

Bibbulmun NEWS



AUG'13 – NOV'13
ISSUE # 63
RRP \$6.00

Newsletter for the friends of the Bibbulmun Track

RAFFLE FUNDS TO AID RESTORATION OF LONG GULLY BRIDGE

A huge THANK YOU to all our members and friends who bought tickets in our Adventure Raffle. We are pleased to announce that your generosity helped to raise \$35,280!

The Foundation has decided that 100% of funds raised will go towards the restoration of the Long Gully Bridge, which is of huge significance to the Bibbulmun Track.

The heritage listed Long Gully Bridge has significant historic value to the State as being one of the longest curved timber railway bridges remaining. It is an outstanding example of the technical and design expertise of the Western Australian Government Railways, and one of the finest railway bridges ever built in WA. The 28 span, 127.88 metre long, curved timber trestle-construction bridge urgently requires significant repairs and maintenance to retain its integrity and preservation.

Not only does the bridge's heritage and aesthetic values enhance and enrich the overall experience for Bibbulmun Track walkers, Long Gully Bridge is essential for the Bibbulmun Track as there is no viable alternative for crossing the Murray River.

Both the Foundation and DPaW (formerly DEC) have applied for grants without success. The grants available for this type of project are few and far between and competition is fierce. As an example, a recent Heritage grants round had \$5million available, whilst \$24million was requested. We have not given up and will continue to explore funding avenues including possible corporate support. The total funds required to restore the bridge are in excess of \$500,000. If you have any good contacts or suggestions please let us know!

In the meantime, the funds from the raffle will go towards the important step of treating the wood with fungal and white ant treatments.

See our raffle winners on Page 2...



ADVENTURE RAFFLE Winners!

100% OF FUNDS
RAISED WILL AID THE
RESTORATION OF LONG
GULLY BRIDGE.

Congratulations to winners of the 2013 Adventure Raffle. We were very pleased to meet them all when they collected their vouchers from the office - and every winner was thrilled with their prize!

1ST PRIZE: KATHARINE ALLEN, LIFE MEMBER, WON THE ALL-INCLUSIVE WORLD EXPEDITIONS SIX-DAY KAKADU AND BEYOND TOUR FOR TWO - VALUED AT \$4390. THE PRIZE INCLUDED \$1,000 FROM THE FOUNDATION FOR AIRFARES.



2ND PRIZE: ANITA HEARNE WON THE \$3000 MOUNTAIN DESIGNS VOUCHER.



3RD PRIZE: EMILY RICE WON THE BIBBULMUN SOUTH COAST ESCAPE FOR TWO AT CAPE HOWE COTTAGES – VALUED AT \$1500.



4TH PRIZE: HEATHER MASON WON THE \$1500 SEA TO SUMMIT VOUCHER.



The Foundation greatly appreciates the generosity of ALL those who purchased raffle tickets, helping us to raise the grand total of \$35,280.

Very special thanks to our raffle sponsors who generously donated the fantastic prizes:



Katharine Allen, 1st Prize winner, accepting her World Expeditions Kakadu Tour prize from BTF Executive Director, Linda Daniels.



Heather Mason, 4th Prize winner, accepting her Sea to Summit voucher from BTF Marketing Manager, Jean Byrne.



Congratulations to **Emily Rice** who popped into the office to pick up 3rd Prize: A Bibbulmun South Coast Escape at the luxurious Cape Howe Cottages.



Anita Hearne was delighted to win the \$3000 Mountain Designs voucher.



FROM MY Desk

Welcome to the Spring edition of Bibbulmun News.

As you will read on page five, we are currently in the process of updating the Bibbulmun Track guidebooks. As this edition goes to print, the Foundation's lead guide Steve Sertis is somewhere out on the Track with a GPS, a camera with built-in GPS, a mobile phone for communication and for recording the track notes as he walks and a tablet for typing up the walk notes at the end of each day. He's also carrying a spot messenger for safety and solar rechargers and batteries to keep all this technology going between towns.

When we suggested he should carry Google's new StreetView tool, the Trekker, he drew a line in the sand! The Trekker is a backpack with a 360 degree camera attached, meant to bring Street View to places where its vehicles can't go; and Google is inviting adventurers to take it hiking. Take a look online and see what you think – just search for Google trekker.

Steve reports that as a result of recording more frequent coordinates for the Track, we could well end up with a longer track than previously measured. Currently, some sections appear straight on the maps, whereas the Track actually meanders significantly. The data is also representative of the walker experience i.e. it includes spur trails to campsites, deviations around fallen trees and of course new alignments. So – will we reach the 1000km mark or not? We shall see!

It's a bit ironic that the use of all this technology is to enhance the tools which encourage and enable people to go bushwalking – and escape all the technology that has pervaded our lives! There are studies looking at the effects of technology on our ability to concentrate, and how going outside, and more specifically getting away from technology, helps us to clear our minds.

Having said that, there's a whole generation who have grown up with mobile phones and couldn't imagine life without them. So if an Everytrail Guide, which can be viewed online and downloaded to a smart phone inspires someone to go for a hike – then that can only be a good thing!

To view the seven day-walk guides we've created for the Track go to www.everytrail.com and search for Bibbulmun Track. You'll also find guides created by DPaW for all WA's National Parks.

Whatever inspires you to get out on to the Track, we hope you have an excellent experience. Why not hop onto our Facebook page when you get back and tell us all about it!

Have fun out there.

Linda

Join us on



NOTICE TO MEMBERS: 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice to members – 2013 Annual General Meeting Members are notified that the 2013 annual general meeting of the Foundation will be –

- on Thursday 31 October 2013 at 5.00pm;
- at Level 1, Mountain Designs Building, 862 Hay Street, Perth.

The agenda of the meeting is –

1. Apologies.
2. Confirmation of the minutes of the 2012 annual general meeting.
3. Chairman's annual report.
4. Executive Director's annual report.
5. Treasurer's annual report.
6. General business –
 - Appointment of auditor.

Members intending to attend are asked to notify Gwen by telephone on 9481 0551 or by email to friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au.

ELECTIONS

Under rules 31 and 32, members are notified as follows –

- There are three positions coming up for re-election.
- Members are invited to nominate for election.
- A member's nomination must be in writing and be signed by the member and be received by the Foundation before the close of nominations.
- Nominations close on Friday 11 October 2013 at 4.00pm
- Any poll needed to elect a Board member will be conducted at the 2013 AGM.
- The term of office of each person elected to fill those vacancies will be two years from and including the date on which he or she is elected.

The elections will be held because –

- The terms of Simon Holthouse, Bruce Manning and Mike Wood have expired. All members are seeking re-election.

Linda Daniels

Executive Director, Bibbulmun Track Foundation

Thank you
THANK YOU
Thank you

A sincere thank you to all the walkers, members and friends who generously made donations to the Foundation since the last edition of Bibbulmun News.

Many of the donations came with the raffle books – and your generosity is greatly appreciated. We have not listed everyone here as it would take up a whole page of Bibb News!

DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

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

To make a tax deductible donation, cheques 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.

YOUR LETTERS

Hello BT friends,

I simply loved the photo collection on Pinterest. Will have to search out some of my own favourites and put them up (if I can find out how to do it!) Just to say I really enjoy getting Bibbulmun Bytes - it really keeps me connected. I have a continuing concern about the fate of the family who lived in that lovely house (Southampton Homestead) just south of Cardiac Hill and who made BT walkers welcome to walk through their property. I was so impressed by the work put into their plantation of eucalypts, protected by an ingenious electric fence, and their support of the BT in general, that I sent them a card of appreciation last year from Donnelly River Village.

I still intend to write my piece about 'what if it doesn't go according to plan'... So watch this space!

Love to all,

Annie Didcott, ACT

ED - See Annie's poem The Garden on the opposite page.

Hi there Jim,

I am sitting in my tractor; seedling after a wonderful opening rain. The beauty of auto-steer on these tractors allows for ample time to think. I was reflecting on our recent walk and how it strengthened our physical and mental endurance and it suddenly occurred to me how much your advice helped us. Thanks Jim, you and the other volunteers certainly are Track assets.

I met Peter Sweetman in the office when I dropped off the hire beacon and it turns out he was my headmaster at Northampton in my primary school years (I do recall he had a pretty daughter, but best not tell him that!) Small world we live in.

Anyway, all the best and safe travels.

**Greg , Jane and
Stuart Teakle**

My husband, John, and I (Blue Donkey and Tango Tortoise) set off to attempt an end-to-end on March 15th. Along the way we met many interesting and like-minded people. One such was Jean, a young man from France, with whom we shared campsites from Beedelup to Donnelly River Village and from Balingup to Collie. We are slow walkers these days but Jean could cover the distance between campsites in about half the time we took.

Walking from Grimwade to Noggerup (22.4 kms) Jean passed us in the afternoon when we had about 4 kms to go. He came upon us as we were sitting on a log feeling, and no doubt looking, very tired. He gave a cheerful greeting and zoomed off and we hauled ourselves up and set off again.

I'm not sure how we managed it but we then proceeded to miss a turn and walked 3 kms without seeing any waugals.

Once we realised our mistake we started to retrace our steps but then disaster struck. My hip suddenly became so painful I could hardly walk. I took pain killers and sat for 20 minutes and could then proceed, but oh so slowly.

We staggered along as dusk started to descend. After 3kms of this we had made it to the waugals and were back on the Track but still had a further 3 kms to go to the campsite.

At this point Jean appeared out of the blue. Having arrived at the campsite and started preparing his meal he had realised that something was wrong. As he said "I knew you were slow but not that slow". He ran back along the Track until he found us. He carried my pack from there and enabled us to reach the campsite by nightfall.

To me it seemed like a miracle.

Luckily for me I did not have much more trouble with the hip and was able to enjoy the rest of the walk.

Jean finished his end to end about 6 days ahead of us and has gone back to France by now.

Sue Ewing

ED - What a lovely example of chivalry on the Track. Many thanks for letting us know - we hope Jean will register his end-to-end with us!



THE GARDEN

Step off the road, come with me,
No ordinary journey this.
Already the rolling hills, the softer air,
The quiet tread and nearer trees,
First of the thousands that lie ahead.
Jewels, surprises, delights, treasures,
Soothe the fractured spirit within
Healing the jaded body without.
The rolling hills steepen, trees reach higher
The jewels change their hue, sometimes bold,
Often shy, peeping from between ferns
Or mingling with mosses across a rock face -
All fearless of the elements.

No ordinary garden this,
Its ceiling ever-changing,
Intensest blue, or iridescent pearl
As the sky brightens with day's dawning.
Now southern thunderheads roll in
Piling high and yet higher, rimmed
with pink, silver
And the icy wind blows.
Its floor too ever-changing,
Gravel-red here, leafy-soft there,
rock scramble now,
Then ... squelchy mud! Sometimes easy,
often hard,
Over, under fallen trees. And,
reaching open country,
Long knee-deep stretches of water to wade.
Later, the soft and the hard sand of a vast
empty beach.

Oh! The glory of a cream-gold karri forest
On emerging from tangled
undergrowth gloom.
Creeks and rivers of every kind: deep, black,
silently-sliding today,

Rushing, roaring, or babbling and
bubbling tomorrow,
Delicate grass trees wearing their
raindrop diamonds.
Snowy clematis cascades down on high,
Brilliant fungi brighten a rotting stump
Presaging even better to come - once spring
truly arrives.
Some days a glimpse of purple orchid,
Red-gold pea scrambles bright through
grey-dull bush,
Low lilac epacris lines the soggy track
And thick dense curtains of golden wattle
going wild!
Certainly no ordinary garden, this!

Quickly developing a daily rhythm,
the walker
Is never truly alone. This garden's alive,
Its infinite gifts nourish the weary soul.
Early morning brings welcome, tiny visitors -
A wren of twenty blues hops, chirps, pecks,
flits away,
His little mate never coming too near.
'Roos emerge as daylight fades but hold back
From the camp fire's warming, dancing flame.
Rustling mysteries of the night take hold
Whilst clouds play together with the moon,
And wind soughs through the trees,
a gentle voice;
Fascinating, challenging and
endlessly beautiful -
Definitely not just any old garden, this!

Annie Didcott.

June 2013.

A Tribute to the longest Botanical Garden in the world - the 1000 km Bibbulmun Track, WA.

NEW BIBBULMUN TRACK GUIDEBOOKS IN THE PIPELINE

Feedback from our guidebook survey conducted in 2011 showed that the guidebooks in their present form are a well used and well loved resource. However, there are a few places where there is room for improvement.

After much discussion and debate about content, size, mapping resources and print-runs we are excited to announce that the current northern and southern guidebooks are to be replaced with a series of eight guidebooks to complement each of the eight existing maps.

The walk notes are in the process of being updated and improved – in particular, the south to north notes which have attracted quite a few negative comments.

The key difference between the current and new guidebooks is that the new books will not contain maps and other information that is already available on the Bibbulmun Track maps, including the terrain profiles, distance tables and town maps.

This decision was made for a number of reasons including:

The maps are updated more frequently than the guidebooks. Because of the size of the current two books large numbers have to be produced on each print run to minimise costs. This means the books remain in circulation for many years and get out of date.

By restricting the content simply to walk notes, some interpretation and information relevant to the section being walked, the new guidebooks will be about the size of a bushbook – a much smaller and lighter companion to the maps.

All the generic content in the current guidebooks, including trip planning tips and checklists, safety, natural and human history etc will be incorporated into a 9th publication – The Bibbulmun Track Handbook.

We are aiming to get all nine publications published by the end of 2013 and will let you know as soon as they are available.

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 DPaW 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 DPaW 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

DPaW 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 DPaW 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 DPaW 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.

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.

DPaW Contacts:

Recreation and Trails Unit

recreationandtrails@dpaw.wa.gov.au

Ph: (08) 9334 0265

DPaW 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 Rebecca Hamilton on (08) 9290 6135 or

rebecca.hamilton@dpaw.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@dpaw.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@dpaw.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@dpaw.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@dpaw.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@dpaw.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





Department of
Parks and Wildlife



Danielle Stone, Trails Coordinator

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

DPaW Recreation AND TRAILS UNIT

Winter is definitely here and I hope everyone has a good sleeping bag, jacket and thermals to deal with the cold nights out on the Track. Although we could do with more rain, the cool sunny days are perfect for being outdoors and I have been making the most of my weekends.

