

# Perth Bushwalkers Club

**40**

Years

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1969-2009

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Perth Bushwalkers Club Inc.  
[www.perthbushwalkers.asn.au](http://www.perthbushwalkers.asn.au)

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Front cover:  
*Bushwalkers enjoy the south-west karri forest*  
Photo: J. Young

Back cover:  
Photos: W. Eddy, B. Powell, I. McDonald, C. Walker

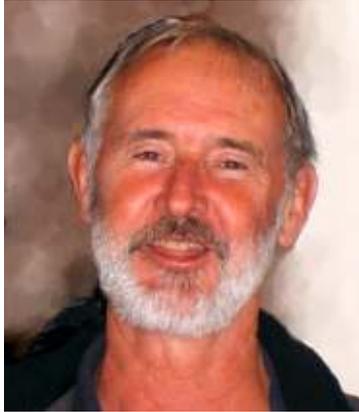
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# **FOREWORD**

*Ralph Ditton*

*Ralph is the current President of the Perth Bushwalkers Club.*



*Ralph Ditton*

**T**HIS BOOK IS A WONDERFUL VENTURE that had its genesis with our founder member, Geoff Schafer, who wanted to make a record of the club's 40 year history.

I joined the Club in April, 2007 so my knowledge of its history is very sketchy. I have learned much from the stalwarts of the club who attend our functions and take part in the walks.

In addition, I have had the honour of meeting Geoff, the Number 1 ticket holder, who attends club meetings and day walks since returning from Victoria last year. We even roomed together at the 40<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations at Jarrahdale.

Without the drive from Geoff to get the Club started and grow into the largest walking club in Western Australia, numerous people would not have had the experience of enjoying the State's natural bushland and seen our native animals in their rightful habitat. Many of our club members are much more comfortable walking in a club environment than they are walking alone.

The Club has grown into a very broad church of people from many different countries.

I have assisted with Introductory Walks and I find that we have people from Europe, Asia, Africa Latin America, North America and New Zealand. Native born Australians are always in the minority on these walks and native born Western Australians even fewer in number.

Introductory walks have evolved over time as part of the club's risk management. They are conducted by a small group of our best leaders and provide a window for prospective members to have a look at the club's custom and practice and to learn safe bushwalking skills.

Speaking of safety, the Perth Bushwalkers Club is very safety conscious when undertaking walking/camping activities and considerable effort has been made with drawing up safety guidelines.

Our Club members appear to be getting younger, contrary to the experience of most other bushwalking clubs. The average age of our members is 50.8 years with the youngest aged 19 and the oldest at 76 years. We do have more female members at 58%.

The Club is heavily dependent on its Walks Leaders who put the time and effort into providing an event for members to take part in, be it a half day walk, full day walk or overnight trips which sometimes extend to many nights out. Without our Walks Leaders the club would wither and die. I encourage people to step up and become a leader. You will be given every assistance so there will be no throwing one into the deep end.

I also wish to thank the Committee. The group that makes the Club hum along. They have no magic wand, just hard work and diligence and they dedicate their time on your behalf in looking after the nuts and bolts of the organization.

Finally I'll leave you with a quote:

*“Not all who wander are lost”.*

R.D.  
May, 2009

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Mark Weston  
Jenny Young

## EDITORIAL

*Jenny Young*

**T**HE PERTH BUSHWALKER'S COMMITTEE wished to record the History of the Club for its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Being the Club's longest standing member, having joined in 1974, this task was given to me which I was pleased to accept.



Photo: Noelene Proud

*Jenny Young*

I have retained many wonderful memories and experiences of bushwalking with the Club from the early days and it has always been a source of great joy to me. Of note was the great friendships made during the day and the incredible starlit skies when camping at night. This country was all so new to me then, being a recent arrival from the UK. We had many exciting adventures in the beginning and a lot of fun was had in our search for walks destinations.

In the early days the Club ran as a close-knit family group. Not much was recorded of our activities then but subsequent meetings with bushwalking friends served to jolt my memory and they can vouch for much that I have written. There were one or two near mishaps though, largely brought about by a lack of experience from the many new emigrants to Western Australia who joined the Club having little or no knowledge of the extreme weather conditions that can occur here; particularly in the lack of surface water and the scorching summer temperatures. We are indeed fortunate that everyone survived our early outings.

I have watched with interest the Club evolve and flourish over the years. It has been wrought and forged on bushwalking experiences of the past into the strong, vibrant organisation it is today and subsequently has become the foremost Bushwalking Club in WA. The Club presently has Policies and Codes of Practice in place which imparts to current members a sense of safety and peace of mind when in the bush.

My sincere best wishes go to the Perth Bushwalkers Club for ongoing success in the future.

J.Y.  
May, 2009

## INTRODUCTION

*Geoff Schafer*

*Geoff Schafer is the founder of the Perth Bushwalkers and after 40 years, although now based in Melbourne, retains a close interest in the activities of the Club. He often visits Perth and still participates in Club activities.*



*Geoff Schafer*

**C**ONGRATULATIONS TO THE PERTH BUSHWALKERS CLUB and all members, past and present, for making the Club what it is today after 40 years of Bushwalking in Western Australia.

The scene in WA today has changed much from that of the 1960s. For instance, one could only buy a framed rucksack from one outlet in all WA and that was a Paddy Pallin 'A' Frame from the Scout shop in Hay Street. Anyone carrying a rucksack brought looks of wonderment from the city folks of Perth. Backpackers were unknown and the American word 'rucksack' had not yet come into the Aussie lingo.

The Youth Hostels Association was small in numbers in the mid 1960s but had a busy activities programme including bushwalks in the Darling Ranges, often centreing around their Hills hostels. The increase in young emigrants, mainly from the UK, led to a rise in membership but an attempt to form a Bushwalking Club within the YHA, similar to the Victorian YHA Activities Club, did not eventuate.

The Western Walking Club, founded in 1937, catered for Sunday walkers and had large numbers, up to 100 participants on some outings during the cooler months. Apart from the occasional base camping trip the Club did not have weekend backpacking walks so gave their blessing to the formation of the Perth Bushwalkers Club in early 1969.

So a series of advertisements in the Personal column of the *The West Australian* and *The Sunday Times* newspapers in April brought results and the Perth Bushwalkers Club was underway in May, 1969.

**T**HE FIRST MEETING of the Perth Bushwalkers Club was held on 13th May at the then Youth Council of WA building in 9 Museum Street, Northbridge (since demolished to make way for the Cultural Centre). It was then agreed to have a mixed walking programme and regular Wednesday night meetings. Thirteen people attended and I gave an introductory talk on

Bushwalking and Conservation. The following meeting sixteen turned up and we arranged our first Club walk, a weekend one, from North Dandalup to Keysbrook. Afterwards, colour slides were shown followed by supper. The Membership Fee was \$1 for 12 months.

Three turned up at this first walk but, by July, a bus camping trip to the Pinnacles had twenty-one attending. A Walks Programme was drawn up for subsequent outings with destinations far and wide. Transport to walks was taken by train, car or chartered bus. Wednesday meetings continued to be popular, often with colour slides of trips, guest speakers on topics of overland travel and from other groups such as the Climbing Club.

A special contribution to the early success of the Club must go to the Secretary, Roger McKenzie, of the Youth Council of WA who gave free use of its premises and loan of the 16mm film and slide projectors.

1970 saw a continuation of the growth of the Club with membership rising to thirty. Membership fees were increased to \$2 per annum. Emphasis was on weekend walks and camping trips. Quite a few members came from Interstate and others who joined were recent arrivals from the UK and Europe. Those with bushwalking experience contributed valuable assistance with leadership.

G.S.  
May, 2009

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Photo: Pat O'Leary

*The building at 9 Museum Street, Northbridge in 1980. The clubrooms were on the upper floor.*

## THE FIRST TEN YEARS

**I**T WAS 1971 AND THERE WAS A FULL PROGRAMME of walks each weekend. Geoff Schafer envisaged a long distance walking trail from Perth to the south coast at Albany. This was later to become known as the Bibbulmun Track. His idea met with approval from Peter Hewett, the Conservator of Forests with the Forests Dept. However, in November, Geoff left Perth to reside in Port Hedland. A core group of dedicated members then ran the Club with enthusiastic newcomers joining in the walks.

The following two years were a time of adventure and discovery with long distance trips added to the Programme. Outings went to Mt. Augustus and the Kennedy Ranges and attempts were made to walk the Canning Stock Route by one or two hardy members. These trips proved to be not without incident and valuable experience was gained with particular insight into WA's harsh conditions. (Refer Early Walks). There was an influx of bushwalkers from the Eastern States and others who came were largely emigrants from the UK and Europe.

In 1974 a continuing slow growth in membership consolidated the Club and was indicative of the rising popularity and involvement in bushwalking. Easter holiday weekends and a festive camp at Christmas, usually on the south coast, were well attended and became fixtures on all future programmes.

1975 and the Perth Bushwalkers Club was here to stay. A logo was designed and T-shirts had the logo emblazoned on the front. Adding to Sunday walks, long range excursions went north to Wittenoom (Karijini) and destinations such as the Pinnacles.

Trips to the Stirling Ranges saw a need for a rainwater catchment on the ridge. This was accomplished one weekend with a 44 gallon water tank rolled and manhandled up the steep side of Pyungoorup, organised by Murray Rankin and other Club members. The tank remains there today, a boon to ridge bushwalkers.

A successful third attempt was made in 1976 to walk the Canning Stock Route. This endurance feat was covered by newspaper and TV and gave the Club much publicity. Other trips went to the Murray River in Dwellingup and locally, Penguin Island in summer for swimming and snorkelling.

**A**T THIS TIME THE BUILDING in Museum Street was scheduled for demolition owing to the development of the new Cultural Centre. Perth Bushwalkers clubrooms then transferred to St. Johns Lutheran Church Hall in nearby Aberdeen Street, Northbridge.

Walks and other activities continued in 1977 and 78. Canoeing became popular with visits to the Blackwood River and another long range trip went to the Carnarvon Ranges. There were frequent outings to Carinyah, Karagullen for bushwalks and social events. Geoff Schafer had arranged for the lease of a cottage there and this soon became the Club's retreat in the forest. A sketch of the cottage was made into the first Perth Bushwalkers calendar.

In 1979 Club members Lou Murray and Kelvin Jones decided to share their bushwalking experiences and published a book entitled "Twenty Bushwalks Near Perth". The bushwalks covered a radius of eighty km from Perth. The foreword was written by John Graham, Director, Department for Youth, Sport and Recreation. It read:

*'I congratulate the Perth Bushwalking Club on its initiative in gathering the information for this book and presenting it in such a way that the reader will be encouraged to try an activity which is both healthy and full of fun'.*

The book proved very popular. Some of the walks were reprinted in the *The West Australian* newspaper and all books sold out.

1979 was the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Club. In March it was celebrated by a long distance endurance walk along the south coast from Albany to Esperance by six Club members and took 30 days to complete.

October 28th was also the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first section of the Bibbulmun Track which was constructed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management. A celebratory walk took place from the Boorara tree in Northcliffe all the way to Kalamunda and Geoff Schafer was there to take part in the celebrations. Several Club members have since walked the whole distance.

