We are very pleased to announce that the new Bibbulmun Wellington Spur Trail and group campsites will be maintained by residents of the Wandoo Reintegration Facility.

The Wandoo Reintegration Facility, managed by Serco Australia, is a minimum security detention facility aimed at assisting young adults to be reintegrated back into society to play a positive role. This is done, in part, by enabling residents to develop practical skills and to have meaningful experiences.

Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Foundation and Serco, a selected team of residents will receive training and support to conduct maintenance on the 18km trail which links the Bibbulmun Track to the Wellington Dam recreation area.

The trail encompasses two campsite areas, purpose built bridges and goes through mixed jarrah forests, pine plantations, farm land, across old railway formations from the logging industry and ends at the dam. It is an area rich in natural and engineering history and has been developed to meet the needs of school groups.

The Bibbulmun Track’s long history of association with prison work crews began in 1994 when the Ministry of Justice (now the Department of Corrective Services) provided workshop facilities and labour to prefabricate shelters, and selected prisoners worked out on the Track itself. This led to an MOU between the MOJ and CALM (now DEC) in 1998 and the setting up of work camps.

This relationship continues to the present day and everyone involved in this new partnership is looking forward to an equally successful outcome, given the opportunities it offers for reparation and positive community engagement.

*Details of these events can be found in issue 48 of the Bibbulmun News, which can be downloaded from our website.

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**ADVENTURE RAFFLE**

**HOLIDAYS AND HIKING GEAR – SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!**

Our Adventure Raffle is well under way thanks to the enthusiastic response of members who have already sent in their raffle books.

Over $10,000 worth of magnificent prizes have been generously donated by World Expeditions, Mountain Designs, Sea to Summit and Cape Howe Cottages.

This year, tickets are also available online, so please spread the word and help make this the best raffle yet!

See page 2 for full prize details...

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The Wandoo Reintegration Facility to maintain Wellington Spur Trail and group campsites will be maintained by residents of the Wandoo Reintegration Facility.
Welcome to the winter edition of Bibbulmun News.

This time last year we reported on the widespread bushfires just south of Northcliffe. Having just re-opened the diversion in this area, lightning struck near Balranald and, once again, a large section of Track has been affected resulting in a long diversion.

Such is the nature of the Bibbulmun Track – with 1000 kilometers of track and 49 campsites there is always something that requires fixing, moving, saving or upgrading!

While many of the impacts are caused by Mother Nature, other impacts are the result of human activity such as development, mining and the use of motorized vehicles.

One example featured in this edition of Bibbulmun News (see page 25) is the increasing number of trail bikes in WA. The damage inflicted on the Bibbulmun Track is an ongoing source of frustration to our maintenance volunteers and to walkers – particularly as the bikes aren’t required to be registered, so even if the bikes are seen, they cannot be identified.

Please be assured that our Board is acutely aware of the issue and has been involved at many levels in the discussion leading to the development of strategies to manage the recreational use of trail bikes. We will continue to highlight the need for bike registration and rider education in particular and will keep our members informed of any progress.

Our front page article reports on a new relationship between the Foundation and Serco to maintain the new Bibbulmun Wellington Spur Trail. At a meeting at the Wandoow Reintegration Facility I was introduced to a couple of the residents who will be amongst the first group to take part in this project. They were both looking forward to the opportunity, particularly as both had grown up in the suburbs and had never spent any time in the bush. It seems unbelievable that someone in their 20’s has never actually been into a natural area, but this reality is increasingly the norm for the younger generation.

Other than gaining practical skills and the confidence to find employment on leaving detention, the young men will develop a sense of responsibility as they take part in this major maintenance project. They will also participate in a number of activities such as bushwalking, kayaking, and orienteering. The Bibbulmun Track is open to all as a prime example of the benefits of bushwalking and outdoor pursuits. If you are in the area, drop in for a free coffee and to meet the young men in the program.

Finally, a sincere “Thank you” to everyone who has bought a raffle ticket. Thanks to the support of our sponsors we can assure you that 100% of the funds raised will go towards Track projects.

Have a great time out there!

Linda Daniels
Executive Director

DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

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

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

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

Donations of $500 or more are recognised with a plaque on the back of a dunny door!
To the Bibbulmun Track
Please find enclosed the end-to-end statement as we walked.

For my brother Wim it was the experience of having accomplished something he never in his wildest dreams would have ever been dreaming of doing.

After a hard beginning I promised brother Wim that the lights will be bright and burning before we reached Albany.

Have been thanking all the vollies and you people many times before, but you cannot be praised enough.

“I/We will be back”
Best regards,
Marinus van der Zande/Wim van der Zande
(Track name “Snooping Goties”)
Netherlands

Hi all involved in the organising of the Volunteer gathering – you all did very well!

It was lovely to be thought of and receive such a lovely gift and bag of goodies – you all put a lot of thought and work into the day and I am sure everyone would have been more than happy and hopefully inspired to carry on being a volunteer.

We are hoping I can do more next year as I do miss the people contact and feeling of giving back even in a small way.

Cheers,
Carol

Dear Gwen and Staff!

This is a note of appreciation from myself and Elaine for all your help, support and friendship over the past twelve years since we began our bushwalking on the Bibbulmun Track in 2001.

To yourself, Steve Sertis, Jim Baker and the rest of the office staff and volunteers we want to say Thank You for your hard work in maintainng such a high standard in keeping the day to day activities of the Track ticking along year after year.

We have both loved the times when we have been able to visit you in the office to talk face to face and to share our experiences of our walks with you, especially after our non-stop walk when we came in to share Elaine’s birthday cake with you all in September 2008. In twelve years we have completed four end-to-end in 2004, 2006, 2008 and now 2012, one non-stop, one in two halves and the other in two sections. Add to that day walks, too numerous to count. Our whole experience has been nothing short of fantastic. Although it has become a little harder as we have grown into our early seventies, the whole experience has been nothing short of fantastic. Although it has become a little harder as we have grown into our early seventies, the whole experience has been nothing short of fantastic. Although it has become a little harder as we have grown into our early seventies, the whole experience has been nothing short of fantastic. Although it has become a little harder as we have grown into our early seventies, the whole experience has been nothing short of fantastic. Although it has become a little harder as we have grown into our early seventies, the whole experience has been nothing short of fantastic. Although it has become a little harder as we have grown into our early seventies, the whole experience has been nothing short of fantastic. Although it has become a little harder as we have grown into our early seventies, the whole experience has been nothing short of fantastic. Although it has become a little harder as we have grown into our early seventies, the whole experience has been nothing short of fantastic. Although it has become a little harder as we have grown into our early seventies, the whole experience has been nothing short of fantastic. Although it has become a little harder as we have grown into our early seventies, the whole experience has been nothing short of fantastic. Although it has become a little harder as we have grown into our early seventies, the whole experience has been nothing short of fantastic. Although it has become a little harder as we have grown into our early seventies, the whole experience has been nothing short of fantastic. Although it has become a little harder as we have grown into our early seventies, the whole experience has been nothing short of fantastic. Although it has become a little harder as we have grown into our early seventies, the whole experience has been nothing short of fantastic. Although it has become a little harder as we have grown into our early seventies, the whole experience has been nothing short of fantastic. Although it has become a little harder as we have grown into our early seventies, the whole experience has been nothing short of fantastic. Although it has become a little harder as we have grown into our early seventies, the whole experience has been nothing short of fantastic. Although it has become a little harder as we have grown into our early seventies, the whole experience has been nothing short of fantastic. Although it has become a little harder as we have grown into our early seventies, the whole

Hi everybody,

My 7 year old son and I went for a four day walk from Donnelly River Village to Beedelup. We managed to pick the perfect days for the walk just after the rain, which cooled down the air.

