISIT: www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au, email events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au or call us on (08) 9481 0551 for the itinerary and registration details.

NOTICE BOARD



WALKING COMPANION(S) WANTED - SECTIONAL END-TO-END

I'm female 47 and unable to complete the end-to-end in one go due to work commitments. I wish to start in the north in August for 7-10 days. I wish this to be a "enjoy the bush" walk of the Track.

Phone: 0409 173 667
Email: Karen.treble@csiro.au
Contact: Karen

RECIPES WANTED!

I would like to make my own muesli bars/biscuits to last my E2E. Is there any way I can make long shelf life ones at home with a dehydrator perhaps? Is there such a thing? Do you have any tried and true recipes you are willing to share? Would also like to hear from anyone with any other yummy dehydrator recipes to add to my list. Thanks, Julie

Email: jpbess@bigpond.net.au Contact: Julie

BOOTS FOR SALE

LADIES Scarpa Brasilia (leather) size 39. Worn twice - 1/2 size too small. \$150

Email: noeleen_sprigg@hotmail.com
Contact: Noeleen

GEAR FOR SALE

SKINS: size XS mens. Worn once. Cost \$170, sell \$70 ono. PACSFE: secure your backpack/bag protector / Exomesh.lge size - new. Cost \$155, sell \$70 ono. Daypack: Deuter - Futura 24 - as new condition - only used a few times. Sell: \$50 ono.

Phone: 9438 1859 / 0449 154 010
Contact: Gabrielle

FEMALE WALKING COMPANIONS WANTED

I'm a female 49 and live in Narrogin, looking for other females around that area to do weekend walks, day walks and camping out on the Bibbulmun Track.

Phone: 0437 881548
Email: fatcat62@westnet.com.au
Contact: Cheryl

PERSONAL LOCATING BEACON (PLB) FOR SALE

ACCUSAT Pocket Series 406 121.5Mhz Personal Locating Beacon (PLB) for sale. \$350 ono. Phone: 9246 0238
Contact: Alan

MEN'S HIKING BOOTS FOR SALE

Scarpa Trek Pro, Leather upper, Vibram sole. 2 years old, worn a dozen times, soles in excellent condition, uppers very good, a few scratches. Size Euro 44 / Aus 9.5. One size too small, Cost \$325, Sell \$110.

Phone: 0429 920 268
Email: carl.richardson@westnet.com.au
Contact: Carl

MEN'S HIKING BOOTS LOOKING FOR NEW HOME

I've seen 100km of the Bibbulmun Track from the outside of a pack and now I'm looking for a new home because I'm itching to get out there and walk it. My silly owner got the wrong size boots so I've only seen 20km of action. I'm Mammut/Raichle Impact GTX navy/graphite coloured Goretex boots in size 8UK/42EU/9US and I retail for \$329.95 but if you offer my owner \$225 and spin some yarn about all the adventures you'll take me on, I reckon you'll have a deal. Please contact Sandy.

Phone: 0419 645 447
Email: healthnut13@hotmail.com Contact: Sandy

GPS GARMIN ETREX H FOR SALE

Personal navigator with Dick Smith extended warranty. Purchased June 2011. Comes complete with carry case, owner's manual, serial converters and all attachments needed for uploading way points from your computer. These attachments need to be purchased separately if buying a new eTrex. Sell \$100. Will post for extra \$20.

Email: jamesritchie@westnet.com.au
Contact: James

TENT FOR SALE

Single person Hubba MSR used once self-standing tent \$300 Weight 1.3k.

Phone: 0414751179 Contact: Karen

WALKING COMPANION WANTED

I'm 58 male and would like a walking companion for Pemberton to Walpole at the end of September to mid-October. Estimate 11 days duration.

Email: djoyce1954@live.com
Contact: Danny

OVER 55S PEEL BUSHWALKING CLUB

The Y.A. H. O.O. Over 55s Bushwalking Club walks every Thursday in the Peel Region. April to October 12km to 20+ km bushwalks - Estuary & beach walks 10-12 km November to March. Enquiries welcome.