Our Recreation Officer, Blake Edwick, has completed the installation of pedestrian counters that are located strategically along the Track. These counters will give us valuable data regarding the number of people using the Track; the data will be used for a range of projects and will assist in attracting funding for the Track. Blake is working with several Foundation volunteers who helped to determine good positions for the counters, learned the art of disguising them and have all now completed data collection training. The volunteers will work with Blake over the next 12 months to collect counter data. Thanks to all involved for giving up their time to this valuable project, Blake is thoroughly enjoying working with you.

As you may be aware there is a long diversion in place near Balingup as a result of the bushfires that engulfed the area in February. The Track is unsafe to walk between Hay Road and Camp Creek Road and a diversion is currently in place. This was a difficult diversion for Blackwood District staff to put in place with limited options to choose from. A large area of land was affected by the fire, there were both private property and Shire roads to navigate and only two bridges remained to allow the Track to cross the Blackwood River. Sadly the Southampton Homestead and the Southampton Bridge were lost in the fire, however remarkably the Blackwood Campsite remained relatively undamaged. Check the Track Conditions section of the new DPaW website for more detail and a map of the diversion.

There have been a lot of changes in the office recently; one of the biggest of which was the splitting of the agency of the Department of Environment and Conservation into the Department of Parks

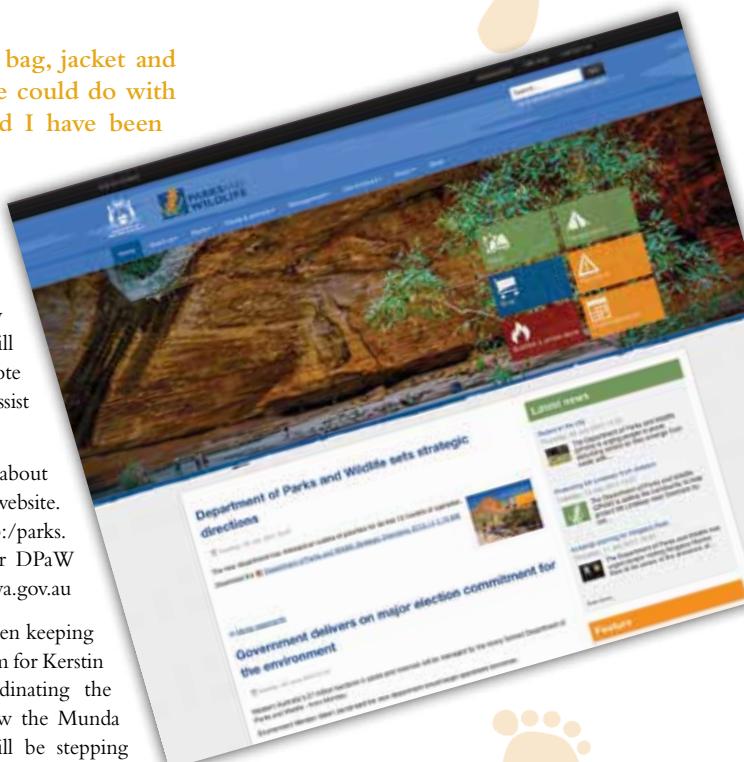
and Wildlife (DPaW), and the Department of Environment Regulation. What does this mean? From the Recreation and Trails Unit's point of view it means business as usual, we will continue to manage and promote recreation in our parks and assist community groups.

One thing I am really excited about is the new and improved parks website. You can check it out at <http://parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au> and for broader DPaW information, go to www.dpaw.wa.gov.au

For the last 18 months I have been keeping the Trails Coordinator's seat warm for Kerstin Stender, who was busy coordinating the Munda Biddi Trail project. Now the Munda Biddi Trail is open Kerstin will be stepping back into the role, so this is my last entry for the Bibbulmun News. I have enjoyed working with Linda and her team; and of course all the volunteers that I've met along the way. I won't be far away as I will still be a part of the Recreation and Trails team. My new role will see me working with activity groups including horse riders, mountain bikers and motorised recreation activities such as 4WDing and trail biking. Please welcome Kerstin and look out for her entry in the next Bibbulmun News.

Danielle Stone – Trails Coordinator

www.dpaw.wa.gov.au



DUNNY DONOR UPDATE

We had a bit of fun recently with the Baby Boomer Maintenance Team as we unveiled their plaque at the Hewett's Hill Campsite dunny.

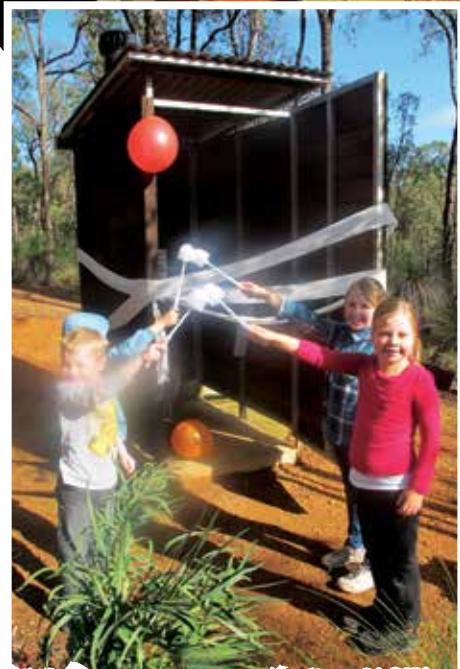
Our Dunny Donor Appeal has so far raised a total of \$34,560, for the upgrade of the Bibbulmun Track dunnies to an environmentally sustainable vault design, with 34 dunnies now upgraded.

Over 30 donor plaques have been installed, much to the delight of one walker who came across her plaque on her end-to-end. We came in to the office one morning to find the following delightful message on the answering machine “Hello, I’m Melanie Kilpatrick. I’m doing an end-to-end south to north. I’ve just arrived at Rame Head which is just spectacular and I have seen my dunny plaque on the back of the door. It is so impressive and so beautiful and I had to tell you that I am the proud custodian of Rame Head dunny and I have never been prouder of anything!”

The impressive looking plaques, kindly donated by Signcode, Interpretive and Environmental Sign specialists, give a touch of class to the rustic dunny doors!

The upgrade of the toilets is an ongoing project and donations are still very welcome as the materials for each dunny cost around \$6,000. Although we are grateful for any amount, donations of \$500 or more are recognised with a special Dunny Donor plaque – and with 16 campsites still available there could be one with your name on it!

Many thanks to maintenance volunteers Jim Freeman, Alex Williams and Mal Cooper for erecting the plaques.



Melanie Kilpatrick was surprised and delighted to come across her Dunny Donor plaque at Rame Head Campsite.

SINCERE THANKS TO
SIGNCODE, INTERPRETIVE
AND ENVIRONMENTAL
SIGN SPECIALISTS.

Their valuable contribution to our Dunny Donor appeal was to donate all the plaques.

We could not be happier with the look and quality of the plaques and are sure our Dunny Donors will be very happy with the results!

 SIGNCODE

Oxfam Trailwalkers

TACKLE THE BIBBULMUN TRACK

Oxfam Trailwalker is an endurance walking event run across the world by Oxfam, in which teams of four competitors must complete a course of 100 kilometers in a set time limit, typically between 24 and 48 hours. The routes may be point-to-point or follow a circular route returning to the start. The event began in 1981 in Hong Kong as a training exercise by the Queen's Gurkha Signals, part of the Brigade of Gurkhas of the British Army, which was at the time based in the British colony.

INTRODUCING OUR BTF TEAM – THE BIBBULMUN BELLES...

Some may say inspired, others may say crazy but our two marketing extraordinaires, Jean Byrne and Christine Geddis have signed up to participate in Perth's inaugural Oxfam Trailwalker event!

Jean and Christine, along with friends Gaynor and Emma, will join over 300 teams of four to tackle 100km of the Australian bush within 48 hours and make a difference by raising funds to help overcome poverty and injustice around the world in aid of Oxfam.

This is an intense walk – certainly not for the faint hearted! In fact the Oxfam Trailwalker is widely regarded as one of Australia's toughest charity challenges. The 100km route takes in several walking trails in the Perth Hills including the first 18km section of our iconic

Bibbulmun Track, from Kalamunda to Mundaring Weir – we just had to be a part of it!

Our team's goal is to finish in under 30 hours, which will mean a lot of physical training and mental determination and it's very likely that we'll walk through the night (with little or no sleep), taking 10-15 minute breaks and hoping and praying that our feet last out!

VOLUNTEERS

Oxfam Trailwalker is a massive logistical exercise and each event needs around 700 volunteers to help make it happen. Volunteers work in various roles, from checkpoint coordinators and trail marshals to drivers and physiotherapists. Volunteers will be tasked with putting reflective markers / tape on the Track every 100 meters (day before the event) and then checking the next day that the marking is still there.

Volunteers will also be required during the event and we invite Bibbulmun Track volunteers and members to get involved – particularly on the Track section! The volunteers' dedication, hard work and enthusiasm play a pivotal role in making Oxfam Trailwalker a success. Find out more and register your interest at <https://trailwalker.oxfam.org.au/perth/volunteer/register>

FUNDRAISING

Over the coming weeks, we will be organising a number of exciting fundraising activities and events! We will keep all our members informed regarding these events and hope that you will come along to support our ladies and raise funds for Oxfam. The Bibbulmun Belles aim to raise \$5,000 and you can also show your support by donating online via the dedicated Bibbulmun Belles fundraising page: <https://trailwalker.oxfam.org.au/team/home/15180>.



Three of our Bibbulmun Belles before they commence one of their many training walks in preparation for the big event in October. L to R: Christine Geddis, Jean Byrne and Gaynor Newman.

FUNDRAISING QUIZ NIGHT COME JOIN THE FUN!

Friday 13th September, Lake Monger Bowling Club, Gregory Street, Wembley. 6.30pm for a 7pm start.

BYO Nibbles, licensed bar, silent auction and lots of prizes.

Book your table of 8 - \$80 (\$10 person).

Individual tickets available for \$10 (we will join you up with others to make up a table).

Email Jean on marketing@bibbulmuntrack.org.au or phone 0419 919 030.

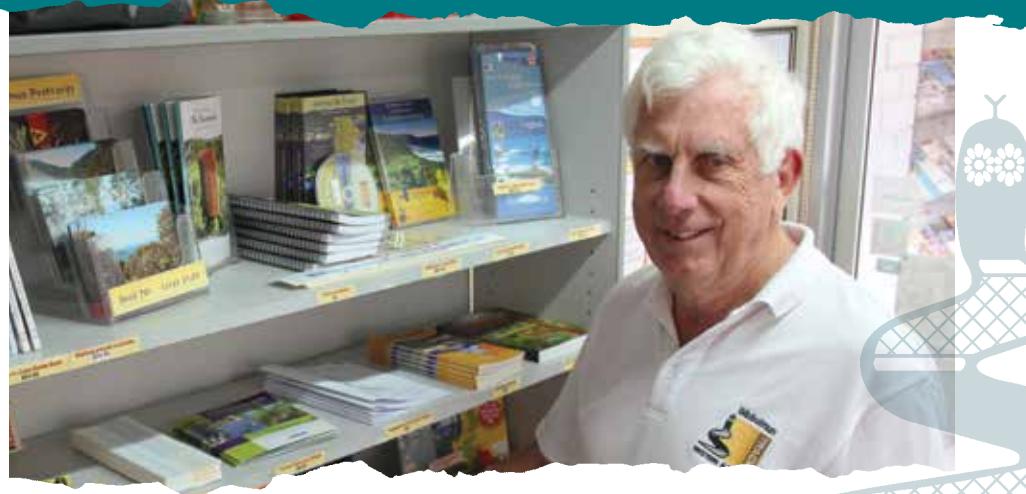
Volunteer Profile

COLIN GEE

I've lived my whole life in Western Australia, spending school holidays and outings with my parents, visiting country areas and enjoying many outdoor adventures. After leaving school I joined the printing industry and later spent more than 26 years managing a family business, followed by the management of several other printing businesses in Perth.

I married Ruth, two children came along and we all spent enjoyable times picnicking and camping in bush areas and holidaying in country areas, enjoying the activities of both Scouts and Girl Guides and many bush walking adventures. Some of these walks took us to the Bibbulmun Track around the Mandjalg Campsite along the Bibbulmun Track's original alignment, and I have a copy of the original guide book and map.

As part of my active life I've participated in sailing, hockey and cycling activities. During my working years it became my dream to walk a long distance trail somewhere in the world, and in the years before retirement I studied many options. Wanting to know more of the Bibbulmun Track I became a maintenance volunteer, and currently I look after a section of the Track in the Wellington District, near Collie.



When I retired I was eager to start walking, firstly with a small school back pack for an overnight walk; then I purchased some serious gear and started to do four and six day walks on the Track.

My walking plans became derailed while another desire was satisfied—Ruth and I went to live in France for six months—but then the 10th Anniversary Walk was announced and I saw the opportunity to complete an end-to-end walk on the Bibbulmun Track!

The selection walk for the 10th Anniversary was held just one day after we returned from France—a 40 degree summer day on which Steve Sertis marched us from Mundaring to Waalegh Campsite and back.

Quite a startling realisation of what was to come!

The 10th Anniversary walk was an outstanding adventure, during which I made many friends and experienced the magic that became part of the desire to keep enjoying the Track. This was an experience that I will never forget.

I have now become a volunteer guide, something I really enjoy. My enthusiasm for the Track has resulted in showing many people the great Western Australian outdoors and its bushland. This enjoyment has also led me to spend one day a week in the BTF office, furthering my knowledge of one of the world's leading long distance walks.

Bibbulmun & Beyond 9-day Tour BOOK YOUR SEAT TODAY!

Monday 12th to Tuesday 20th May 2014.

Join our lead guide, Steve Sertis to experience the best of the Bibbulmun Track and the majesty of the Stirling Ranges. Carefully selected full and half-day walks will take you past giant boulders and through jarrah forests in the northern section; through the magnificent karri and tingle forest and on to the spectacular ocean views and coastal heathlands of the Great Southern region.

Cost: \$2,700 twin share. Includes accommodation, meals, transfers, experienced guides and more!

Visit the website or contact the Bibbulmun Track Foundation for a dossier.

"The whole experience was seamless with professional, enthusiastic, friendly and well organised guides."



