# Bibbulmun AUGUST - NOVEMBER 2022 SEASONS OF DJILBA & KAMBARANG ISSUE #90 RRP \$8.00



TRACK FOUNDATION



### Notice to members - 2022 Annual General Meeting

The 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation Inc. will be held on:

Thursday 27 October 2022 at 5.00 p.m. at the Universal Bar, 221 William St, Northbridge.

#### Agenda -

- Apologies.
- · Acceptance of 2021 AGM Minutes.
- · Chairman's annual report.
- · Executive Director's annual report.
- Treasurer's report and appointment of Auditor.
- · Motion to amend the Bibbulmun Track Foundation Rules 2009 by a special resolution.
- · Elections.
- · Business Arising.

Members proposing to attend are asked to notify Vanessa by telephone on 9481 0551 or by email to admin@ bibbulmuntrack.org.au.

Any member who wants to appoint a proxy at the AGM must complete a proxy form in accordance with rule 19 of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation Rules 2009 (as amended and available on the BTF's website) and send it to the BTF. Proxy forms received by the BTF after 5 p.m. on Wednesday 26th October 2022 will not be valid.

#### Motion to amend the rules

At the AGM this motion for a special resolution will be moved-

"That the Bibbulmun Track Foundation Rules 2009 be amended as set out in the document under Governance on the BTF website. "

#### **Election of Board Members**

Under rules 31 and 32 of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation Rules 2009, members are notified as follows:

- · At the AGM four members of the Foundation are to be elected to the Board to fill vacancies.
- Members of the Foundation are invited to nominate for election.

- · A member's nomination must be in writing, signed by the member and be received by the Foundation before the close of nominations at 4.00 p.m. Monday 26 September 2022.
- Should a poll be needed to elect a Board member it will be conducted during the AGM.
- · The term of office of each person elected to the Board will be two years from, and including, 27 October 2022.

The elections will be held because the terms of Kathleen Broderick, Tristy Fairfield, Charlie Soord and Patrick Tremlett will expire.

All forms and documents related to the above are available at https://www. bibbulmuntrack.org.au/get-involved/ about-the-foundation/governance/ or email admin@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

**Linda Daniels Executive Director** 

### Seeking suitably skilled Board members!

Many would not be aware of the important work of the BTF Board and the remarkable stability of Board membership over the 25-year history of the organisation. The Board is comprised of a mix of people, each bringing particular skills to help manage the Foundation.

The Board is responsible for managing the Foundation's affairs, employing the Executive Director and establishing the strategic direction of the Foundation in line with our vision that 'The Bibbulmun Track is protected, well maintained and renowned as a sustainable long-distance walk trail of international significance and quality.'

Each Board Member also has a fiduciary duty, that is, to ensure the Foundation's finances are well managed and its legal responsibilities are met. Having said that, all the Board members would agree that it is really satisfying to contribute their skills. It is also another way the Foundation benefits from volunteer effort.

Board members are elected for a twoyear term and each year at our Annual General Meeting we elect members of the Foundation to fill the vacancies. At this year's AGM, the terms of these four members will expire: Tristy Fairfield, Charlie Soord, Patrick Tremlett and me.

Tristy Fairfield and Charlie Soord have indicated that they are keen to continue. Both have been active in contributing to the Board these last years and we would welcome their continuation, should they be re-elected. I am also up for re-election and would like to continue on the Board and as Chair, if I am re-elected.

Patrick Tremlett has decided to step down from the Board after 17 years. Thankfully, Patrick has indicated that he will continue with guiding and maintenance. There will be much more said about Patrick's enormous contribution in other forums, suffice to say for now his legal nous, attention to contractual and procedural detail, and his

pragmatic approach to cut through any bureaucratic tedium will be sorely missed.

We know we can't replace Patrick, however we are seeking some of his legal, policy and contract skills in a Board member. The BTF is also open to greater diversity on our Board and welcomes applications from regional and Indigenous people, particularly from the Noongar nation, on whose land we walk.

If you think you have skills or experience that would be useful on the Board, I'd welcome the opportunity to discuss your interests. You can contact me on chair@ bibbulmuntrack.org.au and the application form to nominate as a candidate can be found on the Bibbulmun Track website.

Thank You

**Dr Kathleen Broderick** Chair **Bibbulmun Track Foundation** 



## FROM MY Desk

#### Welcome to the spring Edition of Bibbulmun News.

Firstly, I'd like to welcome Anaconda and Small Things Wine as sponsors, and Vanessa Huesges as our new office manager. You can read more about our sponsors on page 23.

Our peak season is approaching and office volunteers have been busy with map sales and walker enquiries. It looks like it will be busy out on the Track and the newly extended campsites will be put to good use. We hope the new group campsite near Monadnocks will also be open to take the pressure off this popular campsite which is often overcrowded on weekends. You can read about this progress on page 7.

With the campsite upgrades completed, the Track itself will be the primary focus for maintenance over the coming years with more training for our volunteers to be able to recognise problems before they become major issues. We encourage all volunteers, regardless of how long you have been with us, to keep an eye out for these opportunities.

Other projects currently in progress include a new website, development of Noongar cultural walks and interpretation material, online training modules and the 25th Anniversary celebrations.

As long as the relaxed guidelines for social gatherings continue we're looking forward to hosting more events for members over the next twelve months, commencing on 27 October (see notice on page 27). We hope to see you there!

**Linda Daniels** Executive Director







### Thank you! **THANK YOU!** Thank you!

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

Alan Gill **Alan Thurlow Anthony Muscat Azam Pachajanov Barbara Turner Bayer Ottens Beth Hutchinson Bradley Wood** Craig Colley **David Hill David Sweeting Didier Monot** Frederick McGlashan **Glenn Morrison Gordon W Carter** 

**Gwen McNaught Holly Sounness Holly Thomas** James Flynn Jennifer Tudehope Jim Invester Joan Gregor John-Mark Sommerville **Kelly Roman Larry Smith Leigh Simons** Lionel Lovell **Madeline Chung** 

Malcolm Kite **Mark Gardener** Mary McNulty **Neil Johnson Oenone Allen Patsy Roche Richard Storr Robin Lesley King** Ryan Carlsson Sandra Willis-Jones **Stuart Youngson** Taryn Battista **Thomas Duffy** Tom Hillian

#### Donations are tax deductible!

Through the National Trust, donations to the Foundation are deposited in a special account and assigned specifically to projects that enhance the Bibbulmun Track's environmental sustainability. The National Trust provides this service for free so you can be sure that 100% of your donation will go to Track projects.

Tax deductible donations can be made online, in person by cash or credit card, or by cheque which can be made out to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation with your name and address. 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, regardless of the amount, are gratefully received and all help to preserve our beautiful Bibbulmun Track.

#### **New Office Manager**

Our new Office Manager, Vanessa Huesges, is already settling into the challenges of the role and fast becoming part of our fabulous team. Vanessa has a background in travel and is happiest exploring any place by foot, kayak, or bicycle. She has walked most sections of the Track and plans to complete an end-to-end eventually. Vanessa is looking forward to meeting members and volunteers either virtually, or in person at our member events and volunteer functions.

Ce Kealley, who has been in the office for five-and-a half years, as a volunteer, Office Administrator and then Office Manager, has retired from the role and is looking forward to spending more time on leisure activities, and getting out on the Track more often. She will be continuing as a volunteer guide and will add office volunteer to her list so it won't be entirely goodbye.

## **YOUR Letters**

Dear James.

Thanks for posting my recent end-to-end profile on the Bibb Track website. For some reason it seems like the photo didn't come through, so I have attached it to this email for you to use. Hope this is OK.

Hey, by the way, I'm not sure what your role is but I just wanted to say that EVERYTHING about the Bibbulmun Track is AMAZINGII Thank you for everything you and the rest of the team do to keep this free, fantastic WA Trail available for everyone. This Saturday I am about to drive down to Albany and then I am going to walk back to Kalamunda. Can't wait!

Andrew Kowald

(Ed: James is one of our awesome office volunteers.)

You do an awesome job, marketing team. Bibb Track emails are the highlight of my week!

Looking forward to getting back one day soon and doing my fav stretch, Albany to Walpole in winter! Just as a brief follow up Ash, during those long Covid periods, emails that linked me, and no doubt others, back to the great WA, were the things that kept us going. Strange as it may sound, the dream of being able to one day step back into WA was kept very much alive by the Bibb Track emails. So, never think that your role is a small one, for those who are passionate about the Track, the emails are a vital cog in the big wheel. I remember going into the office in Perth in 2002 with a group of students after we had completed our walk, and we made a donation. Look forward to visiting the shop again in the future. Best wishes, and thanks for the work that you do, it's very much appreciated from the cyber world followers!

Have a great weekend Regards, Phil

We wanted to again thank you for your help when we were planning our E2E, your advice really was invaluable! Suzanne and I finished our E2E on Saturday, and we were really lucky to have Mum also join us on the Track between Pemberton and Northcliffe then again for a couple of days from Broke Inlet to Mt Clare.

Although some days were tough, we had a blast and absolutely enjoyed the scenery, all the karri, marri and tingle trees, the stunning coastline, the beaches, the farmland, the wildlife, flora and faunal

The Track was amazing; well signed, mostly well maintained, the campsite facilities were brilliant, and we were totally appreciative of the vollies and all the effort that goes into looking after such an amazing track! I'm pretty sure you mentioned Frankland was the hut you help look after, we really enjoyed that beautiful campsite!

Once we get settled, we will all be contacting BTF to see how we can assist as well.

Hope you have a lovely week and thanks again!

Cheers, Sandy

(Ed: In addition to Trip Planning sessions Issy volunteers in the office once a week to help with memberships. She is also a maintenance volunteer and one of our fantastic volunteer guides!)

### PHOTO CAPTION COMPETITION

Send us a caption!

**Caught in wild weather these** maintenance volunteers enjoyed their tea break under tarps.

> The most popular caption will win a prize (judged by our office volunteers!) Email to friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au or by post.



Send us your caption!

### Walker Story – A Mythical Journey

When I did my second end-to-end walk in 2003 I was fascinated by the stories and the wonderful artwork I found in the red registers of two guys who had walked north-south the year before. Calling themselves Tindel and Cain, they described their trek in stories akin to those of The Lord of the Rings, telling tales of battles with orcs and dragons, crossing raging torrents and rescuing damsels in distress, always subtly linked with the Track. But best of all, their stories were embellished with superb artwork, some of which we have displayed in earlier editions of the Newsletter. When they reached the Hidden Valley Campsite, in those days the final stop before Albany, they disclosed their real identities. This is a synopsis of their final entry in the red registers at Hidden Valley:

"At long last our two heroic adventurers, Tindel and Cain, have reached their final stop before finishing their epic adventure. The two sneaked stealthily past the last of the Bitch Queen Minions and a squad of black orcs before slipping into the hidden school of Mages. Cain replenished his supply of magical components and the duo were summoned to the Wizards' Chamber to discuss the long and hazardous journey. They described the foes they met; orcs, goblins, gibberlings, river trolls, giant serpents, ogres and giant spiders. They also recounted the outstanding efforts of those maintaining the path, the Rangers, the Druids of CALM and the unbelievable foot soldiers of the FOBT.

The two bunked down for their last night, anticipation and elation mixed together as one emotion. These days on the Track will not be forgotten."

Both from Perth, who were they?

Tindel was Rob Yoxall, a 25 yearold cook and artist. These were his comments about the trek:

"Wow! Can't believe we've made it! I highly recommend seeing the whole Track from top to bottom and experiencing the good and bad times, which will make you a better person."

Cain was Travis Billington, a 26 year-old DJ, artist and computer technician.



#### His comments:

"A huge Cheers! to everyone who has made this spectacular event possible. It has been a real pleasure writing and illustrating these stories while I walked along this world-class track."

Rob and Travis left an amazing legacy of art along the Track. These are their final portraits of their alter-egos:

So just pause and think. Look at the detail in those figures and then consider that they were drawn in a Bibbulmun Track shelter after the guys had completed a days' walk. And they had done this, over and over again, along the whole length of the Track.

Gentlemen, I don't know where you are now, but you will always be welcome back on the Track. We need more walkers like you!

**Wrong Way Jim** 

## Prize **WINNERS!**

#### **CONGRATULATIONS TO** THE WINNERS OF OUR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP **PRIZE DRAW**

#### March

Joan Gregor received a travel clothesline.

#### Abril

Michael McPhee received a waterproof accessory case.

#### May

**Natalie Hutchins** received a GoToob.

#### June

Terry Sheriff received an XBrew collapsible coffee dripper.

All prizes generously donated by





### Before you go... CHECK THE LATEST TRACK CONDITIONS

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 Section by Section guide on www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au or contact the appropriate Parks and Wildlife Services District (see contact details opposite).