We so wish that we can do it all again someday but I promised Sandy that we won’t go bushwalking again until I can walk the mountainous parts.

We also found the tree that looks like a fish leaping out of the woods. That was before breakfast.

Hope you enjoy the pictures.

Regards,
Regina

To place an ad you can contact us by email, snail mail, phone or in person. Members can post ads directly on to the website. Just log in using your profile, then go to News and then Notice Board and follow the prompts.

If you are not sure about your profile, refer to page 28 of issue #61 of the Newsletter, or give us a call on 9481 0551

Greetings to you good people at the Bibbulmun Track Foundation. The walk I did “Highlights of the Bibbulmun Track” in October not only provided me with a wonderful experience and treasured memories, it also gave me the opportunity to take lovely photos which I shared for Christmas cards! Thank you to all for your work, and particularly best wishes to Steve and Jai, the best tour guides in the world.

Bettina le Gras
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 while walking, follow the temporary markers, not your map. The Waugal trail markers will revert to the normal black on yellow when the diversion reopens 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 dependent 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 from 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
recreationandtrails@dec.wa.gov.au
Ph: (08) 9334 0265

Dec District Offices

Perth Hills District (Mundaring and Dwellingup)
Kalamunda to the Harvey-Quindanning Road
Map 145 or Sections 4 to 20 in the Northern Guidebook
Contact Rebecca Hamilton on (08) 9290 6135 or rebecca.hamilton@dec.wa.gov.au

Wellington District (Collie)
Covers Harvey –Quindanning Road to Manjimup
(Dornbrook-Bayup Brook Rd)
Map 3 or Section 20 to 25 in Northern Guidebook
Contact Nick Eason on (08) 9745 7886 or nick.eason@dec.wa.gov.au

Blackwood District (Balingup)
Covers Manjimup (Dornbrook-Bayup Brook Rd) to William Springs (Gold Gully Rd)
Map 4 or Sections 25 to 30 in the Northern Guidebook
Contact Andrew Sandor on (08) 9731 6232 or andrew.sandor@dec.wa.gov.au

Donnelly District (Pemberton and Northcliffe)
Covers William Springs (Gold Gully Rd) to Pingrup Road
Maps 5 and 6, Section 10 in the Northern Guidebook and Sections 31 and 42 in the Southern Guidebook
Contact John Hansel on (08) 9776 7095 or john.hansel@dec.wa.gov.au

Frankland District (Walpole)
Covers Pingrup Road to Denmark River mouth
Maps 6, 7, 8 or Sections 42 to 53 in the Southern Guidebook
Contact Howard Manning on (08) 9649 6490 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 Conry on (08) 9842 6500 or luke.conry@dec.wa.gov.au

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 moles
• 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.

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 CONSCIOUS OF VISITORS

New counters have been installed to provide data on the number of walkers using the Track.

Autumn is finally here after a long hot summer, with Perth swellering through its hottest summer on record. The maximum temperature rose above 37 degrees for 21 days, beating the previous record of 19 days in the summer of 1971-72. These extremely hot conditions made it a difficult fire season for all DEC districts through which the Bibbulmun Track passes.

Around 4pm on Tuesday 12 February an intense thunderstorm passed through the area around Balingup and Greenbushes starting numerous fires in the region. The bushfire unfortunately led to the loss of Southampton Bridge, damage to Blackwood campground toilet and water tank, the closure of a large portion of Track between Balingup and Donnelly River Village and sadly the loss of the Southampton campsite toilet and water tank, the closure of a large fire damaged forest will have to be harvested. These issues are limiting the available options, however we are hopeful a diversion will be ready shortly.

Our long standing construction supervisor Scott Hunter has resigned from the DEC. His work and supervision of volunteer projects on the Bibbulmun Track will be greatly missed.

After 17 years, construction supervisor Scott Hunter has resigned from the DEC. His work and supervision of volunteer projects on the Bibbulmun Track will be greatly missed.

Please! Do not leave any food anywhere at the Bibbulmun Track campsites.
In mid-February fires started by lightning ripped through the shires of Nannup, Donnybrook-Balingup, Bridgetown-Greenbushes and Manjimup, burning through Southampton, Greenbushes, the western part of Bridgetown, Hester Brook, Wandillup and Manjimup. At the peak of the conflagration nine separate fires were burning.

More than 200 fire-fighters battled tirelessly to bring them under control, assisted by six water bombers and two helicopters. Residents were forced to flee their homes as the flames bared spread through more than 3000ha of bushland.

The impact upon the Bibbulmun Track was considerable, with approximately 11km of the Track being affected directly by the fire, from Spring Gully Road to a point south of the bridge spanning Southampton Road. At time of writing the Track is now sitting in the bottom of the river, and this was the only viable all seasons crossing point of the Blackwood River for a long, long way.

To walk nearly 100km and to be pretty much awash from civilisation and self sufficient for 30 days appeals to only a few crazies. Well I confess I am crazy. And Hilke must be too. The two of us came all the way from South Africa especially to walk your Bibbulmun Track. And we loved it.

We were so impressed with the Track itself. It was so much prettier than either of us expected. Each section had its own appeal, although I must admit I was very pleased to have a slight change of scenery after 500km of jarrah forest! Photos don’t do justice to the magnificence of the karri forest and the sheer size of the tingle trees. I struggled to enjoy the swampy section, but I have to confess to having a very sore back by then and feeling constantly hungry! Days and days of cloud and rain didn’t help. However all was forgiven and forgotten on reaching the coast. The delight of sun, sea and sand, of swimming and the beautiful coastline, tempered the flies, mozzies and aches and pains!

The bush regeneration after a fire. The picture below was taken recently of part of the bush that was subjected to a large fire to the south of Northcliffe in February 2012 (See Issue # 59 of Bibbulmun News). What was reduced to a desolate landscape has recovered extremely well over twelve months and will soon be looking better than new!

The bush regeneration a year after the fire near Northcliffe.

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**Long Service Awards**

This year's annual Volunteer Thank You Days were even more special than usual, as we honoured nearly 150 volunteers with Long Service Awards.

Since its formation 15 years ago, the Foundation has enjoyed excellent volunteer support, always having around 300 active volunteers. Their roles range from maintaining the Bibbulmun Track and guiding events to administration duties, answering queries, surveys and community events.

The commitment and enthusiasm of these volunteers, including the Board of Directors, is instrumental to the operation of the Foundation and the maintenance of the Bibbulmun Track.