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**The following accounts of early walks during the 1970's depict the feelings of excitement, adventure and optimism of many of the new arrivals to the State of Western Australia and illustrates the hazards when adequate precautions for Bushwalking are not observed.**

## EARLY WALKS



*An early Club walk to Julimar Forest in June, 1970    Photos: Geoff Bauer  
Left to right: Julie, Vince Aitken, Julie Simcoe, Keith Andrews, Heather Hopkins (obscured),  
Bronwyn Thomas, John Foulsham, Margaret McCauly, Marietta Wurster, Keith Scheckerman*



*A long weekend trip to Mt Stirling in May/June, 1970  
Left to right: Keith S, Keith A, Marietta, Ron Ellis, Vince, Tim Comber*



*The Mundaring Youth Hostel in 1970*

Photos: *Geoff Bauer*



*The trip to Quindalup Youth Hostel in July, 1970  
Left to right: Margaret Grogan, Bronwyn Thomas, Gary Phillips, Vince Aitken, Keith Andrews,  
Jenny, Nada, Tim Comber, Marietta Wurster*



*A long weekend trip to Mt Jackson in October, 1970*



*At Mt Jackson. A bus was hired for most outings*



*A trip to Mt. Manypeaks in October, 1970*

*Left: Bronwyn Thomas climbs the steep face of Mt. Manypeaks.*

*Below: The group rests on the granite summit. In the middle distance is Normans Beach and further along the coast is Two Peoples Bay.*

*Photos: Geoff Bauer*



## CARINYAH COTTAGE, KARRAGULLEN

**I**N 1970, GEOFF SCHAFFER NEGOTIATED with the Government Housing Authority for a vacant cottage at Carinyah for the peppercorn rent of \$10 per annum. This was for the use of both the Perth Bushwalkers Club and the Youth Hostels Association. The cottage was the old Schoolmaster's house which was all that was left of the little Carinyah School. It was located in an old Forestry Settlement with the timber milling site not far away.

The cottage was at a distance of 40km from Perth and was very popular for several years with Club members especially as it was situated near the Bibbulmun Track and nearby meeting Dale. There was no electricity. There was a wood burning stove in the kitchen and the sitting room had an open fire and there were two bedrooms. A rainwater tank collected run-off from the corrugated iron roof. Bushwalkers paid \$1 for an overnight stay. Many weekends were spent there with bushwalks in the forest. Other events, such as orienteering, bushskills courses, navigation, BBQs and socials were held there. In time, however, the building was getting old and required a lot of maintenance. Also the site being in the forest and isolated and vacant during the week, was often vandalised. The upkeep soon became beyond the capacity of Club members to maintain and, in the mid 1980's, the building was resumed by the Forests Department and knocked down.

Many bushwalkers of the day have happy memories of time spent there.



*Carinyah Cottage*

Drawing by J. Young

## MT. AUGUSTUS

*Mt. Augustus is a large monolith in the Shire of Gascoyne, north of the State. The rock face can heat up to high temperatures during the day, catching the unwary off guard. The area is a magnet for tourists looking at the wildflowers and experiencing the remote areas of the outback.*

*Visitors to Western Australia are often unprepared for the extreme conditions that exist here. The following report from 'The West Australian' April 3, 1972 gives an account of what occurred on an early bushwalk with the Club.*

### *HEAT OVERCOMES WOMEN ON WALK*

Two young women bushwalkers were flown to Perth from Meekatharra yesterday afternoon after they had been overcome by dehydration and exhaustion.

They had been with a group of about 15 bushwalkers climbing Mt. Augustus, about 200 miles north-west of Meekatharra.

They are Miss Anna Mann (28), secretary from West Perth, and Miss Sandra Vidal-Hall (22), secretary from Cottesloe.

After being treated at the Meekatharra Hospital they were flown to Perth in a Royal Flying Doctor Service aircraft. They were admitted to Royal Perth Hospital, where their condition last night was favourable. They were members of a

party that set out to climb the 3,700ft. mountain about 6am on Saturday. By noon Miss Vidal-Hall had exhausted their water supply and became sick and weak. The shade temperature at the summit of the mountain was over 110 degrees.

Other members of the party brought the two women down from the mountain. Miss Mann recovered fairly well but by 6pm Miss Vidal-Hall, an experienced bushwalker, had lost consciousness.

Some of the party went to Mt. Augustus Station and raised the Flying Doctor Service by

radio about 1am yesterday. An RFDS aircraft flew to the party early yesterday morning and made a landing by the light of lanterns and car headlights.

It picked up Miss Mann and Miss Vidal-Hall and took them to Meekatharra.

A spokesman at the Meekatharra Hospital yesterday paid tribute to the other members of the bushwalking party. He said that they were well organised and equipped. The skilled first-aid they administered had probably saved Miss Vidal-Hall's life.

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The following is an extract taken from the Club Meeting Notes on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April.

*Held in usual room. A somewhat sombre meeting with discussion centring on the Mt. Augustus trip. Questions and suggestions were offered in abundance making for a lively series of explanations and further suggestions. Sandra Vidal-Hall is in a very serious state of health and we are all hoping (and praying for those who do) for her full recovery.*

*Ron Ellis asked for contributions to be volunteered by Club members so that suitable compensatory gifts can be bought for shipping to the kind people at the Mt. Augustus Station who went so much out of their way to help the stricken party.*

*Kevin Boyd volunteered to letter and draw a certificate of Honorary Life Membership to Ray Smith, the WAGR bus driver on the trip.*

Ray Smith had been a popular driver with the YHA camping trips over the last three years. He had driven the bus nearly thirty kilometres from Mt. Augustus to the Home Station to alert the Royal Flying Doctor Service and said that it was 'touch and go' all the way.

## MT. AUGUSTUS contd.

*The following is a report from 'The West Australian', Tuesday, April 4, 1972.*

### CLIMBER TELLS OF ORDEAL ON PEAK

A slightly-built former Girl Guide told yesterday how she led two companions down the last stretch of a sun-beaten mountain descent, left them exhausted and then pushed on to guide in rescuers.



*Anna Mann*

Miss Anna Mann (28) from West Perth, said after her discharge from hospital yesterday that she thought her light weight helped her hold out against heat exhaustion. She weighed 7.1/2 stone before the climb and believes that she weighs much less now.

Miss Mann was helped by her training in the Kingston, Surrey, Sea Ranger Troop in England and in the Women's Royal Naval Service.

On Saturday morning, with two men and two women

belonging to a bushwalking group, she set out to climb Mt. Augustus, about 200 miles north-west of Meekatharra. At 11.30am, about 5.1/2 hours after the start, they reached the top of the 3,700 foot peak.

"In that time we thought we should have been at the top and down again," she said. She estimated the heat at more than 90 degrees. Each climber started with a 26 ounce plastic bottle of water.

"The others had drunk theirs by the time we reached the top and I had about half of mine left," Miss Mann said.

The heat and water situation made them decide to take the shortest way down the mountain. This led down a steep stone slope of 800 feet. It took them half an hour to descend and they slipped and slithered much of the way. There the two men left the three girls shaded by an overhang and set off to bring water. Miss Mann estimated that the men would be away for some hours.

### TOOK BEARING

She climbed up the slope and took a bearing on a distant road with her compass. She then began to move her companions, Miss Sandra Vidal-Hall (22) and another girl she only knows as Carol, down the valley.

"I moved them for five minutes and rested them for ten minutes," she said. "Whenever we stopped I gave them a bottle-cap of water, perhaps a teaspoonful each."

At the foot of the valley Miss Vidal-Hall collapsed. By this time it was dark. Miss Mann built a fire, left Carol to watch it and, after taking a compass bearing back to the spot, walked to the road. There she met the expedition's bus.

Miss Vidal-Hall and Miss Mann were evacuated by the Royal Flying Doctor Service to the Royal Perth Hospital. Miss Mann works as a secretary for the Girl Guides in Perth. Miss Vidal-Hall of Cottesloe was in a favourable condition yesterday.



Top: *Bushwalkers at the cairn on the summit of Mt. Augustus on a later trip in 1986*  
Below: *Making the descent*  
Photos: *J. Young*



Photo: T. O'Brien



Above: *Mt. Augustus*  
Left: *A perentie goanna*  
Below: *Native hibiscus*

Photo: J. Young



## THE CANNING STOCK ROUTE

*From Notes by Tim Comber. Tim was a member of the Club and a friend of the Bushwalkers. He recorded the following from first-hand knowledge of the event.*

**I**T TOOK THREE ATTEMPTS by Murray Rankin, a tough New Zealander, to walk the entire length of the Canning Stock Route. This at the time when the last stock riders had long ceased droving and before any vehicular 4WD tracks were established.

The Canning Stock Route was constructed as an inland droving track 1,300km in length, traversing the Gibson and Great Sandy Deserts between Halls Creek and Wiluna. During 1906 and 1907 the surveyor, A.W. Canning, sunk wells approximately 20km apart to provide water for the droving cattle. Much of the Route consists of sand dunes and spinifex.



*Peter Waterfall*

*John Waterfall*

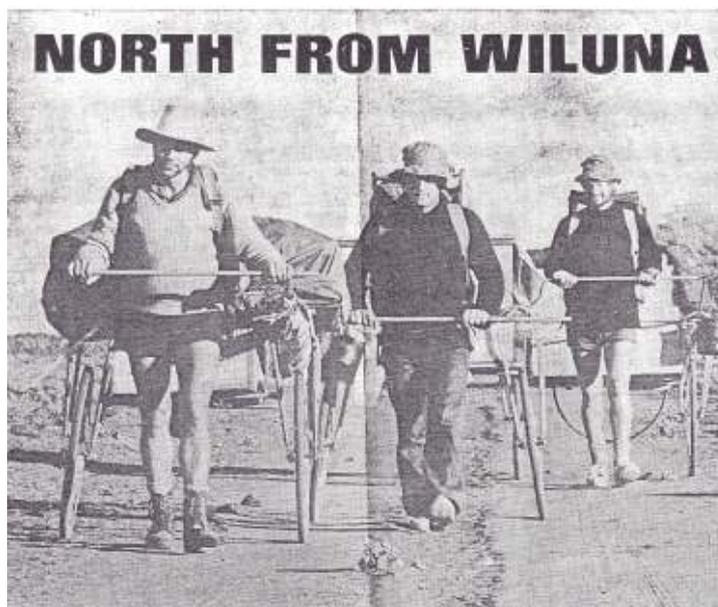
*Murray Rankin*

Murray had carried out research, obtaining copies of Canning's survey maps from the Batty Library and talking to old drovers. In 1972 Murray's first attempt began from Wiluna heading north. He had two companions, John and Peter Waterfall, also members of the Bushwalkers. They set off well equipped with gear packed into trolleys made from bicycle wheels, however the spokes and bearings soon collapsed under the harsh conditions and the trolleys bogged in the sand. At Well 7 John Waterfall turned back. Murray and Peter walked on to Durba Hills, a distance of 500km. Here Peter stayed with blistered feet while Murray continued walking north on his own into some of the most remote and isolated country in the world. He had a natural ability for direction finding and much experience in compass reading. He reached Lake Disappointment after another 100 km, finding water at the wells and existing on dried food that he carried with him. He saw no-one all this time. It had taken two months since leaving Wiluna. One can only admire such an achievement. When Murray returned to Durba Hills after a week he found Peter still waiting for him. Peter had also been on his own and seen no-one. During that time he had sat writing poetry and searching the rocks for aboriginal paintings. Murray and Peter walked back to Wiluna safely.

**B**ACK IN PERTH MURRAY had the burning desire for another attempt at the Route. In June 1973 he teamed up with John Foulsham, another member of the Perth Bushwalkers. This time they would attempt to walk the Stock Route from the North, commencing at Old Halls Creek. New trolleys were designed with lightweight aluminium frames and motor bike wheels. Murray obtained aerial photos of the desert country and they trained beforehand by running up and down Jacobs Ladder in Kings Park.

From the start of the walk it was clear the trolleys were too heavy and some supplies had to be left behind, however they were able to arrange for a food drop along the way. Murray had brought a gun but neither he nor John managed to shoot anything although they saw bustards, galahs, dingoes and snakes. Any bush plants they found had unripe fruit. The wells often had polluted water which needed to be boiled. Murray's navigational expertise resulted in the finding of the wells, many of which had fallen into disuse and were overgrown and hard to find. No visible tracks of any kind were evident along the Route but they found a couple of drovers' graves. At Well 40 there was the grave of Tobin, one of Canning's original well borers team, who had been speared by an Aborigine, and it was here, after 500km along the Route, that Murray and John decided to turn back. They returned to Halls Creek after two months of walking.