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. Diversions are usually marked with Waugal trail markers attached to yellow metal posts. If you encounter these when walking, follow these temporary markers, not your map. The diversion will eventually return you to the main trail.

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**

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

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

#### **Groups on the Track**

Groups of walkers with eight or more members that are staying overnight on the Track are requested to complete a Group Notification online at www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/trip-planner/notice-of-intentfor-groups.

#### 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 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.

#### **Parks and Wildlife Contacts:**

#### **Recreation and Trails Unit**

recreationandtrails@dbca.wa.gov.au Ph: (08) 9219 8265

#### **District Offices**

#### Perth Hills District (Mundaring and Dwellingup)

Perth Hills District (Mundaring and Dwellingup) Kalamunda to the Harvey-Quindanning Road Map 1 & 2 and Guidebooks 1 & 2 Contact Rebecca Hamilton on (08) 9290 6100 or mundaring@dbca.wa.gov.au

#### Wellington District (Collie)

The Harvey-Quindanning Road to Mumballup (Donnybrook-Boyup Brook Rd) Map 3 and Guidebook 3 Contact Nick Evans on (08) 9735 1988 or wellington@dbca.wa.gov.au

#### **Blackwood District (Balingup)**

Blackwood District (Balingup) Mumballup (Donnybrook-Boyup Brook Rd) to Willow Springs (Gold Gully Rd) Map 4 and Guidebook 4 Contact Andrew Sandri on (08) 9731 6232 or blackwood@dbca.wa.gov.au

#### Donnelly District (Pemberton and Northcliffe)

Willow Springs (Gold Gully Rd) to Pingerup Rd Map 5 and Guidebook 5 Contact John McKenzie on (08) 9776 1207 or donnelly.district@dbca.wa.gov.au

#### Frankland District (Walpole)

Pingerup Rd to Denmark River mouth Map 6, 7 and 8 and Guidebooks 6, 7 and 8 Contact Julie Ewing on (08) 9840 0400 or frankland.district@dbca.wa.gov.au

#### Albany District (Denmark and Albany)

Denmark River mouth to Albany Map 8 and Guidebook 8 Contact Luke Coney on (08) 9842 4500 or albany@dbca.wa.gov.au

#### **LEAVE NO TRACE TIP:** LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

- Do not add to, or create new, rock cairns. Cairns are for navigation only where other trail marking is not possible.
- Individual rocks provide shelter for all types of critters and new cairns not only disturb the natural environment but can lead walkers astray.





### Stephen King

TRAILS COORDINATOR, RECREATION AND TRAILS UNIT

EMAIL: RECREATIONANDTRAILS@DBCA.WA.GOV.AU



Conservation and Attraction



## Recreation & Trails UNIT

#### Dear Readers,

A relatively mild winter has provided some great opportunities to get outdoors and I hope you've managed to get out on the Track for a hike, rain or shine. The last few months have been pleasingly productive, despite some disruptions arising from Covid and staff movements within our team.

With the WA Recovery Plan funding we have managed to complete a significant package of campsite upgrades to date:

Shelter upgrades at Gringer Creek, White Horse Hills, Yourdamung, Boarding House, Yabberup, Grimwade and Gregory **Brook Campsites.** 

Toilet replacements at White Horse Hills, Grimwade, Gregory Brook and Boarding House Campsites.

Tent site and path upgrades at White Horse Hills and Grimwade Campsites.

Additional funding has also been received through the Forest Enhancement Fund to enable replacement of the toilet and completion of tent site and path upgrades at Yourdamung Campsite. Plans and approvals are also in place for the outstanding items within the eight sites, including Harris Dam Campsite, allowing them to be expedited if further funding becomes available.

The new Monadnocks Group Campsite is currently under construction, with the shelter and toilet structures well progressed, and the spur trail to the campsite completed. The final phase will involve construction of the tent sites and connecting paths and rehabilitation of the construction access. It's great to see this project coming to life and I'm sure hikers will really appreciate the expansive views from the site and the quality of the facilities.

Planningiswellprogressedfortheproposed formal route of the Bibbulmun Track across the tip of the Nullaki Peninsular near Denmark. Flora and dieback surveys have been completed, with no changes required to the planned alignment. Completion of Aboriginal heritage surveys is the last task required before seeking approval to construct the trail. When complete this new section of trail will provide a formalised, appropriate trail link from the Wilson Inlet sandbar, when it's crossable to the existing Bibbulmun Track.

Planning is also well progressed for a significant realignment between Dookanelly and Possum Springs Campsites, south of Dwellingup. This realignment will detour around a track section that is prone to flooding, and also provide a significant improvement to the hiking experience, taking the Track off vehicle tracks and onto a purpose-built trail. All corridor surveys have now been completed. The last item to resolve is the approach to a section that traverses an old-growth forest area.



A realignment of the Track southbound from Helena Campsite is also being pursued. The proposed realignment descends steadily down to the creek crossing to the north of the campsite, avoiding the steep section of vehicle track that is currently used. The area is within the Mundaring Weir reservoir protection zone, so the proposal is pending Department of Water and Environmental Regulation approval.

I'd like to congratulate all the BTF volunteers on another highly productive and successful period through late autumn and winter. The south coast track stabilisation campaigns were implemented with an impressive level of efficiency and commitment, despite some challenging coastal winter weather, putting the program ahead of schedule. This work is vital to protect the fragile environment from degradation and maintain a high quality trail experience. The field days at Sandpatch and Mt Chance were also very productive, keeping the campsites to a very high standard and providing important training to keen volunteers.

### **Stephen King**

**Trails Coordinator** 



Construction of the shelter near Monadnocks is well underway.

## Eyes on the GROUND

The Bibbulmun Track is 25 years old next year! Considering its age and the amount of use, the Track has held up remarkably well, much of it due to the diligence of our volunteers and Parks and Wildlife staff.

Although the Department manages the Track, the work of the volunteers and the great partnership we have with Parks and Wildlife staff in maintaining it is one of the reasons the Track continues to be world class.

Apart from its age, the increased use of the Track and campsites, particularly since Covid, is one of the reasons for the rise in maintenance requirements. Also, due to bushfires followed by unprecedented rain last year, there has been a rapid spurt of vegetation growth in the Dwellingup, Donnelly and Albany districts. The amount of rain running off hills and rocky areas has exacerbated erosion in the Perth Hills, particularly between Ball Creek and Waalegh Campsites. Along the coast between Walpole and Albany erosion due to wind, foot traffic and rain is a constant maintenance issue, requiring ongoing management and monitoring.

South Coast Stabilisation - Campaign 2 Do

The reports received from volunteers, along with feedback from walkers, help us to keep abreast of maintenance issues and over time to develop an insight into each part of the Track. We are using this information to look at ways we can manage maintenance more effectively.

This year, we are working towards:

- Recruiting more local support volunteers in each district to assist maintenance volunteers.
- Assigning groups of volunteers to tackle high maintenance sections.
- Buying more battery power tools to tackle fast growing vegetation.
- Pro-active planning for sections that require annual slashing or ongoing erosion control.
- Recruiting Maintenance Administration (MAdmin) volunteers to register Track and campsite inspection reports and follow up.
- Improved training for maintenance volunteers around developing trail eyes – what to look for and report on.
- Improved training around reporting to include GPS coordinates, photos and more detailed descriptions.
- Upskilling all maintenance volunteers so they are familiar with trail standards.

We are also trialling a new approach by enlisting a local volunteer in each district to become the primary contact for volunteers in their area, to become familiar with the length of the Track in their district to help to prioritise any issues and to advise what assistance is needed from the Support Volunteers and/ or Department to keep on top of maintenance. The trial commenced in Albany and, if successful, will be rolled out to other districts. If you are interested in being an area coordinator,







Field Day Training at Beraking



#### **Maintenance Highlights**

We have begun work on badly eroded sections of the Track east and west of Boat Harbour. This year-long project will stabilise approximately 10.5kms of track and includes the installation of plastic cellular pavers, aka track pads, where the track slope is maximum 20%. Other treatments include:

- · Timber steps on inclines greater than 20%.
- · Biodegradable coir mesh pinned to the slopes on either side.
- · Log water bars to control runoff.

The project is the culmination of months of detailed planning including the procurement and transport of 10 tonnes of materials and equipment to 22 locations on the Track and the coordination of volunteer effort over four winter campaigns.

We are fortunate that some of our Support Volunteers have the skills and experience to enable us to execute such large-scale projects safely and on schedule. Huge thanks to all those involved with the past and upcoming campaigns. We have no doubt your efforts will be appreciated by walkers. Importantly, the work protects the dune system and will enable the vegetation to grow back and minimise further erosion. The works will be monitored on a regular basis.

This \$200,000 project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program, DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Services and funds donated to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation by members and walkers. It would not be possible without the skills, experience, time and energy donated by our superb volunteers which, alone, is estimated to be worth over \$120,000.

The South Coast erosion control project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program.



#### **Working with Indigenous Rangers**

For the first time we are excited to have the Binalup rangers rehabilitating a closed track section with some of our BTF volunteers. The rehabilitation west of Boat Harbour is part of this year-long project. We hope that by the sharing of knowledge and skills, we can learn from each other and build on the partnership for future endeavours.

#### Introduction to **Trail Maintenance Training**

So far, the Introduction to Trail Maintenance training at the annual Field Days has received very positive feedback. Whilst the training helped our new volunteers to develop trail eyes and learn about trail standards in pruning, erosion control and way marking, many of our long-term volunteers also found it valuable.

Some remarked they now felt more knowledgeable and confident undertaking maintenance on their section. We look forward to providing more opportunities for both new and old volunteers alike!

For more information contact:

trackworks@ bibbulmuntrack.org.au

**Sue Morley** Maintenance Manager

is generously supported by our premier partner, Newmont Boddington Gold.



please contact me.

## Getting into Gear

Sea to Summit had a range of new tents coming out and they had one prototype tent in stock for me to test.

There are a number of things about a The two larger stuff sacks convert tent that are essential. Firstly, it has to be waterproof. That might seem elementary, but often in older tents the fabric starts to deteriorate, or the seam sealing tape starts to peel.

I like free standing tents and I like double skin tents. I know there are good single skin tents, but I like the versatility of a free-standing mesh or light cloth inner that I can use on its own or when I need a mozzie net.

Double skin tents breathe better, and ventilation is an important aspect. Reducing condensation inside a tent means you stay drier and warmer.

If it's a two-person tent I want two doors with vestibules to store and protect gear. If you only have one door, one person has to crawl over other to get outside. The doors are really important, they need to be large for ease of access and having the large vestibule for storage means gear can stay outside and keep dry.

The Telos TR2 has all these features and weighs only 1.657gm for the mesh inner version, or the TR2 Plus, 1,706gm for the warmer cloth inner version.

The design team at STS have reimagined almost every aspect of the tent to make a game changing product.

The stuff sacks have been given a makeover. Instead of a single stuff sack to carry everything, STS have remodelled to the Fair Share Storage System where the inner, fly, pegs and poles are packed in separate stuff sacks. Useful if



you are splitting the load and enabling a wet fly sheet to be kept separate from the tent inner.

into storage pockets and the pole stuff sack has a translucent diffuser which becomes a lightbar—combine it with a headlamp for soft illumination throughout the tent.

STS have utilised Tension Ridge pole architecture where the ridge poles are swept upwards, providing significantly more head room inside the tent.

There is a colour coded clip Quick-Connect system, so you know which end of the pole to match with inner, the fly or the tent footprint. These metal clips are far more durable than plastic buckles.

The footprint costs extra but will add extra protection and cover the ground in the vestibule, which helps to keep the inside of the tent clean. You can also pitch the footprint and fly only to make an ultralight summer tent at around 1.2kg and use the fly to make a spacious, semi-open shelter for shady social camping situations.

I was impressed with the Apex/Baseline venting system. The Apex vents at the highest point allow rising warm, moist air to escape while the Baseline vents allow cooler air in from the bottom, allowing humidity control.

The tents are rated as 3+ Season tents, which means they are perfect for WA weather. They won't handle heavy snow, but they will handle heavy, consistent rain and maybe light snow The team says you should guy-rope the tent in winds over 28-30km per hour.

I was really happy with the Telos. The tents are not cheap, the RRP is over \$900, but are exactly what I'd expect from WA's very own adventure gear brand.

The BTF is proud to be sponsored by such a fitting partner as Sea to Summit.

Visit their website seatosummit.com.au for more information.

#### **Mike Wood**



Lightweight. Collapsible. Durable.

makes camp meals on the trail easy. Pop up a whole



### Father's Day!

#### Gifts for the World's Greatest Dads

#### **Sunday 5 September**

Father's Day is a day to show love to the father in your life. There is bound to be something to suit every Dad with a wide range of Bibbulmun Track gifts, maps and events.

Quality time with the kids on a Walking with Dad event.