EYES ON THE GROUND

The first half the year has been a very busy one for volunteers with lots of work to be done in preparing the Track for the winter rains, ready for the influx of walkers who headed out onto the Track once the cool weather came. So far this year we have received about 300 reports from volunteers, all of which have been checked for urgent issues to be sent immediately to DPaw. Regular reports outlining all reported trail conditions and all work carried out by volunteers are sent to each district so that required work can be dealt with in the works program.

Sometimes reports are accompanied by photos to illustrate a problem or to show the results of a day's hard work. Lari McDonald recently spent hours clearing out Plavins Boardwalk (see photos), only to have the next downpour clog it up again. Not deterred by this, Lari and her team returned and did it all again, this time doing some extra work to divert the rush of water.

The first of the 2013 Field Days was held in the Wellington District in May. As always morning tea was the first priority, the home-made fruit cake being devoured with much enjoyment. During this time

we took the opportunity to welcome new volunteers and to discuss and hopefully resolve various issues that have arisen on the Track within the District. Afterwards more serious work took us along the Track installing new signage, clearing water bars and pruning. We finally reached the conveyor belt and the two new sets of steps recently installed by the District.

After lunch we spent quite some time at Long Gully Bridge which, as reported on the front page, requires significant repairs and maintenance to retain its integrity and preservation. Nick Evans from DPaw explained the



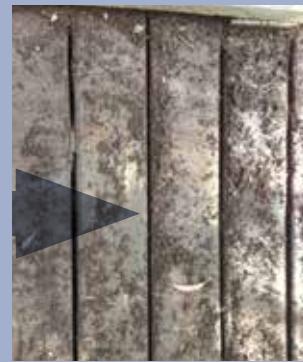
New steps installed near the conveyor belt in the Wellington District.



After clearing the leaf litter.



Firmly clogged.



Progress in the making.



Water can now drain through the boards.



The rejuvenated boardwalk.



Next visit - clogged again!

bridge requires fungal and white ant treatment and the replacement of timber decking and stingers. Due to the height of the bridge, work can only be carried out in summer months, as platforms will be required for access.

While walking into Emma Gorge at El Questro on a recent visit to the Kimberley I discovered that before that trail can be opened to the public after the wet season; not only do staff have to prune back vegetation but they often have to realign the trail due to the number and size of rocks which have tumbled through the gorge, driven by the torrents of water. Thankfully this is not a problem we have to face!

If you have been thinking about volunteering to look after the Track, I'd love to hear from you.

Gwen Plunkett
Volunteer Coordinator

Maintenance volunteer Lari McDonald did a fantastic job removing layers of leaf litter, compost then mud from this boardwalk to allow the water to flow through and prevent the timber from rotting. After having to repeat the process after the next downpour Lari also did some work on water diversion techniques. "I had a ball doing it!!!" she said. We love our maintenance volleys.

Yes, THEY DID IT!

The Track is now proving to be a favourite location for walkers during all seasons with a few more hardy souls walking through the summer months. Not everyone can afford the time for a through-end-to-end, so it's pleasing to see the number of sectional end-to-ends being registered – some of them have taken many years, and a lot of perseverance, to complete.

Our CONGRATULATIONS go to all end-to-enders on their achievement.

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

Joe Fairwell (58), from the USA, found the Track well marked and the campsites very comfortable when compared with his local walks. On his end-to-end (N-S, 23.11.10 to 18.01.11) Joe thought every section had its special allure but highlights included sunrises and sunsets over the ridge tops, red tingle trees, granite knolls at Boonerring and Woolbales, and the first glimpse of the Southern Ocean. Although he saw very few walkers until the last few sections, he found the locals in the towns were very friendly and the pubs, especially in Dwellingup, Balingup and Collie, were a fun time. One of the many tiger snakes he saw was open-mouthed and seemed to be daring him to come closer! Joe's portable, re-usable coffee filter allowed him to have fresh coffee, at 7am, every morning after hiking for the first two hours.

Michael Kalt (45), from Germany, walked over the hot summer (N-S, 19.01.13 to 25.02.13) and would love to do it again in cooler weather. He found the towns quite adequate for food

supplies. Favourite sections were hard to choose but he enjoyed the south coast and highlights included camping on Boonerring Hill and Mt Pingerup. Michael found this end-to-end to be less emotional for him than his previous ones had been. He liked his new lightweight backpack but says he still carried too much gear, yet again, after all these years hiking. He advises carrying a tent to allow flexibility.

Marcelo Arteaga (32) from the USA walked with Yu-Wen Ma (24) from Taipei and enjoyed it all so much that he wanted to turn around and do it over again when they finished (S-N, 03.04.13 to 30.05.13). They resupplied along the way but Marcelo got very sick of eating instant noodles. Yu-Wen liked oatmeal each morning and says Peaceful Bay has the best fish and chips. Favourite sections were around the Donnelly River and in the karri and tingle forests. Both loved waking up to the morning mists and thought the red tingles were amazing. A wide variety of wildlife was seen.

Marcelo has walked the Appalachian Trail but says the Bibbulmun shelters are better. Yu-Wen's best equipment was a tent, but Marcelo discovered his tent was not waterproof at all! They suggest keeping pack weight light in order to enjoy the walk more.

Craig Dunlop (25) from South Australia (N-S, 19.03.13 to 29.04.13) also found the Bibbulmun to be well maintained and serviced, and says it was easy to resupply in towns. The karri forests between DRV and Pemberton were Craig's favourite sections and later seeing the coast for the first time at Mandalay was his highlight. Trekking poles and gaffer tape were among his best equipment choices.

Richard Dewar (54) from Queensland (aka Dickey Dewaron) (N-S, 10.03.13 to 30.04.13), called his trek a holiday of a lifetime; with a different journey every single day. He enjoyed it so much that he wants to do it again. Richard prepared all his own food and says he never went hungry. He loved every part of the Track and especially the serenity of the campsites. A lot of birdlife was seen, including two owls. He says the Bibbulmun's hills are much easier than those in northern Queensland. Sleeping bag and backpack were his best equipment and he urges everyone to just go out and hike.

Dennis Mills (66) was another walker who came from Queensland to experience the Bibbulmun (N-S, 19.03.13 to 01.05.13). The southern sections were his favourites and he commends DPaw and volunteers for some well-maintained sections. In his opinion, the Bibbulmun is one of the best tracks in the world – and it's free! Highlights were reaching the half-way marker and Anzac morning at Boat Harbour. Dennis loved the time he spent alone, but also enjoyed meeting fellow walkers. He saw plenty of roos and snakes, including a snake on the stairs at Sandpatch. Cockatoos at Chadoora were a treat. His boots were his best equipment and he advises others to just enjoy themselves.

Peter (47) and **Sandy Hearnden** came from Queensland for their fantastic adventure (N-S, 05.09.13 to 30.10.13) and want to do it all over again. They posted dehydrated food to VICs in the towns, and supplemented this with food purchases. While they enjoyed the whole Track, they thought the Walpole to Albany sections were just awesome. Highlights were many –friendships, towns, scenery and sharing stories with other walkers over a meal and beer. The campsite facilities stood out for them, being so unbelievable, accessible and free! They



**Our CONGRATULATIONS to the
following 46 walkers on their
achievement! Three from overseas,
11 from interstate and 32 from WA.**



wish Queensland had something as epic as the Bibbulmun. Their tent was their best equipment, often pitching it in the shelter through bad weather. They say, "You'll have good days and bad days. Your feet will throb and ache and your body will question at times just what the hell you are doing. But when it's all over, done and dusted, the great memories you'll take with you will be worth every step you have taken."

Judy (59) and John (60) Rayner from Queensland walked (N-S, 29.06.12 to 05.11.12) with Byron Pershouse and Bill Shaw (see BN #62). They agree the Bibbulmun is a marvellous asset for WA and thoroughly enjoyed their adventure. John was excited about finishing and Judy felt it was a major personal achievement for her. They used dehydrated foods to which John's favourite addition was cracked pepper and parmesan cheese. Judy found the meals in towns were exceptional. Both thought the vastly different ecosystems were amazing with a highlight being the floral diversity. John photographed 745 orchids! Judy loved the wildflowers, beaches, views and the chance meetings with so many interesting people. John's best equipment was his camera with its super-macro function. Judy liked her mattress best, but would have liked a warmer sleeping bag. John wanted a windbreak for his gas cooker. They advise planning well and seeking advice from experienced walkers.

Andy Hewat (49) from Victoria had an awesome adventure (N-S, 22.11.12 to 09.12.12) with too many highlights to mention. He felt humbled by the Track, and would like to return to do it again – at a more leisurely pace. His favourite sections were the big trees in the Valley of the Giants. Reaching the coast was a real buzz for Andy, and he says every dawn and dusk was special as the Track came alive and then went back to sleep. Watching some baby emus chasing their dad was a highlight. He enjoyed both the solitude of the trail and the company in the campsites. The Bibbulmun has the best amenities of any track in Oz according to Andy. Leki poles and fly net were his best equipment, for without the fly net he wouldn't have been able to use his poles. He urges everyone to make the time to get out there and do it, saying you will never regret it.

John Nuttall (61) of Queensland was Barramundi Boy on his walks (Sectional, 18.10.10 to 10.03.13). He was surprised to encounter so few walkers when the weather was absolutely perfect for walking. John thinks the campsites are fantastic and congratulates DPAW and volunteers on their

upkeep. Supplies in towns were generally okay, but he found Dwellingup and Balingup were the least equipped. His favourite section was approaching Rame Head and highlights included eating his lunch overlooking Mandalay Beach and Chatham Island, sitting and meditating in the rain between three giant karri trees and following other walkers' entries in the books. He feels the Bibbulmun Track is equally as good as other walks he has done, but so different. A mozzie net was invaluable and John never needed to use his insect repellent. He advises taking your time.

Richard Kramer (29) from NSW had a great walk (S-N, 27.02.13 to 17.04.13) and would like to do it again from the other direction. He found towns were well stocked with supplies and had no problems except for a heavy pack at the start.

"You'll have good days and bad days. Your feet will throb and ache and your body will question at times just what the hell you are doing. But when it's all over, done and dusted, the great memories you'll take with you will be worth every step you have taken." **Peter and Sandy Hearnden**

Coastal sections were his favourites, and he enjoyed each day's walking distance. Richard saw many snakes in the first part of his walk and later really liked the sound of the kookaburras. His gas stove was his best equipment and worst was his mattress.

Mike Bremers (51) from the ACT walked most of his end-to-end solo (Sectional, 14.11.05 to 20.05.13), and enjoyed meeting different walkers in campsites when he walked from south to north. Woolbales to Long Point was Mike's favourite section with the huge diversity of environments, and he also liked Maringup and Rame Head campsites. He found Tiger Balm was a good remedy for sore muscles, for repelling hungry rodents and even for making socks smell nice! He advises packing light and walking for shorter distances on the first few days.

Carol (59) and Ken (65) Brownlie from Woodlands enjoyed their irregular doses of the Bibbulmun Track (Sectional, 09.05.00 to 08.05.11) as they co-ordinated their leave, solved transport problems, and managed just a few days at a time.

Peaceful Bay to William Bay was their favourite section for both with cross-winds and rough water creating a challenging canoe crossing at the Irwin Inlet. Meeting and interacting with other walkers was always a highlight, with some characters remaining memorable for ever. Ken learned very quickly to carry his boots slung around his neck on the Pingerup Plains – if you hold them in your hands they get wet when you fall over! Carol enjoyed the birdlife around the campsites and Ken had a frog on his face one night. They said their walk was not as spectacular as some in the UK, but was a longer challenge. Neither are fans of foam sleeping mats! They advise thorough planning and packing light.

Jamie Dillon (29) from Carlisle was simply Jamie on his end-to-end (N-S, 09.07.11 to 04.09.11). He prepared dehydrated food in advance for food drops and says it was worth the effort. Northcliffe to Walpole was his favourite section as he enjoyed slogging through the Pingerup Plains, sharing the Track with yabbies and scores of tadpoles. Highlights included reaching the coast, morning mist at Blackwood, a freezing cold dip in Lake Maringup, wading through chest deep foam on Sapper's Bridge and finally glimpsing the windmills coming into Albany. He says you shouldn't be afraid of walking solo as making your own schedule is incredibly liberating.

Kevin Prior, of Dianella, walked with Rosemary Prior and Heather and Philip Passmore on his end-to-end (N-S, 03.10.00 to 25.10.11) but few details were provided. Kevin's favourite section was from Blackwood to Tom Road and the varied wildflowers were a highlight. Walking poles were his best equipment and his first backpack was his worst. He advises purchasing good gear.

Summer Wilms (31) and **Gavin Foreman** (42) from Geraldton were Wilmsy and Mr Foreman on their treks (Sectional, 10.10.10 to 17.09.12). Summer loved the varied terrain and was impressed by the high standards of Track maintenance. Food options were mainly Continental pasta packs and dried vegies, and Summer maintains that tea is a must. Both loved the karri forests and Gavin enjoyed the Pingerup Plains as well. Highlights included the challenge of the Track, the wildlife, and simply being able to share such a great experience with each other. Gavin says the Bibbulmun Track is very different to other walks he has done and Summer says it was her favourite so far. Long pants and shirts were good for keeping insects at bay. They advise others to pack light and pace themselves.

Yes, THEY DID IT!

Julie-Anne Elkins and **Shayne Price**, of Morangup, called themselves Shayne and Julz on their journey (N-S, 08.08.12 to 27.09.12). They posted food boxes to booked accommodation in Track towns and found this worked well. A favourite section was from DRV to Pemberton with its variety of orchids and fungi. They were hit by such a massive hail storm in the karri forest that the ice looked like a light snowfall on the ground, and after three hours of hail they were so freezing cold that they couldn't get their packs open when they finally reached Beavis campsite! Lots of wildlife was seen, but the most memorable was a whale calf playing with its mum off Dingo Beach. They urge others to stop just talking about it, get out there and do it.

John Goodale (70) of Kalamunda and Bruce Glover (65) of Lesmurdie are among the many walkers who complete an end-to-end over several years (Sectional, 04.12.08 to 26.10.12). They report that the Track is generally always in good condition and that the campsites are excellent. Posting food parcels ahead worked well. Walpole to Denmark was the favourite section for both, with John's highlights being the beautiful karri forests and meeting the south coast. John liked Rame Head, the red-flowering gums and the river crossings. John found the walk to be a great uplifting experience with the quiet solitude of the bush and the early morning birdsong at many campsites. Best equipment for both were their boots, and the worst were their rain coats.

