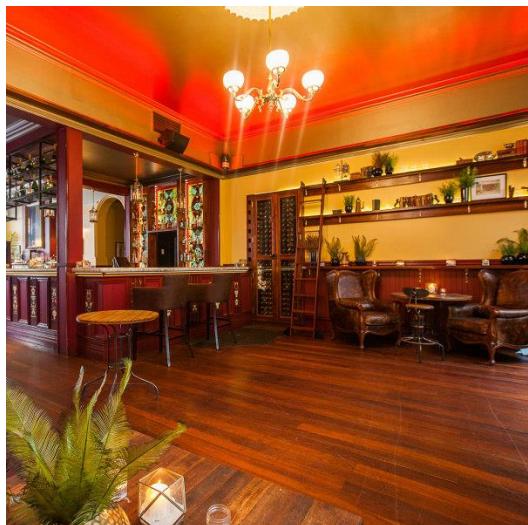


Volunteers: “Making a World of Difference”



All volunteers and partners were invited to a social event on Saturday, May 25 at the Belgian Beer Café in Perth. The gathering was in celebration of National Volunteer Week (May 20-26). We welcomed about 45 volunteers who joined us to eat, drink and be merry; made new friends; and shared Track experiences. A further account of the night will be included in the next edition of ‘Maintenance Matters’.

The theme of National Volunteer Week 2019 was “Making a World of Difference”. When we think of the distance that some people come to walk our wonderful Track, and the use of trails around the world by members of our Bibbulmun community, there is definitely an international flavour to our work!



We were delighted and very grateful to receive funding specifically for this event from Lotterywest, in a grant made possible by Volunteering WA.

Have you seen this toxic weed?

Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*) has recently been found in the Balingup area and is a new weed for Western Australia. DPIRD are asking all members of the local community (particularly **Wellington, Blackwood and Donnelly** volunteers) to be on the lookout for this weed and report any suspected sightings. Follow this [link](#) for further information and how to report it.



... Or even this wasp?



The European wasp, *Vespula germanica*, is an exotic pest to Western Australia that is already established in the eastern states of Australia. Each year fertilised wasp queens arrive in WA via freight and cargo from the eastern states.

Ongoing surveillance is important to prevent incursions into WA. A European Wasp Surveillance and Eradication Program is currently underway. We are the only state in the world that has kept this pest under control.

DPIRD are calling on the help of everyone in the local government areas of Mundaring, Kalamunda, Swan, Gosnells and Canning to increase and improve the surveillance activities. There have been nest detections in the area, however tracking wasps to their nests will require more time and effort due to bushland and difficult terrain. In response DPIRD have placed additional traps, and are appealing to the public, community groups, agencies and organisations to look and report, and where possible assist them with the location of nests.

Even if you are not located in these areas, you can help by knowing what to look for and reporting any suspect wasps. For more information, check out this [link](#).

Who can make some hooks?

We need someone who is handy with drilling, welding and painting to make hooks for the shelters. The hooks are made from cut-down chain links; the welding doesn't have to be flash, as can be seen from this example.



The Foundation will provide the materials and a sample. So if you have the equipment and know-how to make at least several hundred please contact Mark on maintenance@bibbulmuntrack.org.au.

Do you have these signs in your section?



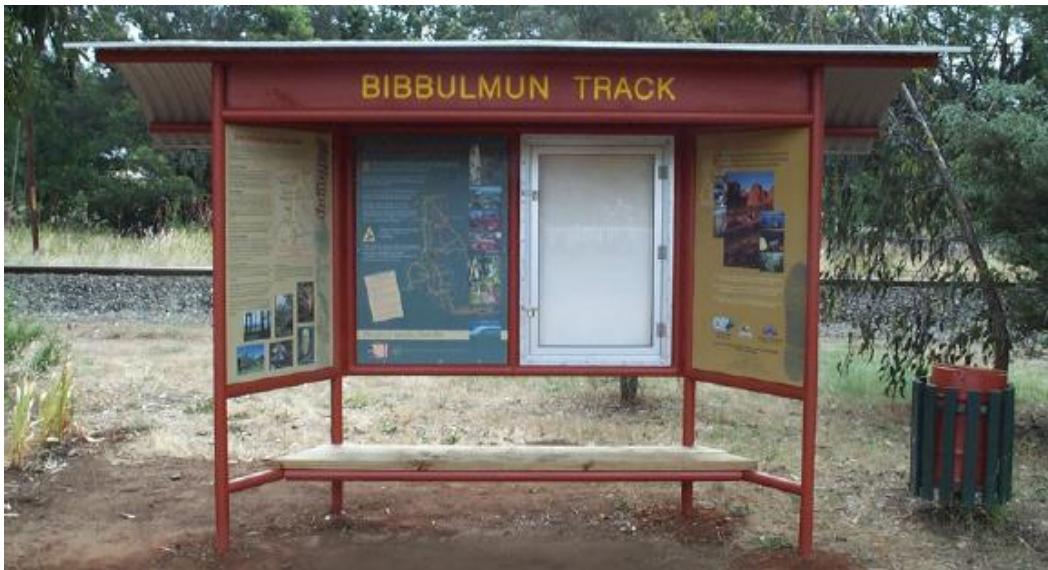
Prescribed burning signs can cause confusion when they are assumed to be out-of-date, and potential danger when they are current but ignored by walkers on the assumption they are not!