Each year Foundation volunteers have received awards based on the number of hours contributed in a financial year. These rewards, for over 100, 300 and 500 hours, are generously provided by Foundation sponsor Mountain Designs.

As many volunteers are unable to give more than a few hours each year but have supported the Foundation, it is important to show our appreciation to our volunteers.

Thank You Days provide an excellent opportunity to sort out faces, names and sections.

For a full list of 5 Year volunteer award recipients visit the website. We will also publish a full list of names in our Annual Report.

**Thank You Days**

Rewards and awards were presented at a series of functions in Kalamunda, Albany, Denmark, Bunbury and Busselton.

The ZigZag Cultural centre was again the venue in Kalamunda, where about 75 volunteers gathered for morning tea. Board member Louise Yuman presented the Mountain Design Rewards to 49 of our dedicated volunteers, while Board Chairman Mike Wood presented the five and ten year Long Service Awards. The 15 year Awards were presented by Foundation ED Linda Daniels-Charmaine and I travelled to William Bay for a delightful afternoon tea at the home of Sue

Long Service Awards recipients at the Volunteer Thank You Day in Kalamunda

15 Year Long Service Award recipients at the Volunteer Thank You Day in Kalamunda

15 Year Volunteers

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5 Year Volunteers

For a full list of 5 Year volunteers award recipients visit the website. We will also publish a full list of names in our Annual Report.

Thank You Days provide an excellent opportunity to show our appreciation to our volunteers. While three days are chosen to acknowledge the efforts of volunteers we recognize on a daily basis the remarkable effort...
Spring 2012 proved to be a popular time for walkers to complete their journeys along the Bibbulmun Track, with many walkers, great facilities and our spectacular spring wildflowers attracting many to the Track. Our congratulations go to all end-to-enders on their achievements.

As usual, entries are in chronological order of completion with overseas and interstate visitors mentioned first, followed by walkers from within WA.

Reinhard Altscher (66), from Germany (N-S, 07.10.07 to 14.11.07), has completed many long walks in Spain, Greenland, Norway and Mozambique but this was his first walk in Australia. He couldn’t help but feel a sense of achievement when walking past the Aura Bay. He felt it was very special to have made it, which was a night of music and singing with a group at Walpole.

Waalegh. He reminds other walkers that a good, warm sleeping bag is essential.

Roger Everard (65) from England (Sectional, 15.12.11 to 15.11.12) found the Bibbulmun Track to be very different from other walks he has done. He liked the feeling of remoteness without actually being remote. After walking a section back in 2000, he had always had the intention of returning for an end-to-end. Roger thought the shelters and water supply were excellent and enjoyed the fellow walkers he met on Track. Wildlife made many appearances including an echidna near Dwellingup and an eagle flying in the trees. Roger enjoyed meeting other people and highlights of his walk included being with his 10kg weight loss and Janet described the view of the southern ocean. Richard was impressed with the Bibbulmun Track as their best long distance walk again was indescribable. He walked with Bill town-clothes ahead of you to the next town so that you don’t have to carry them.

Bill Shaw (62) from the UK and found his end-to-end (Sectional, 15.10.10 to 21.12.11) to be quite different than the Pennine Way because of the weather. He has no problem re-upping along the way and managed the long stretches well. Reinhard’s favourite sections included Mt Cooke, the forests south of Pemberton and arriving in Albany. He enjoyed meeting other people and a highlight was a night of music and singing with a group at Walpole. He remains other walkers that a good, warm sleeping bag is essential.

Hilke Kruger (54) and Michael van der Zande (58) from NSW enjoyed every minute of their walk as an experience that will live with her forever. Hilke described the Bibbulmun Track as her best equipment. Carol suggests posting food drops to overseas, but nowhere else has she experienced such a well-developed track while still feeling safe in the knowledge that there were shelters and water supplies in the Track and the efforts of the volunteers. Be mindful of your own rubbish and willing to carry out any rubbish that you might find along the Track.

Alexander Kronglow (43) from Queensland was AK or Macaroni on his end-to-end (Sectional, 12.11.11 to 01.02.13) which he walked in two sections. He thought it was a great trail, and well marked but much quieter than he expected, sharing only five others apart of thirty between Collie and Albany. Alexander particularly liked the section between Northcliffe and Dog Poel and overall thought the Track had fantastic views and some amazing colours. He saw many, many tiger snakes and was very happy to have his gaits.

Dianne Clayton (52) from Queensland and Dianne Senior (54) from NSW found their end-to-end (N-S, 28.08.12 to 21.11.12) to be an amazing, challenging, wonderful experience. They say take the time to enjoy the journey, have a good planning of food, rest days and daily walking distances is the key to enjoyment.

Dianne from Victoria (N-S, 10.09.12 to 05.11.12) thought that, as a first long-distance walking track, the Bibbulmun Track is in a world class of its own. Walpole to Denmark was Richard’s favourite section and Janet also enjoyed the walk from Denmark on to Albany. The single track and wildflowers were highlighted along with the first view of the southern ocean. Richard was impressed with the wifi at Walpole. He also found the walk an experience that will live with her forever. Wildlife included goannas, cockatoos, roos, snakes, wallabies and dolphins. Janet enjoyed her whole sleeping bag was Janet’s best equipment, and Richard liked his walking poles. They say good planning of food, rest days and daily walking distances is the key to enjoyment.

Charlie Barren (50) from Victoria enjoyed his walk (N-S, 26.09.12 to 07.11.12) which he found easy and relaxing. He thought the Track maintained, the facilities and especially the section of the Bibbulmun Track to be more leisurely and much more relaxing than the Appalachian Trail and with better maintained shelters and toilets. Among his best equipment was a big blow-up mattress, used in preference to a big blow-up mattress, used in preference to a big blow-up mattress, used in preference to a...
Alan Thurlow (32) from West Perth (N-S, 15.10.12 to 26.10.12) found the Bibbulmun to be a warmer sleeping bag. He advises other walkers to plan summer walks to be prepared for isolation and high temperatures.

David Parmenter (47) from Halls Head (Sectional, 27.12.08 to 26.10.12) found sectional hikes suited to his needs. He walked the Track for personal and family reasons to find a massive huntsman spider on his face. Toby Grieve (31) from Heathridge had a great time on his end-to-end (N-S, 22.10.12 to 11.12.12) but says the trip was a roller-coaster both physically and mentally. And he’ll never eat fish and chips again. He says his best section was the Bibbulmun from Torbay Inlet to Cathedral Rocks.

The area around Rame Head was his favourite as the views and a lightning storm were amazing. He also enjoyed the camping opportunities in areas between Lake Maringup and Woodlands during storms, and seeing the ocean for the first time. Toby says there were no interactions with wildlife. At Geographe Creek he awoke at midnight to find a massive huntsman spider on his face. Then at Gadenhe he woke to discover a tiger snake on the platform, probably searching for the furry critters that were scuttling about during the night. He included the Bibbulmun Track has lots of facilities of any track in Australia. Toby was happy with all his gear, but particularly liked his Cancer Council sunscreen/sunscreen.