Shaun Gedye (24) of Shenton Park was K.N.Ackered on his end-to-end (N-S, 02.11.12 to 20.12.12) and enjoyed his trek so much he'd like to do it again, despite, ten days in, having blistered feet and thinking it was one of the stupidest things he'd ever attempted! Apart from a Brookton Highway food drop, Shaun found it was easy to stock up in towns along the way. The Pemberton area and the

section between Walpole and Denmark were his favourites, with tall karris and huge tingle trees. Seeing the Southern Ocean, and knowing he'd walked there, was also special. Photographing the wildflowers and a variety of wildlife was fantastic. Shaun finds it hard to compare different walking tracks, but says he will always keep returning to the Bibbulmun Track. His best equipment included walking sticks, his mozzie net and his camera. He advises good preparation by talking to the Foundation, paying attention to food needs and doing short practice hikes.

Michael Tuffin (30) from Leeming enjoyed being able to take the time to enjoy the Track in its entirety (S-N, 25.01.13 to 01.03.13) after initially walking it in sections. Multiple highlights

“... the contrast between life on the Track versus ‘normal’ life is a wonderful experience that all should enjoy.” – Alex Campbell

included swims at tranquil beaches, the trees of the Walpole wilderness, the raw power and beauty of thunderstorms and bushfires, the camaraderie of other walkers and the peace of the quieter sections where he didn't see another soul for days. He says the variety of the Track adds up to a truly unique experience. Michael's best equipment was a flask containing Old Krupnik which kept all the aches and pains, and the bite of the colder nights, at bay.

Scotch College has seen another group of students become end-to-enders with **Hamish Douges McDougall** (16) of Narrogin, **Joshua Hally Hall** (16) of North Fremantle, **Jack Jonsey Jones** (17) of Torbay, **George Gooch** (17) of Geraldton, **William Gaze** (16) of Gnowangerup, **Ben Foz Forrester** (17) of Mogumber, **Oliver Bolt** (17) of Cottesloe, **Lochlan Heatwave Davies** (16) of Coorow and **Fraser Hunty Hunt** (16) of Lake Grace all completing their Track adventures (Sectional, 08.03.09 to 02.03.13). Comments from them included “great fun”, “good times with the boys”, “enjoyable experience” and “all worth it in the end”. Most of them thought the food was okay, but there must be a story about the tomatoes that no-one wanted to eat! Mt Cooke was the favourite section for Hamish and George whereas Joshua, Ben and Oliver all preferred the section from Peaceful Bay to Walpole. Jack liked the last section into Albany and Fraser simply liked all of it. Highlights included getting to the tops of the hills (Ben), Mt Wells campsite and the first sight of the ocean (Joshua) stopping at the beach (George), fun times around the camp and the pictures you

take home (Hamish). Ben felt a huge sense of achievement at the end. Hamish said that as he got older, he came to appreciate that places like this exist. For most of them it was their first long walk, but Ben felt it was very different to trekking in the snow in NZ. Fly nets were good equipment for some. Advice for intending walkers included pack light, only take half what people tell you to take, just do it, and don't carry tomatoes!

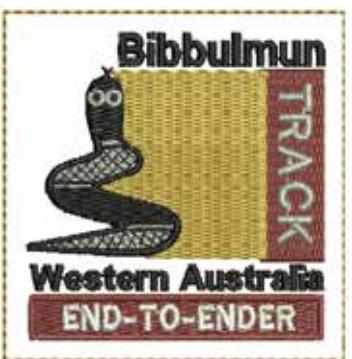
David Anderson (44) of Brunswick, known as Pack Animal, has completed another end-to-end (Sectional, 10.10.12 to 26.03.13) and reports “all good – nice sunny day”. He urges others to just do it.

Pippa Williams (68) of Kingsley says her end-to-end (Sectional, 21.03.10 to 12.04.13) has been the greatest challenge of her life. She learnt how far she could extend herself and derived great satisfaction in being completely reliant on her own resources and resilience. At times the challenges were great, but only seemed to strengthen her. Pippa found dehydrated food was the way to go – wholesome, tasty and light. Highlights were the sunset at Frankland, the majesty of the stormy Southern Ocean, walking solo sections and enjoying the solitude and the sounds of the bush. Walking poles were invaluable as she says some of the hills would have been impossible without them. Tight boots causing endless trouble with blisters were her worst equipment. Pippa advises good planning and training up to track-fitness. She says to rely on yourself – don't hope that someone else will have what you need. And don't forget to relax and have fun.

Jane, Greg (48) and **Stuart** (20) **Teakle**, all from Northampton, were Team Teakles on their end-to-end (S-N, 02.03.13 to 21.04.13) during which there were times when Jane thought they wouldn't make it. Greg was appreciative of the maintenance volunteers' efforts while Stuart quite enjoyed the walk although it was challenging at times – like having to have powdered milk! They found that carrots, capsicum, snow-peas, garlic and onions all travelled well in a backpack for mealtimes which always finished with hot custard and chocolate for dessert. Highlights for Jane included the smell of the forests on misty mornings, walking behind a pair of emus and the laughter in times of pain. Greg enjoyed going for a swim – just because you can, and remembers the friendly banter about who would get the first Milo drink at night. Stuart loved the spectacular views after climbing dirty great hills, and the antics of the blue wrens at some campsites. Feelings of joyful relief and accomplishment were common when they completed their walk as a family unit. Jane maintains the ups and downs passed by quicker than the straights. Greg says don't procrastinate, make a plan, action it, walk the Track! And enjoy the journey even when it gets tough.

Have you got your End-to-Ender BADGE?

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



Our CONGRATULATIONS to the following 46 walkers on their achievement!

Kerstin Beckmann (48) and **Ian Viapree** (52) from Claremont have both completed end-to-ends, walking much of the Track together (Sectionals, Oct 08 to April 13). Kerstin thanks all workers and volunteers for making such a great resource available and Ian says over the years it has become an invaluable means of escape from pressures and stresses of city life. They highly recommend the use of a food dehydrator to help in maintaining a varied diet in an easy to carry fashion. Favourite sections for Kerstin included the Pingerup Plains in autumn and Walpole to Peaceful Bay in spring. Ian liked the variety between Giants and Rame Head. A memorable highlight for him was a close encounter with a tiger snake between Peaceful Bay and Boat Harbour, while Kerstin had a highlight each day with the appearance of the shelter roof. Both say the Track has a charm all of its own and it's a trail for everyone, not just the hyper-fit and athletic. Its variation over the entire length gives it a unique character. Kerstin wants to do it again in one go and warns others that the Bibbulmun Track is addictive!

Tom Hilliar (65) from Cooloongup found, as usual, it was a pleasure to walk the Track as he completed another end-to-end (Sectional, 24.05.12 to 08.05.13) and says it was good to see some of the refurbishments. Tom had no problems with

food supplies along the way. It's too hard for him to choose a single section as a favourite, as he loves it all. A highlight for him this time was seeing a large, three-generation family group at Warren campsite, all enjoying themselves immensely on a multi-day walk along the Track. Tom urges others to just go and do it.

Andrew Crawford (41) from Rivervale thoroughly enjoyed the Track and the campsites along the way (N-S, 06.04.13 to 17.05.13), although was disappointed he had to miss the closed section between Balingup and the Brockman Highway before the diversion was in place. He sent food drops to Visitor Information Centres in the Track towns and this worked well, except in one town where mice beat him to his box! A favourite section was from Long Point to the Deep River when the blustery conditions of the day suited the landscape. Andrew's highlight was double-hutting around the closed section to enable an extra day to be spent with his family at Donnelly River Village. His hammock was his best equipment. It was an extremely comfortable way to sleep and became the most talked about piece of equipment he took with him.

Sue Ewing (65) and **John Birks** (68), both of Bridgetown, walked as Blue Donkey and Tango Tortoise on their trek (S-N, 15.03.13 to 18.05.13). They found it was a wonderful way to see the country and Sue says that overcoming any difficulties was very satisfying. She thinks the people who walk the Track are like a big family. They used home-dehydrated foods, posted food parcels and enjoyed one-pot vegetarian meals. John liked the section between Frankland River and Walpole whereas Sue preferred the White Horse Hills area. She also enjoyed friends meeting them and walking with them, and looking down the Frankland River Valley in the early morning. John's highlights were sunlight on wandoos, coastal scenery and the jarrah, karri and tingle forests. Sue felt the walk was physically harder than she expected and for John it was an opportunity to focus on being in the present and observing what was around them. Compared with other walks, the Bibbulmun Track has unique facilities that are amazingly free to use! They advise careful planning and keeping pack weight down.

Compiled by
Charmaine Harris

(BTF Volunteer and end-to-end)



The
Outdoor
Gourmet
Company

Murgh Makhani (Butter Chicken) Entrée and Double serve.
Chicken marinated in a thick gravy of butter, coriander, tomato and ginger sauce served on a bed of rice and garnished with dried almonds. Gluten Free

Coq au Vin Double serve.
A red wine-enriched chicken stew in the company of mushrooms and pearl onions served with a side of herb mash potato. Gluten Free

Thai Green Chicken Curry Double serve.
A deliciously spicy green chicken curry with the fragrant blends of coconut, coriander and chilli. Gluten Free

Tandoori Chicken with Yoghurt Sauce Double serve.
An Indian inspired cuisine of chicken seasoned in a Tandoori sauce and accompanied with a creamy yoghurt sauce. Gluten Free

Mediterranean Lamb with Black Olives Entrée and Double serve.
Seasoned lamb served with a fusion of Mediterranean spices, couscous and roasted vegetables.

Wild Mushrooms and Lamb Risotto Entrée and Double serve.
An authentic Italian-style risotto with lamb, mushroom, onion, & red pepper baked in a mushroom sauce. Add a sprinkle of parmesan cheese to taste.

Venison Casarecce with White Wine Sauce Entrée and Double serve.
Well seasoned venison sautéed in a creamy white wine and mushroom sauce then stirred through Casarecce pasta.

Venison and Rice Noodle Stirfry Double serve.
A colourful combination of venison, red pepper and rice noodles in a flavour infused sauce with a hint of coriander.

Beef Bourguignon Double serve.
A rustic beef stew with aromatic vegetables, herbs and spices, finished with a densely flavoured, dark and silky sauce. Gluten Free

GOURMET MEALS
FREEZE DRIED
MORE TASTE - LESS WEIGHT




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 Aiyana Retreat in Denmark and Coalandria House B&B in Donnybrook who have joined recently.
 Thanks to all our Affiliated Organisations for their support!

BUSINESS NAME	TOWN	TYPE OF BUSINESS	PHONE NO.	DISCOUNT OFFERED TO MEMBERS
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	
CAPE HOWE COTTAGES	ALBANY	Accommodation	(08) 9845 1295	10% - not in conjunction with any other specials.
NORMAN HOUSE	ALBANY	Accommodation	(08) 9841 5995	5% discount
BALINGUP BUDGET ACCOM. - 'THE HIKERS HIDEAWAY'	BALINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9764 1049	Special rate of \$24.
OAKFIELD COUNTRY HOUSE B&B	BALINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9764 1641	10% off standard rates (direct bookings only).
SOUTHAMPTON HOMESTEAD	BALINGUP	Accommodation	0412 229 564	
BALINGUP HEIGHTS	BALINGUP	Accommodation	9764 1283	
NELSONS OF BRIDGETOWN	BRIDGETOWN	Accom/Rest-café	(08) 9761 1641	
COLLIE RIVER VALLEY TOURIST PARK	COLLIE	Accommodation	(08) 9734 5088	10%.
COLLIE VISITOR CENTRE	COLLIE	Tourist Bureau	(08) 9734 2051	10% on souvenirs.
THE COLLIEFIELDS	COLLIE	Accommodation	(08) 9734 2052	
WHISPERING PINES B&B	COLLIE	Accommodation	(08) 9734 3883	10%.
CHRISTINA BED & BREAKFAST	DENMARK	Accommodation	0427 482 900	10%
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 WATERFRONT MOTEL	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 1147	15%.
KARMA CHALETS	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 1568	5% - n/a 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	
CHE SARA SARA CHALETS	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9840 8004	
FOREST ECHO COTTAGE	DENMARK	Accommodation	0410 935 959	Complimentary bottle of wine on arrival.
WILLIAM BAY COUNTRY COTTAGES	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9840 9221	On application.
AIYANA RETREAT	DENMARK	Accommodation	(08) 9848 3258	10%
DONNELLY RIVER HOLIDAY VILLAGE	DONNELLY RIVER	Accommodation	(08) 9772 1244	From \$20 pp.
COALANDRIA HOUSE B&B	DONNYBROOK	Accommodation	0415 166 026	
DWELLINGUP ADVENTURES	DWELLINGUP	Tour	(08) 9538 1127	10% on self-guided walk & canoe tour.
DWELLINGUP B&B & CHALETS	DWELLINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9538 1155	10%
TADDY CREEK	DWELLINGUP	Accommodation	(08) 9285 2736	On application.
KALAMUNDA RAILWAY CARRIAGES ACCOM. & THREE GUMS COTTAGE	KALAMUNDA	Accommodation /Track transfers	(08) 6293 1902	10% on accommodation.
ROYAL GALA TOURS	MULLALYUP	Tours	1300 233 556	
GLEN MERVYN LODGE	MUMBALLUP	Accommodation	(08) 9732 2208	10% discount for 6 or more people
MUNDARING WEIR HOTEL	MUNDARING	Accom/Rest-café	(08) 9295 1106	
YOHO PIZZA	Nannup	Catering	0403 734 814	10% off orders over \$150.
RIVERWAY CHALETS	NORTHCILFFE	Accommodation	(08) 9776 7183	10%.
WATERMARK KILNS	NORTHCILFFE	Accommodation	(08) 9776 7349	On application.
NUTKIN LODGE	PEACEFUL BAY	Accommodation	(08) 9840 8650	10% on standard rates.
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	
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	
RAINBOW TRAIL CHALETS	PEMBERTON	Accommodation	0438 561 664	Complimentary bottle of Rambouillet wine on arrival.
ADVENTURE WILD	PERTH	Tour operator	www.adventurewild.com.au	
ADVENTUROUS WOMEN	PERTH	Tour operator	www.adventurouswomen.com.au	
INSPIRATION OUTDOORS	PERTH	Tour operator	(08) 6219 5164	
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	

Bibbulmun Track Foundation Myanmar Shan Hills Trek

This exclusive adventure combines a trek through the remote hill tribe villages in the Shan Hills with exploration of the cultural centres of Mandalay and Yangon.