We would like to know the location of any such signs, of any design and age, on your section.

Please email maintenance@bibbulmuntrack.org.au with a photo, accurate location (GPS or by description and reference to distances in the Guidebook), and date.

Trailhead Noticeboards

If your section includes a prominent trailhead, maintaining and managing the noticeboard should become part of your visit:



Wipe/wash the dust off the covering perspex/glass. If you can, open the cover and similarly clean the inside. Please let us know (preferably by photo) if the frame is padlocked.

Check for the currency of any DBCA notices regarding realignments, closures or other Track conditions. Also check that there is an up to date BTF notice showing the Walker Friendly Businesses in the area and acknowledging our sponsors. Please let us know (preferably by a photo) if you suspect any notices are out of date.

We'd also appreciate if you could include in your report some comment (and photos of details!) on the condition of the trailhead structure as a whole.

Clearing out storage boxes at campsites



Plastic tubs on the main inside table at campsites are provided primarily to store the Log Book, Register, Bibbulmun News and Events Calendars. Where food boxes are provided by the DBCA District, these are only for overnight storage of daily food supplies.

We discourage walkers from leaving food and other supplies in the boxes, even in the spirit of generosity. As shown by recent reports, there is the risk of food supplies attracting wildlife to the boxes, causing damage, ill-health to native animals from the consumption of unnatural foods, and the littering of packaging.

Please include the collection and removal of any unnecessary material – particularly food – in your campsite maintenance visit. It would be useful to take a bag to collect such material. You may leave behind appropriate reading material such as Reader's Digest, but please use your judgement to leave the boxes neat and not overfull. Thanks!

Involvement of Young People

Children under 16 years old accompanying parents on Track maintenance trips are now able to formally register as volunteers.

New advice from the Volunteer Coordination Unit (VCU) of the Parks and Wildlife Service confirms that there are no age restrictions within RiskCover's wording of the DBCA insurance policy for volunteers.

As a result, the VCU encourages the inclusion of families and younger volunteers in projects, subject to an appraisal of the level of risk in the activity, and a guarantee of complete parent/guardian supervision.

To register the children participating in Track maintenance trips, please contact Volunteer Manager Helen Grimm (volunteer@bibbulmuntrack.org.au).



Maintenance Deprivation Syndrome...

A recent email conversation between our Volunteer Manager, Helen Grimm, and a prospective maintenance volunteer gave us a bit of a chuckle.

Having expressed interest in volunteering 12 months previously, the prospective volunteer (JE) was offered a section which had recently become vacant. Replying that – due to a recent significant injury – he was currently not expecting to be able to volunteer after all, Helen indicated she'd take him off the list.

The conversation continued as follows (edited):

JE: Hi Helen, I thought more about this. It would be good to have that sort of activity level and fitness as a target for, say, the next 12 months. Even to join a team, tag along with secateurs and do what I could,

carry a first aid kit, or walk for just part of the distance – that would get me started. Maybe you could keep me on the list as an assistant volunteer, from around July/August?

HG: Absolutely! I guess you'll want something close to home?

JE: No rush, it will be several months before I'm bush-ready. Yes, something close to Perth would be better. Mainly a section where I can get near to one end by car, not needing 4WD or a long hike in... Herdsman Lake perimeter path?

HG: That would be a good start to aim for, though perhaps doesn't quite fall within our scope!

JE: Oh... what a shame. However, I could just go and quietly clip away a bit...

HG: Maintenance Deprivation Syndrome?!

JE: MDS – it can be cured. You could offer free group therapy sessions at neglected sections of the track!