Sergio Bastianetti (32) from Perth (N-S, 15.10.12 to 26.10.12) walked the Bibbulmun in December for New Year holiday walking the Bibbulmun which says he is “unashamedly an Australian gem” with an excellent offer. Originally from Italy he now loves WA even more. A friend met him with food drops although he found the local Track towns shops were just fine. Sergio was one of many walkers who were William Bay to Denmark and White Horse Hill to Mt Melville. The Track was not too hot and he enjoyed the walking. Highlight was walking the Camus in Spain, and says both trails are beautiful, but the bibbulmun is harder. His light hammock was one of the most important items that broke on the first night. He warns walkers who plan summer walks to be prepared for isolation and high temperatures.

Matthew Bartlett (43), of Currumbin, was the youngest Bibbulmun walker (23.03.13), which he describes as the hardest he has ever done. He learned a lot about himself and now really misses his sister. He says his best section was the Bibbulmun as the views and a lightning storm were amazing. He also enjoyed the camping opportunities in areas between Lake Maringup and Woodlands during storms, and seeing the ocean for the first time. Toby says there were no interactions with wildlife. At Geographe Creek he awoke at midnight to find a massive huntsman spider on his face. Then at Gadenhe he woke to discover a tiger snake on the platform, probably searching for the furry critters that were scuttling about during the night. He included the Bibbulmun Track has lots of facilities of any track in Australia. Toby was happy with all his gear, but particularly liked his Cancer Council sunscreen/sunscreen.
The following businesses support the Track as Affiliated members. Please take a look and remember them when you next book a tour or accommodation.

**BUSINESS NAME**

**TOWN**

**TYPE OF BUSINESS**

**PHONE NO.**

**DISCOUNT OFFERED TO MEMBERS**

---

1. **THREE BACKPACKERS**
   - **AMANT**
   - Accommodation
   - (08) 9842 1554
   - No discount

2. **ABANAY BAYSIDE OCEAN VILAS**
   - **AMANT**
   - Accommodation
   - (08) 216 971
   - No discount

3. **KALAMUNDA RAILWAY CARRIAGES ACCOM.**
   - **AMANT**
   - Accommodation
   - (08) 9776 1049
   - Special rate of $24.

4. **JACKBOOK COTTAGES - KINTARWA GALLERY**
   - **BALINGUP**
   - Accommodation
   - (08) 9764 1616
   - Stay Thu only, outside school holidays.

5. **COUNTRY FARM HOUSE & B&B**
   - **BALINGUP**
   - Accommodation
   - (08) 9764 1641
   - 10% off standard rates (direct bookings only).

6. **SOULMANNH MANOR HOUSE**
   - **BALINGUP**
   - Accommodation
   - (08) 9841 5995
   - 5% discount

7. **BALINGUP HEIGHTS**
   - **BALINGUP**
   - Accommodation
   - (08) 9764 1283
   - 10% discount

8. **NEDS OF MIDDLESLONWD**
   - **BRIDGE TOWN**
   - Accommodation
   - (08) 9761 1641
   - 10% discount

9. **CÖLLE RYER VALLEY TOUR STOP**
   - **CÖLLE**
   - Accommodation
   - (08) 9734 5088
   - 10% discount

10. **CÖLLE BÄRCE CÖTTGE**
    - **CÖLLE**
    - Accommodation
    - (08) 9734 2051
    - 10% on souvenirs.

11. **THE COFFEIES**
    - **CÖLLE**
    - Accommodation
    - (08) 9734 2052
    - 10% discount

12. **WHISPERING PINES B&B**
    - **CÖLLE**
    - Accommodation
    - (08) 9734 3893
    - 10% discount

13. **CHRISTINA BED & BREAKFAST**
    - **CÖLLE**
    - Accommodation
    - (08) 9734 2027
    - 10% discount

14. **BLUE HOUSE**
    - **CÖLLE**
    - Accommodation
    - (08) 9734 3893
    - 10% discount

15. **PEMBERTON DISCOVERY TOURS & CAR HIRE**
    - **PEMBERTON**
    - Tour/Transport provider
    - (08) 9776 0484
    - 10% off tours, Track transfers and car hire.

16. **PEMBERTON CAMP SCHOOL**
    - **PEMBERTON**
    - Accommodation
    - (08) 9776 1277
    - None.

17. **OLD PICTURE THEATRE HOLIDAY APARTMENTS**
    - **PEMBERTON**
    - Accommodation
    - (08) 9776 1513
    - None.

18. **PEMBERTON THEATRE**
    - **PEMBERTON**
    - Accommodation
    - (08) 9776 1513
    - None.

19. **PEMBERTON WATERFRONT MOTEL**
    - **PEMBERTON**
    - Accommodation
    - (08) 9848 1147
    - 15% discount

20. **WILDSTONE COTTAGES**
    - **PEMBERTON**
    - Accommodation
    - (08) 9776 1297
    - None.

21. **BLUE WREN TRAVELLERS REST**
    - **PEMBERTON**
    - Accommodation
    - (08) 9848 3300
    - 10% discount

22. **BLUE HOUSE**
    - **PEMBERTON**
    - Accommodation
    - (08) 9848 3300
    - 10% discount

23. **WILLIAM BAY COUNTRY COTTAGES**
    - **PEMBERTON**
    - Accommodation
    - (08) 9848 1147
    - On application.

24. **NORMAN HOUSE**
    - **ALBANY**
    - Accommodation
    - (08) 9841 5995
    - 5% discount

25. **DENMARK WATERFRONT MOTEL**
    - **DENMARK**
    - Accommodation
    - (08) 9840 9221
    - On application.

26. **FOREST ECHO COTTAGE**
    - **DENMARK**
    - Accommodation
    - (08) 9840 9221
    - On application.

27. **FOREST ECHO COTTAGE**
    - **DENMARK**
    - Accommodation
    - (08) 9840 9221
    - On application.

28. **PELICANS AT DENMARK**
    - **DENMARK**
    - Accommodation
    - (08) 9840 9221
    - On application.

29. **WILLIAM BAY COUNTRY COTTAGES**
    - **PEMBERTON**
    - Accommodation
    - (08) 9848 1147
    - On application.

30. **PEMBERTON WATERFRONT MOTEL**
    - **PEMBERTON**
    - Accommodation
    - (08) 9848 1147
    - On application.

31. **WILLOW AT THOMPSON**
    - **PEMBERTON**
    - Accommodation
    - (08) 9848 1147
    - On application.

32. **NORMAN HOUSE**
    - **ALBANY**
    - Accommodation
    - (08) 9841 5995
    - 5% discount

33. **ALBANY BAYSIDE OCEAN VILLAS**
    - **ALBANY**
    - Accommodation
    - 0400 216 971
    - None.

34. **BAYVIEW BACKPACKERS YHA**
    - **AMANT**
    - Accommodation
    - (08) 9842 3300
    - Same as YHA members.

35. **CARE HOME ACCOMMODATION**
    - **AMANT**
    - Accommodation
    - (08) 9844 1001
    - 10% - not in conjunction with any other specials.

36. **INDIANA HOUSE**
    - **AMANT**
    - Accommodation
    - (08) 9841 5995
    - 5% discount

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**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.