Head to our website to book online (under Walk the Track / Events Calendar).



#### Rock tape or number plate surround

Get your Bibbulmun Track branded RockTape! It is stretchy and great for stopping blisters and hot spots before they start, while our exclusive Bibbulmun Track branded number plate surrounds are a great way to show off your love for the Bibbulmun Track.

#### RRP starting from \$22.00



#### T-shirts, mugs & more from Redbubble

A variety of Bibbulmun Track products are available from the Redbubble website.

Choose the style and designs you like and order direct from Redbubble.com.



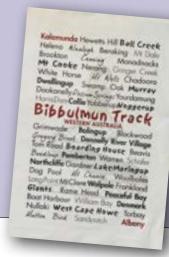
If you're not sure what Dad might enjoy, why not buy him a Bibbulmun Track Gift Voucher (any amount) and leave the choice to him! View and order online bibbulmuntrack.org.au.

#### **NEW!** Bibbulmun Track tea towel

The perfect reminder of your hike – this custom designed tea towel lists all the campsites and towns along the Bibbulmun Track. Great as a gift or to add to your own collection in the third drawer down!

Durable and absorbent cotton and a generous size.

Only \$22 (10% discount for BTF members) Order online via our shop.



Bibbulmun

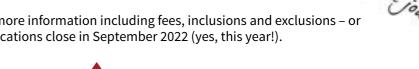
### Be a part of history - sign up to join the 25th Anniversary End-to-End

Members are invited to apply to join the core group walking from Kalamunda to Albany to celebrate the Track's 25th Anniversary.

The end-to-end group will be guided by BTF guides and will receive plenty of support through pre-walk briefings, training, selected gear and gear discounts, food drops and logistical support throughout the journey.

Places are strictly limited, and all applicants will be subject to a strict screening process.

See the application form on our website for more information including fees, inclusions and exclusions – or email events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au. Applications close in September 2022 (yes, this year!).



## Yes, they did it!

Note: To see full comments from each individual - visit the End-to-Enders Gallery on our website under News.

.....

It's wonderful to see so many people taking advantage of the opportunity to get out onto our iconic Track and either complete or continue their epic journey in such a marvellously natural environment. Inherent in the feedback is the sense of achievement and personal growth as an outcome of completing an end-to-end.

#### **General Comments**

From the first weekend I was surrounded by the quietness of 'just being' and the challenges that can swing your way. *Jennifer, Carine.* 

After completing the sectional end-to-end, I now felt ready to have a go at doing it all in one go.

Andrew, Beldon. (Ed: Andrew did this just one-month later.)

Probably one of the slowest end-to-end completions, spanning 23 years. *Chris, Highgate.* 

I have been wanting to do this hike for a long time and I was not disappointed. The people of WA are very lucky to have this wonderful resource.

Julian, Blantyre.

I love this Track. Now that I have completed it, I am excited to sample the best bits again! *Mary B, North Perth.* 

A final "Hoorah!" to the BTF, Vollies, and Track Angels that consistently support all walkers. Samantha, Coconut Grove.

Glad to have done this walk. I'm inspired to take on greater challenges.

Nicholas, Northcote.

I can't believe that I have completed the Bibbulmun Track. From when I was a 10-year-old I couldn't wait to walk the whole thing and now, at 18, I have. I can say that without the Bibbulmun Track community I could not have achieved this end-to-end. I have come so far; but the journey has just begun. Rusty, Mount Hawthorn.

I loved exploring the many ecosystems our southwest has to offer. Nothing beats walking solo through the Australian bush, listening to nature and resting your mind. Rox in Sox, Cowaramup.

We laughed, we cried, we swore (a lot), we were in awe, in pain (a lot), we were overwhelmed at times, but most of all we felt so blessed and grateful to have had the opportunity to experience this journey! A massive thank you to BTF and DBCA for a fantastic track that was well signed and mostly, well maintained. Thank you for all the support! Sandra, Aveley.

The experience was both more fulfilling, and more difficult than I thought it would be. *Andrew, Beldon.* 

While this was one of the more difficult challenges I've undertaken, it was, far and away, the most rewarding. My only regret is not having made the effort years ago.

Michael. Iluka.

Was an amazing experience to share with my sister. The scenery was spectacular, the weather was kind to us, and we shared many laughs and tears. Issy from the Foundation was amazing with all her help and advice before heading out. I can recommend joining the Foundation as it was wonderful to see all the hard work all the volunteers do with the Track. Suzanne, MacArthur.

Wow, I never dreamed I would enjoy this walk as much. I loved every day, loved the planning and organisation, and loved making the time to enjoy every day without rushing.

Marg E, Mullaloo.

A very long sectional end-to-end, started in my 20's and finished in my 40's. *Chris, Duncraig.* 

One of the most moving (pun not intended) experiences of my life. There was a sense of relief and the surreal when I reached the northern terminus but touching the sign at the finish... suddenly I got all emotional. *POT, Bunbury.* 

A very tough hike, with great signage, great huts, and lovely people.

More or LesS, Heathcote.

#### **Food / Supplies**

Love dehydrating my own food. Homemade dinners every night packed with goodness. A sachet of tuna was like drinking a can of red bull. A sip of port a welcome treat on a cold night.

Lady T, Landsdale.

My favourite discovery this time was using a thermos for my lunch. I would boil some water while having breakfast and mix it in my thermos with some home dried soup powder. By lunch time it was cool enough to eat and delicious, with the added bonus of not having to stop to eat if the weather was horrendous. I could just sip as I walked on the warm soup! Lizzymisso, Ocean Reef.

Should have packed more snacks into my food parcels!

Samantha, Coconut Grove.

Didn't use any drops and was able to supply myself with metho, oats, instant coffee, wraps, cheese, salami, Back Country in Track towns with only minor deviations from the plan.

Nicholas, Northcote.

I wanted to challenge myself and I did the track on a vegan diet (no animal products) after my Mum told me I couldn't do it. The first days were hard. I overpacked! I started with a 30kg pack and got it down to 18-20kg. Rusty, Mount Hawthorn.

After walking between 15-40kms per day all food is great.

Glenn, Connolly.

I need to be gluten-free, so sent food parcels to each track town – a good idea, as the smaller towns could not meet the needs of being gluten-free.

Jenny, Leith.

Only took 5-days' food from the northern terminus. Mistake! 13-days stretch with no re-supply shops. Made it with some generosity from others and ...well... what else could I do but continue forward? *Will, Southampton.* 

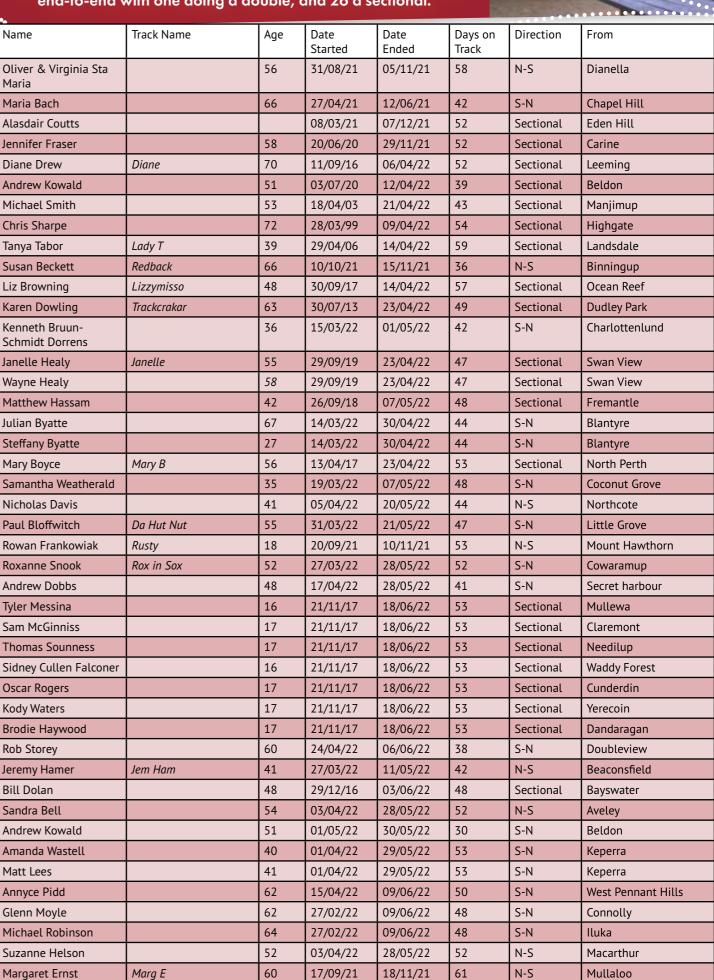
#### **Favourite Section**

All sections were breathtaking and had its own magic. From the giant trees, wildlife, vegetation, mountains, beaches, and history. Every corner you turned, and every day was another exciting adventure.

Maria, Chapel Hill.



Our CONGRATULATIONS to the following 55 walkers on completing an end-to-end, 42 from WA, one from New Zealand, one from the UK and the rest from interstate. 29 people completed a continuous end-to-end with one doing a double, and 26 a sectional.



12

## Yes, they did it! (cont'd)

Name	Track Name	Age	Date Started	Date Ended	Days on Track	Direction	From
Ross Sinclair	Ross	64	05/04/22	27/05/22	44	S-N	Booragoon
Rosemary Allan		76	02/06/01	27/05/22	56	Sectional	South Fremantle
Chris Fuller		44	14/07/02	15/09/21	52	Sectional	Duncraig
Jennifer Tudehope	Jenny	74	14/08/13	13/06/22	56	Sectional	Leith
David O'Reilly	Red Eye DO'R	55	21/04/22	30/05/22	36	S-N	Roleystone
Joel Gaspar	POT (Pollucci's on Tour	62	02/06/17	02/06/22	50	Sectional	Bunbury
Will Oram		44	23/03/21	08/05/21	46	N-S	Southampton
Paul Tayler		66	08/09/18	20/06/22	56	Sectional	Shenton Park
Jonathan Dunn		32	18/05/22	24/06/22	35	S-N	Maylands
Les Simons	More or LesS	66	13/05/22	26/06/22	44	N-S	Heathcote

I never seem to tire of walking the same sections, even though I have done some of them multiple times. Andrew, Beldon.

Something about the beach walking and waves crashing over rocks that calms my

Lady T, Landsdale.

Walpole to Denmark; the section I had already done and which brought me back. Having said that, I did have a real soft spot for the Wandoo trees further north. Nicholas, Northcote.

Pemberton to DRV. Liked it so much I did it twice. It was brutal but beautiful at the same time. POT, Bunbury.

#### **Highlights**

My main highlight would be all the awesome people I met along the way. Andrew, Beldon.

Swamp Oak to Murray- a huge storm that bought hail, strong wind and all-day rain was super exciting. West Cape Howe: Nine people in the shelter that night. With allday rain it looked like a laundromat. We played games like we had known each other for years, only we had all just met. Lady T, Landsdale.

Everyday being out there is a highlight. Trackcrakar, Dudley Park.

Bibbulmun

TRACK

The addiction!! I loved feeling stronger and fitter at the end of each hike. Mary B, North Perth.

The countless, friendly interactions with all other walkers. Absolutely cherish meeting fellow nature lovers. Samantha, Coconut Grove.

The Pleated Princess in Walpole. What a magnificent tree. Trail Angels and Track Volunteers rock! Da Hut Nut, Little Grove.

Walking into Denmark was the best experience after going there for holidays as a kid, and seeing people walking the Track, knowing that I have walked from Perth to there. Rusty, Mount Hawthorn.

Swimming spots. Thomas, Needilup.

Crossing the finish line with my wife and daughters. Rob, Doubleview.

Beyond such diversity and peace each day, the people you meet. Bill, Bayswater.

Arriving in each town for a hamburger. Sandra, Aveley.

Coastal ridge walks, tall trees, and mountain summits. Matt, Keperra.

RRP \$12.50

\$11.25

for members

My 64th birthday spent at the delightful Schafer campsite on a glorious sunny day. Michael, Iluka.

Meeting lovely positive people. Beholding each shelter as I arrived (they really are all very special - hard to even have a top 10).

Watching the sun set at Sandpatch on our first night is a memory I will hold dear for eternity. POT, Bunbury.

#### **Personal Reactions**

Learnt to be responsible for myself and appreciate solitude and my own company. Maria, Chapel Hill.

everyday life behind to be immersed in nature. Jennifer, Carine.

Awe. Solitude. Beauty. Michael, Manjimup.

Walking the Track has provided a reservoir of enjoyment that I've dipped into at various times over many years and have emerged from each time, freshly energised. I'd like to introduce my grandchildren to the joy of walking in this remarkable part of the world. Chris, Highgate.

go!! Work and family prevent me still from

Wow! Amazing. A fascinating journey for Da Hut Nut, Little Grove.