"This is Burma, it is quite unlike any place you know about." Rudyard Kipling.

Travel with World Expeditions and the Bibbulmun Track Foundation to explore and experience all the wonders of Myanmar (previously Burma).

Our journey will begin in Myanmar's capital city, Yangon, where we have the opportunity to explore the market town of Dhala, before we travel north to Mandalay and on to the pine forested Shan Hills to begin our five day trek.

We will pass through many traditional hill tribe villages where we learn about the local way of life and have the opportunity to stay overnight in



www.worldexpeditions.com

homestay accommodation. Our trek will end in Hsipaw, where we will have time to explore this charming mountain town, before returning to Mandalay and finally Yangon, where we will finish with a downtown walking tour.

You will then have the option to extend your trip by a further three days, during which you can visit Myanmar's main pilgrimage site, the Golden Rock. Please join us on this wonderful adventure, while helping to support the Bibbulmun Track Foundation.

Departing October 2014



For more information please contact Learna at World Expeditions, Perth

Phone: 08 9486 9899 Email: learna@worldexpeditions.com.au

Your path to RELAXATION

Walk the Bibbulmun Track the easy way.

Escape on the Bibbulmun Track to the scenic south-west and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the natural bush while relaxing in luxurious comfort.

Bibbulmun Walking Breaks are the perfect way to recharge your batteries from the rigours of everyday living.

WHAT ARE THEY?

Bibbulmun Walking Breaks are pack-free, stress-free walking and accommodation packages that give you the chance to walk independently at your own pace and return to the comforts of hot showers, home-cooking and a soft bed.

THE PACKAGES

All packages are for a minimum of 2 days/2 nights (with an optional third day/night for additional sightseeing). Packages can be added together or extended for holidays of up to three weeks.

The walking break packages are based around eight rural towns along the Bibbulmun Track; Kalamunda (Perth Hills), Dwellingup, Collie, Balingup, Pemberton, Northcliffe, Walpole and Denmark. Each location offers its own unique flavor and experience.

To choose your perfect package, visit us online and fill out an enquiry form or simply contact the foundation.



"We could not have asked for a more comprehensive package. Thank you." Sally from WA



E: tourism@bibbulmuntrack.org.au
Ph: 9481 0551

www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Walker Story

THERE AND BACK AGAIN – A HIKER'S TALE

Hans van Stekelenburg (Clogwog) and his wife Jan (Granny) have completed an end-to-end walk of the Track. Their walk was disrupted when Jan had to attend a function in Perth where she was selected as the Barnardos Foundation, Western Australian Mother of the Year! Our congratulations go to her for this achievement and to them both on their end-to-end walk. This is the story, as related by Hans:-

My journey on the Bibbulmun Track began when son Lee, then 15, declared he wanted do a long walk. I took him into the bush near Dwellingup and we walked for about an hour. "No, dad," he said as we returned to the car. "I mean a long walk."

THUS STARTED OUR JOURNEY.

We started walking sections of the Bibbulmun Track in 1999, the first one being from Yarragil Form, where my wife dropped us off, to Collie. To say that we were underprepared is an understatement. Lee used his cadet rucksack and I used an old nylon and aluminium back pack that I had bought through an American mail order catalogue in 1972. We packed tinned food, a hexi stove, a tent, clothes and sleeping bags that were so old and bulky that we had to tie them to the bottom of our backpacks with occy straps.

Our first meal was boiled rice that took forever to cook on the hexi stove, mixed with a tin of sardines and demolished even though it wasn't quite cooked. That first day was a tough one. We felt sore but the smile on Lee's face was worth a fortune. He was thoroughly enjoying himself and had started on the old man jokes, making a mockery of my inability to cope with the physical rigours of bushwalking.

The next night we camped at Possum Springs, running out of water about an hour from the shelter. Fortunately we camped with three other people who had a little more experience than we did. We listened, learned about freeze dry food, light weight packs, hydration and how useful a Leatherman tool could be in a time of need.

Lee and I, over the next ten years, completed nearly 700km of the Bibbulmun Track when school and work commitments allowed us to walk sections. We still talk about completing the sections from Peaceful Bay to Denmark and Pemberton to Walpole, so we can say we have completed the whole Track together.

My wife Jan, often the transport provider, walked in from Coalmine Beach to Frankland Campsite to meet us (and to test herself) when Lee and I walked from Peaceful Bay to Walpole. This was Jan's first overnight introduction to the Track.

I felt a yearning for the challenge of walking from Albany to Perth as a really worthwhile adventure but my wife wasn't going to let me do it alone. Over a period of time she prepared herself. Let me say that being able to do something like this with my best friend, my wife, was to prove one of the most amazing experiences I've had in my life.

We started in Albany on the first of March 2013. We chose autumn because of the lack of wind, cooler temperatures and less likelihood of rain. We hadn't done a lot of preparation, and our theory was that we would take it slow and steady and develop fitness over time. Once we became track fit and overcame the initial aches, pains and the odd blister, we started to relax and enjoy the journey. We met other walkers, shared shelters with interesting people and learned a lot about ourselves. We

met a young walker who was disappointed that more people under the age of 30 weren't walking the track. Without being disrespectful, he called the Track The Bibbulmun Track Retirement and Recreation Ground, saying the majority of walkers were elderly (whatever that meant). This was untrue as we met many young single walkers, hoping to walk end-to-end.

When Jan and I reached Pemberton, we received a phone call from our daughter Kym saying that the Barnardos Foundation wanted Jan to call them about a nomination for Mother of the Year. Jan rang and found out that our daughter's nomination had been shortlisted and Jan was in the last three from WA. She needed to attend a function in Perth where the West Australian Mother of the Year would be announced, which meant that our journey had to be broken.

When we arrived at Collie, we left the Track and drove back to Mandurah so Jan could prepare and attend the function with Kym. This was an emotional time, highlighted by the announcement that Jan was selected as the Barnardos Foundation Western Australian Mother of the Year and was to represent the state in Sydney. What followed the announcement was amazing; interviews for the West Australian newspaper, local newspapers in Mandurah, Howard Sattler on 6 P.R. the ABC, Channel 10 and Channels 9 and 7 wanting to do extended news stories in our daughter's home.

We returned to the Track happy with the knowledge that our children thought so much about their mother and honoured that they had taken the time and effort to nominate her. Back on the Track at Collie meant that we could once again breathe in the fresh air and get back into our walking rhythm and routine.

When we arrived at Dwellingup we had to break our journey once again in order for Jan and Kym to fly to Sydney to represent the state at the national announcement for Mother of the Year, where the announcement was made that the South Australian representative had won the title. Once again we returned

to the Track, and completed our walk to Kalamunda, after which we made a pledge that we would spend some time each year revisiting a section of the Track, to remind us of the fantastic time we had enjoyed.

We were very impressed with the work the Track volunteers do. Teresa and Robyn were volunteers who we met at White Horse Hills Campsite. They arrived on a Friday night at 8.30 pm, waking us from a deep sleep (we tended to go to bed early, quite often when the sun went down). They had driven in after finishing work in Perth and walked six kilometres in the dark to the shelter in order to spend time maintaining their section. What wonderfully inspiring people the Bibbulmun Track Foundation has as volunteers. DPAW also do a fantastic job. Since my first contact with the Track, I've noticed regular maintenance being completed and extra water tanks added.

The highlights for us were the beautiful beaches between Albany and Walpole. We were lucky to see dolphins surfing the waves from the cliffs near Boat Harbour. The beautiful karri, jarrah and tingle forests around Walpole were spectacular, and the wandoo forests between Gringer Creek and Kalamunda were colourful. We enjoyed learning to identify the flora and fauna.

My favourite campsite was Warren, with the views of the karri trees in front. We had a storm the night we were there and to see these giants sway in the wind was an amazing experience.

What I learned from walking the Track was the fact that if you put your mind to it, you can achieve anything. Continuous bushwalking is addictive and great for the mind body and soul.

We thoroughly enjoyed our Bibbulmun Track experience. We'll be back!

On...on!

Granny and Clogwog.



Rainwear ON THE Track

My wife Holly and I were trekking in the Indian Himalaya a few years ago in Sikkim, north of the hill town of Darjeeling, on the border of Nepal and India. The weather was looking threatening, but it was still quite warm. We saw a few locals wandering around with umbrellas, some of the designs were colourful, and the handles had cool carvings. So we bought one each and to this day we swear blind that it was the best \$2 we ever spent! We had our waterproof jackets on, but we could leave them open to ventilate and not get too warm. The umbrellas kept our faces dry when the light wind drove the rain at us and gave a bit more shelter to our packs too. Then, when the hail started, we had the added protection over our unprotected heads. If we had intermittent showers it meant we didn't have to stop and take our waterproofs on and off. Of course, it wasn't terribly windy, but we felt they were really very useful.

When you're in the south west forests on the Bibbulmun Track, protected from the wind, and the Tingle trees or the Karri are dripping with rain, an umbrella might just be the ideal piece of equipment to keep you dry, but not inconvenience you. Useful even if the sun is beating down on you as you walk along an exposed south coast beach.

In the real bad weather though, nothing beats a waterproof shell garment. There are two main attributes that a waterproof jacket must have to be effective, they must be waterproof for a significant length of time (not 15 minutes!) and they must breathe so the condensation you generate naturally can escape.

Some fabrics that are sold as waterproof and breathable are not worth their weight to carry for any length of time, you might as well wear a plastic bag for all the protection that they give you. In fact some cause you to get wetter than if you weren't wearing a jacket at all! Some PU (Polyurethane) fabrics will just not breathe at all, or just as worse, will sacrifice waterproofness to get breathability.

Goretex (made by W. L Gore & Ass) is one of a number of breathable, waterproof fabrics. It dominates the market not only because of clever marketing and business practices but also because it really works. I have used many waterproof (and many not-so-waterproof!) fabrics over the last 30 years of working in the outdoors and I have found it to be the best. However, there are some situations where it doesn't work as well, such as the tropics, where the breathability of the fabric is limited. But then there are plenty of climates where a cotton T-Shirt doesn't breathe enough either!

Firstly, it is important to understand what Goretex actually is; it is not the fabric you see that makes up the jacket (although it is important and we'll come back to it later). Gore-Tex is a white coloured membrane that has 9 billion holes per square inch (not sure who counted them all!), the membrane is then bonded to a face cloth (which is what you can see) and then another layer of mesh (called Tricot) is bonded to the back to protect the membrane from abrasion. This is called 3 ply Goretex and, although it is slightly stiff initially, it will soften up. You can get 2 ply Gore-Tex which is suppler but it will generally have a lining to protect the membrane.

compels them to submit their designs for testing in Gore's 'Guaranteed to Keep You Dry' program. If the design doesn't work, the jacket can't be made. All Goretex jackets have to be seam sealed as well, every single seam has to be taped sealed so that water can't leak through. Gore actually invented seam sealing technology and made the machines that are used by garment manufacturers. Part of the production run must also be submitted for evaluation so that Gore can be sure the garments are being made to standard. W.L Gore also tests a very large percentage of their fabric production to ensure the quality of their product.



Most 'breathable' fabrics work on a temperature differential, that is if the temperature on the inside of the jacket is warmer than the outside, water vapour coming off the body will be pushed out through the jacket. This can only happen while it is microscopic, before it has condensed. Once it has condensed the water drops are too big to fit through the pores in the Goretex membrane, consequently, making it waterproof.

The 'face cloth' that the membrane is bonded to also plays a big role in the breathability of the garment. It would have been treated with a DWR (Durable Waterproof Repellency) that causes the rain to bead into droplets and run off. If the face cloth wetted out then this could prevent the water vapour escaping through the membrane, it simulates humidity. Wetting out sometimes occurs in older jackets but the DWR can be reactivated by tumble drying the jacket or ironing it, the heat reactivates the DWR.

Keeping the jacket clean is important for breathability as well, if sweat, salt or dirt clogs the pores, the water vapour can't escape and consequently you will get condensation inside the jacket.

W.L. Gore also insists on testing every model of jacket made in their fabric. Manufacturers cannot buy the Goretex fabric until they've signed a contract which

So next time you wonder why a Goretex jacket costs so much consider the costs involved in research and development, the bonding of the various layers of fabrics, the contracts, the testings, the development of specialised machinery, then the cutting of the cloth, wastage, the manufacturing time, the seam sealing time – the list goes on!

There are other fabrics such as Repel which work in a different way; the membrane is hydrophilic, water hating. So as the water vapour comes off your body the molecules in the membrane flick the water molecules along to the next one (because they hate them!), which flicks it to the next one and eventually the water vapour is passed outside the garment! Other names for reputable waterproof, breathable fabrics include Sympatex, Gelanots, Hydronaute, Omnitech, Nextec, Epic, Reflex and Drytex. Quite often a manufacturer will find a fabric and call it their own name for marketing purposes but it might well be the same fabric as other manufacturers.

If in doubt make sure you talk to your favourite Outdoor Store shop person and get all the low down. Get all the information you can and stay dry and comfortable.

Mike Wood

PRIZE WINNERS!

LIFE MEMBER PRIZE DRAWS

Congratulations to the winners of our monthly membership renewal prize draw:

Monthly Membership renewal prize draw MARCH

Winner: Stuart & Lesley Price won a Clear ZipTop Pouch of travel bottles

2nd Prize went to Claudia Payne who won a Delta Mug

APRIL

Winner: Glenys Hall won a Bibbulmun Track Backpack

2nd Prize: Coralie Lindley won a Delta Mug

MAY

Winner: Meryl Taylor- Rennie won a Drylite Micro towel

2nd Prize: Bill Griffiths won a GoToob squeezable travel tube



Photo Caption Competition

Congratulations to Deb Mickle who came up with the winning caption:

Q: Person in tent – Easter Bunny, how do you stay fit?

A: Bunny – EGG-xercise & HARE-roics!

Deb wins a Bibbulmun Track water bottle from the Foundation.