**PENMBERTON OLD Pictures THEATRE APARTMENTS**

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**PEMBERTON DISCOVERY Centre is now OPEN!**

*Walk friendly service including:*
- Bibbulmun Track Transfers
- Hiking including Back Country Guiding
- Sea to Summit gear including skis, thongs, paters etc.
- Gas canisters

*If they don't have what you need in stock. Drive them or let any of their wonderful team will try and get it delivered overnight!*

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** afs@balningupheights.com.au**

www.balingupheights.com.au

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**E: tourism@bibbulmuntrack.org.au**

**Ph: 9481 0551**

www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au
Walker Story

There and back again—a hiker's tale

Friends Dave Hartley and Stan Barclay (aka the 49ers) completed an end-to-end walk together between October 1st and November 25th 2012. This was Dave’s fourth end-to-end and Stan’s second. Dave is a very experienced walker; these are some of his reminiscences of the Bibbulmun Track and treks in other parts of the world.

In 1990 I set out on a very different Bibbulmun Track to that of today—no shelters and very few camping spots with any facilities. From memory, not good these days, I found four campsites, posing not concrete fire rings with a plate and hook, and a toilet. Evidently there were more but I couldn’t find them. To prepare for the hike involved writing to all the CALM (then DEC) regional offices asking about the condition of the track, any prescribed burns planned, was I likely to find water, any diversions and what facilities existed. I included return self-addressed envelopes, and most of the offices replied. No internet and web pages in those days!

Day one was October 14th, a fine day with little cloud. I was carrying a heavy pack and a bit of apprehension. In October of 1990 there were just two people known to CALM that were intending to hike the complete Track. Having just left the Armed Reserve I had some bush experience but had never done any long distance hiking. It took me four days to work out that I’d ill up the waist belt on the pack it would prevent my shoulders from getting sore.

In 1998 I was very fortunate to be a member of the team opening the new Southern section of the Bibbulmun Track. That was a completely different experience, with diversions and water tanks and CALM bringing in supplies every four days. There were organized BBQs and ‘flying the all way along the 960km. My equipment was also somewhat better than that of the 1990 hike and I was a more experienced hiker.

As those who hike the Track know, you soon fall into the days routine—hiking, getting in, setting up, a cuppa, food, rest, read or sleep, entry in the log, chat, plan the next day, set the fire, food again and so on. For Stan and me it was very much the same routine, except Stan wrote a daily verse of his poem (Ed: see Bush Poem Corner on the website) and I carved my Billy Songs into the days routine—hiking, getting in, setting up, a cuppa, food, rest, read or sleep, entry in the log, chat, plan the next day, set the fire, food again and so on. For Stan and me it was very much the same routine, except Stan wrote a daily verse of his poem (Ed: see Bush Poem Corner on the website) and I carved my Billy Songs into the days routine—hiking, getting in, setting up, a cuppa, food, rest, read or sleep, entry in the log, chat, plan the next day, set the fire, food again and so on. For Stan and me it was very much the same routine, except Stan wrote a daily verse of his poem (Ed: see Bush Poem Corner on the website) and I carved my Billy Songs into the days routine—hiking, getting in, setting up, a cuppa, food, rest, read or sleep, entry in the log, chat, plan the next day, set the fire, food again and so on. For Stan and me it was very much the same routine, except Stan wrote a daily verse of his poem (Ed: see Bush Poem Corner on the website) and I carved my Billy Songs into the days routine—hiking, getting in, setting up, a cuppa, food, rest, read or sleep, entry in the log, chat, plan the next day, set the fire, food again and so on. For Stan and me it was very much the same routine, except Stan wrote a daily verse of his poem (Ed: see Bush Poem Corner on the website) and I carved my Billy Songs into...

In 1990 which normally consisted of a short wooden pole (one metre or so high) cut off at an angle with a loop for simple, comfortable carrying. Graduations are providing a convenient spot to clip or a nice finger filling and drinking. The cap features a molded in loop, touch material for easy gripping. Recommended for “extreme” adventures.

The bottle has a 33mm opening – perfect for easy filling and drinking. The cap features a molded in loop, providing a convenient spot to clip or a nice finger filling and drinking. The cap features a molded in loop, providing a convenient spot to clip or a nice finger filling and drinking. The cap features a molded in loop, providing a convenient spot to clip or a nice finger filling and drinking. The cap features a molded in loop, providing a convenient spot to clip or a nice finger filling and drinking. The cap features a molded in loop, providing a convenient spot to clip or a nice finger filling and drinking. The cap features a molded in loop, providing a convenient spot to clip or a nice finger filling and drinking. The cap features a molded in loop, providing a convenient spot to clip or a nice finger filling and drinking. The cap features a molded in loop, providing a convenient spot to clip or a nice finger filling and drinking. The cap features a molded in loop, providing a convenient spot to clip or a nice finger filling and drinking. The cap features a molded in loop, providing a convenient spot to clip or a nice finger filling and drinking. The cap features a molded in loop, providing a convenient spot to clip or a nice finger filling and drinking. The cap features a molded in loop, providing a convenient spot to clip or a nice finger filling and drinking. The cap features a molded in loop, providing a convenient spot to clip or a nice finger filling and drinking. The cap features a molded in loop, providing a convenient spot to clip or a nice finger filling and drinking. The cap features a molded in loop, providing a convenient spot to clip or a nice finger filling and drinking. The cap features a molded in loop, providing a convenient spot to clip or a nice finger filling and drinking. The cap features a molded in loop, providing a convenient spot to clip or a nice finger filling and drinking. The cap features a molded in loop, providing a convenient spot to clip or a nice finger filling and drinking. The cap features a molded in loop, providing a convenient spot to clip or a nice finger filling and drinking. The cap features a molded in loop, providing a convenient spot to clip or a nice finger filling and drinking. The cap features a molded in loop, providing a convenient spot to clip or a nice finger filling and drinking. The cap features a molded in loop, providing a convenient spot to clip or a nice finger filling and drinking. The cap features a molded in loop, providing a convenient spot to cli...
It’s again business as usual in the office after we all enjoyed a break for the festive season. We thought the really hot spell might mean things would be quiet but this was not the case and we have been kept busy.

One of the main tasks throughout the day is answering enquiries from members and walkers. This might be from phone calls, people calling into the office or emails. We always try to deal with queries as quickly as possible and receive many compliments for the speed of email replies. Every now and then we receive a query which causes us amusement, wonder or concern. Recently we received an email which gave us cause for much laughter. It was a reply to an email in which I had given a detailed answer to a variety of questions. This was not at all unusual until I discovered to my amazement that the initial email and my reply were dated August 2005! Not surprisingly the sender admitted to being a bit of a hoarder.

Luckily we were kept busy answering queries about the fires around Balingup and for a while it appeared that at least three of the campsites and many kilometers of Track were in danger of being lost due to the fires that were caused by lightning strikes. Thanks to the efforts of DEC staff and other firefighters the fires were contained with far less damage than at fire front. See story on page 8 for more details on the fire.

An enjoyable activity is a trip planning advice session with one of our members. It’s a great way to gather up all the info needed for an extended walk or an end-to-end and it’s very interesting to meet members from all over the world. Very often members from interstate and overseas will call into the office to meet the volunteer with whom they have been corresponding for some time as they plan their walk.