**A** GAIN BACK IN PERTH, Murray was already planning a third expedition, this time to cover the middle section of the Route. Another member of the Bushwalkers, Ralph Barraclough, who owned a 4WD Landrover, with Murray planned to place food and water caches at intervals along the Route. Careful planning went into the supplies. Seventeen year old Rex Shaw and Kathy



From left: *Murray Rankin, Peter Waterfall and John Waterfall pulling the trolleys on the early stage of their walk.*



The desert walkers attracted much publicity during their three attempts to walk the Canning Stock Route, both in the press and on radio. Above are some newspaper headlines from WA papers.

**LUCKY BREAK FOR CANNING WALKER**

**A**FTER BECOMING UNWELL and withdrawing from the walk Ralph Barraclough was walking the 400km of desert track back to Halls Creek on his own. In a lucky co-incidence, Sam Tickell, a seismic bulldozer contractor, saw Ralph as he was rounding a bend on the Track and stopped to pick him up. Sam had been driving into the desert to recover some equipment he had used on a job three years previously. He had broken camp later than intended that day otherwise he would have missed seeing Ralph 1/2km from where he intended to turn off. Luckily, Ralph himself had set off earlier than usual that morning. The two men travelled on to Balgo Mission before driving back safely through Bililuna Station to Halls Creek.



Photo: M. Rankin

*John Foulsham (left) and Murray Rankin on the second desert attempt.*

Burman, also from the Bushwalkers, who were joining this walk, spent many hours assembling the rations, peeling and drying apple rings and other nutritional foods. The supplies were then packed into drums for later burying along the route.

**T**HIS THIRD ATTEMPT was to start at Old Halls Creek. Murray, his new wife, Serena, and Ralph first drove to Wiluna putting in food drops all the way north to Bililuna Station. Here they met Rex and Kathy. In mid 1976 Murray, Rex, Ralph and Kathy set off on the last Canning Stock Route trek. Ralph soon became unwell and had to pull out. He was walking back to Bililuna Station on his own, miles from anywhere, when a grader driver, returning to Halls Creek picked him up. The others arrived in Wiluna without mishap after three months of lone desert walking, an epic, modern day feat of determination and endurance which deserves a rightful place in the annals of the Club.

Input in the way of support and involvement from many well wishers in the Perth Bushwalkers Club had been of great encouragement throughout and it also kindled a wonderful spirit amongst the members.

## THE CANNING STOCK ROUTE contd.

*John Foulsham*

*The following are John Foulsham's recollections made in 1975 of the second attempt to walk the Stock Route with Murray Rankin.*

IT IS CURIOUS TO LOOK BACK after 2 years and consider all the enthusiasm and hope we built up. Murray and I were so certain that we would succeed with no outside help that we gave up 6 months to the expedition. We never made it but we must have got nearer to the life of the early explorers than most Australians ever do.

We have been asked many times why we wanted to walk through the middle of the Great Sandy Desert but to a true bushwalker the only question is how you do it. A line of abandoned wells provides a hope of travelling through and when we first looked at the map of the area at Easter 1971 we assumed that there must be a track to follow. A talk to Noel Keally, who went to every well by landrover in 1968, soon put paid to that idea and made us realise what a difficult journey we had ahead of us.

Then Murray conceived the idea of carrying supplies on a trolley. I thought he was crazy

but he persuaded John and Peter Waterfall to go with him and the three of them confirmed that there was still water in the wells and the sandhills could be climbed.

Murray was convinced that with stronger trolleys and more food the Stock Route would be no problem and, in the face of his enthusiasm, I could not resist the temptation to try it.

To get to Halls Creek seemed an impossible dream but we made it. We approached the Police Station to explain our plans. The Police Sergeant warned us of the dangers and obviously expected to come and rescue us but he was friendly and helpful and even visited our camp the next day to check on our equipment.

We set off on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 1973 at 3pm from old Halls Creek. The trolleys were incredibly heavy to pull. We camped at a well the first



Left: *Pulling the trolley over the sandhills*  
Below: *A well earned rest*

Photos: *M. Rankin*



night three miles out of town. The area was full of creek beds and it was terrible trying to heave the trolleys up the banks. I was quite exhausted. I made a fire and tea while Murray made johnny cakes for supper. That night as we sat by the fire we heard a dingo howling.

**A**FTER TWO DAYS we realised we had too much weight to drag across the sand dunes and returned to Halls Creek like vagrants, with thick stubble and hair matted with red dust. We arranged to leave some gear and telephoned Mark de Graaf in Perth who agreed to bring us supplies at the head of Lake Disappointment.

We pressed on to Ruby Plains Station and followed the main road to Billiluna. One advantage about walking along a road in Central Australia is that all the traffic stops for a chat. We learnt all the local scandal. One night the Flying Doctor, who was driving around the outlying station with his wife and children, arrived and cooked us steak sandwiches and gave us the latest news. On another occasion an old bus came into view. It slowed down and stopped and a whole crowd of people came out, introduced themselves and

shook our hands. They asked us where we were going and why we were doing it. Some of the men even had a go at pulling our carts but gave up after 100 yards.

On the 26th June we reached Twin Peaks, 100 miles from Billiluna where we knew there should be water. We found a small gorge containing rock holes and spent four days resting there.

We had 15 gallons of water and the trolleys were extremely heavy. Later, as the track went into soft sand, we were really stuck. We camped after two and a half miles, exhausted and slept halfway down a sandhill. The soft sand was terrible to pull the trolleys through. That night we had pancakes for tea and were full of gloom about the prospects of continuing. In the morning we dug a hole and left 70lbs of food. The idea of trying to go on was now over. It was a sad moment but inevitable. It was quite impossible to pull the heavily laden trolleys over the dunes.

**O**N 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY, we had a rest day at Well 45. The ants are the most annoying things in the desert. Not only do they bite but they

Below: *John Foulsham surveys the surrounding desert*  
Photo: *M. Rankin*





Above: *The water trough at Well 40 in 1973*  
Left: *Mick Tobin's gravesite*

Photos: *M. Rankin*



crawl all over the food and into the plates and cups. They have a foul taste if one is unlucky enough to eat one. They loved the sugar and barley sugar. The flies were a terrible nuisance at first but I eventually got used to them. They only annoyed me if I swallowed one or when they buzzed in my eyes.

**O**N THE 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY, we reached our objective, Tobin's grave at Well 40. It is in a beautiful position under a tree which has now died. It is amazing that they should have brought such a headstone all the way from Perth. It is sheathed in tin to stop the Aborigines chipping off pieces for weapons. Next day we set off for Lake Tobin over high sandhills and when we reached it we took pictures of our furthestmost point we had reached. We were 350 miles from Halls Creek.



Top: *Looking out from the Esk Tablelands*  
Below: *John at one of their campsites*

Photos: *M. Rankin*

## KENNEDY RANGES

*In 1973, while residing in Port Hedland, Geoff Schafer organised a Bushwalking expedition to the Kennedy Ranges. Here is an account from 'The Hedland Times', Thursday, May 1973.*

### SAFARI FROM PORT HEDLAND

During the six-day break over Easter, three Port Hedland men travelled to the Kennedy Ranges east of Carnarvon to join up with the Perth Bushwalkers' Club

The three men were the organisers of the trip, Mr. Geoff Schafer, an engineer working for Meurs Kilpatrick Green; Mr. Alan Butcher, a contracts officer working in the projects section of Mt. Newman Mining Co's Administration Dept. and Mr. Keith Sayers, an accountant with the Mt. Newman Mining Co.

A strong party of 30-40 came up from the

Perth Bushwalkers' Club and met the Port Hedland group at Binthalya where a base camp was set up. From there the group explored the Kennedy Ranges as far as Lyons River. They had quite a lot of information on the history of the area, the routes of the early explorers, the geology, flora and fauna of the area, etc

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Quote from Keith Sayers: "...we had a magnificent trip, marred only by innumerable punctures".

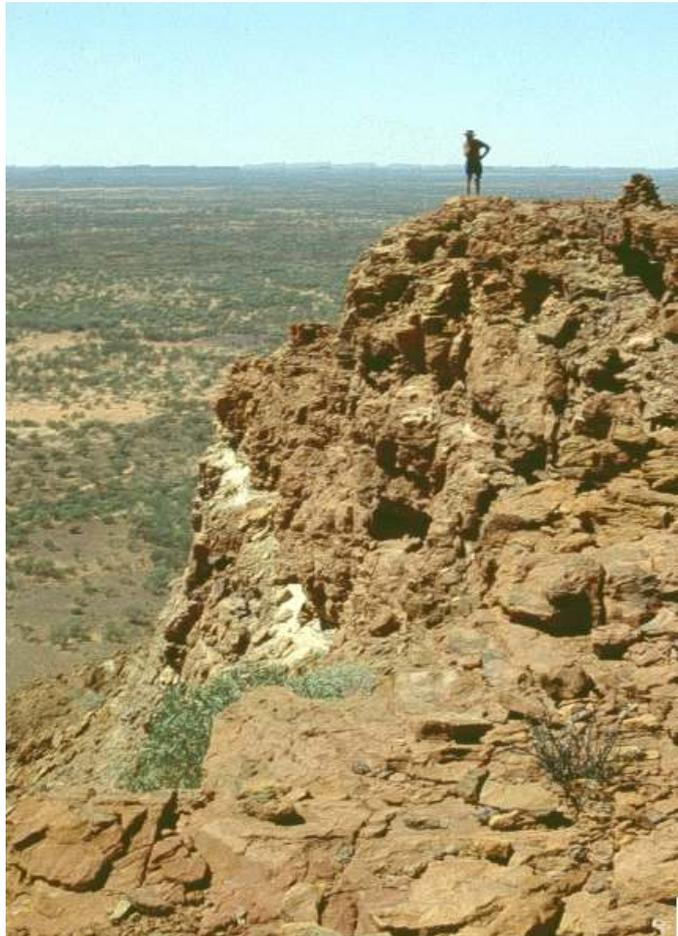
Geoff recalls his party met the Perth contingent as planned at Binthalya where they set up a basecamp. The bushwalkers had travelled up from Perth in a chartered Westrail coach. The next day was spent walking on the plateau amongst the spinifex and red sand dunes and the following day they explored the spectacular eastern escarpment. The historic and now disused Binthalya Homestead is now inside the Planning area for the Kennedy Range National Park.



Above: *Walking on the red dunes on the plateau*  
Right: *A view of the rugged eastern escarpment*

**T**HE EASTERN ESCARPMENT comprises spectacular sandstone cliffs rising 100 metres above the surrounding plain. This remote area displays fascinating geological forms and fossiliferous deposits are found here. There are freshwater springs and waterholes on the western side of the Range.





Top: *Walking in the spinifex grasslands*  
 Above: *Exploring the area*  
 Right: *At the cairn on the summit*



Flannel bush -  
*solanum lasiophyllum*



The unusual flowers of  
*Crotalaria cunninghamii*

Photos: *T. O'Brien*

## QUAALUP TO HOPETOUN

*Jenny Young*

**I**T WAS 1974. My first Christmas in Perth was with the Perth Bushwalkers. It was exciting and wonderful. The unique vegetation and scenery of the south coast is inspiring and it was great sharing friendships with the other Club members.

We arrived at the Quaalup Homestead and set up camp on the Gairdner River. I had not realised it was a riverbed at the time as it was bone dry.

Quaalup is situated on the west side of the Fitzgerald River National Park. The plan was to backpack through the Park and along the coast, where possible, to Hopetoun - a distance as the crow flies of over 70km. It would be a tough, energetic walk with heavy packs.

I don't recall anyone at the camp having visited the area before. Most of us decided to spend our time on day walks, with a visit to Bremer Bay, as the backpacking appeared too strenuous with much of the walking off track.