Unless stated otherwise, 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!



After what seemed an endless summer when it was almost too hot for walking, the cooler weather arrived and it seems everyone dusted off their boots and headed to the Track. Now that the rain has come as well the bush is looking so much better and there are even occasional flowers showing, making walking even more interesting as we watch out for those early blooms.

Walking has certainly been on the minds of everyone in the office, to the point where most of the team are off walking, have been walking, are about to go walking or enjoying the photos and stories the walkers are bringing back. Destinations include the UK, Iceland, Kakadu, Kununurra and, of course, our own Bibbulmun Track.

The raffle kept us busy for three months as we kept track of ticket numbers and payments for the auditor. Thanks to all of our members who gave such great support to this fundraiser.

We are now concentrating on updating the Northern Guidebook. This is a huge job and work has been

underway for some months now. Although Steve is doing most of the work, the rest of the team are kept busy with proof reading, photo selection and the endless cross-checking that is required. We hope to have it all finished by the end of the year so watch Bibbulmun Bytes and the website for details.

We hope that you'll all have time to do some walking over the next few months and to enjoy the Track, which you so enthusiastically support.

Gwen Plunkett

Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator

WEEKLY EQUIPMENT HIRE prices

ITEMS	MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS
Backpack	\$27.00	\$33.00
Sleeping Bag/Liner	\$20.00	\$25.00
Sleeping Mat	\$ 3.00	\$ 5.00
Stove	\$22.00	\$27.00
Tent	\$37.00	\$42.00
Dehydrator	\$35.00	N/A
PLB	\$35.00	\$45.00
PLB e-2-e 2 mths	\$170.00	\$200.00

All prices include GST and are for one to seven days
A bond is required prior to hiring equipment:

\$150.00 for basic equipment

\$499.00 for PLBs

\$230.00 for Dehydrators

Payment may be made by cash, cheque or credit card
For all enquiries contact the Foundation: Tel: 9481 0551
Email: friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au or download
the booking form on our website under
Trip Planner / Equipment & Hire.

Have you moved? (ONLINE OR OFF!)

Help us save time and postage and let us know if you have moved house - or changed your email address
Update your profile on our website (see page 28 if you are not sure how) or

Email:
events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au
or call: (08) 9481 0551

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

JOIN OUR WONDERFUL FOUNDATION GUIDES ON AN EVENT FROM THE LATEST CALENDAR.

WELLINGTON WANDER – Saturday 28th – Monday 30th September

Enjoy the spring flower spectacle as you explore the new Wellington Spur Trail south of Collie walking almost 40km over the September long-weekend.

Great for anyone who hasn't walked the new spur and wants to get away from the footy frenzy of the Grand Final!

GET OUT THERE! A wide variety for all ages...

Overnight in the beautiful Blackwood valley - Balingup Weekend Explorer - Friday 13th - Sunday 15th September

Discover the Murray River - Ramble & Paddle - 4th October

Enjoy the wonderful array of spring blooms - Bibbulmun Blossoms - 13th October

Introduce the kids to an echidna! - Dr Dolitte Goes Bush - 26th October

GO GIRLS!

Ladies! Ditch the guys for a weekend and have an escapade on the Bibb Track for some well-deserved bush rejuvenation!

Blissful Balingup Belles - 13th - 15th September - spoil yourself with day walks and comfy beds.

Dwellingup Damsels - 24th - 25th August - opt for total immersion in nature, camping out on the Track !

HOW TO... WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS

Whether you're a novice planning an overnighter or embarking on an end-to-end adventure you'll learn a lot from our workshops and seminars.

Getting into Gear - Wednesday 21st August

Food in a Fuel Stove - Wednesday 11th September

Get Lost with Steve - Sunday 27th October

Visit the website To Book
and for more Events

Some Events fill quickly, so book early!



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

Track Town DENMARK

Denmark is a small, welcoming township filled with locals passionate about their environment and their walking trails. It is a perfect location for a walking holiday, especially along the Bibbulmun Track. In addition there are plenty of activities to fill your rest days, whether you are looking forward to a little R&R in the surrounding vineyards, tasting locally grown fresh produce, or taking time out to rejuvenate at one of the many spa and wellness retreats.

Per capita, Denmark has one of the highest numbers of natural and alternative therapists of any town in Western Australia. You'll never have trouble finding a massage to soothe those weary muscles. The bustling arts and music scene will ensure you are never short of something to do. In the Summer time, there are gigs on most nights of the week, and a vibrant festival culture that showcases the best national and international artists at different times of the year.

If you can't get enough of the scenery, there are opportunities to hire mountain bikes, or canoes and kayaks and indulge in a little further adventure. The only coastal sections of the Munda Biddi Trail (the

cycling equivalent of the Bibbulmun Track) are to be found in Denmark. Also located nearby in West Cape Howe National Park is Western Australia's southernmost point – a definite 'bucket list' destination.

The area offers spectacular walks of varying lengths with diverse landscapes, flora and fauna. The wonderful thing about Denmark is that it is equidistant between Albany and Walpole and a great place to base yourself to experience the walks towards Albany through the West Cape Howe National Park, or along the coast and up through the forest towards Walpole and the Valley of the Giants.

Taking the route towards Walpole allows visitors to enjoy two of the region's amazing icons: Greens Pool in William Bay National Park, and the Tree Top Walk in the Valley of the Giants. The Bibbulmun Track passes close by both locations.

The red tingle trees in the Valley of the Giants are found nowhere else on earth, and the most magnificent specimens are located in the heart of the forest. There's no better way to experience these silent giants than on a walk through the forest on a misty day, with the raindrops clinging to the leaves and branches.

**Denmark WATERFRONT
HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION**

Phone: 1800 708 056 or (08) 9848 1147 Email: holiday@DenmarkWaterfront.com.au

Close to the Bibbulmun track (<300m)
Close to town (3 km)
Laundry facilities
Mention this advert and get a 10% discount

Motel Units and Spa Studios - Browse our website for accommodation to suit your needs - www.DenmarkWaterfront.com.au
63 Inlet Drive, Denmark, Western Australia 6333



The coastal heath land of Conspicuous Cliffs, Quarram Nature Reserve and William Bay National Park are a sharp contrast to the deep green of the tingle forests. I particularly enjoy the section near Boat Harbour, where the sculptured cliffs give way to enormous granite rock sheathes. It's hard to pick a favourite walk along the southern coastline – deserted white

sandy beaches dotted with sooty oyster catchers; the spectacular wildflowers of Quarram in spring, or the banksia blooms that surprise all year around.

Closer to Denmark, a favourite walk is the section of the Track from Ocean Beach Road, over Mt Hallowell, down to Lights Beach and William Bay. Mt Hallowell's mixed forests of karri, marri, sheoak and jarrah are stunning all year round, and the view from the top out over Wilson Inlet and the surrounding coastline is amazing. I especially like the contrast between this challenging hike and the gentle undulating walk through the coastal heath of William Bay National Park. After a tea break at Tower Hill – giant granite torrs that stand testament to thousands of years of geological evolution along the coastline – I always recommend a detour from Mazzoletti Beach to Greens Pool.

So much to do, so much to see! Is it any wonder that I'm happy to call the beautiful town of Denmark my home?

LENORE LYONS

Together with her husband, Dr Dave (aka The Adventure Doctor), Lenore runs Western Australia's leading ecotourism company – Out of Sight Tours – winner of two gold medals at the 2012 WA Tourism Awards, and Bronze Medal for Ecotourism at the 2012 Australian National Tourism Awards. Out of Sight Tours, in partnership with eco-certified Karma Chalets and Karisma Spa, operates Wilderness Getaways, specialising in guided and self-guided walking tours on the Bibbulmun Track near Denmark.

For more information about Denmark visit www.denmark.com.au

Christina B&B

Christina Crescent, Denmark

Joel and Jeanette invite Bibbulmun Track walkers to enjoy their comfy B&B suites located 1.2km from the centre of Denmark town. The two queen suites have kitchen facilities, TV, WiFi, electric blankets, all linen, and everything you need in a home away from home.

Complimentary self-catering continental breakfast, extended parking and transfers by arrangement.

25 Christina Crescent, Denmark
Phone: 9848 2900 Mobile: 0427 482 900
Email: christinabandb@westnet.com.au



NOTICE BOARD

WANTED: WALKING COMPANION

I shall be walking the section from Kalamunda to Mumballup Forest Tavern. Commencing 8th September, 2013. If you would like to join me please email me.

Contact Corinne on (08) 9880 1093 or email Corinne.madasacutsnake@gmail.com

WANTED: WALKING COMPANION

Seeking someone keen to walk sections Pemberton - Northcliffe and Walpole - Albany. Prefer to complete these sections before September.

Contact Bob Chee on 0437613499 or email Hk970701@hotmail.com

FOR SALE: ULTRA LIGHT BACKPACK FOR CLAZ 50L \$120 NEG.

VGC European - Decathlon, Adult male or female. Top loading/opening with front opening also. 50 litres / 1.1 kg ultra light fabric good to carry 8kg - 14 kgs. Used for several weeks hike when tent and stove not required.

WANTED: WALKING COMPANIONS FOR CAPE (NATURALISTE) TO CAPE (LEEUWIN) TREK IN SEPT OR OCT 2013

I'm planning to do Cape to Cape for the second time this Sept or October. Exact date/week hasn't been decided yet. Still consulting the weather data for the last few years. Yes it can be a bit wet. Will be doing North to South. If you are interested anyway, keep in touch and see where it leads. I intend to go solo and don't mind to go solo. If you want to join/tag along and if we share the same goal, then that's great.

Contact Serge on 0430954252 or email sergetseu@gmail.com

FOR SALE: OSPREY EXOS 58 – BRAND NEW, NEVER USED, IN ORIGINAL PACKAGING WITH TAGS STILL ATTACHED

Best of the best, for super lightweight backpacking! Unisex size M, 58 litres, 1.14kg, Ember Orange colour, optimal load approx 17kg \$200

- Detachable lid
- Internal hydration bladder pocket
- Stow-on-the-Go trekking pole attachments
- Pockets: 2 front zippered, 1 front, 2 side, 2 waist

Full details and specs:

www.ospreypacks.com/en/product/superlight/exos_58

Contact Louise on 041 79 11 700

WANTED: 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
9481 1596 or 0457 050 855

FOR SALE: TRAVEL PACK FOR SALE

MD Columbus 65L Hybrid Pack. Sturdy pack in very good condition. Pack features - built in security lock to main body of pack, hidden rain cover, tuck away straps and harness, bar harness, 3.9 kg. Was \$349.95 new. Willing to sell \$150 ono.

Contact Denise on 042 7808 346 or email denises@westnet.com.au

LOST: LOST A BAG OF TENT PEGS AT GRIMWADE CAMPSITE ON 9TH JUNE 2013

I think I may have left behind a small bag in black colour containing my tent pegs. If you find it can you please let me know.

Contact Serge on 0430954252 or email sergetseu@gmail.com

WANTED: WALKING COMPANION

Seeking someone, anyone, to walk end-to-end, any time this year. EXTREMELY keen, just can't do it by myself.

Contact Jess on 0408 509 978 or email jess-carr-x@hotmail.com

FOR SALE: BACKPACK \$180 NEG.

Mountain Design - "Bibbulmun 65" charcoal grey. VG condition. \$180 neg.

Dual compartment rucksack strong and robust pack. Top loading with a separate zipped lower section.

Contact Deb via email deb_deborah@hotmail.com

FOR SALE: DOWN JACKET TRAVEL/SKI

\$95.NEG. VG COND.

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Contact Deb via email deb_deborah@hotmail.com

LOST: LOST WALLET AND STUFF NEAR KALAMUNDA

I lost my sons Collingwood wallet containing \$120, my mastercard (that has now been cancelled), LG mobile phone and my driver's license on the 30/04/13. The wallet was lost somewhere between the start of the Bibbulmun Track in Kalamunda and Mundaring Weir. If I can just get me driver's license and phone back that would be wonderful.

Contact Kerry on 08 9305 4434 or email gotheroos@iinet.net.au

WANTED: WALKING COMPANION

Looking for somebody who is keen to walk the Bibbulmun end-to-end. I have been wanting to for a long time just have nobody to do it with. Email me if you are interested.

Contact Carly via email carlyabell25@hotmail.com

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Walk the most stunning sections of the Bib between Albany and Walpole.

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WALKER STORY

KEN AND CAROL'S SECTIONAL END-TO-END

Ken and Carol Brownlie completed their sectional end-to-end walk of the Track in 2011. (See Yes, they did it! on page 13). This is Ken's account of some of their experiences along the way:-

It took us nearly twelve years from when we started. Older friends told how they'd enjoyed walking the Track in its original form and others had enthused about more recent times. We'd already done some multi-day walks in guided groups, but we'd never before had to rely entirely on our own abilities. Although we had been orienteering or rogaining most cool season weekends we'd only ever camped overnight with others, and going it alone would be nudging the boundary of our comfort zone.

Our first outing was in September 1999 when we drove to Dwellingup, where Bev Linning, then of Altone Goat Farm, drove us to the Harvey Quindanning road so we could walk back to the town. We had Dookanelly and Murray shelters to ourselves but Swamp Oak on the Friday night filled up. The last to arrive was Roland, a big farm manager from Tasmania who was trying to loose weight and give up smoking. Eventually two elder ladies allowed him to sleep head-to-tail between them, but at lights out he announced he might snore and if so just to nudge him and he'd stop. At three a.m. we woke to his thunderous rumbles and whispers of "Nudge him". "No. You do it". This continued for several minutes until someone called out for one of the ladies to "Get on with it. Give him a kick, please", which solved the problem, temporarily.

The following year we walked south in to Dwellingup from the Albany Highway, meeting two young ladies on the first evening who eventually revealed they were DPaw (DEC) rangers using their annual leave to be the first from their office to walk through all the sections of the Track in their area of responsibility. They were dressed in, and equipped with, brand new gear with which they were trying to appear familiar. When they decided we were sympathetic they regaled us with tales of dealing with unruly campers in DPaw reserves by bluff and threatening gestures with the heavy black baton-like torches they carried at work.

For several more years we managed to co-ordinate our time off to walk for a few days, often with the help of friends who took us to our start points or picked us up at our finishes. For the more distant sections we drove to a B&B from which our host would run us out to a point on the Track from which it took several days to walk back. Then we stayed overnight and the next day repeated the exercise in the opposite direction.