Phone: 9537 8209 or 9582 3703
Email: psuijden@bigpond.net.au
Contact: Preston or Ian respectively

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Photo Caption Competition

Come up with a caption for this photo of the volunteers at work on the Murray Fireline bridge upgrade. The winner will receive a Poly-Carbonate Cutlery Set thanks to Foundation Silver Sponsor Sea to Summit

Entries can be submitted by fax, email or post.



GETTING INTO GEAR — TENTS ON THE TRACK.

ONE OF THE QUESTIONS WE ARE OFTEN ASKED AT THE FOUNDATION IS "WHY SHOULD I TAKE A TENT IF THERE ARE SHELTERS AT THE CAMPSITES ALL THE WAY DOWN THE TRACK?" IT IS TRUE THAT THE SHELTERS ARE DESIGNED TO SLEEP BETWEEN EIGHT AND 15 PEOPLE, BUT THERE IS NO BOOKING SYSTEM, AND THEREFORE NO GUARANTEE THAT THERE WILL BE ROOM IN THE SHELTER, AND THIS IS ONE OF THE REASONS THE FOUNDATION RECOMMENDS THAT ALL WALKERS CARRY A TENT.

However, there are other reasons why people take tents—sharing a shelter with a snorer has been a life changing experience for some! One restless night listening to someone else really enjoying their sleep while you suffer wide awake on your Thermarest is enough to make you go out the next day and buy a tent. Some people prefer the privacy of their own tent and the solitude of sleeping away from other walkers, perhaps with a spectacular view as well. And if the shelter is full when you arrive, while it's possible to cook and socialise, you can still get a good night's sleep in your tent.

When choosing a tent it is important to remember the climate that you are in. While it can get cold in WA it is not a 4 Season environment—ie it doesn't snow! In WA I prefer tents that have good breathability; structures that allow good airflow to reduce the build up of condensation inside the tent - which can drip on you all night.

However, the most important aspect of a tent is the weight. It must be as light as possible but still able to perform in the weather encountered. So in the end it's all about compromise, weight against performance. It is fairly common to find a 3 season tent that weighs under 2.7kg in total. Most tents are made up of two skins, the outer waterproof flysheet and the breathable inner shell, which is attached to a waterproof floor. Single skin tents do exist but they are very specialized and generally used for mountaineering rather than bushwalking.

In choosing a tent you firstly have to ask yourself how you plan to use it. Do you want it to be self-supporting? That is do you want the tent to stand up on its own without the need for pegs in the ground to hold it up. This can be done by creating tension in the poles, a particularly useful feature if you plan to use just the inner erected as a mosquito net inside a shelter. Secondly do you need a one or two person

tent and do you need vestibule space ie space under the flysheet, for packs and smelly boots? A vestibule space for storage is very handy, particularly for wet or damp gear.

There are three ways to pitch a tent: pitch the inner first, or pitch the flysheet first (often called multi pitch) or pitch flysheet and inner together (often called integral pitch). Most tents are inner pitch first and then the flysheet goes over the top. A lot of bushwalkers like the flysheet pitch first style, as this means you can put the flysheet up first when it's raining and then hang the inner up inside the flysheet, thereby keeping it dry.

Also, I use two separate waterproof dry bags, one for the flysheet and one for the inner, rather than the bag that the tent came in originally. That way you can keep the wet flysheet from dampening the inner and make the size of the tent smaller by compressing the bags to squeeze out the air. It also means the tent can be split up easily between walking companions.

Integral pitch, which often comes with multi pitch tents, is useful in very windy conditions. The inner stays attached to the flysheet and you simply push the poles through their sleeves and peg the tent down, very quick and simple. Sometimes people take only the flysheet from their multi pitch tent, leaving the inner behind to reduce weight. Sea to Summit make a tarp called the Overhang which is essentially a hoochy (like the Army uses) that can be hung between trees and under which you can lay out your sleeping mat and bag.