The leader was from New Zealand. He had looked at maps of the Park and seen that the Mary, Fitzgerald and Hamersley Rivers, together with several creeks, all flowed out to the coast and thought they would be able to pick up some water on the way. He had

informed the Park Ranger at Hopetoun of the plan and expected the walk to take about three days.

The group of five set off early one morning but Bill returned later in the day saying the going was too rough and his pack was too heavy with all the water they had to carry. My task was to drive a vehicle over to Hopetoun in a couple of days to pick the group up at the end of the walk.

At Hopetoun they had not arrived so with Bill, we drove some distance into the Park looking for them. We did not get far as we became bogged in the soft, sandy track. A good Samaritan in a 4WD pulled us out.

Later in the day the Ranger's ute came into view. He had gone out searching for the Bushwalkers. He had taken drums full of water. He knew there was no surface water remaining in the Park. Every river and creek was bone dry. They were more than pleased to see him. They had completely run out of water and were on their last legs with exhaustion, still a long way from Hopetoun. Also some of their canvas shoes had been torn to shreds in the tough scrub.

This early episode provided a steep learning curve in the evolution of the Club.

*The day walkers:  
Bill, Val, Bob and Jenny.  
West Mt. Barren is in the  
background.*



## MOATES LAGOON

*Eamon Jones*

*In the early years of the Club several bushwalks went to Moates Lagoon, east of Albany, near Two Peoples Bay. This pristine area with its mobile dunes is now a section of the Two People's Bay Nature Reserve and is no longer accessible for bushwalking.*



Photos: *E. Jones*



Top: *Bushwalkers on the ridge of the sandhills near the Lagoon*  
Above left: *Pat Barry shows the group how to dig for life-saving water beneath the sand*  
Above right: *The picturesque Moates Lagoon*

## WAYCHINICUP

*Helen Jeffries*

*Mt Manypeaks is a granite outcrop on the coast rising 560m above sea level. It is now classified as a Nature Reserve. The area is presently closed off due to dieback control.*

**A**NOTHER WEEKEND IN 1978 and a base camp at the picturesque Waychinicup Inlet.

This time we planned to ascend the ridge and climb to the summit of Mt. Manypeaks in a days walk setting off from our base camp early. The going was extremely tough due to the dense scrub however we reached the summit without incident. It was a great day and we returned to camp in the late afternoon. After a quick count of our group it

was found that George was not with us. He had last been spotted on the last of the descent. We coo-eeed but there was no response. One member in the party reported that she had seen George trip and fall more than once. It was soon decided to organise a search party. Just before leaving we made a further quick check of the camp. Suddenly the flap of George's tent swung open and he peered out, wondering what all the fuss was about. He had felt exhausted on reaching base, went to his tent and fallen asleep!



Left: *A rock pool in the Waychinicup River*  
Photo: *H. Jeffries*  
Below: *The picturesque Waychinicup Inlet*



Photo: *J. Young*

# MT GIBSON

*Jenny Young*

**I**N 1978 PAT O'LEARY organised a weekend camp at Mt. Gibson Station. From here the group was to walk to Lake Moore and look for an Aboriginal site.

All went well. We found the Lake and the site and were enjoying the lovely day and the pleasant walking. Soon it was lunch time so we climbed up the hill a short distance to get a better view of the wide open vista across the lake.

After lunch the plan was to continue along the lake edge on our way back to the Homestead. A head count revealed we were all present.

We set off down the hill on the next stage of the walk and, after some distance, it was discovered one of our group was missing.

We realised, after waiting for him, that it was too far and too late in the day to retrace our steps back to the lunch spot where he had last been seen. Back at the Homestead a search party was prepared in case he failed to show up before dark. Eventually, the Station Manager took his ute out and found our lost member standing by a small fire he had lit beside the road.

Now you can tell 100 people of your plan. 99 people get the message but the 100<sup>th</sup> person misses hearing it.

Why and where did he get lost? After lunch, when everyone else went downhill, he, inexplicably, went uphill and never noticed that he was on his own until he had lost sight of us!



Above: *The wide expanse of Lake Moore*  
Below: *An aboriginal site in the lake*  
Right: *Beanthinny Rocks, Mt Gibson Station*

Photo: G. Palfreyman



## NORMANS BEACH TO WAYCHINICUP

*Jenny Young*

**B**Y NOW IT WAS 1979 and, after some near mishaps with new members and visitors on walks not carrying adequate water supplies, leaders made sure everyone was properly equipped with a minimum of 2 litres of water before setting off.

This day a ridge walk was planned from Normans Beach to Waychinicup. It would be a hard, tough day walk through dense bush to the rocky granite summit of Mt. Manypeaks, along the ridge and then descending to our base camp at Waychinicup. As it was summer time and promised to be hot weather, it was imperative we all carried sufficient water supplies so the leader asked each one of us, in turn, if our water bottles were full in our packs.

Our group included a young lad, Keith, from New Zealand. He was fit and well and had tramped in the mountains at home so he knew it all. We started off in the cool of the morning. As usual on the south coast, it is often under cloud early in the day but quickly warms up as soon as the sky clears. This day

was like that. It became very warm and the climb to the summit was harder than we expected in the thick vegetation. Keith began cadging water off everyone and it became clear his meagre supply had run out. He had been untruthful when asked at the walk start if he had plenty of water. He had failed to see why it was necessary and had no experience of WA conditions.

What ensued was a recipe for a potential disaster.

The thicker than anticipated bush and the difficult climb up the steep rock face with our packs delayed our progress and it began to get dark while we were still up on the ridge so we had to stay the night there. Keith was complaining about being dehydrated. We shared out all our remaining water and were concerned about reaching base the next day. Our situation was saved by blessed overnight rain and we slaked our thirst from droplets off the leaves and in small crevices in the rocks.



Above: *Bushwalkers take a rest on the beach. The ridge of Mt Manypeaks is on the horizon*  
Photo: *J. Young*



Top: *Bushwalkers climb to the summit of Mt. Manypeaks on another attempt several years later*  
Bottom: *Looking back on the Waychinicup Inlet from high up on the ridge*

Photos: *Colin Walker*

## ALBANY TO ESPERANCE

**A coastal Bushwalk celebrating ten years of the Perth Bushwalkers Club that took place during March 15 to April 17, 1979.**

*This Walk, almost entirely along the coast covered a distance of over 660km and did not include distances walked in search of water, camp spots or into the towns of Bremer Bay and Hopetoun. Six members took part. They were Norman Stigant, who led the walk, Joe Schrock, Julie Simcoe, Ben McLean, Jock Howe and Liz Thomas.*

*The following are excerpts from the day-to-day Diary of Joe Schrock.*

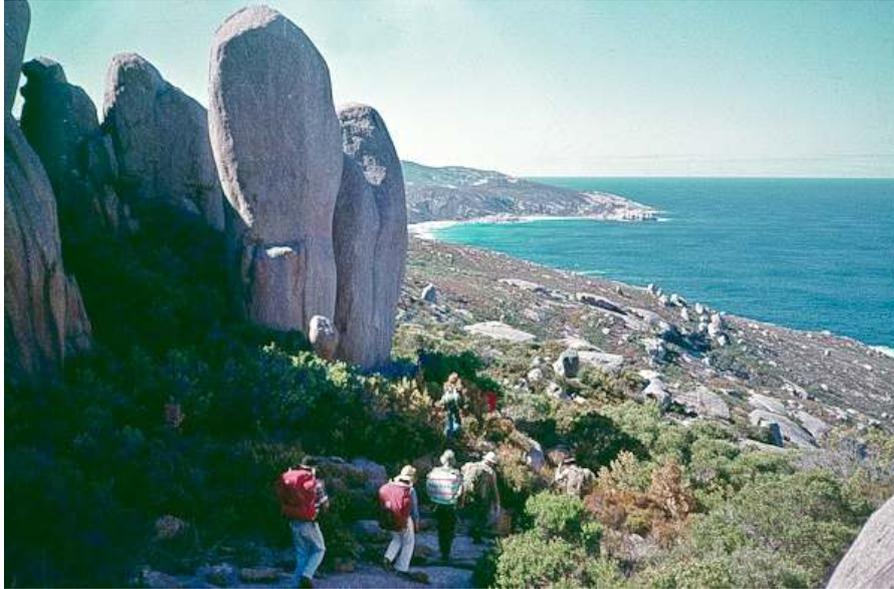
- Mar 15 Ben, Julie and I started on the walk from Albany about 11.30am. Norm and Jock caught up with us at Emu Point. Have just crossed the inlet by rowboat. We made two trips with us and the packs. Norm then swam back to join us after returning the boat. We camped in some thick bush up from the beach. There's a small spring of good water handy. We covered 12km and walked approx. 4 hours the first day.
- Mar 16 Very rocky coast. Our progress maddeningly slow. We only made 3km by noon. The 60lb pack throws one off balance at times especially hopping from one rock to another. I find myself low on water. We had a delightful musical session after supper around the campfire. Jock used Norm's mouth organ and I used my Tremolo two-sided job.
- Mar 17 Good water at next beach. Took on several litres. Salmon run is on. Blister on right heel. Soles of my feet burn a little. Real rough going today. We had to use a rope in several places to lower packs and then some of us. Bit of bush bashing worst I have ever experienced. Norm and Jock caught some fish and a ray.
- Mar 18 My thighs ache when I set down or get up. We had to wade through a channel chest deep with our packs on our heads. I almost lost my pack. Old Charlie Wilson chased us out of the water because he said we were scaring the salmon. This was at Two Peoples Bay. Ben McLean left us at the end of Bettys Beach. We camped at Normans Beach near a water seepage. Norm made a damper that evening. Sure felt bushed.



Left: *The pretty inlet mouth at Normans Beach*

Above: *Boulders on the rocky coastline near Bettys Beach*

Photo: *G. Palfreyman*



Left: *Passing a granite outcrop on the way to Cheynes Beach*

- Mar 19 There was good water at several places from Normans Beach. Camped on the Inlet. Jock speared 5 fish. We all had one. Tough day.
- Mar 20 We had rough bush bashing to get up from the beach when we could go no further because of the cliffs. Jock didn't turn up. Norm out looking for him. Jock finally turned up after 5pm. Frank Cooper insisted on giving us some food. We ended up with steak and onions, canned peaches, bread, butter, tomatoes etc. Early bed at 8.30pm.
- Mar 21 My pack weighed 50lbs. Jock didn't turn up at camp. Norm speared a big salmon along the way. We kept a big fire going so Jock could find us.
- Mar 22 Jock has called it quits. He had given up the hike as his shoes were coming apart and he appeared overly tired. My blisters still a bother. Food running low.
- Mar 23 Saw 6 emu. May make food cache today at Cape Riche Station. Only half a litre of water left. Still feel thirsty. We met Mrs. Moir, the owners wife. Camped down near the inlet.
- Mar 24 Very rough in places - up and down steep cliffs and through the bush. Met Don Guest. He offered us fresh fish. Felt the weight of carrying the extra food. Covered only 14km.
- Mar 25 Treated my wounds, a ripped toe and heel blisters. Sand walking is very tiresome as is the rock hopping and hill climbing. Carried 4 litres of water from Boat Harbour.
- Mar 26 Little sleep last night. My hips and my back ached. Don't like the look of my heel blisters. Norm got 3 nice fish for our lunch.
- Mar 27 My sand shoes are finished. My blisters still a nuisance. Found track and after a long, hot trip made it to the ocean and fishermans hut. Norm and Julie made a damper. I played the harmonica or rather practised a bit. Near Wellstead Homestead. We'll be in Bremer Bay tomorrow. My left thigh felt numb and still does. Feel real bushed.