Red Eye DO'R, Roleystone.

The simplicity of just walking, leaving

I just want to do the Track again in one doing this, but one day... Lizzymisso, Ocean Reef.

Doing this hike with my daughter was a wonderful bonding experience which we will both cherish forever. Julian, Blantyre.

both my mind and body. Testing, trying, and satisfying all at once.

Just finishing school and going into the I have done many long walks in Europe bush was a bit of a challenge, I was taking and Britain, and the Bibbulmun Track is probably the winner. Jenny, Leith.

**Best Equipment** This was my first time hiking with a pack My bestest hiking buddy ever - Lizzymisso, since high school. I have thoroughly tested

responsibility for myself.

my 'mettle', have a lot more respect for my

own capabilities and loads more confidence

in myself. I now know the best way to

nourish my body and soul is to spend time

I walked it in 51-days, but if I do an end-to-

end again, I'd like to spend 70+ days, stay

at each shelter and spend multiple days in

It seems so surreal to say that we just hiked

over 1000kms, like, who does that! Lol.

Some days I'm surprised with myself, other

days super proud, other days I just wonder

The gratitude button keeps getting pressed,

and that never wears out. Each and every

person, and organisation responsible

for this magnificent Track should be

congratulated and very proud of their

This was more than just a trek through the

bush. It met me physically, mentally, and

emotionally. I got such a positive vibe from

the whole journey that I will do it all again

Mardoo, echidna, kangaroos, ticks, emus, a

quokka, lizards big and small; snakes - big

and small!!, birds, agile blue wrens, wild

My final day of walking was witnessed by a

Ijust thank Lady T for being the SPIDERNATOR!

She dismantled thousands of spider webs in

front of me as we walked, and occasionally

Comparisons with other Walks/

You can't beat the Bibbulmun for diversity.

I do not actually know of any other walks

that encompass the breadth of micro and

macro environments in the one walk; or, to

traverse these within the one country - or

one state for that matter! Mind-blowing.

pigs and always, a turtle on my back.

soaring osprey near Mandalay Beach.

wore the odd orb spider too!

Lizzymisso, Ocean Reef.

Lizzymisso, Ocean Reef.

Samantha, Coconut Grove.

when my feet will get back to normal!

Rusty, Mount Hawthorn.

in nature hiking.

Track towns.

Bill, Bayswater.

Sandra, Aveley.

efforts. Thank you.

next year.

Wildlife

Jennifer, Carine.

Chris, Highgate.

Countries

POT, Bunbury.

Red Eye DO'R, Roleystone.

Rox in Sox, Cowaramup.

wouldn't go hiking without her. We have so much fun together. We're a little nuts. Lady T. Landsdale.

Anything that keeps me warm! Love my Ugg boots, thermals and down sleeping bag. Lizzymisso, Ocean Reef.

My Klean Kanteen stainless steel water bottle that I used to both carry and boil water. Icebreaker underpants – worth every cent. Nicholas, Northcote.

Silk/cotton sleeping bag liner. No stinky sleeping bag, added warmth at night, gave a cooler option when it was warmer. Versatile and comfortable. Even used it as a mobile changeroom once or twice. Da Hut Nut, Little Grove.

My lovely walking poles. They gave this old body new life by helping propel me down the track each day, greatly reducing the amount of wet bush dripping on me each morning, avoiding collisions with countless spider webs, gave me ninja skills in certain parts of the track, and a general increase of balance (which allowed me to save face on many occasions). Bill, Bayswater.

My amazing walking partner. Amanda, Keperra.

A hard plastic bottle that was filled at the start of every section with Jameson Whiskey. POT, Bunbury.

#### **Worst Equipment**

Most of the gear I purchased first time – too heavy!!!! Jennifer, Carine.

My inflatable pillow - struggled to get comfortable for years until it went down heading toward Denmark. I used my down jacket inside my sleeping bag cover. It's so much better. Let's just say I won't be replacing my pillow. Lady T, Landsdale.

I no longer have any. Mary B, North Perth.

Clapped out boots! Samantha, Coconut Grove.

My feet. They blistered too easily. POT, Bunbury.

Mobile phone that enabled work to stay in contact during various sections. Paul, Shenton Park.

#### **Advice for Others**

I do regret not taking longer breaks, walking barefoot on the beach, laying in the quiet for longer periods. Lady T, Landsdale.

Use the BTF and Facebook pages as a resource before and during your hike. Always take a paper map and guidebook as backup.

Lizzymisso, Ocean Reef.

Listen to others, then do what suits you. Trackcrakar, Dudley Park.

Be prepared to be addicted!! Mary B, North Perth.

Hike your own hike! Keep your intention for your hike at the forefront of your mind and don't fall victim to the pace, distance, goals of other walkers. The journey is for you alone!

Samantha, Coconut Grove.

Get a good pair of shoes. Brodie, Dandaragan.

Try not to rush this walk. Take your time and appreciate the scenery to allow time to just sit and embrace where you are! Join the Foundation. The Track is what it is due to AMAZING work by all the volunteers and Bibb Foundation team.

Suzanne. MacArthur.

Do it, love it, live it, and enjoy it all. If you want to go fast that's OK, everyone has a different perspective and goal, but I recommend stop, and smell the roses. Our bush is beautiful, get out there and enjoy it. Marg E, Mullaloo.

Take lots of advice but do it your way and enjoy every bit of it - it skates by quickly once you get in the zone. Red Eye DO'R, Roleystone.

Make sure you give yourself plenty of time and flexibility.

More or LesS, Heathcote.

#### FREE Trib **PLANNING ADVICE** Going on an extended walk or end-to-end?

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

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

### Waugal cloth badge

Be reminded of your journey on the Bibbulmun Track with our latest cloth badge embroidered with the Bibbulmun Track Waugal trail marker.

Perfect for your backpack,

t-shirt or Bibbulmun Track hat!

.....

15

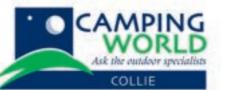
### Accommodation, Tours and Services

Please support the Walker Friendly Businesses that support the Track.

BUSINESS NAME		TOWN	TYPE	PHONE	WEBSITE	
Albany Harbourside Apartmen	ts	ALBANY		(08) 9842 1769		ourside.com.au
Dunmoylen House B&B		ALBANY		(08) 9842 5235		
Busy Blue Bus Tours		ALBANY		0418 414 425	busybluebu	
,						
Rainbow Coast Taxis		ALBANY	<b>A</b>	(08) 9844 1115		sttaxis.business.site
Balingup Retreat		BALINGUP		0422 441 973		ages.com.au
Southampton Homestead		BALINGUP	<b>A</b>	0412 229 564	•	onhomestead.com
ime Travel Tours & Transport		BALINGUP/DONNELLY RIVER	<b>~</b>	0417 099 268		om/TimeTravelToursandTransport/
Collie Canvas & Camping World	d	COLLIE	-4	(08) 9734 2866	https://www	r.facebook.com/colliecanvasandcamping
landia B&B		COLLIE		0417 179 260	mandia.con	n.au
he Colliefields		COLLIE		(08) 9734 2052	colliefields.	com
raaVerse		COLLIE	<b>~</b>	0417 654 426	traaverse.co	om.au
Vhispering Pines B & B		COLLIE		(08) 9734 3883	whispering	oinesbandb.com.au
oddington Retreat		BODDINGTON	A	0422 441 973		
Blue Wren Travellers' Rest		DENMARK	<b>A</b>	(08) 9848 3300	denmarkblı	uewren.com.au
Boat Harbour Camp		DENMARK	<b>A</b>	0493 389 393	https://boa	tharbourcamp.com.au/
Tape Howe Cottages		DENMARK		(08) 9845 1295		
enmark Co-Operative		DENMARK	<b>A</b>	(08) 9848 1200		
enmark Forest Retreat		DENMARK	<b>P</b>	0438 938 798		restretreat.com.au
he Cove		DENMARK		(08) 9848 1770		
/indrose B & B		DENMARK		(08) 9848 3502		
onnelly River Holiday Village		DONNELLY RIVER	<b>A</b>	(08) 9772 1244	-	
lue Moon Forest Lodge	_	GLENORAN (DONNELLY)		0488 321 470		orestlodge.com.au
anksia Springs Cottages		DWELLINGUP	<b>A</b>	(08) 9538 1880	banksiaspri	
wellingup Adventures		DWELLINGUP	<b>A</b>	(08) 9538 1127		adventures.com.au
wellingup Retreat		DWELLINGUP	<b>A</b>	0422 441 973		retreat.com.au
wellingup Transfers		DWELLINGUP	<b>A</b>	0473 924 680		om/dwellingup
arrah Forest Lodge		DWELLINGUP		0402 615 235		verycentre.com.au
undaring Weir Hotel		MUNDARING		(08) 9295 1106		weirhotel.com.au
arri Country Good Food		NORTHCLIFFE		0455 628 097		ygoodfood.com.au
arri Hill Cottages		NORTHCLIFFE		(08) 9776 7349	karrihillcott	ages.com
orest Lodge Resort		PEMBERTON		(08) 9776 1113	forestlodge	resort.com.au
emberton Discovery Tours		PEMBERTON/NORTHCLIFFE/DONNELLY RIVE	R 🚓	(08) 9776 0484	pemberton	discoverytours.com.au
eople & Parcel Movers		PEMBERTON	<b>~</b>	0448 544 784	peopleparc	elmovers.com.au
AC Karri Valley Resort		PEMBERTON		1800 871 570	parksandre	sorts.rac.com.au/karri-valley
anjiShuttle		PEMBERTON/DONNELLY RIVER	<b>~</b>	0457 356 177	facebook.co	om/manjimup.omnibus.service
ompleat Angler & Camping W	orld Rockingham	PERTH (ROCKINGHAM)	-4	(08) 9528 5255	facebook.c	om/compleatanglerandcampingwo
ing Mini Bus Charter		PERTH	<b>A</b>	0405 660 013	kingminibu	scharter.com.au
ribe and Trail		PERTH	-4	(08) 6558 0535	www.tribea	ndtrail.com.au
he Sara Sara Chalets		WALPOLE	A	(08) 9840 8004	chesarasara	ichalets.com.au
Coalmine Beach Holiday Park		WALPOLE	A	(08) 9840 1026		ach.com.au
Walpole Track & Trail Transfers		WALPOLE	<b>A</b>	0429 784 924		om/Naturallywalpole
'			•	3123104324	iucebook.cc	,
GUIDED TOURS & EVENTS	4000 005 :::		Off The S	. Total	0417.100.005	- Miles best and a significant
			Off The Beaten Track		0417 128 896	offthebeatentrackwa.com.au
		nttps://capetocapetours.com.au/	Simply Trekki Walk into Luxi	_	0427 058 866 1300 662 452	simplytrekking.com.au walkintoluxury.com.au
nspiration Outdoors	(08) 6219 5164	inspirationoutdoors.com.au	WALK HILL LUX	ur y	1300 002 432	watkiiitotukui y.colli.du

VISITOR CENT	RES						
ALBANY	Albany Visitor Centre	(08) 6820 3700	theamazingsouthcoast.com	NORTHCLIFFE	Northcliffe Visitor Centre	(08) 9776 7203	northcliffe.org.au
BALINGUP	Balingup Visitor Centre	(08) 9764 1818	balinguptourism.com.au	NORTHCLIFFE	Northcliffe Family and	(08) 9776 7221	https://northcliffefamily.org
COLLIE	Collie Visitor Centre	(08) 9734 2051	collierivervalley.com.au		Community Centre		
OWELLINGUP	Dwellingup History &	(08) 9538 1108	murray.wa.gov.au/tourism	PEMBERTON	Pemberton Visitor Centre	(08) 9776 1133	pembertonvisitor.com.au
	Visitor Centre	(**,***********************************	,	PERTH	Western Australian Visitor	(08) 9483 1111	wavisitorcentre.com.au
KALAMUNDA	Perth Hills Visitor Centre	(08) 9257 9998	experienceperthhills.com.au		Centre		
MANJIMUP	Manjimup Visitor Centre	(08) 9771 1831	manjimupwa.com	WALPOLE	Walpole-Nornalup Visitor	(08) 9840 1111	walpole.com.au
MUNDARING	Perth Hills Mundaring	(08) 9295 0202	perthhillsmundaring.com.au		Centre		





### Collie Canvas & Camping World

— 64 Johnston Street, Collie – ——— (08) 9734 2866 ——— — colcanv@highway1.com.au –





We would love to welcome you at Boat Harbour Camp!