Also in is the arrival of end-to-ends feeling very pleased with their achievement. It’s great to be able to hear all about their walk and hear the highs and lows. For us it’s an opportunity to chat with them to see if they encountered any major problems which might need attention.

If you’re in the city please do pop in to say hello – you can always be sure of a warm welcome.

Gwen Plunkett
Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator

Dwellup Damselfly
Two days of bush rejuvenation for ladies with little or no previous overnight trekking experience. Join our experienced guides walk 17km over 2 days in the Dwellingup area.
Planning night: Thursday 30th May 6.30pm.
Date: Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th June.
Cost: $185 members, $205 non-members.
Includes return transport from Murdoch Park’n’Ride, Dwellingup Damselfly rail terminal, experienced guides, comprehensive planning night, trip preparation manual, map and equipment hire. BYO food.

Baligup Weekend Explorer
One of our popular events – this is the next level up from our Bibbulmun for Beginners walk. It is set in the beautiful Blackwood district. Experienced guides will instruct you and offer support on overnight trekking. Spend Friday night at Balingup before two full days of walking with packs. Camping out on Saturday night. Freadon up on Sunday afternoon with a hot shower in Balingup before being transported to Perth.
Planning night: Thursday 30th May, 6.30pm.
Date: Friday 7th (4pm) to Sunday 9th June.
Cost: $240 members, $260 non-members.
Includes comprehensive planning night, trip preparation manual, map, experienced guides, return transport from Murdoch Park’n’Ride rail terminal and bus transfer to start of walk, plus accommodation on Friday night, showers on Sunday and equipment hire. Dinner in Balingup on Friday night and trekking food not included.

UPZIPPED!
Looking to get into overnight trekking? This is an innovative 15km circuit walk which will teach you all you need to know for overnight bushwalking. Experience breathtaking views while walking to the Bibbulmun Track and the Wirr Walk. Visit the No1 Pump Station and the remains of the No2 Pump Station. Our tour of one of Australia’s most significant indigenous heritage sites ends at the historic Mundaring Weir Hotel. This event is part of the WA heritage Festival. Find out more at http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wwa
Date: Sunday 26th April, 9.30am – approx 2.30pm.
Cost: $35 members, $45 non-members.
Includes National Trust guide, Bibbulmun Track entry and tour of Ne 1 Pump Station and morning tea. BYO lunch.

DR DOLITTLE GOES BUSH
4km return stroll for children (5yrs to 12yrs) to a typical campsite to see and learn about our native animals from the Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre. Return before dusk following the reflective Waugal trail markers. Bring a picnic lunch/Sessions: Wednesday 1st May, (A) 9.30am – 12.30pm OR (B) 12.30pm – 3.30pm.
Includes ingredients for cooking and experienced guides. Max 2 kids per adult.

UNZIPPED!
Looking to get into overnight trekking? This is an innovative 15km circuit walk which will teach you all you need to know for overnight bushwalking. Experience breathtaking views while walking to the Bibbulmun Track and the Wirr Walk. Visit the No1 Pump Station and the remains of the No2 Pump Station. Our tour of one of Australia’s most significant indigenous heritage sites ends at the historic Mundaring Weir Hotel. This event is part of the WA heritage Festival. Find out more at http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wwa
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Combining quick-to-hydrate Freeze Dri ingredients with tasty sauces, Back Country Cuisine meets the high energy needs of the lightweight adventurer.

Great for racing and adventure trips. Lightweight, quick to use, provides nutritious energy and tastes good too! Thank Back Country!
Steve Garnett
Multisports Champion
New Zealand

www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au
1800 787 677
enquiries@seatosummit.com.au

We are looking for a new office Assistant to join our friendly team. The successful applicant will have:

- Excellent communication skills
- Be able to multi-task
- High level of organisational skills
- Excellent computer skills
- Has a good sense of humour
- Be able to work flexibly

If you are interested in this position please send you application to: enquiries@seatosummit.com.au

The Bibbulmun Track Volunteer Guide Training Program is sponsored by Western Power

The Bibbulmun Track Volunteer Guide Training Program is sponsored by Western Power

Keep your Aliens in line and your kids entertained with our fun new activity, the Rattle Critter! It’s packed full of all sorts of fun and learning. Look out for the next activities calendar brochure.

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4km return stroll for children (5yrs to 12yrs) to a typical campsite to see and learn about our native animals from the Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre. Return before dusk following the reflective Waugal trail markers. Bring a picnic lunch/Sessions: Wednesday 1st May, (A) 9.30am – 12.30pm OR (B) 12.30pm – 3.30pm.
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Keep your Aliens in line and your kids entertained with our fun new activity, the Rattle Critter! It’s packed full of all sorts of fun and learning. Look out for the next activities calendar brochure.
The Southern Terminus of the Bibbulmun Track is located in the city of Albany, set on the rugged south coast of WA. Albany is a haven for walkers and especially for end-to-enders on the Track. For those finishing their epic near 1000km walk, Albany offers comfortable accommodation ranging from backpackers to luxury hotels and a host of pubs and restaurants where walkers can indulge in the food and drink they have been imagining while striding through the bush. For those just beginning their journey there are camp shops that will supply those last minute items of equipment you have been imagining while striding through the bush. For those just beginning their journey there are camp shops that will supply those last minute items of equipment you have been imagining while striding through the bush.

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Albany’s prime industry from colonisation up until the late 1970s was whaling, and even after all those years of being hunted whales still use the Albany waters as a refuge before heading on the long trip down to Antarctica. From June through to October is the peak whale watching season when you are able to watch the humpback and the endangered southern right whales from the cliff tops. One of the most scenic coastal landscapes for whale spotting or just taking in the sweeping ocean views.

The Bibbulmun Track passes close by the replica of the long-Army which brought a British Army expedition from Sydney, arriving on Christmas Day in 1826, when a military base was founded on the site. Some 60 people made the trip from Sydney in the tiny ship with sheep, pigs, cattle, plants, seeds and stores. The Army was built in Canada in 1816. It arrived in Sydney in 1824 and was used in the colonial service. In 1831 it was sold back into private ownership when a military base was founded on the site. Some 60 people made the trip from Sydney in the tiny ship with sheep, pigs, cattle, plants, seeds and stores.

Albany Visitor Information Centre
Old Rail Station, 35 Proudlove Parade
Albany WA 6330

Open every day of the year
Closed Christmas Day from 9:00am to 5:00pm
Ph: (08) 9841 9290
Email: info@amazingalbany.com
www.amazingalbany.com.au
WANTED: END-TO-END WALKER WANTED FOR JULY WALK

I am a very experienced, 62yo long distance biker and would like to find a companion for a winter, medium paced end to end trip.

Contact: Cathy
Phone: 0400 116 505
Email: cathyrc@hotmail.com

WANTED: WALKING COMPANION

Are you a mature aged person who would like to walk the BT sedately? No double hutting, no rushing and no world records. If so, I am leaving Albany early April if you are interested, call or text me.