Photo: Andrew Priest

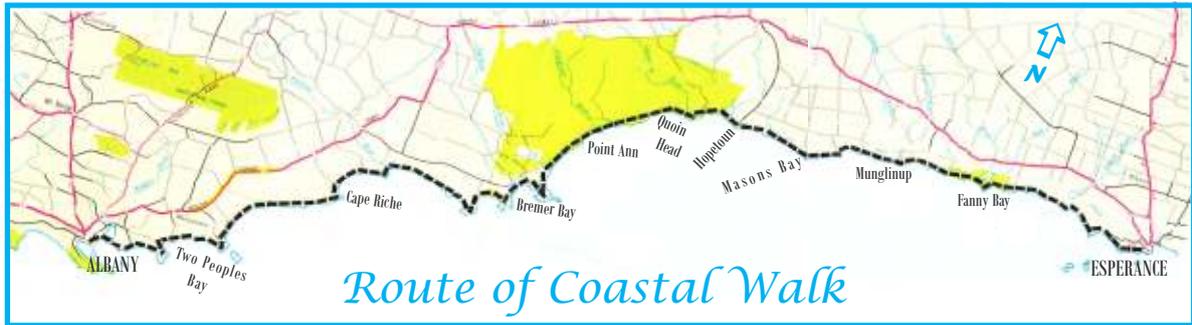


Above: *Quoin Head, Fitzgerald River National Park*  
 Left: *Norman Stigant on the dunes at Bremer Bay. Julie Simcoe is in the background*

*Leaving Bremer Bay for the next stage of the walk. Pictured left to right: Ben McLean who is seeing them off, Julie Simcoe, Liz Thomas who had just joined the group, Joe Schrock and Norman Stigant.*

Photo: Joan McLean





- Mar 28 Arrived in the vicinity of Bremer Bay. Norm walked into town, called Liz and said the shops were closed Wed. afternoons. My hat fell into a turbulent ocean and was washed out to sea. Very good campsite about 1.1/2 miles from town.
- Mar 29 I'm covered with a most horrible bumpy itchy plague. Still feel washed out. Liz parents brought box of fruit, vegetables, salami, bacon and rolls, apples, pears etc. With Liz Thomas now in the party we took off across the inlet. We had to wade almost waist deep for 150m. Liz looks fresh and sturdy compared to our hobo-like appearances.
- Mar 30 Passed over the Gordon Inlet. Arrived at Point Ann. Found our food cache.
- Mar 31 Norm found a white construction hat which suits me fine. Dread leaving now with extra weight of food and water. Water weight a big problem. Norm now searching for water. Norm tried to spear some fish but no luck. Wish I had another pair of sandshoes. Very early to bed.
- Apr 1 Norm caught 8 fish on a hand line. Getting near Pt. Charles. Plenty fish in the estuary - bream. Norm dug another good water hole. Camped on Pebble Beach.
- Apr 2 My left shoe is coming apart. Terrible bush bashing. Norm got tangled in a gully and holed one of his water bottles.
- Apr 3 Near Quoin Head. Liz has terrible blisters. The beauty of many of these coves is unbelievable.
- Apr 4 Reached food dump at Quoin Head. My sandshoes in pitiful shape. The sides coming apart. Julie made damper. Plenty of driftwood where we camped.
- Apr 5 Now carrying 8 litres of water and 10 more lbs of food. Wore through seat of my pants yesterday. Passed Hamersley Inlet.
- Apr 6 Camped Mylies Beach near creek. Arrived Hopetoun after 3pm. It has a General Store. Liz bought a pair of expensive sandshoes. Julie and I had a beer at the Hotel. Ben and Joan arrived about 6pm. They served us up a good meal of chops, bangers, potatoes, veg with ice cream and coffee. Early to bed.
- Apr 7 Got Mrs Stigant on the phone and had her pass on a message to Moira. Lingered in town. Soft sand slowing us down. Walked about 10 miles.

- Apr 8 Making good time. Badly bitten by small scorpion that got into my pants while sitting round the fire. Sting is gone today but welts are left. Walking in bare feet. Had a good meal with McLeans at Masons Point. Camped over the dunes
- Apr 9 Got to Bedford Harbour about 10am. We're in a hut. The McLeans came round with a dinner. Their car bogged for a while. Food caches buried here. Beautiful harbour. My bites itch. Met owner of the hut, Paddy Graham. He came round with a beer. We stayed up till 10.30pm. He loved my mouth organ.
- Apr 10 We're opposite small island. Area known as Starvation Bay and Tide Guage Rock. Making good time - bare footed.
- Apr 11 Reached Munglinup. Good water from well. Caught only 1 fish. Norm had no luck.
- Apr 12 Beachwalking last few days. Now nearing our hidden water drum between Fanny Bay and Margaret Cove. It's mostly, dunes, beach and sea but I'm enjoying it.
- Apr 13 Norm ups and catches a huge salmon on a hand line. Reached food dump about 3.30pm. Especially proud of my tent which is held in place by 6 rocks thrown over the bushes.
- Apr 14 My sand shoes are in shreds and I have a big gap in my pants at the seat.
- Apr 15 Butler Inlet. I'm low on water. Got a water supply from rain at the rocky area. It was my biggest worry.



Left: *The car bogged but willing hands pushed it free*  
 Below: *Joan McLean at camp on the beach at Hopetoun; Cynthia in background*

Photos: *J. McLean*



- Apr 16 Camped at Observatory Point about 8 miles from Esperance. Norm caught more fish.
- Apr 17 Weather beautiful. Reached Lookout in Esperance at 11am. Called home. Julie flying to Perth. Having my 3rd beer at the Flinders downtown. Sure I lost 10lbs or more. I'm shocked at my haggard but happy looks. Liz and Norm look calm and cool and none the worse for wear.
- Apr 18 Ben, Joan and Cynthia picked us up at 9am. I'll be ready to make my way toward Perth tomorrow morning.

Norman Stigant was in full charge of the trip, planning the route, provisions and pace. Without his skill, bush knowledge and enthusiasm, this walk would never have succeeded.

Joe Shrock  
April, 1979

*Norman organised food and water caches along the coast prior to the walk. He took photos of the cache areas in order to recognise them again on the trip.*

*Joe Schrock later returned to Oregon in the US.*

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*Below is part of an extract from the 'Sunday Times', 22 April, 1979. Joe Shrock is photographed on arrival at Esperance.*

# Club makes record walk for WAY '79

## Bug bites, blisters, worn-out boots

A record walk in modern times was made between Albany and Esperance in 33 days by members of the Perth Bushwalking Club to commemorate the club's 10th year and the state's 150th anniversary.

The walk was inspired by early explorers Eyre and Baxter who followed a coastal route from the east to Albany in the last century.



## **JERDACUTTUP RIVER**

*Helen Jeffries*

**N**O AMOUNT OF FORWARD planning can accommodate the many bizarre and unforeseen circumstances that can arise out of what would seem a normal everyday event.

Let us take an easy canoe trip along the quiet little Jerdacuttup River in 1979.

Our Group met upstream on the banks of the River where we parked our cars and launched the canoes. One of our members decided to float down the river instead on the inner tube from a large tyre. Normally there is not much flow in the river however there had been rain recently and this day a bit of a current was running. We pointed out that canoes would be much faster than a rubber tyre so it was no surprise when he fell behind.

Downstream the river widened and magnificent black swans flew alongside us. Further on there were wonderful old paperbarks lining the banks. Soon we reached the end of our paddle where everyone beached their canoes. It was an idyllic day, sunny, warm and peaceful.

Something was missing though. Where was our member in the rubber tube? We waited but as he did not show up we took two canoes back upriver to look for him. We paddled all the way upstream on our search. There was no sign of him until, finally, there he was. He was waiting for us on the banks at the launching place where we had started off from. He asked where we had been and said he had been waiting for us. He said he was there first and didn't get left behind after all. When pointed out he was at the start and not the finish he was quite startled. He argued that the cars were not there. When taken up over the bank to show him the cars where we had left them, he looked shocked and incredulous.

Some people are dreamers and do things in an inexplicable way. So what happened here?

Well, while waiting for the current to drift him along he had momentarily dozed off in the warm afternoon sun and, as is the wont of rubber tubes, had turned round 180 degrees in the water!



*Canoeing on the Jerdacuttup River*

Photo: *Joan McLean*

## THE CAMPFIRE

**I**N THE EARLY DAYS OF THE CLUB before fire restrictions were imposed against lighting campfires in the open, bushwalkers were able to lay their campfire almost anywhere as long as it was safe, carefully tended and totally extinguished on leaving the campsite.

The fire was very popular, not just for warmth and cheer, but to boil the billy and cook tea. A favourite method of cooking at that time was to wrap potatoes and other vegetables in foil and place in the hot ashes. This led to many an argument as wrapped potatoes look much the same in the fireplace and many times people lost their dinner to others.

The following are some amusing excerpts from early *Venturers*.

*“.....but soon the peace was shattered by the loss of Julie’s beautiful round, red potato. This was at last given up after much discussion, including whether an onion could possibly be a potato in disguise!”*  
Dan Simon

*“Bernie, using his considerable skills in bushcraft, navigation and knowledge of meteorology, soon had a lovely fire going in exactly the right place!”*  
George Vadja

*“It was hard to figure out if Steve wanted to extinguish the fire or boil the billy!”*  
George Vadja”

Photo: I. McDonald



## THE SECOND DECADE

**D**URING THE 1980'S CLUB MEETINGS continued to be held at St. Johns Lutheran Church Hall in Northbridge. There was a steep rise in membership and extra walks were added to the weekend Programme to cater for the increase in the number of walkers. It was still a casual and informally run Club with a Convenor and a Secretary/Treasurer, however the Club was still on a learning curve. Subscription fees were raised to \$4 per annum.

In May, the first edition of the *Venturer* was edited by member, Sylvana Calabrese. This was the monthly Newsletter containing news of current events and included the Walks Programme. It also promoted other activities that were increasing in popularity such as Social Do's, folk dancing with the Mucky Duck Bushband, cycling, 10-pin bowling and caving. Most importantly it served to document the Bushwalks and the Club, since then, has had a record of its activities.

In July the Club purchased a new automatic feed Slide Projector for meeting nights and held a Photographic competition. Speakers at Meetings were largely from the emerging Conservation Movement. Another event was a Club orienteering competition held at Carinyah which ran for several years with a trophy for the winner.

By 1981 the Walks Programme was always full with local weekend activities and also some long range trips; one to the Kennedy Ranges led by Brian Luxford and a four day Easter trip to Jingemarra Homestead at Yalgoo, owned by Ben and Joan McLean. By now the Club was acquiring maps and a Map Library was established and indexed. At this time also, a limited range of camping equipment was available for hire to members and this gear was housed in a cupboard at the rear of the Hall.

Steve Pawley was the Convenor in 1982. Steve was concerned about the possibility of accidents on a walk and the ramifications to members if the Club were to be sued. He first brought up the proposal that the Club should be Incorporated and set about looking at the legal aspects.

By 1984 Membership had risen to 69 and Subscription Fees were \$10 per annum. The lease of Carinyah Cottage was relinquished as incidents of vandalism to the vacant cottage had become beyond the capacity for members to maintain. Extended trips went to Ninghan Station to see the wildflowers and to the Stokes Inlet National Park and the following year to Stockyard Gulley, Lake Moore and Mt. Caroline.

1985 and it was now the time to Incorporate the Club with legal benefits and protection to members. At the Club's first Annual General Meeting in August an Election of Office Bearers was called, proposed by Jerome DaCosta. The Committee was to consist of a President and six elected members. The Committee then was made up of the President, Programme Coordinator, Secretary/Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Venturer Editor, Equipment Officer and Social Secretary. Steve Pawley was thanked for his 4.1/2 years as Convenor and Judy Jarass was voted in as President. The Club now had its Constitution in place.