- Spacious powered and unpowered camping sites
   hot showers + flushing toilets
- cosy camp kitchen
- dog friendly
- walking distance (4.5km) to Bibbulmun Track
- washing machine and dryer available
- Situated off the South Coast Hwy between Denmark & Walpole 171 Boat Harbour Road, Parryville WA 6333
- www.boatharbourcamp.com.au Ph: 0493389393
- Facebook: "Boat Harbour Camp and Chalet Denmark" Boat Harbour Camp - Camping, Camper Trailers, Caravans





0459 452 038
INFO@CAPETOCAPETOURS.COM.AU
CAPETOCAPETOURS.COM.AU

Hike the best of the Bibbulmun Track





We have the knowledge & 4WD capability to make your long or short Bib break **comfortable**, **effortless**, **easy**. Locally owned, servicing Northcliffe, Pemberton to Donnelly River Village.



Pemberton Discovery Tours Contact Toni +61 427 133335 (08) 9776 0484

info@pembertondiscoverytours.com.au www.pembertondiscoverytours.com.au

17

## Vollie Corner



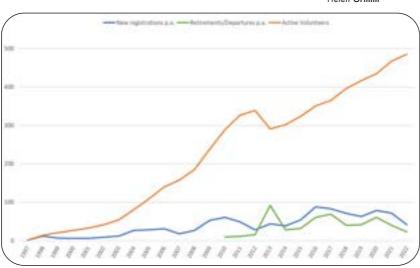
We are incredibly fortunate to have an effective and resilient volunteer workforce.

Back in the late 1990s, when the Track was being rebuilt and the Friends were established, the call went out for enthusiastic supporters to sign up as volunteers. In the 25 years since then, recruitment has been steady and gradually increasing.

As demonstrated by the chart on the right, we've been recruiting 50-100 new volunteers into allocated roles for each of the last 15 years -2022 is, obviously, incomplete. As a result, the number of active volunteers has climbed steadily and now approaches 500 individuals. The drop in 2013 reflected a spike in retirements, which was probably a record-keeping adjustment rather than a real decrease.

Meanwhile, longevity of participation is impressive. From the records, it appears that the earliest volunteers remained active for at least 10 years. We have some volunteers still active who have been involved for over 20 years - they get their names on a special board in the office. Each year, we recognise a significant number of people who have reached the 5-, 10- or 15-year milestone.

The likely reasons for this longevity of engagement are volunteers' primary motivation, wanting to give back to the



Track which has given them something special, and to which they feel an attachment; the satisfaction they get working in their role and the fact that the contribution of each individual need not be particularly onerous. With the way the roles are structured, the total necessary work is divided up between many people and each can contribute according to their ability. Retirement from volunteering eventually occurs naturally due to changes in personal ability, circumstances or priorities. However, it's quite possible that bushwalkers stay active for longer than average for their age group.

As described in my previous articles, we have a wide range of volunteer roles. You can read an alternative perspective on the contribution and value of all our volunteer roles, in a recent article on our website - find it at www.bibbulmuntrack. org.au/news/focus-on-volunteer-roles/.

We currently have around 475 registered volunteers and many work in more than one role.

The second chart shows the proportion of people engaged working in each particular role. Track maintenance, both sectional and support, currently occupies 368 volunteers - this is where many hands make light work, although it's not that light for some teams! In contrast, all the general office work is supported by 14 superb regular volunteers, and 20 devoted guides take care of all the events and workshops

The actual time spent working varies for each role - the travel component increases the hours logged, for maintenance in particular. The top three roles in terms of time contributed are maintenance, 70% of total annual hours reported, office volunteers 16%, and guiding 9%.

As we progress through our third decade of operation, the contribution of volunteers to the full range of work of the organization continues to be significant. We are truly appreciative of their time and effort, and hope that participation continues to be rewarding for them.

**Helen Grimm** Volunteer Manager

### BE A BIBBULMUN TRACK - SUPPORT VOLUNTEER

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation has a wide range of volunteer roles where a person's capabilities, skills and knowledge are valued and can be put to good use.

Support volunteers are our mobile maintenance workforce who assist in areas where additional help or skills are needed to maintain the Bibbulmun Track. They are called on to tackle maintenance problems beyond the scope of volunteers who maintain sections of the Track.

Often working in groups, support volunteers undertake a variety of tasks, including track repairs, replacing signs or way marking, or working in groups to address erosion or overgrowth. At other times, they might undertake a major project such as restoring a bridge, addressing extensive erosion, or establishing new trails. Charmaine Harris talks about what it's like to be a support volunteer working on a major erosion control project.

Breathtaking coastal scenery, whalewatching, the sound of crashing waves, dolphins frolicking in the surf, 4WDriving, laughter and camaraderie, being part of a like-minded group, learning new skills, plus the odd bit of

South Coast Stabilisation - Campaign 2 Volunteers.

Left to right: Chris Lee, Charmain Harris, Bill Hewitt, Jing Xie, Dave Scott and John Hosking

work-induced sweat—what do all these things have in common?

You can experience all this and more, just as I did earlier this month, by being a member of the BTF's Support Maintenance Team. This is a group of volunteers who supplement the work of the DBCA in maintaining the Track to its world-class status. So, what sort of activities are involved?

I was recently one of 14 members of the team that spent four days working along a section of the south coast between Little Quarram Beach and Boat Harbour, the second of four planned campaigns in the current series. Work involved rehabilitating badly eroded sections of the Track with the aim to minimize any further erosion. Activities included clearing a new re-alignment around a short, very eroded Track section, laying firm track-treads along the trail footbed, building and placing steps where necessary so the trail slope is no greater than 20% and finally pinning coir-mesh matting trackside to cover bare or disturbed sand. The matting prevents further wind erosion while still allowing vegetation to grow up through it.

After an initial briefing, work was allocated to smaller groups of two or three and we got stuck right in! I worked in a group of three on several of the hills where we modified the ascent slopes by lots of digging and scraping of sand to ensure the slope was no greater than 20%. Firm track-treads were then laid and attached together before filling and covering them with sand, providing a firm walking surface for hikers, before the next step was placed in order to maintain the slope, meaning the steepest sections had more steps.

A pattern of teamwork was quickly established as we each found our niche jobs and the work progressed smoothly and quickly, with even a hint of friendly rivalry between the teams. Work was briefly stopped each day when migrating whales were spotted or a pod of dolphins was seen playing in the ocean waves below us. Our daily lunch venues were simply unbeatable!

All materials were supplied via numerous, earlier helicopter drops, minimizing the carting of materials to specific work sites. Essential hand and power tools and safety equipment were carried in by vehicles.

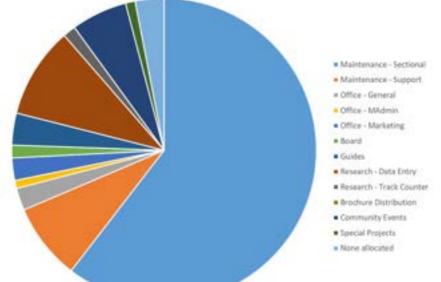
Accommodation was provided an hour's drive from the worksite at Peaceful Bay, where we met together each evening around a fire and shared stories of the day's work and solved the world's problems, with the help of a little wine and nibbles. Our self-catered meals provided some variety from wellplanned pre-cooked frozen meals to the "just slap it all on the barbie" approach. Nobody went hungry!

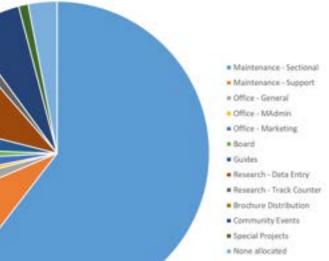
It was a very enjoyable and satisfying experience and one that I'm looking forward to repeating next month in the third campaign. It's a great feeling to be part of a dedicated team helping to make an experience even more enjoyable for all walkers and a great way to give back to the Foundation after the Track has provided some of the best experiences of my life.

Why not join us?

#### **Charmaine Harris**

If you are interested in knowing more about becoming a Support Volunteer, contact volunteer@bibbulmuntrack.org.au





In March 2021 Kevin Berry (Kev) set out on a solo end-to-end walk of the Track. He realised that he would have a lot of free time and solitude to cope with and decided to use the time to pursue a hobby of earlier years. The result was a quite remarkable achievement as you will see but Kev's story comes to a very sad conclusion. This is Kev's account:

I finally set out on my solo end-to-end journey on the Bibbulmun Track that had taken me 18 months of planning, re-planning, waiting, and waiting some more. I had never undertaken a longdistance hike of this length before so the organization threw me a few challenges that I had not encountered previously, one being, what would I do with so much free time? I was definitely going to have time to kill.

Firstly, I took a couple of meditation classes so I would be able to practice the art of meditation in camp each afternoon but, in the end, I didn't end up finding much time to do that!

This still left me with the problem of what to do with my hands, as I have been actively making or creating with them for most of the last 50 years and I find it hard not to be doing something with them. The solution I settled on was to take a small block of wood and whittle it into something that would represent my hike. I had whittled before, but I wasn't very practiced at it.

I had purchased a lovely block of Huon Pine from Tasmania a couple of years previously and so I cut off an appropriately sized block to take with me. I decided just before I left Melbourne that I would whittle a hiking man, so I drew a rough design on the block, cut off a couple of the larger chunks with a hand saw and packed it away with my whittling knife, or scalpel, a couple of sheets of sandpaper and a short pencil. This all weighed about 150 grams, which I figured was fairly light entertainment.

It took me a little while to settle into Track life and to find the time and patience to start whittling, but once I got going I got into a routine. I found it to be my own version of meditation, spending an hour or so before dinner each night whittling away, with the added advantage being that I could talk to others while whittling, a bit like ladies do when they are knitting.

As I whittled away each afternoon at the shelters, I would leave a little pile of pine chips in that afternoon's favourite sitting spot. I wondered if anyone hiking behind me ever noticed them and if they wondered what they were from. There was certainly a lot of interest from other hikers as he took shape, and progress did slow with the more interest he received.

I had decided early on that he would be walking with poles, but I hadn't worked out what to make them from, but when got to Dog Pool Campsite I found a beautiful piece of jarrah in the wood pile.

All I needed was two small tooth pick sized pieces that I could hand turn later, so into my pack went another chunk of wood. I also wanted the poles to be removable, which meant that I needed two small holes in his hands to slide the poles into.

So, I needed a drill. How do I make a drill? Much thinking later I came up with a solution. Find a small diameter tent peg, bend it lots until it snaps, which would leave a sharp enough end to drill through the hands. I made a handle for it by drilling a hole into the end of a stick and inserting the blunt end of the drill bit into it so I could apply some pressure as I rotated it a few hundred times into the tops of his hands to drill the holes. It took me two whole sessions to drill the holes. The poles themselves were pretty quick and easy to make, whittling the jarrah into rough shape then spinning them in sandpaper worked well.

He didn't quite get finished on my hike as some of the finishing touches were getting delicate and I didn't want to rush it and bugger it up. As it turned out, on my return to Melbourne I was immediately thrown into another lockdown due to Covid, so that gave me the opportunity to finish and oil him, as well as to rest up before going back to work.

My little hiking man served me well to occupy my hands and mind and will now forever remind me of my journey on the Bibbulmun Track. But what to call him?



The Whittled Man - Paul

The answer became clear about six months after I returned home from Western Australia, when a tragic incident occurred that left me in no doubt of the name that my little man will be called.

His name is Paul, in honour of a beautiful man that I met at Schafer Campsite. We were both heading north on the Track and I continued to walk, camp, dine, share stories and laugh a lot with him and his lovely wife Thirl, right through to Dwellingup. There I skipped ahead and finished a day ahead, but we stayed in contact nevertheless.

On the 6th of November 2021 Paul Millachip was fatally attacked by a shark at Port Beach, Perth. I have a tear rolling down my cheek as I write this.

Paul showed such an interest in me and my whittling as he followed the progress quite regularly each night in camp.

R.I.P Paul

#### **Kev Berry**



### Walker Story - Whittling Away the Time TRACK TOWN - ALBANY

Albany, a port town located on the southern coast of Western Australia, is home to natural wonders and a tapestry of history. A beautiful mix of dramatic coastlines, white sandy beaches and a vast network of tracks and trails that challenge people of all skill levels, Albany is the perfect destination for swimming, surfing, whale watching and walking.

The town is steeped in modern history. In 1914, Albany was the final departure point for the first ANZAC troops on their way to the battlefields of First World War and offers visitors a deep connection to Australian military history at the award-winning National ANZAC Centre. In 1826, Albany was the first site in Western Australia to be settled by Europeans. This legacy is well preserved through the 50 colonial buildings that are still standing and an exact replica of the Brig Amity, a convict ship from colonial times, which is situated on Princess Royal Drive. If you're interested in history, the self-guided Amity Trail takes you through 17 historical points of interest from the Albany Gaol to National Trust residences, taverns, and whaling ships.

Whaling was Albany's primary industry, from colonisation until the late 1970s. To become familiar with Albany's whaling history, visit the Whaling Station located in Discovery Bay and learn how the industry contributed to the town's prosperity.