Some other things to look for when choosing a tent include seam sealing on the flysheet and the floor, the water head* on both the flysheet and the floor and the material that the poles are made from—metal alloy poles last at least five times longer than fibreglass poles. Check the type of mesh that is used on the inner, is it small enough to keep out

midges and other small biting bugs? How good is the venting—is the tent constructed to allow air to move out and around the tent to reduce condensation and stuffiness? Don't forget tent pegs; it's no use getting a super light tent and then using steel pegs, so make sure that you have light weight alloy pegs that can also be used in sand.

Lastly, it's essential that you practise putting your tent up at home before you leave on your walk and you find yourself having to put up your tent for the first time in the rain and the dark!

Mike Wood
Chairman, BTF

Ed note: *Water head rating is a measure of the waterproof-ness of a fabric. It represents pressure and is the height in millimetres that is required of a column of water before it leaks through the material. Water head is a useful number in comparing two fabrics for water resistance. Floors range from 4000-10000 of water head whereas flysheets range from about 1000-4000 of water head. For floors most trekking and hiking tents are 4000 and above. For Flysheets most trekking and hiking tents are 1500 and above.



THE SPECIALIST SOLO/DUO

	shelter	poles	pegs	groundsheet
Solo	445g 15.6oz	113g 3.9oz	67g 2.3oz	94g 3.3oz
	Floor area: 1.35m ² (14.5 sq ft) Vestibule area: 0.36m ² (3.9 sq ft)			
Duo	633g 22.3oz	146g 5.1oz	67g 2.3oz	135g 4.7oz
	Floor area: 2.14m ² (23 sq ft) Vestibule area: 0.76m ² (8.2 sq ft)			



Our state of the art ultra-light shelter, designed for technical outdoor pursuits where weight and performance are key. Whether you are on a cycle touring trip, an extended unsupported trek or a paddling expedition - the new Sea to Summit Specialist shelters give you all the space and comfort of a tent, with the light-weight, compact size and performance better than many bivi's.

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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 SSW 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 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 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		No. of Adults
10 June 10.30am	<input type="checkbox"/>	19 August 9am	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.5km return walk from Mundaring Weir to Ball Creek Campsite		15km return from Mt Cooke Pines to Nerang Campsite	
24 June 9am	<input type="checkbox"/>	Send this back to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation, PO Box 7605, Cloisters Square, 6850 with cheque OR fax to 9481 0546 with credit card details. Bookings cannot be made over the phone or by email.	
17km return walk from Brookton Hwy to Canning Campsite		The Bibbulmun Track Guide Training Program is sponsored by Western Power.	
8 July 8.30am	<input type="checkbox"/>		
20km walk from Kalamunda to Hewett's Hill Campsite (Fit and experienced walkers only!)			
5 August 8.30am	<input type="checkbox"/>		
20km return walk from Dale Rd to Brookton Campsite (Fit and experienced walkers only!)			



TRACK TRIVIA

HI FELLOW WALKERS!

I finally managed to get out on to the Track to do another section of my fourth end-to-end, from Walpole to Albany. I took the bus from Albany to Walpole, and as I was putting my pack on, ready to set out to the Frankland campsite, the bus driver came over. "Where are you off to, mate?"

"I'm walking back to Albany."

He looked bemused.

"Why? There's a bus from here at three o'clock."

Not everyone understands bush-walking!

It was a good walk, with weather varying between hot, humid, wet, thundery and a fair portion of very strong wind, the worst of which I encountered when crossing the Irwin Inlet in one of the canoes. I don't like boats, be it little boats or ocean going liners, and several times I thought I might get blown back to Kalamunda, but I made it somehow. It has been four years since I walked these sections and I was impressed with the upgrades that have been made to many of the shelters and the work being done to refurbish the many steps that assist walkers to negotiate the dunes.

Sadly the addition of more turbines to the Albany wind-farm has led to a negative effect on the Track, but this will soon be rectified by the building of two new shelters away from the turbines to replace the Hidden Valley campsite. This will also give better options for walkers taking the south to north route, at the beginning of their trek.

The tingle giants were as magnificent as ever and the showgrounds were beautiful, with many families of 'roos on view. The views over the southern ocean still amaze me and the beach walking was kind, firm sand with cold water washing the feet that I now reckon have made in excess of four million steps along the Track!