In March 1986, Membership was 84 and the Club on a firm basis. At this time there were many conservation issues of which the Campaign to Save Native Forests was at the forefront. Jerome DaCosta proposed that the Club have a Representative on the Conservation Council to keep aware of environmental issues. Perth Bushwalkers had been a member of the Conservation Council since 1972. In September, Jerome attended the first meeting as the Club's Representative on the Conservation Council and subsequent Submissions were duly made on behalf of the Club. These included Protests against woodchipping and Mining in National Parks.

During the winters of 1985, 86 and 87 Club members twice walked the Bibbulmun Track in sections from the Boorara Tree in Northcliffe to the Kalamunda Terminus. Extended trips went to Kalbarri, the Stirling Ranges and the Fitzgerald River National Park. A new system of Trip Reporting from Leaders of walks gave a grading of walk difficulty and indicated a fitness level required. In 1987, by popular demand, Christmas in July commenced in the Programme and has since become a regular feature. Another photographic competition was held and a further issue was made of our Logo on T-shirts and windcheaters. Membership reached 125.

As the Hall charge had gone up to \$20 per meeting night, it was agreed to cut overheads and hold meetings every second week of the month on the first and third Wednesdays.

In 1989 a Celebration of twenty years bushwalking by the Perth Bushwalkers Club was organised by Club Member Julie Simcoe. It consisted of a series of weekend walks including a stay at Dryandra Forest Lions Settlement. Many Bushwalkers from the early days of the Club attended.

**The years of the 1980's saw the transformation of the Club from an easy-going, friendly group to a formally run Incorporated Organisation. At the end of 1989 there was a strong Committee of Management in place consisting of ten members.**

## BLAZED TREES

LAST CENTURY THE FORESTS DEPARTMENT marked trees in the State forests when logging operations were taking place and roads were being constructed to carry out the timber logs. These markings were map references as recorded on the Forestry maps of the day. The first two letters and numbers blazed are reference points on the map borders while the third number is the exact location of the marked tree. Many of these blazed trees have now fallen or been burnt but some can still be found today. They are useful landmarks for anyone walking in the forests and some current maps still indicate the tree reference numbers.



Marker Tree CA 72 1 found in the State Forest

Photo: *I. McDonald*

## THE YEAGURUP DUNES

*Jenny Young*



*The Yeagurup Dunes* Photo: *Rikus Kaijer*

**T**HIS WAS AN EARLY WALK with the Club in the summer of 1980. As most of our members were new emigrants from the UK and had not visited the dunes or experienced the conditions of the south coast before, we were not prepared for what was to follow.

At this time the Club was still in its infancy and no rules or guidelines were in place to ensure participant safety.

The mobile dunes at Yeagurup are extensive, over 10km long, and hugely inviting to one with a sense of adventure. There was a fairly large group who came along, including some visitors, all excited about the weekend campout.

We left Perth by car and all met at the campsite on the lake at the edge of the dunes. The walk was planned for the next day - cross the dunes north to Silver Mount and pick up the cars from a pick-up point north-east of there.

The first error is glaringly obvious to all today. First the weather conditions of the south coast differ from Perth. In the south, often overhead mist and cloud in the

mornings provide cool temperatures that can make the unwary think it will be cool all day. As we packed our supplies for the day, no-one realised it would get as hot as it did and no-one took enough water. One member of the party didn't take any at all, just an orange!

The second mistake was that the visitors were not accustomed to the pace so the fast walkers amongst us became impatient and forged on ahead. The group was then split into two. Mistake three:- It was now so hot on the dunes that the slow group changed their plan, mainly because the visitors thought they could not make it to Silver Mount. Instead the beckoning blue ocean enticed us to the beach for a cooling swim where too much time was spent. The realisation that we now would not have time to reach the cars before dark, were desperately short of water and had lost contact with the others, sent a wave of fear through the new members.

Ben McLean was the only experienced bushwalker with us. He knew water could be obtained by digging in the beach sand for a layer of fresh water. He had a billy and matches and before long had made a cup of



Top: *The tranquil Warren River at the western side of the dunes* Photo: Ian McDonald  
Centre left: *Bushwalkers rest stop*; right: *The Callcup dunes and the Indian Ocean* Photo: J Young  
Bottom: *The extensive Yeagurup dunes*

tea which he twice passed round. After resting we picked up a track which we followed until forced to stop as night fell.

My own experience since my time with the Bushwalkers was the urgency of knowing where you were in the bush. I had sensed the fear of being lost and bought a compass and practised direction finding in Kings Park. I also always take a map of the area we are walking in. On this occasion I had run out of water but at least had my compass and map and knew roughly where we were. I, and two of the boys, Ken and Rex, then decided we would try and locate the cars while the others rested. It was a very bright, starlit night. Fortunately, after bumping about, we found the cars and young Rex found a bottle of beer

to take back to the others who were huddled together waiting for us. I was told later that beer never tasted so good! Anyway we arrived back at camp at 2am in the morning where the first breakaway group couldn't sleep for wondering what had happened to us.

I now mention that one boy on the walk had collapsed with dehydration while on the dunes. An athletic young girl in the party had made her way back to our campsite to pick up water for him and he then recovered. In the end they became good friends, settled down together and live happily ever after.

The young visitors never showed up at the Club again.



Top left: *Bushwalkers on the eastern edge of the dunes in 1991*  
Top right: *Peta, Peter, Bruce and Jenny enjoy a rest*  
Bottom: *The access to the dune system near Yeagurup Lake*

Photos: *J. Young*

## MANDALAY BEACH

*Hanni La Mela*

**T**HIS WAS MY FIRST Christmas with the Perth Bushwalkers Club.

I joined the Bushies a long, long time ago in December, 1981, to be precise.

This was at a low point in my life and I was feeling rather homesick and wondering what to do over the Christmas break.

At my first Bushies meeting in the Lutheran Church Hall, everything suddenly changed for the better. People were welcoming and George was showing his slides of Bhutan. I was really impressed! Then somebody came up to me and asked if I was interested to come along to Mandalay Beach for Christmas. Mandalay Beach! Where was that? I had no idea what I was letting myself into but I said yes! as long as my 11 year old daughter, Trish, could come too.

As it turned out, it was the best Christmas I experienced since childhood, such fun and so easy going and friendly.

A dirt track meandered from the Highway towards the beach and we camped 'wild' behind the sand dunes, with plenty of shade and stunning views all round. True, we weren't the most experienced campers in the world but we managed with a bit of help and good advice from the seasoned Bushwalkers.

We went on day walks which were so stunning they took my breath away! I vividly remember Jenny Young's walk to Aldridge Cove in the Nuyts Wilderness where we had plenty of time to swim and cool off. The walk back was pretty hot and we were glad to reach our camp where we caught a whiff of fresh bread. Surely this must be a figment of imagination! But no! It was real. Brian



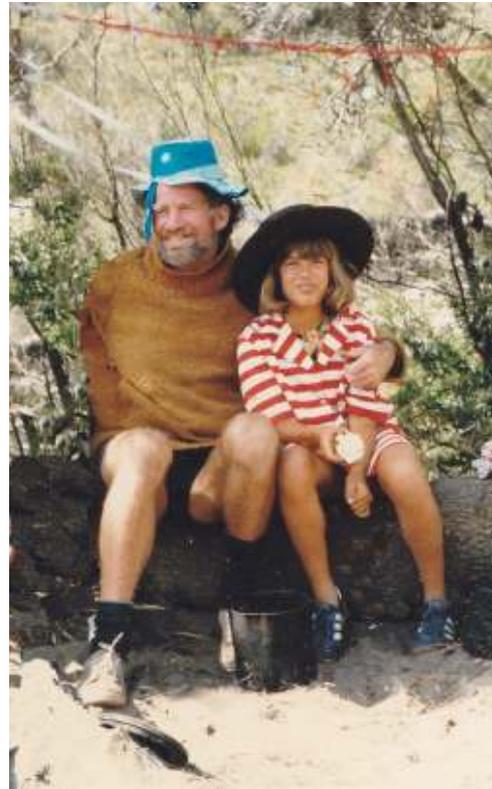
*Jerome, Marian, Hanni and Trish on the walk to Clifty Head.*

Photo: *J. Young*

Luxford, who had stayed back at camp to nurse a sore knee, had baked beautiful, crusty bread!

Christmas dinner was another surprise. The whole works! Turkey prepared by Jenny Young and lots of fun and games. We felt we really belonged. Trish was made to feel very welcome too and happily joined in. (She still comes to Bushies events now and then, now 38, to see her extended family and go for a real bushwalk).

How time flies! Since then I have spent many more Christmases with the Bushies. Some people call it the “Orphans' Christmas” but for me it is my extended family in Australia.



*Brian Luxford and Trish La Mela*  
Photo: *Hanni La Mela*



Photo: *J. Young*

*Bushwalkers on Mandalay Beach. Chatham Island is in the background*



Above: *Mandalay Beach* Photo: *J. Young*  
Below: *The picturesque Aldridge Cove* Photo: *R. Kaijer*



Mandalay Beach is named after the SS Mandalay which ran aground on rocks off the coast and sank last century. Some of the ship's wreckage can still be seen on the beach at low tide.

OUR WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BUSH IS UNIQUE SO PLEASE:

- *Do not destroy flora and fauna*
- *Where possible keep to existing paths*
- *Use only dead wood for fires and ensure they are 'cold' when left*
- *Bring back all foil, cans and bottles*
- *Bury all human wastes at least 10-15 cms*
- *Be aware of 'Dieback' areas and take care not to spread it*

## MT SINGLETON

**Mt. Singleton is located on the Gt. Northern Highway near Paynes Find. It is a large, rocky outcrop 2,300ft above sea level and offers a wide vista of the surrounding countryside from the summit.**

*During the 1980's, Mt. Singleton on Ninghan Station, was always a favourite destination for Club members in the wildflower season. The landscape became a sea of yellow with spectacular everlastings. Club members would camp amongst the flowers and climb Mt. Singleton. This was with kind permission of the Station owner.*



Above: Left, Georgina; right, Bushwalkers climbing Mt. Singleton  
Below: Rest stop - Helen, Joe, Leone, Barry and Margaret  
Photos: J. Young (1984)





Above: *Bushwalkers scaling the rocky peak*  
Below: *Nearing the summit - Jerome, Jenny and Melvyn*  
Photos: *G. Palfreyman and J. Young*



Above: *Everlastings with Mt. Singleton in the background*  
Below: *Bushwalkers rest amongst the flowers*

## MOORE RIVER

A FAVOURITE DESTINATION for a day's walk is to the pretty coastal settlement of Guilderton, north of Perth. Here the mouth of the Moore River is blocked from the ocean by a sand dune for part of the year. Our walk takes us across the dune to the sand ridge on the other side, then to a river crossing upstream.



Above: *Looking down on the Moore River mouth from the lookout in Guilderton*  
Below: *Bushwalkers viewing the river from high up on the south bank*  
Photos: *G. Palfreyman*



## STOKES INLET

Christmas Camp, 1984

### Day 1 - Joe Grossman

**A**FTER THE VERY SUMPTUOUS Christmas dinner nobody appeared to be interested in walking. Geoff was wandering around trying to find out everybody's preferences for next day and muttering about a 2 or 3 day through walk with Judy and Kerry ferrying water to us. That idea got no takers at all so we planned day walks to Shoal Cape and maybe Fanny Cove.

So by 10am the next morning we set off along the edge of the Inlet which is blocked by a sand dune. From here we strolled along the beach to an area of rock pools where we found large limpets, abalone and much more marine life.

We had a lazy lunch and reached Shoal Cape by about 2pm. One hours rest with more exploring of rock pools and we had to start back for camp. Some of us took advantage of the limestone platforms that form high banks at the edge of the dunes. These provided us with better views up and down the coast.

On the way back to the Inlet we passed a patch of damp sand at which bees were congregating. This I found out later was a fresh-water soak and the bees were drinking there; a point to remember if you are ever stranded without water.