Follow your tour of the Whaling Station with some whale watching. June to October is prime whale watching season. This is when humpbacks and many other whales congregate, using Albany's sheltered waters as a refuge to the icy depths of Antarctica.

Albany's history is as important as its future. The Port of Albany began operation in 1826. This was at a time where it was the only deep-water Port in WA, and it is still a working port today. Approximately, three to four million tonnes of import and export materials pass through the Port of Albany every year. A thriving tourist destination, Albany's history and natural attractions make it an entertaining, educational, and engaging experience for all visitors.

Tourists in the area should pay a visit to the Albany Visitor Centre, which acts as the perfect hub to launch your activities from. Say hello to the friendly staff who have a wealth of knowledge on the area, from places to visit, to the best restaurants in town. They offer an 'Amazing South Coast' digital pass, which provides access to their top three attractions in the area and are currently developing the Great Southern Flexi Pass which features a wide variety of attractions to choose from. The visitor centre also offers a virtual reality headset experience where you can fly over the town of Albany for only \$2.00.

For walkers, the Albany Visitor Center offers a logbook, comment book, photograph opportunities at the Southern Terminus, and can store small packages for walkers to collect. For many end-to-enders, ringing the bell at the Albany Visitor Centre marks the completion of their journey and is an achievement for any hiker. The Foundation's own Giant Trees to Southern Seas itinery is a sixday adventure that starts amongst the giant tingle forest in Walpole, travels through the pristine beaches of Denmark, and culminates in the incredible coastline and historic sights of Albany. For this walk's itinerary, visit the Foundation's website.

Albany is home to a world of wonders. With a woven history, a vast network of trails, a beautiful coastline, and a range of tourist attractions, it's well worth the visit. For walkers, it presents hiking trails and challenges, Walker Friendly Businesses, and a supportive visitor centre. With an established reputation and a unique holiday opportunity, it's a great place to stay when getting out on the Track. Visit the amazing Albany today.



Photo by The Life of Py.

#### **Albany Visitor Centre**

221 York Street, Albany WA 6330

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday: 10 – 4pm, Saturday, Sunday and public holidays: 10 – 2pm.

Services Offered: Logbook, Comment Book, Photograph opportunities, end-to-end completion bell, small packages can be stored.

Phone number: 08 6820 3700

stay@amazingalbany.com.au www.amazingalbany.com.au

Social media handles: Facebook and Instagram: amazingalbanywa

#### Please support our **Walker Friendly Businesses** in Albany

Albany Harbourside Appartments and Houses 08 9842 1769

**Busy Blue Bus Tours** 0418 414 425

Dunmoylen House 08 9842 5235

**Rainbow Coast Taxis** 08 9844 1115

### Natura (ist on the Bibbulmun

The heavy rains and warm days of Djilba stimulate an eruption of animal and plant activity in the southwest corner of WA. Known as the season of conception, animals begin to form pair bonds in readiness for the forthcoming breeding season.

Many species pair anew each djilba, but for some, such as the yoorna (bobtailed skink), pairing can be for life. The same individuals have been recorded breeding together for as long as 30 years or more.

While male and female yoorna remain solitary for much of the year, each djilba they meet up and the male will follow the female through their home range for some weeks, this pair spotted on the Track in Piesse Brook, Kalamunda. Yoorna are thought to find each other via scent trails they leave on the ground. The young are born in Kambarang, the season of birth, after which the pair separates until the following djilba.

The increasingly warm days of kambarang usher in a profusion of wildflowers that make this season perhaps the best time to be on the Bibbulmun Track.

The most spectacular, both for their diversity and biological intrigue are the orchids. There are over 400 species of orchid currently known only from WA, a substantial number of which can be found along the Track during kambarang. Orchids (from the Greek orchis) were named as such by the father of taxonomy Carl Linnaeus, because of the resemblance of their tuberous roots to testicles. The tubers, djubak, are a good source of carbohydrate and were harvested by the noongar to eat fresh or

But orchids are perhaps best known for the various contrivances by which insects are tricked into transferring pollen from one flower to the next.

Most flowering plants offer nectar to insects in exchange for pollination services. But orchids offer no such rewards. Rather, some species mimic the colour and appearance of nectar rewarding flowers in order to trick insect pollinators into visiting them. These yellow sun orchids (Thelymitra antennifera) found on the granite slopes of Mt Vincent, mimic the abundance of yellow flowers, like Hibertia species, that bloom throughout djilba and kambarang. But even more intriguing are the sexual mimics that emit the same chemical signals that female insects emit to attract males for mating.

Bearded Bird Orchid (Pterostylis turfosa) was spotted on the track descending Hallowell into Denmark. Bird orchids pollenated by male fungus gnats that are drawn to the flowers by the gnat-mimicking scents they emit. The gnat enters flower at its base upon which the yellow plumed lip closes, preventing the gnat from leaving via the way it came. Instead, it must fly up and leave through the

narrow exit at the



top of the flower, brushing against and carrying with it the flower's pollen bundles (pollinia).

Predatory insects and spiders often exploit the insect attracting habits of orchids to their own ends. Perched on this bird orchid is an empid or dagger fly. It has captured a fungus gnat that was drawn to the orchid. Dagger flies will emit their own scent to attract females as this male is doing. When a female is attracted the male will offer its prey to the female as a nuptial gift upon which she feeds during mating. The dagger fly in this image has obviously managed to become trapped within the orchid whilst awaiting its fungus gnat meal, as orchid's pollinia have been attached securely to its back. All is fair in love and deception, unless you are a fungus gnat.

#### **Leigh W. Simmons**



Bird Orchid Dagger Fly.

Leigh's fascinating book Naturalist on the Bibbulmun is available from the BTF.

All proceeds are donated to the Track.

### Welcome to

#### The Foundation is very pleased to welcome Anaconda as a sponsor.

Anaconda was established by an Australian family who love the outdoors and who set out to create a one-stop-shop for outdoor and adventure equipment. Whether you're into hiking, camping, fishing, biking or 4WD adventures you'll be able to find all the gear you need.

Anaconda is committed to providing high-quality gear and excellent value. The company believes in giving back to the communities in which they live. The conservation of national parks and the traditional homelands of the Aboriginal people is central to who they are. Anaconda promotes only responsible outdoor pursuits and always take responsibility for their actions because the environment is their business.

Their nine stores in WA are located in:

- Bunbury
- Busselton
- Butler
- Cannington
- Innaloo
- Joondalup
- Melville
- Midland
- · and Rockingham.

## ANACONDA PLAY MORE PAY LESS





WHEN YOU SPEND \$60 OR MORE offer valid until 30th September 2022

**PLAY MORE. PAY LESS.** ANACONDASTORES.COM

Bibilum track Bounce back promotion. Valid at all WA stores. Minimum Spend \$60. Valid only until to Friday 30th September 2022. single use only. One coupon per customer, per transaction. Coupon must be presented in store to receive offer. Excludes Gift Card existing laybys. Cannot be used with any other offer. Not legal tender. Cannot be exchanged for cash.

#### Anaconda Team Member Processing Instructions

1. Enter sale as normal. 2. While still on the Item Menu, scan the parcode on the coupon 3. You will be prompted to Enter a Price 4. Enter a Price of \$0.01– the discount will not be applied yet.

5. Select the Cash Payment or Process Payment options. 6. The POS will then automatically apply the discount. 7. Finalise



### Members Night - New Bibbulmun Track book on the horizon?

#### BTF member David Cohen hopes the world needs another account of an end-to-end adventure.

The newspaper reporter has been very slowly working on the tale of his big walk last year. David is optimistic, as he doesn't have a publisher! What do you write about a 1000km walk on which nothing dramatic happened? What would you advise David to put in his book? David, 56, has been a reporter at POST Newspapers in Perth's western suburbs for 14 years and is a relatively late newcomer to the delights of hiking.

Come along to our Members Night and provide David with your titbit of inspiration!

Upstairs at The Universal Bar, Northbridge. 6pm on 27th October (following the AGM).

A light Supper will be served. \$10 p/p. Book online at bibbulmuntrack.org.au.

Life Members FOC. Call or email to book.

### **Small Things Wine** LIVE UNBÖTTLED

We are delighted to welcome Small Things Wine as a sponsor.

Winemaker and owner, Tim Batt, is an avid Bibb Track walker and

was inspired to create a range of premium WA wine in a handy can for the outdoor adventurer.

We'll bring you more info in the next Bibb News, in the meantime you can check out their range at smallthingswine.com - and come along to our Members Night on 27th October for a free tasting! (See article opposite.)



#### **FOR SALE**

#### **BACKPACK**

Low alpine 45L Beartooth air. Sits off your back and is good for weights up to 12kg. Washed and waterproofed after each section hiked of the Track. \$100.

**Contact: Jack** 

MacPac 65L backpack – good condition, Khaki.

Gaiters long and short pairs; Water bottle carries; Poncho; Socks; Microfibre towel; Cotton sleeping bag liner (unused); MacPac track pants (large); Gondwana jumper (large); Aluminium saucepans plus small cooker; Airbed; Single lightweight Coleman tent – good condition.

condition. \$350 for the lot. Prefer to

Contact: Trudy - 0452 563 880

#### **AARN BALANCE POCKETS** (EXPIDITION)

(Expedition) size L. Used with

Contact: Gordon - 0415 501 980

### **WATERPROOF JACKET &**

Women's size 10 Macpac Pertex rain jacket. Used, but fantastic

Kathmandu small daypack for use with hydration bladder. \$30.

Please contact me for more

**Contact: Yolande** 0427 303 130

Email: jackafitzsimons33@gmail.com

#### **BACKPACK & ASSORTED GEAR**

ALL gear used but in good sell complete. Ready to go on Track.

Email: trudemcd@hotmail.com

Set of Balance pockets Effortless Rhythm Aarn backpack.

Email: gordon.lucas05@gmail.com

### **DAYPACK**

condition and DWR treated. \$65.

details/photos.

Email: perthwinter@gmail.com

#### **TYVEK TENT GROUNDSHEET**

Tyvek is widely used as a groundsheet for protecting the bottom of your tent. It is breathable, waterproof but very tough. Sold per metre off a 3m wide roll. 61g per square metre, white.

\$20 per metre for BTF members. \$25 per metre for non-members.

For more information about this product see the notice on our website.

Contact: Steve - (08) 9481 0551 Email: events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

#### **LOST**

#### **WALKIE TALKIE**

Lost between Eden Road and Lowlands Beach on 18th March 2022. Black Walkie Talkie GME Model TX6160.

**Contact: Kaz (Track Crakar)** 0414 751 179 Email: kazdowling@icloud.com

#### **FOUND**

#### **BLACK CLOTH HAT**

A black, cloth hat belonging to Emily Bartley found at the Yourdamung shelter on Sunday, 8 May (22).

Contact: Jennifer - 0438 450 257 Email: jennyashbolt@outlook.com

#### WANTED

#### **WALKING BUDDY**

Looking for a like-minded person to join me hiking. I prefer longer hikes. Please ring if you are interested.

Contact: Kaz (Track Crakar) 0414 751 179 Email: kazdowling@icloud.com

#### **HIKING COMPANION**

I am looking for a hiking companion to accompany me while finishing the Bibbulmun track. I am recovering from cancer that I am still receiving treatment for, therefore, I'm limited to only 2-3 day overnight walks at this stage. If you are a compassionate person with an understanding that sometimes I may need a few rest stops, please contact me.

Contact: Barbara - 0427 801 311 Email: bturner@westnet.com.au

#### CHANGED ADDRESS?

Help us save time and postage and update your details. Hop onto our website, log in and update your details under My Account. You can also upload a pic of yourself!

Not sure how? Visit our Website Help page under Contact Us at www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Otherwise call us and we will update your profile for you.

.............

### Want to advertise on our notice board?

**Free for members** – just log into your profile on the Bibbulmun Track website. Click the Notice Board & Classified tab under the News tab. Non-members, please phone or email us to arrange your adverts.

#### Cost is \$5 for 3 months.

All items will be deleted from the website after three months if not renewed. Phone (08) 9481 0551 or email friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

#### Difficulty: **Grade 2** | Distance: **2.5km loop** | Time: **1-2 hours**

Earlier this year, this spectacular loop trail, which had been closed due to lack of maintenance, was restored by our volunteers and is now an official part of the Bibbulmun Track. This is a win-win, adding some wonderful vistas to the Bibbulmun Track journey and ensuring this excellent day walk continues to be maintained.

Mount Dale was once the site of a fire lookout tower as it provides almost uninterrupted 360° views over the National Park and surrounding State Forest areas. The wildflowers are prolific in spring.