A question to the ornithologists: When I walked the Track in 2001, there were birds nesting in the shelter at Boat Harbour and they, or their great-grand children are still there, bringing up a nest full of chicks. They were amazing to watch, the parents whizzing in and out every couple of minutes, swerving at top speed between the seven people that were in the shelter that evening, bringing mouthfuls of food to the kids in the mud nest build in the ceiling joists. So what are they? I claim them to be fairy martins, some said swallows and one chap said mud-larks. The German girl with us thought at great length and declared them to be "verdammten birds", but then she had placed her sleeping bag directly under the nest, which was not a wise move. The picture may help.

So that just leaves Kalamunda to Gringer Creek to finish off—when the weather cools down!

A walker sent us recently some interesting comments about food being left in the shelters:

My only disappointment was the food left by walkers at the shelters. The advice I got from the locals is that it is okay to leave food in case someone has run out. Two of the shelters we stayed at had the plastic containers that had been eaten through to

get to the food. The rodents could be heard at night in these boxes. The rodents in one box had resorted to eating the log book and register and a lot of damage had been done to these two books. Most of the food we found we got rid of. I encountered some "speed walkers" who were carrying little or no food, and were eating food left by other walkers. This sort of attitude needs to stop. We should not be encouraging wildlife into the shelters I feel that a 'don't leave food at campsites' campaign should be started to educate walkers of the damage they are doing to the wildlife. Prominent signs at each campsite would go a long way and information on your website would also help.

All of the above points are very valid and are being followed up, both on our website and at the campsites. I have never yet met anyone who was foolish enough to go out on the Track with the intention of surviving on food that other walkers had left behind, and it is certainly a practise that should be strongly discouraged. The policy of the Foundation is that of minimal impact, which means not only avoiding damage to the ground that is walked on and the surrounding bushland, but also not impacting upon the natural lifestyle of the fauna that live in the bush. Making food available brings all the problems described above, especially with regard to damaging the animals that eat it. In addition the presence of small animals attracts snakes, which certainly are not welcome guests in the shelters.

Feeding wildlife deliberately is always to be avoided, and it is equally important that you don't feed them inadvertently—for you as well as for them! Possums in particular are practised thieves and there are other smaller mammals that will smell out your food and make great efforts to get at it. Never leave any food scraps on the tables or on the ground—and that

includes not throwing apple cores or banana skins into the bush! Make sure your food is in sealed containers and hang your pack up rather than leaving it on the floor of the shelter. Having your food supply damaged when you are several days from a re-supply point is not merely inconvenient but potentially dangerous.

A few other "do's and don'ts" regarding the campsite:-

Please don't leave aluminium foil or cans in the fire pit. Somebody eventually has to clean up and take the debris away.

Use only dead wood for a fire, keep the fire to a reasonable size and make absolutely sure it is out before leaving the campsite. I have walked into campsites to find wood smouldering in the fire pit—it only takes a sudden gust of wind to create a potential fire hazard.

Please take all your litter away with you. I am continually baffled by the fact that people will carry a full bottle of wine into a campsite but find it impossible to carry the empty bottle out.

Before you leave, sweep the shelter floor and platforms.

Be sparing with the use of water and make sure the tap on the water tank has been turned off completely after you have used it.

Don't throw rubbish down the dunny!

All in all, try and leave the whole campsite in as good, or better, condition than you found it.

Happy Walking!

Wrong Way Jim



Can anyone identify the birds nesting at Boat Harbour Campsite?