Much of the interest was the range of people we met. There was the afternoon at Yabberup campsite when a short, muscular man in a black T shirt and football shorts appeared, carrying a sports bag like a pack with his arms through the handles and a supermarket bag in each hand. He greeted us cheerfully, took off his shirt to reveal plentiful tattoos, turned on his transistor radio, poured himself a generous mug of port from one of two cardboard casks, lit a cigarette and said "yer dun't mind, do yer?" It wasn't a question! This turned out to be Barry, an itinerant shearer whose knee had been injured by a ram and had now recovered enough to try to get fit again by walking some of the Track. He was enthusiastic about the idea of sleeping bags that he had recently found

out about but turned down the offer of our excess dried peas, preferring to dine on a can of sardines and more port. The next morning we explained that that we did not mind the drizzle as we had only an hour or so to go, to the Mumballup Tavern, where a friend was meeting us with his car. "Tavern?" said Barry, suddenly interested. "Tomorrow's Mothers day. I reckon I should stop there then to give Mum a call".

We gradually worked out how to make ourselves more comfortable. While paddling over the slippery Pingerup plains I learnt not to carry my boots in my hand. The first time I fell over they became muddy water ladles. After that they travelled slung round my neck, on the grounds that I would make sure my head would be the last part to go under if I slipped again.

That's where we met Red Dog and Chunky Monkey, end-to-enders and great company for several nights. They were walking in Crocs much of the time and used personalised stickers in the Track logs where they wrote their impressions in verse. We didn't look to see what they said about us. *...continued on page 28.*



Sunday Social Walks

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ACCEPTABLE

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BOOK WITH THIS FORM OR ON OUR WEBSITE
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 Address: _____ Postcode: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Mobile: _____
 Email: _____

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

I can offer a lift

I would like to go with someone else if an offer is made

FREE for members – bond required (\$15)

\$15 for non-members

Please complete and sign payment details
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PAYMENT/BOND DETAILS:

Please also join me as a member, I have included

\$30 concession \$30 Senior
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 \$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: _____ / _____ CCV: _____

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. 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.

**POSTAL BOOKINGS CLOSE AT 12 NOON ON EACH THURSDAY PRIOR TO AN EVENT
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WALK RATINGS: BEGINNERS INTERMEDIATE EXPERIENCED

WALK BOOKINGS - Only 2 can be booked at a time

No. of Adults

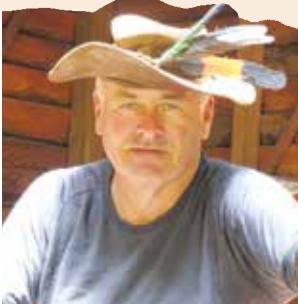
8 September 9am	<input type="checkbox"/>
15km return walk from Brookton Hwy to Plunket Rd	<input type="checkbox"/>
15 September 9am	<input type="checkbox"/>
16km return walk from North Bannister to the Serpentine River via the Gringer Creek Campsite	<input type="checkbox"/>
22 September 8.30am	<input type="checkbox"/>
22km return walk from Perth Hills National Parks Centre to Helena Campsite	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 October 9am	<input type="checkbox"/>
15km return walk from Sullivan Rock to Monadnocks Campsite	<input type="checkbox"/>

No. of Adults

20 October 9am	<input type="checkbox"/>
15km Mt Cooke circuit walk via Mt Cooke Campsite	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 November 4pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
8km return sunset walk from Camel Farm to Hewett's Hill Campsite	<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. The Bibbulmun Track Guide Training Program is sponsored by Western Power.





TRACK TRIVIA

HI FELLOW WALKERS!

I'm writing this from the Mother Country, the Old Dart, where clearly the concept of global warming has yet to take hold. The date is late May, which, when I was boy all those years ago, meant sunshine and temperatures in the mid-twenties. (Well to be honest we were still using pounds, shillings and pence in those days, so it would have been the mid-seventies on the old scale).

I have just walked the Offa's Dyke Path along the English/Welsh border---the daytime temperature varied from six to the dizzying heights of fifteen degrees and the wind blew straight into my face the whole time, bringing with it the faint scent of seal meat being enjoyed by the inhabitants of the Arctic.



The Rolling Hills of Wales



Fabulous Bluebell Woods

That said, it was a fantastic walk, tough at times but beautiful, through some glorious green countryside filled with multi-coloured wildflowers. Birds sang from dawn to dusk, sheep baaed in both Welsh and English as the Path ducked in and out from one country to the other and the hospitality along the way was superb, with pubs, farmhouses and B&Bs offering excellent food and drink. A more detailed description of the walk will follow in a later edition of the Bibb News, but here are a couple of pictures to whet the appetite.

Oh, by the way, this track is so well signposted that I lost my way only once, on the steep ascent from the bar of the Horse and Jockey pub in Knighton to my bedroom, where there was no clear way-marking up the staircase. The Offa's Dyke Association have been advised of this serious omission. Incidentally, the pub serves a beer called Butty Bach which I would strongly recommend--in moderation, of course. One very pleasant aspect of the walk was that I was joined for a section by John Pickering of Staffordshire, with whom I have been doing trip planning by email. John is coming out to do an end-to-end of our Track in October this year.

Prior to my UK trip I was allowed to leave the confines of the office to take a bit of a wander along the Track. I wanted to try once again to walk the section between Pemberton and Walpole. This time I decided to do it south to north, taking great care not to fall over and injure myself before starting! (See Track Trivia in Issue 61). I made use of the Transwa bus service, travelling down to Albany, staying overnight and then continuing to Walpole the next morning. The bus gets into Walpole at about ten o'clock, which means the short walk up to the Mount Clare shelter can be done in time for a late lunch. The whole trek took

a leisurely 10 days, with no double-hutting, although I did walk from Gardner to Schafer, stopping in Northcliffe just for lunch and a few supplies. The weather was cool and dry, with just a shower or two between Schafer and Warren. It's the first time I have ever walked across the Pingerup Plains without getting my feet wet, but a sad indication of the lack of rain was that none of the three rivers, the Shannon, Gardner nor the Warren were flowing. One bonus was to see how well the bush has regenerated south of Northcliffe after the huge bushfires that swept through the area last year.

I was fortunate to share the shelters with a German couple, Michael and Veronica, for each of the first seven nights. They were doing an end-to-end and were vastly experienced, having walked many other trails in Australia, Europe, New Zealand and South America. They were excellent company, and shared my annoyance when another walker plonked his music playing radio on the table! Please folks, if you must listen to your radio in the bush have some consideration for those who prefer either silence or good conversation, and use earphones or headphones!

The Track was relatively quiet, with about ten other walkers seen over the ten days, one of whom was Dennis Mills from Queensland, another recipient of email trip planning, whom I encountered near Pemberton. Dennis subsequently completed his end-to-end and we met up in Perth for a celebratory beer. For me, trip planning is one of the most satisfying aspects of working for the BTF, especially when I meet up with successful end-to-enders who are happy with the information and advice that I have given them.

A question often asked by walkers who contact the BTF office is "will there be many people on the Track when I'm walking?". This is really like asking "how long is a piece of string?". Although it is fair to say that in general more people walk in the spring and autumn than during the summer or winter, it is impossible to predict how many people will be on a particular stretch of the Track at any given time. One thing is predictable---campsites near towns are likely to be busy at weekends, particularly on long weekends and especially at Easter.

So please remember the basic criteria that walkers who are overnighting should follow:-

- Carry a tent. You cannot always rely on there being space in a shelter
- Parties of eight or more should not occupy a shelter before 6 p.m.
- Large groups, such as schools or scouts must use tents. Leaders of groups should notify DPaW of their intention to stay overnight at any Bibbulmun Track campsites, using a Notice of Intent form. Groups walking the Track and staying overnight night at Bibbulmun Track campsites should not exceed 17 in total.

On the other side of the coin, if you have not seen anyone for a few days and would like some company, do the following. Take everything out of your backpack and spread items liberally over every flat surface in the shelter---tables, floor, benches etc. This will guarantee the almost immediate arrival of about half-a-dozen large, sweaty, hairy bushwalkers, forcing you to repack everything. Never fails!

On a final note, once again on the subject of trees, I am delighted to report that the tree with a face that lives at the Blackwood campsite was unaffected by the fire. I suspect it probably hid inside the shelter until the flames passed by.

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.
- Renew your membership or update your contact details easily online.
- Volunteers can submit time sheets and maintenance reports online.
- End-to-enders can enter the details of their walk and upload a photo for the Rogues Gallery.

How to log in:

If we already have your email address:

Your profile page has already been created.

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 this link is not working then open a new web tab, then copy and paste the link into the browser bar and press 'Enter' key)
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 we may have an out of date address.

In this case email us with your name, address and membership number (if you are a member) and we will activate your profile and give you further instructions.

You can still phone, email or pop into the office.

If you're not keen on using the website for bookings or submitting forms you are of course still welcome to phone us or pop into the office.

...continued from page 25.

WALKER STORY cont...

Around the same time there was a younger fellow who was rather particular about all he did, laying out his gear in the shelter around him just so each night. He had even sown his pack from canvas to his own specification to have everything exactly where he wanted it.

Another part of the continuing interest was trying to improve our methods. We changed our evening fare from being based on supermarket pasta packets to using commercial freeze dried meals for more variety, but still admire those we met who dehydrated their own imaginative recipes. Even now we could still refine our gear for other walks. A small inflatable pillow that collapses overnight without detectable reason needs to be replaced by a foam one to overlie a rolled fleece jacket in a stuff bag. Our best tip is to fix anything uncomfortable immediately; for example as soon as you become aware of a hot spot on a foot, treat it. We use strapping tape, but keep your favourite remedy handy.

We completed our end-to-end when we reached Northcliffe from the south around noon one day in May. We were dozing outside the café, full of great burgers, while at the next table someone from the local ABC encouraged two ladies to enter a competition by interviewing and photographing strangers. I was chosen and can still be seen on the web site, grubbily squinting in to the sun with four days of grizzled stubble. Apparently I said my pack was my best friend. Carol was unimpressed.

That was two years ago and now our outings on the Track are as maintenance volunteers, with another couple, chatting amiably each quarter as we keep our 10 km section clear for others.

Perhaps you could do that somewhere too?

Find out what's happening on WA's trails at Trailtalk.

- Join in discussions
- Share your stories and photos
- Ask for, or give advice
- Find upcoming events

It's free to join – and easy to use.

www.trailtalk.com.au

Reflections FROM THE REGISTERS

Brookton campsite

Got Olympicked out today, bribed the wife to drive me to the Bibbulmun Track. The last I saw of her she had floored the accelerator and was doing 130kph down the Brookton Highway shouting something about "more room in the bed, I'll raid the fridge and get the girlfriends over..." Oh yes, matrimonial bliss. Hot and blue sky today. Looking forward to dipping my feet in cool creeks and listening to the crickets and the rustling of the blackboy fronds in the breeze. Very peaceful.

The Hump 02/10/2000

Walked in with my cousin and uncle got here about three o'clock all on our own, packed our gear and made our bed then looked for wood. Me and my cousin looked for something to play with and we found a sea sore and then me and my cousin went walking and sore a birds nest but it wasn't really one it was just sticks and leaves.

Belinda (aged 11) 15/11/200

What a magical walk from Mount Dale! So pretty! I kept hearing fairies giggling behind me, but when I turned round to catch a glimpse they disappeared, then giggled even harder as I walked on. Just stopped by to replenish my water. Plan to have lunch somewhere along the trail to Canning.

Brooke (Day 5 end-to-end)
01/11/200

Just passing through! Just two sleeps and I'll once more return to the world of creature comforts, after becoming an end-to-end. Yeah!

Stompin' Stan the Bibbulmun Man.
16/06/2003

We have walked a small section of the Track and are now enthused to try longer walks. Great facilities at the shelter and campsite. We are teaching a new generation the love of nature. Cheers to other walkers!

Ken, Haydee, Josh (7) and Lochie (5)
13/04/2003

Mount Dale campsite

I feel humbled by those walkers who know the date. I think it's Sunday and I know I'm eating chunky beef soup and enjoying an idyllic Track morning. No-one else here and last night I had great sleep and slept in! Will make my way to Brookton today, it is so great to have the time to take my time. The stars and Saturn looked great last night.

Michael About the 20th of something 2000

I'm stinking, I'm dirty and I had a bad night's sleep, but I'm so glad I came, I'm having a great time and next time I'll bring a mattress!

Rhian 30/11/2003

My five year old son was inspired to go camping on the Track as long as there wasn't too much walking! He packed his own bag with:

A blanket, a large pillow, his spider man cape, a McDonald's belt, an African wooden tribal knife, a plastic gun and his fluffy bunny. (I repacked it).

Oh, and it's been great fun running through the bush, with my own 15kg backpack, trying to keep up with him!

Tash 24/02/2004

White Horse Hills campsite

Hi! I come from Hong Kong. In fact that I cannot recognize why Australians like to go camping. In Hong Kong camping is very comfortable, we have a good environment to enjoy our holiday for example bedrooms can provide air conditioners or warm materials for tourists. But this is a good experience for me because it is the first time nearest to touch the natural. There bring me a silent environment. I think I must worth my life. Lastly, I hope I have opportunity I will visit again.

PS I know I have some grammar, please don't mind. Thanks.

Anon 08/12/02

Swamp Oak campsite

Very dodgy handwriting caused by the fact that my fingers are almost completely frozen solid. Jolly day. I discovered, half-way up that bloody hill, that I am less human than I ever thought before. I reached the three-quarter mark and had to actually stop myself from getting on all fours, snarling and frothing at the mouth. Actually I find it is easier to climb hills if you grunt like a crazed loon and flail your arms about wildly. I believe this may be due to some sort of propeller type action. Helps me, anyway.

Lovely campsite, beautiful trees.

Anon 13/08/2005

At the end of today I remembered why I said last year that I wouldn't be doing it again! And here I am! Year 11 Outdoor Ed students plus two staff from Sevenoaks. It was a beautiful walk but steep, and being in full sun this afternoon made walking even harder. Out to Dwellingup tomorrow and back into the classroom. So many young people could learn from the beauty and challenge of nature.