Contact: Ann
Phone: 0402 845 166

WANTED: WALKING COMPANION

I am a very experienced, 62yo long distance hiker for July Walk.

Contact: Cathryn
Phone: (08) 9448 7064
Email: mariabinks@yahoo.com.au

Phone: 0402 845 166

Want To Advertise on our Notice Board?

Log onto your profile at bibbulmuntrack.org.au and then go to the notice board page under News. If you haven’t logged on before see how to on page 28. You can always ring us on 9481 0501.

WANTED: WALKING COMPANION

Seeking walking companion to walk the Camino Trail this year 2013. Dates flexible - between end of May to end of August.

Contact: Gabrielle Caratti
Phone: (08) 9481 1596 or 0457 050 855

Visit www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

TRAXPEDITION

Michelle Martion had her first competition on walking on the Track and sent us this poem describing the experience.

On our first Traxpedition my husband and I embarked,
Off from the Calamunda Camel Farm car park.
To be most heartily welcomed by our new walking friends.
On the Bibbulmun Track for the first time we stride.
We are amazed by the fans and flows of all kinds.
As we follow the Wungale where it turns and it winds.
WA’s red tail cockatoo says a brief hello.
With excitement and learning our faces glow.
We reach the campsite within plenty of time,
To call and seek and to look back on the climb.
After a welcome break it’s time to head back,
Back to our cars and to the end of the Track.
I can honestly say there was nothing not to like.
On this wonderful journey that was our first BT Mile.
Our next Traxpedition is already planned,
We’ll be back-to-tenders in no time—won’t that be grand?
Thanks for reading my funny little rhyme,
But to the volunteer guides who gave us their time
Without your passion and love of the Track.
Michelle Martion

The use of the Bibbulmun Track and other trails designated for walkers or bicycle riders by trail bikes is a constant problem and a source of frustration – both for the volunteers and organizations that maintain the trails, and for trail users.

The Foundation knows from its maintenance volunteers of the damage trail bikes cause to the Bibbulmun Track. We also receive emails and letters from walkers upset by the damage and frustrated by the inability to identify the riders due to lack of number plates and the use of full face helmets which not only provide the riders with anonymity but,combined with the noise, are quite intimidating.

Trail bikes are the largest category of motorcycle sales in Australia and a growing number of West Australians have taken up recreational off road riding as a pastime.

At the same time, the number and area of places where people can meet trail bikes legitimately has shrunk. In 1979 there were eight designated Off Road Vehicle areas in the Perth metropolitan region. In 2013 there are four, and two of these are significantly smaller than they were.

To look into the problems the Recreational Trail Bike Riders’ Association was formed. Extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders found that the main community concerns were:

1. Noise
2. Trail conflicts and trail damage
3. Environmental impact
4. Nuisance, anti-social “hoon” behaviour

One idea that received almost universal agreement is that in order to reduce the amount of undesirable trail bike use there has to be more provision made for legal trail bike use. As a result work began on strategies to address the community’s concerns which involved extensive consultation and international and Australian research.

The result is a State Trail Bike Strategy which has 98 recommendations formulated around six Key Focus Areas -

1. Insurers, Liability and Risk Management
   - In order for facilities to be provided by land managers, the issues of insurance, liability and risk management must be addressed.
2. Trails Planning
   - Designated trail and venues must be planned, developed and maintained to attract trail bike riders and to ensure minimal environmental and community impact.
3. Managing for Sustainability
   - In order to develop sustainability, the issues of governance, land and trail management, noise regulation and evaluation need to be addressed.
4. Changing Behaviours
   - Programs are proposed using community based social marketing techniques, education, self-regulation and finally enforcement.
5. Registration and Licensing
   - Trail bike riding must be better managed which requires increased regulation with registration, licensing and enforcement.
6. Funding Models
   - To ensure implementation, sustainability and management a recurrent funding stream is required.
   - The Government has indicated broad support for the Strategy – but it remains unfunded at this stage.
   - With the election of a new Government and several new Ministers, including a new Minister for Local Government and a new Minister for the Environment, the BTF Board will endeavor to bring this issue back on to the agenda.
   - We will advocate for various tactics to address the negative impacts of trail bikes on other recreational activities and the environment – including the implementation of the State Trail Bike Strategy.

For more information go to the State Trail Bike Strategy website: http://btma.com.au/strat

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AN ACTION PLAN...
No walking to report in this issue, I’m afraid. The shoulder injury I described in the previous newsletter and now the very hot weather have kept me off the Track for several weeks. However I am planning to stroll from Walpole to Pemberton in April and my Offa’s Dyke walk in the UK is booked for May.

In our newsletter issue #861, on page five, you may have seen the curious picture of the Wangal marker on a trail in Spain, with life members only!

The Bibbulmun Track Guide Training Program is sponsored by Western Power.

The amazing hollow tree is located close to Sappers Bridge.

And so back to trees (See Track Trivia Issue #861).

Barry and his wife Margaret have walked the whole Track many times, and are very familiar with all its aspects, especially the orchards, and have produced a vast number of beautiful photographs of the flora and fauna. So, readers, enjoy our new series of a section of the Track, with Wangal markers, further north than latitude 37.75 degrees.

Nearest host. I have just read an interesting article about ticks in the summer edition of the Bibbulmun News, the quarterly newsletter of DEC’s Urban Nature programme. The article puts up a spirited defence for the rights of ticks. The article puts up a spirited defence for the rights of ticks, in the summer edition of the Bushland News, the quarterly newsletter of DEC’s Urban Nature programme.

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[Image 83x148 to 96x157]

[Image 208x225 to 216x237]

[Image 307x225 to 315x237]

[Image 600x24 to 1192x843]
Get online – and access your profile page!

Benefits of logging in to your profile page include:

- No need to re-enter all your details each time you book an event or buy merchandise.
- See your history of events and merchandise purchases.
- Review your membership or update your contact details easily online.
- Volunteers can submit time sheets and maintenance reports online.
- Endeavourers can enter the details of their walk and upload a photo for the Rangers Gallery.

How to log in:

1. If we don’t have your email address:
   - Your profile page has already been created.

2. Simply:
   - 1. Click ‘Login’ at the top right corner of the website. (In the black bar)
   - 2. Click the Forgotten your password link.
   - 3. A page will come up requesting your email address. Enter your email address and click submit.
   - 4. Login to your email and open the email from the Bibbulmun Track Foundation. Click on the link to generate a password as instructed. (If the link is not working then open a new web tab, then copy and paste the link into the browser bar and press ‘Enter’ [not ‘Tab’]
   - 5. You will then receive a new email from the Bibbulmun Track Foundation providing you with a password.
   - 6. Use this password to login to the Bibbulmun Track website. (Be very careful if you copy and paste the password that you don’t have an extra space at either end.)
   - 7. Once logged in, click on ‘My Account’ in the black bar at the top. You will see a tab called Change email/password where you can change the automated password to something that you will remember.

If we don’t have your email address:

- If you haven’t received an email from us lately, it means we either don’t have your address on record, or your profile page has already been created.

- If we already have your email address:
  - 1. Click ‘Login’ at the top right corner of the website. (In the black bar)
  - 2. Click the Forgotten your password link.
  - 3. A page will come up requesting your email address and you will be prompted to enter your email address and create a new password.