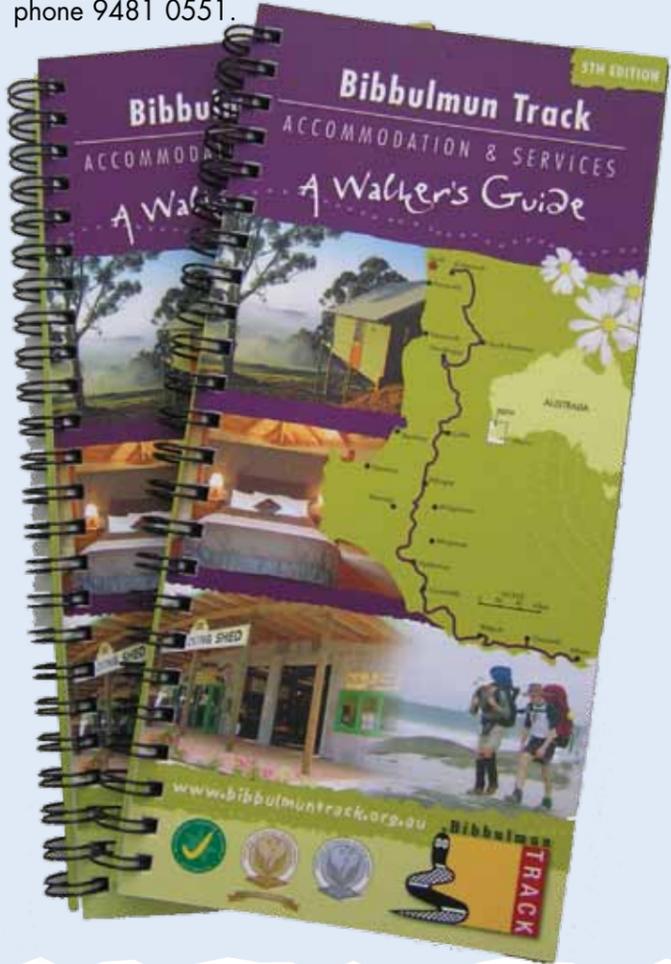
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Reflections from the Registers-

DONNELLY RIVER VILLAGE

12/2/99

Quite honoured to be the first in the Donnelly River inaugural register. I'm on day 26 of my journey from Kalamunda to Albany, another 10km and I'm officially halfway. That's how I'm justifying this splurge at the general store. Had a great lunch on the veranda, watched eagerly by three hungry emus. So happy to be in the karri forest, such magnificent trees. After nearly four weeks in the jamrah it makes a nice change. Heading on tomorrow to One Tree Bridge via Tom Road. All the best to all fellow Track walkers, enjoy your travels!

Shaun

24/10/01

Day 29 end-to-end Kal to Albany. Having a delightfully peaceful and lazy day off at the halfway point of my trek. This is really a magical place, it has me completely enchanted. Cream teas, toasties and coffee at the store, comfy backpacker rooms and showers. It's hard to believe the history of this short-lived settlement with its awesome trees and the roos, emus, kookaburras and parrots that roam the place. It gives me a rare feeling of harmony amongst the fellow creatures on our wee planet.

Tony M from Leeds, UK

15/05/03

A big yay! I've got halfway! Looking forward to putting my feet up and eating some tim-tams and other treats. I need to build up my energy reserves after the last leg from Pemberton. Maybe I can lasso one of the tame emus and ride it to Balingup!

Stomping Stan the Bibbulmun Man Northbound, day 13

10/10/06

Day 26 on the Bibbulmun Track
A day of rest without a pack
Chilling out at the Loco Shed
And resting in a nice warm bed
Laughing with Tony at the store
He makes hot chocolate and much, much more
In the streets I walked with emus
And in the evening I fed the roos
When the time comes to take me thither
Just lay me down in Donnelly River

JS Bark

15/09/07

Stopping in for a pie and pastie dinner. So grateful for the shop and its glorious catering to us hikers. I'll stay the night at the school and then valiantly hike on tomorrow and battle the storm gods. A lot of rain is predicted. A fitting halfway point!

Rooney Tunes, USA

27/05/10

A privilege to write in this register, already over ten years old and running out of pages. Like all north to south walkers we fell immediately under the spell of the karri. Our first confrontation with these giants, just before the Brookton Highway, was like coming up against some primeval force. Donnelly River's laid back atmosphere, little luxuries and wild-life thronged streets are a welcome novelty on the Track.

Simon, David and Steve

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Donnelly River

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The village's delightful country store, with walker supplies and coffee machine, marks the mid-point on the Bibbulmun Track. Open daily 8.30am-5pm. Lunches, phone, shower, laundry, EFTPOS available.