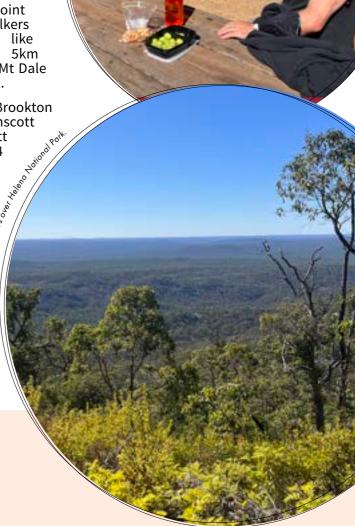
Park at the lower picnic area and follow the blue triangle trail markers from near the toilet. If heading clockwise you'll soon cross over Dale Road and then walk across the slopes of Mt Dale until you reach an intersection with the Bibbulmun Track. Turn right onto the Track and head uphill. The remainder of the loop is marked with both the Mt Dale and Bibbulmun Track markers.

Near the top of the first ascent, look for the spur trail (marked by a hut symbol) which leads to an animal viewing hide. Located on the north side, it provides expansive views over the park and the Darkin River Valley.

Continuing around the loop you'll find lots of places to rest and enjoy the view. Close to the end of the loop you'll come across picnic tables and then finish back at the car park.

The Track crossing of Dale Road is a popular drop-off/pick-up point for Bibb Track walkers and, if you feel like walking another 5km you can walk into Mt Dale Campsite and back.

Trail Start: Follow Brookton Highway from Kelmscott for 47km (Kelmscott is approximately 24 kilometres from Perth). Turn left into Ashendon Road and then turn right into Dale Road (six kilometres). Follow Dale Road to Mount Dale. The last 18kms are dirt road but 2WD accessible.



### PHOTO COMPETITION WINNER

This photo of Support Volunteer Coordinator Charlie Soord inspired quite a few entries!

"It's my way or the highway and the highway is over there." (Ken Strain)

"....and so.....I think we should all follow blindly in that direction....." (Charmaine Harris)

"Trekkers to the left of me, Hikers to the right, Here I am, Volunteers stuck in the middle with me." (Trina Stapleton)

#### AND THE WINNER IS....!

"OK all support volunteers who like a Red wine or two assemble to my right (pause)... Why is there no one to my left?" from Alex Williams.

#### A prize is in the post!



## **Upcoming Events**

#### **Walking with Dad Weekend**

Kids grow up so quickly and before you know it, they have flown the nest! Savour this time by creating as many wonderful memories together as possible.

Our Walking with Dad and Walking with Mum weekends have been thoughtfully considered so they are enjoyed by parents and kids (8-13yrs) alike. Together you will enjoy two walks through the magnificent jarrah forest and camp overnight at a Bibbulmun Track campsite. Here you will learn bush and camping skills from our experienced guides and perhaps enjoy some marshmallows roasted over the fire. These events are guaranteed to be fun, fun, fun with long lasting memories for you all. The perfect opportunity to get outdoors with your kids.

Includes trained guides, map, comprehensive planning night, trip preparation manual and equipment hire. BYO food. We have organised return transport for from Murdoch Park'n'Ride rail terminal.

Date: Sat 27th to Sun 28th August Where: Murdoch Park'n'Ride

**Rating: Beginners** Cost: \$210 Members (1 adult & 1 child)

#### **Bibbulmun For Beginners**

The perfect introduction to overnight bushwalking, discover the tranquility of the bush as you explore a relatively easy section of the Bibbulmun Track.

We walk approximately 8km each day and camp out under canvas at a typical Bibbulmun Track campsite. Our experienced and friendly guides will teach you all you need to know about walking and camping and give you the confidence you need to venture out on your own. Hire gear available at no extra cost on this overnight trek.

Date: Sat 3rd and Sun 4th September

Where: East of Armadale

Rating: Beginners Cost: Members \$160

#### **Wildflower Wander Trek**

Enjoy the beauty of the spring flowers as you spend three days hiking in one of the most scenic sections of the Bibbulmun Track.

Starting from Mundaring you will be amazed at the scenery each day has to offer - the mysterious boulders, the expansive views and the misty mornings. Great for sectional end-to-enders or those yet to explore the Track beyond Mundaring in the Perth Hills. Includes return transport ex Murdoch Train Station/Park'n'Ride. comprehensive planning night, trip preparation manual, map and equipment hire. BYO food. Walkers must be fit and have previous overnight experience carrying full packs.

Date: Sat 24th to Sun 26th September Where: Murdoch Park'n'Ride

Rating: Experienced Cost: \$210 Members

#### **Bibbulmun Blossoms**

A fabulous day and your new wildflower book is included!

Don't just gawk at them! Come and learn about the many wildflowers in bloom on a guided walk near Kalamunda this spring. Our guides will assist you to identify the flora along the way. A copy of Wildflowers of the Northern Bibbulmun Track and Jarrah Forests is included. A good level of fitness is required. Be quick, places won't last too long.

Date: Sun 9th October at 8:30am

Where: Near Kalamunda Rating: Beginners Cost: \$55 Members

#### **Dr Dolittle Goes Bush**

Hev kids! Come and learn about our native animals!

Walk 2km to a typical Bibbulmun Track campsite to meet the friendly native creatures from Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre and return following the Waugal trail markers. Ideal for kids 5 - 12 yrs. Watch their faces light up as they interact and learn about our native animals. Maximum two kids per adult and two adults per child. Not



Walking with Dad Weekend

suitable for pushchairs. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Date: Sun 9th October at 3:30pm

Where: Near Kalamunda

Rating: Beginners Cost:

Adult members \$5 with each ticket for children \$40

#### **Balingup Explorer**

One of our most popular and longest running events. A fabulous weekend walk south of Balingup, camping out with style on the Bibbulmun Track. This walk is set in the beautiful Blackwood district. Spend Friday night in Balingup before being transported 40kms south for two full days of walking with only your day pack!

Date: Fri 14th to Sun 16th October Where: Murdoch Park'n'Ride Rating: Beginners to Intermediate Cost: \$295 Members

#### **Bibbulmun Birds**

Encounter the birds of the jarrah forest on a 16km walk in the hills with Viv Read, amateur ornithologist, volunteer and experienced bushwalker from Birdlife WA. Includes Common Birds of the South West Forests bush book.

Don't forget your binoculars!

When: Sun 16th Oct at 8am to 2:30pm Where: East of Armadale **Rating: Beginners** Cost: \$40 Members

More events and all bookings are

available online at: www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au



#### New WA Hiking Program Hike-Ability improving the lives of people living with a disability.

WA eco-tourism business, Off The Beaten Track WA (OTBT) has officially launched their new program Hike-Ability, which is enriching lives of West Australians living with a disability.

Hike-Ability is a fully bespoke hiking program that is tailored to the participants unique abilities and support needs.

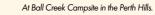
"Research shows that spending time in nature can improve both your physical and mental health. Through connection to nature and movement our clients have the opportunity to improve their fitness and mental well-being" said OTBT Founder, Tracy Lindsey. "It is so powerful to see the transformation our participants experience during their time with us out on the trails. With over 1000kms of trail, the Bibbulmun Track is an amazing resource in the delivery of this program."

Tracy knows firsthand the benefits that hiking can offer. Over the years, she has used hiking as a way to lose weight and manage her diabetes, build strength and improve her own mental health.

OTBT offers guests more than seventy safe, fun, inclusive experiences in a fully supported environment where people from all walks of life can connect.

For more information visit https:// offthebeatentrackwa.com.au/hikeability-ndis/







## Social Sunday walks

Free for members. See booking conditions online.

WALK RATINGS	: BEGINNERS I INTERMEDIATE II EXPERIENCED	
DATE	DETAILS	RATING
4 September @ 9:00am	16.2km return walk from North Bannister to the Serpentine River via the Gringer Creek Campsite	J J J
11 September @ 8.30am	23.5km return walk from Perth Hills National Parks Centre to Helena Campsite (Fit & experienced walkers only!)	
18 September @ 9:00am	16.3km return walk from Sullivan Rock to Monadnocks Campsite	
2 October @ 8:30am	21.4km return walk from Mt Dale to Beraking Campsite. (Fit and experienced walkers only!)	
9 October @ 9:00am	11.5km Mt Cooke circuit walk via Mt Cooke Campsite	
6 November @ 4:00pm	6.4km return sunset walk from Camel Farm to Hewett's Hill Campsite	<b>₩</b>

#### Bookings for each walk will open one month prior to each walk.

Book online, or contact the BTF office for a booking form. Bookings cannot be made over the phone.





#### Hello Bibbulmun Trekkers,

Wow, it's winter!

As I sit in my nice warm house watching the cold winter rain fall outside, or wake in the morning and luxuriate under the warmth of the doona, my thoughts often stray to those intrepid walkers out on the Track. Do I envy them as they wade through the cold waters on the Pingerup Plains or suffer the gale force winds and hailstorms along the south coast? Would I prefer to be pulling on cold, wet, dirty clammy clothes rather than taking a hot shower and then dressing in dry warm garments?

Well, not really, not anymore, but I do understand why they do it. I've been there, done that and got the T-shirt as they say, as well as walking the Track in the heat of summer with the flies and snakes as constant companions. Since then, advancing age and its associated physical effects on the knees and ankles has obliged me to give up bush walking, so now I adopt the approach of a guru (which I certainly am not!) and advise others how to do it.

Most of my walking was done in the friendlier conditions of spring and autumn, when the Track is at its best. That I miss enormously; so many things, the beauty of the bush with the flowers in spring, the deep peace of the karri forests, the birdsong at campsites in the early morning, the camaraderie of walkers around campfires in the evening, the delicious luxury of hot showers and cold beer in the towns after being in the bush for a week...the list goes on and on.

I'm reminiscing, and for that I make no apology as I am sure there are now many readers who, since the "new" Track was opened in 1998 are in the same situation as me, sitting back with so many good memories of their walks.

### Track Trivia

Working through old registers for the Reflections article in this Newsletter brings up memories of those walkers of the past—Terry the Tortoise, the Mopoke, the (probably fictitious) Swedish Backpackers, Spring Heeled Jim, Dad's Army, Sparky and the Phantom, and of course the everlasting Mad Axeman, who still works as a BTF volunteer.

The Track is a living entity, bringing so much to so many people. Some have used it as a means of escape from whatever difficulties life has provided, others as a challenge to prove themselves. Everyone has his or her own reasons for wanting to leave the comforts of what we term civilisation and make an effort to return to nature. Whatever your reason may have been, it was a good decision.

I have formed many long-lasting friendships through my association with the Bibbulmun Track and very much enjoyed my contact with walkers from all over. It is great to see that now restrictions are lifted we are seeing many more inter-state walkers and some from overseas.

My outstanding memories of being out on the Track are the weird and the humorous ones. The weirdest was the man I met between Mount Chance and Woolbales. Shortly after leaving Mt Chance, I saw this figure approaching me. Those of you who have walked that section will know it is very open and flat, and anyone coming towards you can be seen a long way ahead. I could see this figure approaching and as it neared I saw it was huge man, dressed in army fatigues, carrying a big hessian sack by means of a rope over his shoulder. We got to about five meters of each other, we both stopped and he yelled at me.

"Are you on your own?"

Now I would like to think I'm not a timid person, but under the circumstances I quickly figured discretion rather than valour held the day.

"No, mate, there are a couple of my mates just behind me."

He just marched past me without another word. I walked on for a minute or so then turned and looked back. Nothing. The empty Track stretched away, no-one to be seen. I hurried on to Woolbales!

One of the more humorous moments was at the Beedelup Falls. It was early autumn and we had gone through a hot, dry summer. I walked out of the Beedelup Campsite early in the morning and stopped on the bridge over the falls, which were almost totally dry. Just along from me was a Korean family, a couple with two kids, having a somewhat irate conversation. I had lived in South Korea for a few years and although I certainly don't claim to speak Korean, I gleaned enough to know the wife was unhappy because there was no waterfall. The husband approached me timidly.

"Excuse, sir, what time the water switch on?"

"Well, maybe sometime in May. No switch. It has to rain."

He looked at me woefully, shook his head and returned to his unhappy wife and kids.

Well, we can't please everyone!

Soon we will be coming up to the anniversary walk celebrating 25 years since the Track was opened. This is a wonderful achievement and pays tribute to all those people who worked tirelessly to keep the dreams of those whose vision made the Track a reality—Geoff Schafer, Peter Hewett, Jim Sharpe, Jesse Brampton, Mike Wood and many, many more.

Thankfully there are lots more following in their footsteps to ensure the Track will still be around for years in the future!