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In August 2012, BTF members Claire Brittain and John McKay scaled the $893m of the Uhuru peak of Tanzania’s Mount Kilimanjaro. Their motive? To raise $6000 for the BTF Dunny Donor campaign. This is their story, as recounted by Claire.

Mount Kilimanjaro or “I’m not dead yet” (with apologies to Monty Python)

To climb to the Roof of Africa was never going to be a stroll in the park. We went into training with the realization that it isn’t easy to train for high altitude trekking at sea level, but we used the Koko Track in Kings Park for some hill climbing, joined a gym, walked locally on the two hills in our suburb and went bush walking with Perth Bushwalkers on the Bibbulmun Track.

The first point on our trek was the lodge in Moshi, the main town on the Serengeti at the base of Kilimanjaro, where we were briefed by our guides. At dawn the next morning we could see the top of the mountain and after some African organisation we arrived at the gate to the National Park at 1970m, where we registered.

The first part of the walk in the rain forest was quite hot but easy going, the main difficulty was that the guides made us go slower than our natural walking pace. The forest was attractive with lots of parasitic plants, including begonia, the perfume of which was exquisite, and we had the pleasure of seeing a wallaby, koalas and some bush turkey.

We had opted to climb the route which offered a slow ascent, the forest and low scrub, and we had the pleasure of seeing a variety of colourful birds and insects.

The guides told us to put on all the clothing we had. I had two thermal tops, a T-shirt, a polar fleece, a down jacket and Gortex jacket. On the bottom a thermal, one pair of socks, a down pants and Gortex pants, again one pair of socks. That may seem a bit over the top but it does provide a means of employment for the local people. Our guides Mohamed and Sham were Moshi and because it was Ramadan they were walking each day without eating or drinking. Needless to say they looked forward to sundown.

And so Summit Day arrived, and a long day it turned out to be! The vegetation became sparse as we climbed, although there were beautiful stands of stunted, very tall cactus like plants. We found the walking comfortable from one spot section that had us panting for breath. We had morning tea at a high spot with beautiful views, continued up and saw one alpine chain, the most common bird in the area and some four-striped grass rats. By this time the terrain was barren, typical of country above the snow line. We continued on to Kibo Hut, puffing all the way! Mohamed was pleased with our progress and told us we were walking strongly and should make the top. Then we met a couple of people coming down who hadn’t made it—disconcerting!

Kibo Hut, at 4700m, is at the foot of the summit climb. It had taken us about six hours to get there and we were told to have a sleep. We prepared the gear we would need for the ascent, had dinner at 5pm and went to bed. My ear plugs and eye pads worked a treat, needless to say we were woken up at 11.30pm to get dressed and had a cup of tea. Mohamed took my backpack. We kept telling away with encouragement from the guides. Thoughts ran through my head: “I can’t do it. They’ll send me down.”—“I don’t want to do this”—“Why am I doing this?”—“Why am I paying to do this?”—“Then I thought—Oh my god, the damn!”

In my wisdom prior to leaving Perth I’d conned friends and family into sponsoring us to raise money for a dunny on the Bibbulmun Track. I put my head down and kept going. The final part of the climb was over large stones and boulders, which was difficult in a different way. This was where the training on the Koko Track was invaluable for leg strength. We finally made it to Gillman’s Point (5651m), the first main point towards the summit on the crater rim. As soon as I made it there I knew I’d make the top. Although we were still climbing it was now on a much easier solid path, and we reached Stella Peak (5755m) just as dawn was breaking.

There was the fantastic sight of a brilliant pink lake along the top of the clues, which were below us. We watched the sun rise and then continued on to Uhuru Peak, the absolute summit. The glaciers at the top were beautiful and we were lucky not to have too much wind with the temperature around minus 15 degrees Celsius. Our extremities were freezing as was the water in our backpacks. There were great celebrations with everyone hugging and kissing and wanting to get photos to prove that they had made it.

The guides start you down quickly, and after a snack at the shelter of a large rock we started the descent, peeling off layers of clothing as the sun got higher.

When we got to the tree line we couldn’t believe that the descent was almost vertical. This is what we had been climbing up in the dark! Mohamed took my arm and told me to lean back, take big steps and go with him. It didn’t take long to get down, sliding most of the time.

When we got to Kibo Hut we had been gone for nine and a half hours and I fell into a deep sleep.

After lunch we packed up and began the walk down. I didn’t think I could walk any further, but we walked downhill for four hours to Horombo Hut, where we had dinner and went to bed. I slept well that night!

Our final day dawned fine, and we started our trek back to the gate, walking slowly to savour the most attractive part of the mountain and take more photos. In the rain forest we were lucky enough to see black cockatoo monkeys, which have beautiful hulsey white tails. We signed out at the gate and met our guides at the lodge to present gifts to them and to the porters. We presented them with the certificates that are issued by the National Park, proving that we had achieved our goal.

Although we’d done lots of walking at high altitude, climbing Mt Kilimanjaro was the most difficult thing we’ve ever done. We raised over $6000 for a dunny at the Frankland Campsite, which our friends maintained, and look forward to getting our sponsors together for a weekend of walking and celebration.

I would like to encourage other BTF members to do something similar to our trek if they are looking to embark on a challenge.

Claire Britain

DODDY’S DUNNY

Claire Brittain and John McKay raised $6000 to upgrade the dunny at Frankland Campsite.

They did this in memory of their friend Sandra Taylor (nee Dodd) who loved walking and the Bibbulmun Track. They were generously supported by family and friends, including the Taylor Family, Perth Bushwalkers, Janet and Gary Tillyer, Pat and John Garland, Philip and Patrick Dodd.

Thank you for supporting our Dunny Dune Campaign.
We are very pleased to announce that the new Bibbulmun Wellington Spur Trail and group campsites will be maintained by residents of the Wandoo Reintegration Facility.

The Wandoo Reintegration Facility, managed by Serco Australia, is a minimum security detention facility aimed at assisting young adults to be reintegrated back into society to play a positive role. This is done, in part, by enabling residents to develop practical skills and to have meaningful experiences.

Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Foundation and Serco, a selected team of residents will receive training and support to conduct maintenance on the 18km trail which links the Bibbulmun Track to the Wellington Dam recreation area.

The trail encompasses two campsite areas, purpose built bridges and goes through mixed jarrah forests, pine plantations, farm land, across old railway formations from the logging industry and ends at the dam. It is an area rich in natural and engineering history and has been developed to meet the needs of school groups.

The Bibbulmun Track’s long history of association with prison work crews began in 1994 when the Ministry of Justice (now the Department of Corrective Services) provided workshop facilities and labour to prefabricate shelters, and selected prisoners worked out on the Track itself. This led to an MOU between the MOJ and CALM (now DEC) in 1998 and the setting up of work camps*.

This relationship continues to the present day and everyone involved in this new partnership is looking forward to an equally successful outcome, given the opportunities it offers for reparation and positive community engagement.

*Details of these events can be found in issue 48 of the Bibbulmun News, which can be downloaded from our website.