Top left: *Our Christmas campsite.* Right: *Bushwalkers set off on the first day's walk*  
Below: *Making our way round the dune at the Inlet mouth*

**T**HE STOKES INLET IS LOCATED 80km west of Esperance. It is the largest estuary on the south coast with deep water. It is closed by the sand dune which cuts it off from the sea, often for many years at a time.

## Day 2 - Jenny Young

THE PREVIOUS EVENING Joe and Pat went to do some reconnoitring and met the Scotts, owners of "Erinair", a property adjoining the Stokes Inlet National Park. The outcome of this chance encounter was an invitation to lead us down to the Lort River which we could then follow to the old Moir Homestead. This was one of the original settlements built in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century but now abandoned. The Park is comprised of the original pastoral area including the inlet.

So the next morning eight bushwalkers eagerly arrived at "Erinair". Mr Scott was there to meet us and very kindly escorted us through his newly harvested wheat paddocks to the tributary. The walk would be close to 20 km in distance and we estimated our return at about 6pm. We thanked Mr Scott, took serious note of his advice for 'what to do if charged at by the bull' and set off.

The going was easy. We soon reached the Park boundary and were among the paperbarks. There were many lovely flowers still in bloom and abundant birds of different species. The river widened and we came upon a boat-load of fishermen. "Catching anything?". "One or two, black bream". Whereupon a momentary sighting of a bucket half full of shining dinner-plate sized fish confirmed the existence of one of the Inlet's biggest drawcards.

We followed the meandering Lort River towards the inlet. Round a bend it suddenly broadened out and then gave way to wide sand-flats. Here myriads of ducks and geese were standing in huge flocks. We all sat and rested in the shade of the paperbarks before setting off along the 4WD track now running beside the inlet. The birds took off in a spectacular synchronised display. Further on differing groups of waders fed in the shallows.

A signpost directed us to "Fanny Cove" after which we soon viewed a dilapidated building amongst green foliage. A back-drop of sand dunes sheltered the Homestead from the prevailing winds. We had reached our destination.

We sat and had lunch in the shade of an enormous Moreton Bay fig tree. Hanni was the first to climb up into it's generous boughs - immediate reaction from the shutterbugs! Then to explore the old house. The roof had long fallen in. The site now belongs to the National Trust and it is hoped to restore it to its original grandeur one day. Meantime, hives of bees are the caretakers. Whoops! We are in their flight paths. Four of us go down with bee stings. A walk towards the old woolshed reveals a glimpse of yesteryear. Rusting machinery from the woolpress; in the yard, remnants of a paperbark stockade. We wander over to the



Above: *Marian and Joe*  
Right: *Approaching the ruins of the old Moir Homestead*



smithy. There the largest honeycomb ever seen, approximately 3' x 2' hangs from the only part of the roof still standing. Geoff takes a flash photo and we flee! Meanwhile Georgie has been gathering mulberries for evening tea. Joe has a nice white shirt. Did have. It is now covered with mulberry stained handprints! So is Marion's. Tom remains unscathed.

We are all sitting along the ample roots of the fig tree. It is time to retrace our steps. We rise

to leave. All except one. He cannot get up. He is glued to his seat by fig sap!

The wind is behind us now and we make progress and arrive back at the vehicles by 5.30pm.

**W**E ARE VERY APPRECIATIVE to Mr. Scott for his generosity and special thanks go to Joe for his initiative in organising this very special day's walk.



*Bushwalkers at one of the splendid Moreton Bay fig trees near the Moir Homestead.  
Photo: Geoff Palfreyman*



Above: A view of the sandbar  
Left and below: Bushwalkers cross to the Inlet on the way back to camp  
Photos: J. Young

### Day 3 - Sylvia Heath

Geoff organised a most suitable walk for the last day at Stokes Inlet. After a leisurely start to the day we drove to the carpark on the shore of the inlet and headed off through the scrub to a 4WD track. This track followed the ridge above the inlet and meandered through some very attractive banksia shrubs and afforded some magnificent views of the inlet, the sandbar and the ocean. We eventually wound our way down the dunes to the beach where we found some shade for lunch.

Most of us had a welcome swim in a sheltered spot behind a rock formation. After enjoying the scenery the group returned to the cars and back to camp.

Late afternoon saw a cricket match with a difference. A driftwood bat and tennis ball

appeared and the fielders took up their positions strategically around the remains of the camp fire. Sighting a sea-eagle which stopped play, the rock crease, the trees a few metres from the wicket and the ball dropping into the fireplace occasionally meant the game wasn't quite up to test standard. (Not to say anything about the skills of batters and bowlers either!)

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*Unfortunately, in April, 1993 lightning sparked a fire that swept through the Stokes National Park burning out 4,000 hectares including the historic National Trust listed Moir homestead which had just been restored. The Moir family built the homestead in the 1870's. It consisted of the main house, workshop, shearing shed and bake house.*



Left: Perth Bushwalkers enjoy the scenery  
Below left: Geoff in Banksia speciosa country  
Right: The cricket match with a difference



# PHIL TAYLOR'S SOUTH COAST WALKS

## 'KEEP THE COAST ON THE RIGHT'



*Phil Taylor*

**I**N 1986 A SERIES of annual walks started along the south coast in the days before the Bibblumun Track went there. It all began at Parry's Inlet, just west of Denmark. It was never originally intended to be a continuing walk; it just developed that way!

The walks were all back-pack, except one near Albany, and usually on the January long weekend. The proximity to the coast kept the temperatures down and allowed the option for the dip in the sea to cool off.

It took 9 years to reach Pt Anne in the Fitzgerald River National Park. Unfortunately I could not lead the next stretch through the rest of the Fitzgerald which was gallantly led by Melvyn Lintern. Melvyn and Rikus Kaijer were on nearly all of the walks. Cynthia Butherway and Frank Obbens were other notable regulars. These Club walks later continued on to Quagi Beach only 50 km from

Esperance in a further 4 sections. The hardest section was the walk to West Cape Howe past Knapp head. This walk made difficult by the interminable dodder vine entangled across the bush. The physical challenge of some of these walks was matched by the great south coast views. Maybe somebody should now lead it with the coast on the left!

### The Walk Sections:

- |                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Parry's Inlet - Wilson Head     | 6. Bluff Creek - Cape Riche         |
| 2. Sphinx Rock - West Cape Howe    | 7. Cape Riche - Reef Beach          |
| 3. Cosy Corner - Stony Hill        | 8. Reef Beach - Little Boat Harbour |
| 4. Oyster Harbour - Norman's Beach | 9. Little Boat Harbour - Pt Anne    |
| 5. Norman's Beach - Hassell Beach  |                                     |



*On the rugged south coast - Phil (centre) surveys the next stage of the walk  
Photo: M. Lintern*

## THE 1990s

**F**OR THE NEXT FEW YEARS Club meetings were still held in the St. Johns Lutheran Church Hall. This venue suited members, there being plenty of car parking and within walking distance of the Perth Railway Station.

The Club continued to flourish. There was a full walks programme, now up to three walks each weekend and the Position of Assistant Walks Co-ordinator was posted in the *Venturer*. The membership rose to 108 and the Subscription fee to \$17.

In April, 1990 a Leadership Training Course for members was introduced covering basic skills, navigation and map reading. This was held at Myalup and was led by Frank Obbens. The Course was to become a permanent fixture on the programme in later years. Another important step forward for the Club was Introductory Walks, as proposed by Jerome DaCosta, for new members to acquaint them with basic skills for bushwalking. Jerome initially was the leader of these walks.

In May, Bob Cooper, a Bushcraft and Bush Survival expert, addressed the Club meeting and ran a weekend Course for members at Dwellingup. The Club subsidised the Course which covered water harvesting, fire lighting, bush tucker and survival techniques. It was most interesting and all who attended enjoyed it thoroughly. Of note, Geoff Palfreyman was witnessed making fire in the pouring rain with just a handmade bow and two sticks.

In December a fun-filled Xmas camp was held at Cape Riche. An excerpt from the *Venturer* under the heading of 'Christmas Capers' read:

*“The dinner was excellent with everyone contributing something to the feast, special credit going to Brian for producing the ultimate in lumpy gravy and John for dispelling custard dramas forever by introducing cartons of the ready-made stuff”*. - Judy Jarass

In May, 1991, moves began to form a State Federation of Bushwalking Clubs in order to present a stronger voice on Bushwalking issues. Main concerns at the time related to bushwalking access in water catchments and forest areas.

By June, large numbers of interested people were attending Introductory and Backpacking walks; up to 74 starters one weekend. Volunteers from the Club assisted Jerome with the extra organisation. The Club Orienteering Championship was held at Julimar, arranged by Brian Luxford.

At a Club meeting in August, Frank Obbens first proposed that the Perth Bushwalkers build a walk trail in the John Forrest National Park. The scenic grandeur of the northern section was not known to the general public as there were no access tracks then in place. The idea met with approval however it would take a couple of years before the project could get started.

In November, Melvyn Lintern, then Club President, promoted the GAPS project (Growing And Planting Scheme). This Scheme enabled members to support the environment by growing trees for rural areas to combat salinity and erosion and also to interact with farming families.

On 4 December, the first meeting of the Federation of WA Bushwalkers became a reality and Perth Bushwalkers had their Representatives on the Committee.

1992 and the Club continued to be well patronised. There were 2-3 walks each weekend, including a series of walks along the south coast led by Phil Taylor. There were promotions of badges, T-shirts, windcheaters and car stickers, all with the Club logo.

Early on in the year a Subcommittee was formed to write a Members manual (Bushwalkers Handbook) primarily to record the Club's bushwalking expertise that had been built up over the years and also as a reference for members who wished to become Walks Leaders. Peter Downes offered to be the Editor.

In May, a successful inaugural Bushskills Workshop weekend was held at the Icy Creek Environmental Bush Camp at Dwellingup. It was run by Club leaders and over 50 Bushwalkers participated, some from other Bushwalking Clubs.

By August, GAPS was up and running with the first year of tree growing and the planting of 1200 seedlings for a farmer in Pingelly. The Project attracted good support and several members became involved.

At this time there was a rise in environmental issues around the State and Club Representation at Conservation Council meetings was considered very relevant. Submissions were continually being made through the Club. One of many issues focussed on Dieback.

1993 and the *Venturer* was now being compiled electronically and took on a new look. Membership at the end of the year numbered 184.

1994 saw the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Club. On 3 May, to commemorate this event, the official launch of the Western Australian Bushwalkers Handbook took place at the Clubrooms. The book had only just been printed. Numerous members contributed articles on aspects of bushwalking, what to take on walks, compass reading, First Aid etc. There were over 100 pages with illustrations, cartoons and diagrams, also photos from Club trips. The Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation had given the Club a grant of \$3,000 towards publishing the book. It was a successful publication and at one time, a best seller in Dymocks bookshop.

At the meeting on 18 May, Jesse Brampton gave a talk on the proposed new Bibbulmun Track alignment and requested assistance from Club members. This was met with unanimous approval and excitement. A couple of months later Geoff Palfreyman led the first path-finding walk along our allocated section. This Project would take the Club two years to complete.

At the following meeting, Melvyn Lintern asked for volunteers to join a working bee to commence the Eagle's View Trail building in John Forrest National Park with the result the first work party began construction on 28 May. Consequent work parties persevered once a month for the rest of the year with volunteer members enjoying the challenge of clearing the bush, then levelling and constructing a path. At one Working Bee there were 13 volunteer members helping. An excerpt from the *Venturer* by Alec Duncan read:

*“....the Track builders had been making admirable progress through open, rocky forest and with more helpers and skills improving with practice, the Track advanced quickly. There was considerable debate over exactly how wide and how smooth the Track should be, but when the Ranger came to inspect our handiwork he seemed very pleased with the compromise we had reached.”*

Another Training weekend was held at Icy Creek with the Federation of WA Bushwalkers taking a turn as the host and other WA Bushwalking Clubs participating.