Happy Walking,

**Wrong Way Jim** 

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE REGISTERS

#### **BEAVIS**

The first of March, out comes the Fly Plans are hatched to make him die Shriek, slap, snap, whack and swish For all flies to die is our earnest wish Squadrons come and squadrons go Proboscis forward they are our foe Can't compete Admit defeat Drink a red And go to bed! Holly 01/03/2003

Well rested, our two brave adventurers, Tindel and Cain, set out for the next destination on their epic journey. They took to the wilderness on a bright, wonderful day, which for once was without a major incident, the duo's only challengers being geographical. On arrival at the tiny outpost of Beavis they were aware of two alarming things; the constant sighting of the Skaven (Ratmen) and the constant eerie croaking noises emanating from the lagoon in front of the shelter. Once again it seemed that our

heroes would need to sleep with one eye open and keep their weapons at hand... *Rob & Trav 07/112002* 

Ed: See the walker story on page 5.

#### **HIDDEN VALLEY**

So this is it, the final stop! I had a gorgeous walk along the beach this morning and just after the rocks the water looked too beautiful to resist. I dumped my pack and sprinted in—it was the best dip I've had on the whole Track! An exciting feeling knowing that tomorrow is the beginning of a lot of new stuff for me. This arvo my Dad is coming in here to meet me and walk the last leg of the journey with me and at the finish line I will get to see my gorgeous girlfriend Alex for the first time in 45 days. Having grown up in Albany and lived there until I was 17 it's a pretty special place for me so tomorrow's walk should be interesting. I'll be back to the Track before too long for sure! Paul 14/12/2002

#### BOAT HARBOUR

In the interests of keeping it real, I would like to say that while I am enjoying the coastal views I am pretty much up to here with sand dunes. They do, however, make a nice soft spot to lie down when you have lost the will to live. Parry Beach Caravan Park was great--- a place to dump your rubbish, fill your water bottles and wash with soap and hot water in the amenities bloc. Bliss! My blisters are now developing blisters...

Carla 20/03/2018

#### MT. DALE

It seems that every second person I meet is trying to break some sort of record on the Bibb Track so, as I was climbing the hills, I devised a foolproof way to get my name into the record book. I am proud to announce that on February 29th next year I'll be leaving the Northern Terminus for Albany blindfold, walking backwards on one leg. I shall be entirely self-sufficient, eating only leaves and twigs and some roo poo, which I understand is very nutritious. I hope to finish by Xmas 2022.

The Tortoise 21/01/2019.

Ed: We will be delighted to welcome you in the BTF office with mince pies made with snotty-gobble berries. Sadly though, we don't have a record book!

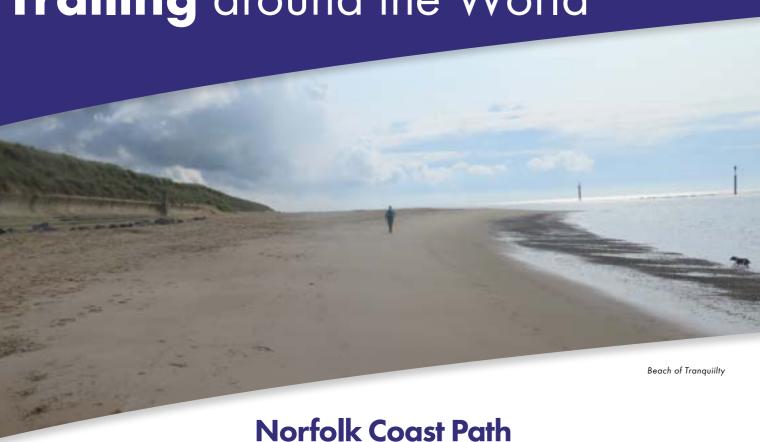


### LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY ...

Include a gift for the Bibbulmun Track Foundation in your will and help ensure the Bibbulmun Track is maintained for generations to come.



# Trailing around the World



Norfolk's coastline is markedly different

to that which existed during Roman

times. The coast has eroded over the

last two millennia, parts of it having

retreated by up to two kilometres.

The chalk cliffs have been taken by the

relentless pounding of the North Sea and the resulting detritus washed around the coast, resulting in the creation of vast salt marshlands in previously open water. So what was land is now open sea and the previous open sea now consists of marshland—eerie, beautiful, and The English county of potentially treacherous. Norfolk is one of the The Norfolk Coast Path was opened in 1986 and now covers 135km of backwaters of Britain. It is the coastline. It has been designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural flat, rural and the interior Beauty (AONB) — an area that has been

is relatively featureless—

but the 150km of coastline

holds a different story!.

So three intrepid 70 something-yearolds decided to take it on this yearall experienced walkers with local knowledge, two born and bred in Norfolk and one schooled there. We now live far apart—one in Western Australia, one in Nashville, Tennessee and the third in the UK. An Aussie, a Yank and a Pom went walking—first line of a bad joke?

designated for conservation due to its

significant landscape value.

The Path covers about 135km of the coastline—I say about because the actual distance walked depends on whether you take the various options offered of beach or cliff-top—and that is dependent on the tide. And the tide comes in very quickly, so be careful! We elected to walk it in five days, having luggage sent on ahead, carrying day-packs and staying in comfortable accommodation each night. We walked from west to east, so our starting point was the sea-side town of Hunstanton (pronounced "Hunston" by the locals-more on local idiosyncrasies later). After a full English breakfast, the intrepid trio set off on the first day of the trek-27km to Burnham Overy Staithe. (A staithe is an old English word for a wharf, where vessels can load and unload).

The high tide gave us no choice but to take to the cliff-top, but firstly we took time to look at the cliffs themselves. The Hunstanton cliffs are unique in being a layer of chalk crowning red limestone with a bleak beach below—the pictures speak for themselves.

We walked on easy sandy paths interspersed with boardwalk, through the Hulme nature reserve, overlooking the vast expanses of salt marsh, home to thousands of birds. Eventually the Path is forced inland—the salt marsh is impossible to negotiate—to the village of Thornham and on to Burnham, with its colourful boats in the small harbour.

This was the end of walk for the day, but accommodation here is scarce so a taxi had been organised to take us to the town of Wells, and drop us back the next morning.

Day two dawned bright and cool. We set off across further expanses of salt marsh, walking on banks elevated above the surface as part of the extensive network of sea defence that is evident everywhere along the Norfolk coast. This was a wild, desolate yet beautiful stretch, with sea birds everywhere, largely waders scurrying through the marshland foraging for food. Eventually the walkway led to the sand dunes that guard the coastline and after a tough but mercifully short climb through soft sand we reached the wide expanse of beach and set off on the firm sand by the water's edge, crunching through the thousands of shells that lay underfoot. This was the only noise to be heardas soon as we stood still the peace and serenity of the huge, deserted beach was immediately apparent. Even the sea was virtually silent; sandbars offshore cause the waves to break long before they reach the beach and the water was almost still.

The route then skirts the village of Holkham, into the pine woods shielding Holkham Hall, the ancestral home of the Coke family, Earls of Leicester. Still the family home, the magnificent mansion is open to the public—but I'm not sure if three scruffy, sand splattered trekkers would have been welcome! On then to the holiday town of Wells-Next-The-Sea where a quick lunch of crab sandwiches-Norfolk is renowned for its crabs— hit the spot, then back into the marshlands to our overnight stop at the Kings Arms in Blakeney.

Blakeney is another example of a Norfolk coastal village village that up to the turn of the 20th century was a sea-port. Now only very small boats can negoiate the marshes to reach open sea. It is the home of the Balkeney Nature Resrve, internationally recognised as home for a huge diversity of wildlife.

The route now bears south-eastwards around the coastline, away from the area that has been built up by the sea to that which has been eroded away. From Blakeney a long curved elevated bank leads around to the village of Cley-Next-The-Sea and its windmill, one of Norfolk's best known landmarks. It was built in

the early nineteenth century, harnessing the winds blowing from the North Sea to grind corn. Nowadays it is a B&B, exclusive restaurant and a venue for wedding ceremonies. Too grand for mere walkers!

Beyond Cley the going becomes tough-back to the beach, but a six kilometre trek through shingle. Small loose stones that shift beneath your feet and make every step feel like two. On top of that it rained and the wind howled in off the sea! Ah well. no-one said the UK weather would be kind. The beach is littered with relics of the second world war—old pill-boxes and gun emplacements. Finally we reached refuge in the Ship Inn in Weybourne, a lovely old traditional pub that serves excellent ale, good food and welcomes dripping wet walkers!

From Weybourne the Path takes to the cliff tops. The weather cleared, skylarks were singing high above and the walking was easy!

This was the Norfolk I remembered as a child; the pathway along the top of the cliffs with the North Sea crashing on the grey pebble beach below. The route took us through the old town of Sheringham, once a lively fishing port but now largely centre for holiday makers and on to Cromer, with its extensive sand and shingle beach. Cromer is a typical example of a Victorian sea-side town, with grandiose houses along the front, overlooking the beach and a traditional pier.

Day four, from Cromer to Sea Palling, was bright and sunny and started with a beautiful section along the cliffs with excellent views back along the coast.

Only too soon, however, the Path turns inland to avoid the Bacton Gas Terminal, one of six complexes along the east coast where gas from the North Sea oilfields comes ashore. From then the tide kept us off the beach and we followed country lanes to the small village of Sea Palling, where we were once again picked up by taxi, and taken to our accommodation in the nearby town of Hickling. This section also is home to one of the most striking landmarks of the whole walk, the lighthouse at Happisburgh.

The extraordinary structure, painted with its three red bands on a white background, is the only independently operated lighthouse in Great Britain. It is also the oldest working lighthouse in East Anglia. The sandy beach below is extensive and quiet. Just an aside here regarding Norfolk eccentricity. As I said earlier, Hunstanton is pronounced "Hunston" by the locals. If you find that strange, discovering that Happisburgh is pronounced "Hazeburra" may seem even weirder!



The following morning we set out on the final stage of the trek, and the longest at 34km, to the village of Hopton, on the Norfolk-Suffolk border. This turned out to contain the longest unbroken stretch along the beach so far-about 25km. The beach was virtually deserted, the sand firm and the sea as quiet as a millpond! It was superb walking, the weather fresh and cool, the air clean and the light crystal clear. If you like solitude and tranquillity,

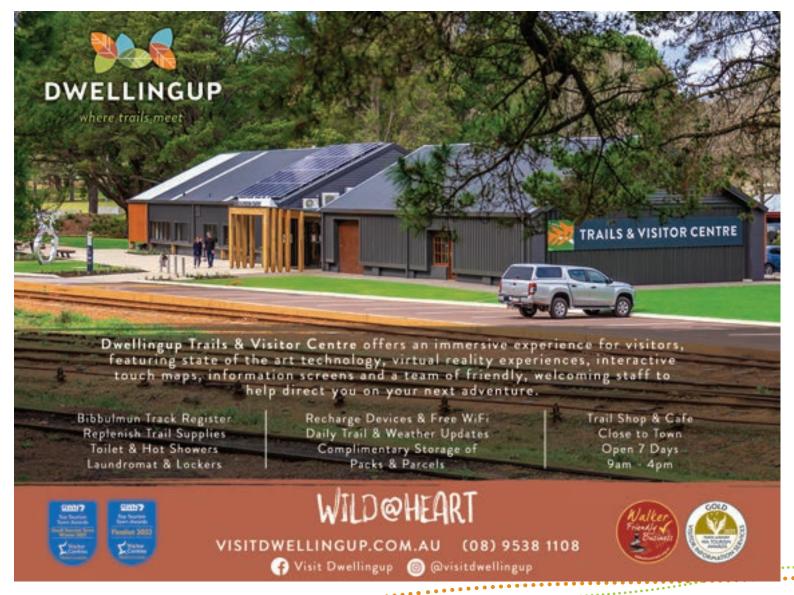
Then suddenly we had company. On arriving at Horsey Beach we were greeted by a colony of grey seals, holding a meeting on the beach. Horsey is well known for its seals, which number hundreds in the winter months.

this is a good place to be.

We left the beach at Caister-On-Sea and after a short walk along the dunes arrived on the outskirts of Great Yarmouth. Yarmouth is a town of some 40,000 people and has been described as the Blackpool of the east coast. A sea-side holiday makers town with amusement arcades, fish and chip shops and souvenir shops. Unfortunately there is no choice but to walk on the bitumen through a large section of the town and out through the industrial area on the other side. From there, if the tide is low, a beach walk for the rest of the path to Hopton is possible. For us the tide was up, so I'll gloss over the last few kilometres of the walk! A somewhat disappointing finish to what had been an exhibitarating experience!

Worth doing? Definitely-for the most part beautiful, remote and fascinating. I would place the final terminus of the walk at the arrival in Yarmouth and forget the last few kilometres. It is walker friendly and a bus service operates regularly through all the settlements on the way, making it easy to walk sections at a time. The food is excellent as is the beer and the natives are friendly!.

Jim Baker



Premier



Gold

With grateful thanks to our sponsors:





Silver



Bronze







Key Partners



Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions





Feelthe Spirit of Australia's South West

### **BIBBULMUN TRACK FOUNDATION**

www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