Other attractions include swimming lake, tennis court, flying fox, games room, BBQ, abundant tame wildlife.



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PLB e-2-e 2 mths	\$170.00	\$200.00

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TRAILING AROUND THE WORLD

TE ARAROA TRAIL, NEW ZEALAND



Te Araroa Trampers on the Motatapu Alpine section of the trail, gifted in 2004 by Canadian singer Shania Twain and her then-husband Mutt Lange.
Photo by Amos Chapple

Fifteen years after its inception, New Zealand's long Trail finally opened at the end of 2011.

Te Araroa is the world's newest long trail with a route that takes walkers from the sub-tropical forests and the volcanic plateau of the North Island to the sub-alpine tussock and the passes through the Southern Alps in the South Island.

"It's open for walking, and there are plenty of trampers going for it, but we're not claiming it's finished."

These are the words of Geoff Chapple, who has led the idea of the Trail from its inception in 1994.

"Walkers sometimes use back-roads because we haven't finished the property negotiations, but year by year the percentage of road walking is diminishing."

Over 40 through walkers began the 3,030 kilometre tramp during the summer season 2011-2012, and about 15 have finished the four to five month hike. Standouts in the first season's users were American lightweight hikers. Their packs—without food and water—can weigh as little as five kg.

"They're teaching Kiwis a lesson in how to move quickly through the wilderness, but the Americans are also learning that a Kiwi trail is different from the aerobic hiking they're used to. Here they are slowed by steep descents into gullies, and by tree roots or windfall—the average speed through our bush is about 2.5km an hour. They're also learning that the climate is unpredictable. New Zealand back country, particularly the ranges and mountains, can get four seasons in a day."

Snow blocks the South Island passes in winter, so the recently published A Walking Guide to Te Araroa suggests starting at Cape Reinga in the north in late spring, and moving into the more rigorous South Island tramp from mid-summer to early autumn, before the snows hit and when river flows are low. There are quite a few river crossing en route, and trampers need patience to wait beside rivers that flood quickly out of New Zealand's steep catchments—but which drop equally quickly.

Te Araroa Trust lists the really big rivers such as the Rangitata and Rakaia that have braided beds, ie a network of many channels, kilometres wide, as hazard zones. Crossing is not recommended, and trampers need to pay for a jet boat ride or simply hitch around to the far bank.



Israeli trampers 'Yeti' on the 90-mile beach section at the start of Te Araroa.
Photo by Amos Chapple

Aside from passing through hundreds of kilometres of wilderness, the trail has its social side.

"We go through 70 settlements, and most of them are getting a buzz out of the exotic international walkers passing through," says Chapple. "We decided early on that there was no way the Trail could avoid all the cities. Auckland for instance spreads wall to wall across the Tamaki Isthmus, so we simply chose a green route across its parks and over the extinct pocket volcanoes in the city. It's not wilderness, but maybe you'll get an invite to a barbeque! That's just social fun, and then within a day or two you'll be back on hill tracks and not see anyone for days."

The Government planned a long trail in the 1970s but that effort lapsed without even a sufficiently planned route. Chapple's article in a Sunday newspaper restarted the idea in 1994. He named it Te Araroa, the Long Path and then led the trust

that finally brought it through to its opening on December 3rd last year.

Chapple sums it up thus:

"It's a citizens' trail with hundreds of volunteers. First up there was just a bunch of crazies who thought it could be done. We designed the proto-trail with some rough bush bashing action. Then more and more keen people started taking notice. Later the Department of Conservation and the councils got behind it, and their effort has been important. But it was a citizens' effort. The Trail got pulled up by its bootstraps, and now we're into the fourth stage — track improvement and maintenance—and a Kiwi welcome to the hardy souls en route. The walkers and the magic of the land is what it's all about."

For more information visit www.teararoa.org.nz



Te Araroa is the Maori word for 'The Long Pathway'. The cabbage tree or Ti Kouka was chosen because its distribution runs the length of New Zealand.

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