Bev and Sarah 21/10/2005

Nerang campsite

We, as proposed end-to-enders, have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the people that we've met this weekend. The food and advice we've been given and the fun we've had with them has been tremendous. We are very grateful for the shelters, especially as it has been wet, and

to the volunteers that tend them. We're only seven days in and the next five days to Dwellingup will be a test—to handle the wet weather, ton of wash my hair until I get there, to get on with other people and to carry all the food I need for the rest of the journey!

Robin 02/05/2008

The views from Mount Cooke took our breath and stole our hearts. The reward far outweighed the climb; we sat on a boulder and marvelled. Photos are all we can share with our loved ones back home, but nothing comes close to feeling the morning sun on your face, the breeze in your hair, the day's effort engrained on your skin and the reaped reward outstretched as a smile upon your face. Thanks to everyone who allowed this to be.

The Bear and the Bee 23/03/2011

Day seven upon the Bibbulmun Track
Across a mountain's razor back
Of granite boulders round and grand
I climbed Mount Cooke to proudly stand
And gaze upon the vista splendid
Though the day was wet and winded
It nearly blew me off my feet
When climbing down the granite sheet
On wet granite please take care
Or wind up on your derrière.

J S Bark 22/09/2004

Dookanelly campsite

Raindrops on gum trees and sunshine on blackboys
Towering karris and twittering bird noise
Tramping along with a pack on back
These are the joys of the Bibbulmun Track

Get to the shelter at the end of the walk
Hot cup of tea and a time for a talk
Boots off and feet up and write in the book
Thinking of dinner and what you will cook

Further verses pending

Kalgirrie and Band on the Run
13/04/2010

Against all the odds I think I'm still alive. Sadly I've forgotten what a female human looks like and I think I'm turning into a two minute noodle.

Peter (Dopey) Kerkes 11/12/08

Despite the arctic temperatures and the lack of sleep because of a certain person who snores, the rainbow this morning has set the mood for a glorious, albeit wet, day of hiking. We'll seek out our own pot of gold—hopefully at the Murray campsite.

Happy trails!

Robyn, Tony and Andrew
09/06/2001

TRAILING AROUND THE WORLD

INCA TRAIL PERU

The volcano El Misti.

Every year the Bibbulmun Track Foundation organises a walking trip on an iconic trail somewhere in the world other than Western Australia. We organise many wonderful walks and events on our own Track, particularly our 8-Day Highlights tour, but we have always felt that it's important to look at what others are doing around the world and to experience other trails as walkers. We don't have a monopoly on good ideas; we can improve our Bibbulmun Track by borrowing the great ideas of others and learning from their experiences-and it's also fun to walk in other countries!

Last year we were on the Great Wall of China, the year before in New Zealand on the Humpridge Track and we've even been to Everest Base Camp. This year we decided to do the Inca Trail in Peru, but we didn't want to fly all that way for just a four day trek, so Anna Bulleid from the Peregrine Travel Centre put together an itinerary that took in many of Peru's other outstanding sights and attractions. In all we had 22 days away and explored this amazing country in depth.

We flew into Lima, Peru's capital, after spending a few hours in Santiago in Chile on a stopover. We were all pretty tired by the time we got in but as it was early evening we gathered together and made our way to the restaurant area of Mira Flores, within walking distance of our hotel. We got our first surprise about Peru; it is a foodie's paradise. The combination of traditional Andean mountain food, combined with Peru's abundant seafood and the Spanish influence makes for an exquisite array of dishes that will satisfy any traveller. We were blown away by the quality of

the food, the numbers of places to eat and the exotic nature of the dishes. However none of us got used to eating guinea pig, just seeing the little blighters roasted whole on the roadside carts brought back childhood memories of cuddly little fur balls! Nowhere else in the world do you find Alpaca steaks and I was particularly fond of Cebiche, seafood cooked in lime juice only.

However we weren't there just to eat! We journeyed south from Lima using Peru's surprisingly modern and comfortable buses, from the top decks of which there were great views of the countryside. All the way down to Nazcar our surroundings were quite desert like and we wondered how anyone survived with so little water around. We flew in a light aircraft over the amazing and confounding Nazcar lines, built many centuries ago before the secret of flight was discovered, for still unknown reasons.

These lines can only be seen fully from the air, with obvious animal shapes and fantastically straight lines appearing as the pilots circled around each shape to give passengers on both sides of the plane photographic opportunities.

Then we took an overnight bus to the beautiful city of Arequipa, known as La Ciudad Blanca (The White City) because the buildings have been constructed almost exclusively from a white volcanic material called sillar. The city lies in a beautiful valley at the foot of the 5822m El Misti volcano, a perfectly shaped cone. Arequipa is without doubt one of the most beautiful cities in Peru. We visited the cathedral and did a walking tour through cobblestone streets to the refurbished Santa Catalina Convent. Originally built in 1580, it is a maze of high walls decked in flowers and buttressed houses, painted in the traditional colours of white, brown, and blue. In addition the visit was part of our acclimatisation process; Arequipa sits at 2350m so we were now starting to get some exposure to the altitude that we would encounter on the Inca Trail.



On the Inca Trail leading up to the second pass at 3955m above the ruins of Runkurakay.

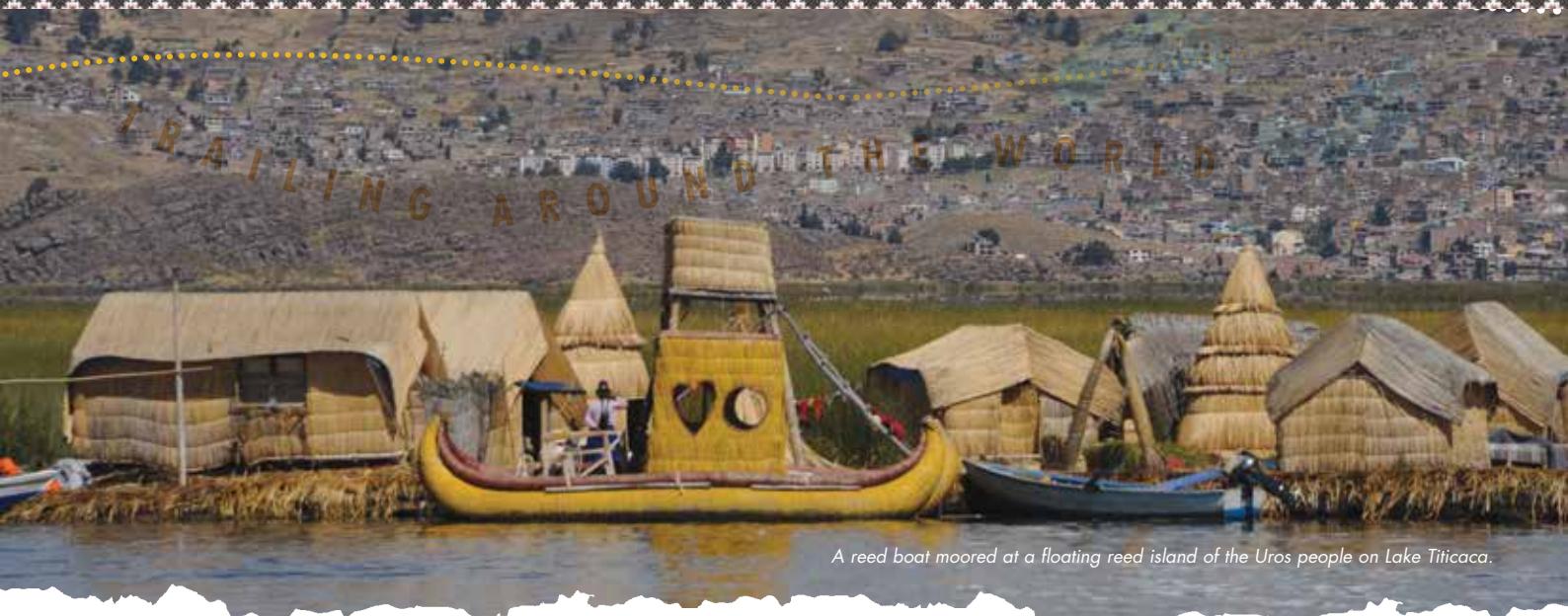


A mummy at a burial site near the town of Nazcar.

From Arequipa we made our way to the deepest canyon in the world, the Colca Canyon, where we had the opportunity to see the endangered condor, a giant vulture-like bird that soars high above the canyon walls. We were not disappointed and we spent a couple of hours taking in the incredible vistas and the effortless flight of many condors.

Of course, no visit to Peru is complete with seeing Lake Titicaca, home of the legendary Incas. We took a domestic flight into the city of Puno, which sits on the shores of Lake Titicaca. According to legend Puno was the cradle of Inca civilization. Manco Capac, the first Inca, is said to have risen from the waters of the lake and, under instructions from the Sun God, he founded the Incan Empire. Lake Titicaca sits at 3815 metres, is the world's highest navigable lake and also the second largest lake in South America, covering an area of 8400 square kilometres. The border of Peru and Bolivia runs across the lake and each country manages its own section of water. On the Peruvian side are the famous floating islands inhabited by the Uros Indians. The Uros weave native reeds into huge clumps that form floating islands on which they erect their homes, schools and public buildings. There are

TRAILING AROUND THE WORLD



A reed boat moored at a floating reed island of the Uros people on Lake Titicaca.

some natural islands on the lake as well and we spent a night out on one of these, Amantani Island, with a local family in a homestay before returning by fast boat to Puno.

We were all very excited to finally get to Cusco, the old Incan capital, the site of decisive battles between the Spanish Conquistadors and the Incan Empire. There are many old Incan buildings and ruins in this region and the depth of history is evident everywhere. In many places the Spanish built cathedrals and public buildings on top of Incan foundations. It is worth spending many days in this town to get an appreciation of the amazing architecture, the impact of an invader on an unprepared civilisation and how these two eventually melded.

Finally, it was time to go and do what we'd come to do, walk the Inca Trail. We bussed out of Cusco through the delightful market village of Ollantaytambo in the beautiful Sacred Valley and on to the drop-off point to meet our porters and start our walk. You can't just rock up and do the Inca Trail. There have been so many people doing the walk over the years that it was being loved to death, with overcrowding, littering and unhygienic conditions. The government finally stepped in and instigated a permit system, allowing a maximum of 150 trekkers plus porters to start the trek each day. This means an average of between 400 to 500 people on the trail at any given time. This may sound a lot, but not every day is fully booked, and there were times when we felt that we were the only ones out walking. The trail is closed for the whole of February for maintenance.

The first day's walking is along the river, passing the ancient hilltop fort of Huilca Raccay and the beautiful archaeological site of Llactapata. The walking is relatively easy and there are small farms and teashops along the way where you can purchase drinks and snacks. The overnight stop is in a village called Wayllabamba which is a spread-out little hamlet of small farms and terraces now used for tents. As porters carry most of your gear all you need is a daypack with water, camera and a waterproof jacket in case the weather turns.

The second day is considered the most difficult, but our group of hardened Bibbulmun Track walkers



A Condor. Photo by Keith Meadows.

seemed to handle it with ease! We crossed the delightfully named Dead Woman's Pass at 4200m after an early lunch. It was a steady uphill climb but the group had acclimatised well during the preceding days of travel and no-one had any symptoms of altitude sickness. The trail is well built with steps dominating a couple of hours of trekking, and everyone was looking forward to the downhill in the afternoon. The view from the top of the pass was spectacular as this was the first and highest of the three Andean passes on the Inca Trail. There were breathtaking views over the snow-capped Vilcanota and Vilcabamba mountain ranges. Ahead of us we could see the ruins of Runkuracay and in the valley below, the Rio Pacamayo (Sunrise River). We moved quite quickly down the trail after a rest on the top and got into our camp at Pacaymayo at 3600m by late afternoon.

The third day of the trek was the longest at 15km and we covered a lot of diverse terrain that included two passes, one at 3900m and the other at 3500m. We climbed past the oval shaped ruin of Runkurakay, which is believed to have once been an Incan tambo or post house. Pushing on up the Inca staircase beside two tiny and fast diminishing mountain lakes, we were rewarded at the summit of our second pass with spectacular views of Pumasillo (6245m) and the entire snow-capped Vilcabamba Range.

The next part of the trek saw us descending through beautiful, lush cloud forest, so called because it is often in the cloud and quite wet. We had perfect

weather for our walk through a forest filled with orchids, butterflies, humming birds and even some condors that soared over our heads at our lunch stop on the third pass. Our camp at Winaywayna at 2650m was a welcome sight and after another brilliant meal we said goodbye to our porters, who would be leaving early in the morning to catch the local train out of Aguas Calientes, the town below Machu Picchu.

Our last morning of trekking was on a high trail that contoured around the mountain that hid Machu Picchu from view. Our guides timed our arrival at the fabled Sun Gate perfectly just prior to the sunrise over Machu Picchu, surely one of the greatest sights in the world. After the sun had warmed us up we descended down to Machu Picchu and joined the other travellers who had arrived by bus from Aguas Calientes that morning – at least we saw it without too many people traipsing over the grounds!

The story of the discovery of Machu Picchu by Hiram Bingham in 1911 is one of intrigue, claim and counter claim. Bingham believed it to be the Lost City of the Incas, to which they retreated after their final loss to the Spanish, but scholars now believe this was more likely to have been a different Incan ruin called Vilcabamba.

Continued on rear page...



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The architecture of Machu Picchu is quite extraordinary, with the mortar-free design earthquake resistant and the stones so precisely cut that to this day not even a knife fits between them. We toured the site with our guides who explained the uses of some of the buildings and the techniques used to build them, although much of the archaeological data seems to be a mixture of presumption, local knowledge and scholarly study. The Incas left no written records, or if they did the Spanish destroyed them, so there is little genuinely recorded history. This is a place where you can wander around guessing at what the ancients were trying to accomplish with such extravagant buildings.

We took one of the local buses down to the small town of Aguas Calientes, where we explored the local market and shops. There were many small shops and restaurants and you can even choose to wash away the dust and grime of the trail in the hot thermal baths located on the edge of town. In the late afternoon we took the train back to Cusco to the luxury of hot showers and soft beds.

Peru is a country with much to see, so much diversity, so much different terrain, the remains of many ancient empires, complex cultural and religious practices - any journey there is full of surprises. Add in the fine dining - Peru is a place deserving of repeated visits!



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