July 1994 and the Perth Bushwalkers joined the Forest Blockade in Northcliffe, organised by the Campaign to Save Native Forests, and set up a banner at the camp. Club members did some non-confrontational protesting. The strength of public opposition soon brought about the start of the end of clear felling in native karri forests in WA.

In October the Committee agreed to subsidise First Aid courses by 50% for Leaders enrolling on a course run by St. Johns Ambulance or the Red Cross. These subsidised courses were later extended to all members, an offer which is carried on to the present day.

Introductory Walks were still popular and well attended with applicants now having to register on a waiting list. Membership had climbed to 216. So 1994 was a busy year for the Club. It ended with a fun-filled Christmas camp on the Kent River at Millars Pool.

During 1995 walks and work parties carried on along the Bibbulmun Track building a new, improved route. By winter the first 70km to Brookton Hwy was completed with the campsites in place. An excerpt from the current *Venturer* read:

*“We are working to complete the Track from Kalamunda to the Brookton Hwy, We had been given the new alignment east of the Helena Reservoir. This new alignment is vastly superior to the old Track and offers high ridge walking with panoramic vistas and, being in the water catchment area, is largely unspoilt .....”*

With the Whitehorse Hills section to be completed by June 20, 1995 Melvyn organised a series of weekend camps to finish the project.

In August, with completion of the Club's Bibbulmun Track allotted section, a Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to the Perth Bushwalkers by the Department of Conservation and Land Management for their contribution to the building of this world-class walking track.

At the same time the Club was constructing the Eagle's View Trail with a team of volunteers, organised by Frank Obbens, going out once a month to advance the Track further towards the Northern section.

On 24 September members of Perth Bushwalkers joined the Big Forest Rally in Perth with an estimated 10,000 other protesters. The Rally was organised by the WA Forest Alliance to pressure the Government to find a solution and support the movement for the preservation of the Old Growth Forests in WA which were being systematically cut down for woodchips. Thanks to member Cynthia Butherway for kindly donating her handmade cushion and quilt to raffle for funds for the Conservation Movement.

Membership numbered 241 at the end of 1995.

1996 and the Eagle's View Trail slowly progressed through the National Park with working bees once a month during the winter months.



*In July, 1994 a contingent from Perth Bushwalkers travelled south to Northcliffe in support of the Forest Blockade and joined other environmental groups and activists at their camp.*

*The Blockade was in support of the move to end clear felling of native karri forests in the south-west.*



*Top: A Perth Bushwalker protests  
Centre: The "No Logging" banner  
Bottom: The camp at Northcliffe*

*Photos: M. Lintern*

By now it had become necessary to revise the Club's Constitution which it was felt, had a number of inconsistencies. Alec Duncan headed a Sub-committee to make several revisions. Among amendments proposed was that a member could serve on the Committee for no longer than four consecutive terms and also that there be more flexibility in the formation of the Committee, i.e. possible position of a Training Officer so as to provide support and training for Walk Leaders. This would ensure an ongoing programme of leadership development. In June, an Extraordinary Meeting was held and the changes accepted.

Walks, the GAPS Project and social events continued throughout the year, the Club still growing in expertise and professionalism. During the year Membership escalated to 291 and Subscriptions rose to \$20 per annum.

In 1997 a second Bushwalkers calendar was produced by Judy Jarass and Jenny Young and distributed among Club members. The front photo depicted the Karri forest.

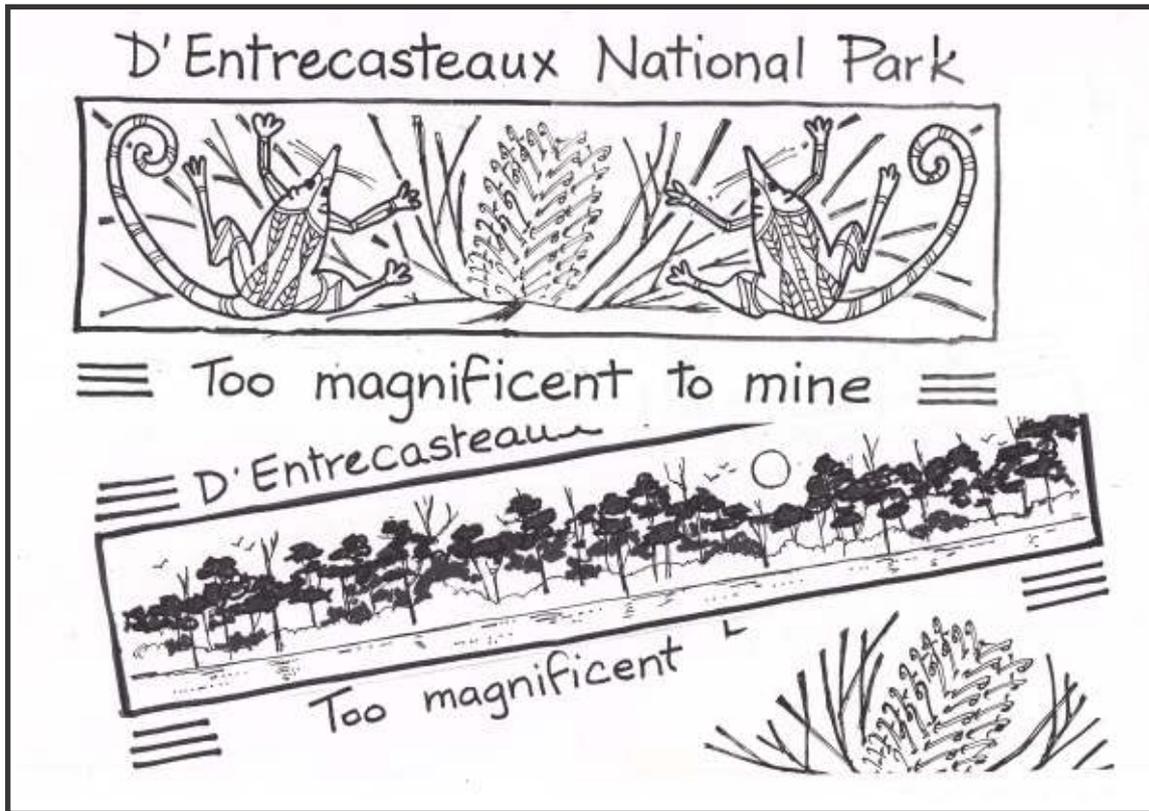
During this year there were Introductory walks, the GAPS Project growing 3,000 trees for farms in Pingelly and Moora and the work parties on the Eagle's View Trail.

Perth Bushwalkers continued supporting the Conservation Council with submissions over proposed sand mining in National Parks, in particular, the fragile Lake Jasper which has aboriginal heritage and is the largest freshwater lake in the south of WA.

In March there was a meeting to form a Family Bushwalkers Club, separate from the main Club, to enable young children to go on bushwalking outings with their parents. This Club was duly formalised and on 3 August, the first meeting and walk was held. This family Club continues to thrive and be well supported to this day.

In March the Club finally reached the milestone of 300 members.

The Eagle's View path building had now reached the picturesque northern section of John Forrest National Park; the work parties organised by Carl Erbrich. George Duxbury, the Senior Ranger, was very helpful. Frank Obbens and Jenny Young designed the Eagle's View Trail markers and the preliminary Information Pamphlet indicating the route. The Perth Bushwalkers Club donated \$1,000 for the manufacture of the direction markers and signage for the Track.



*Perth Bushwalkers Club supported the Conservation Council with graphics for the 'Save Lake Jasper' campaign*

October 16, 1997 was the date of the Official Opening of the Eagle's View Trail. Dignitaries from the Park, the Department of Environment and Conservation and many Perth Bushwalkers were there to see the new Park Signboard unfurled. This was a good day for the Club. The Trail is patronised by many bushwalkers and visitors to the Park each year.

From the beginning of 1998 the car park behind St Johns Lutheran Hall was slowly being undermined by construction of the Northbridge Tunnel and development of the Cultural Centre severely disrupted access to the Church Hall where the Club meetings were being held. In April, the Perth Bushwalkers moved their headquarters to the Loftus Community Centre in Leederville. This was another very convenient site as there was always car parking available and the Leederville Railway Station was nearby.

Winter bushwalking activities included the final working bees on the last section of the Eagle's View Trail, organised by Carl Erbrich, Frank Obbens and Ian Denny. The Trail had taken five years to build. This was a credit to the dedicated hard work of dozens of Club members who gladly gave their time to see the project through to the end. Many maintenance weekends also went ahead on the Bibbulmun Track Whitehorse Hills section under the leadership of Geoff



*Perth Bushwalkers celebrate 30 years of Bushwalking with the club on 15 May, 1999. The celebration was held over a weekend at the Jarrahdale Holiday Retreat.*

*Left: Peter Hawthornwaithe wins a prize  
Below: A festive atmosphere at the dinner*

*Photos: K. Allanach*



Palfreyman and assisted by many Club members. The GAPS Home Growers grew and planted 2,400 tree seedlings for farmers in Pingelly and Moora, organised by Tony O'Brien.

In 1999, at the AGM in May, the Club ratified the Committee's decision to take out Public Liability Insurance Cover for its Office bearers, Leaders and Members. Acknowledgement for this goes to Ian McDonald who brokered this complex task on behalf of the Club.

On the weekend of 15-16 May, the Perth Bushwalkers Club held a 30 years Anniversary Celebration at the Jarrahdale Bush Village where the Holiday Retreat was hired for the weekend. Over 100 attended to mark the event, both old and new members. On Saturday evening there was a three course dinner, followed by lots of speeches from old bushwalkers and the Club's founding member, Geoff Schafer, was present. Old photos were shown, many stories told and numerous prizes were raffled, donated by Perth companies which included the major outdoor gear shops. To

finish the weekend off, Sunday morning bushwalks were held in the surrounding area. It was all voted a huge success and a weekend never to forget. Many thanks to Don and Karen Allanach who did such a good job organising the event.

In September an article in the West Australian's TV magazine highlighted the virtues of bushwalking and gave information about the Club and invited interested people contact and join an Introductory Walk. This article generated much interest and 60 people turned up at the Club car park for the next outing. 14 Club members stepped in to assist with the extra organisation necessary for the day. Jerome DaCosta and Ian McDonald kindly gave their time and expertise on Introductory Walks throughout the year.

In December a Publicity Talk Back on radio 6PR by Ian McDonald gave the Club more publicity. Membership reached 320.

To finish off the year John Williams stepped in to organise Bibbulmun Track maintenance after a severe storm blocked the Whitehorse Hills section with fallen trees.

**The 1990s proved a very busy ten years with much fulfilling and challenging activity. The highlights were the completion of our allotted section of the Whitehorse Hills realignment of the Bibbulmun Track and the construction of the 14km Eagle's View Walking Trail in John Forrest National Park.**

**Added to these projects were the GAPS (Growing And Planting Scheme), Introductory Walks for new members, Training and Navigation Courses for Leaders, The Forest Blockade and the Perth Bushwalkers own publication - the Western Australian Bushwalkers' Handbook.**

**The following Club members are acknowledged for their outstanding contribution to those activities:**

**Jerome DaCosta  
Peter Downes  
Alec Duncan  
Ian Denny  
Carl Erbrich  
Melvyn Lintern  
Frank Obbens  
Geoff Palfreyman  
John Williams**

## G.A.P.S.

G.A.P.S., or the Growing And Planting Scheme, took place from 1992 to 1998. It was initiated by Melvyn Lintern, then Club President, and involved several Club members volunteering to grow trees for farmers from agricultural areas. This involvement was run through the Farm Tree Help Scheme, a branch of the Men of the Trees WA organisation. The Scheme lent support to farmers from people in the city. Home Growers would propagate 300 seedlings in their back gardens over six months then take them out to plant on the farms in winter. This Project backed up Conservation awareness and generated keen interest with the Growers even though at times, planting weekends conflicted with bushwalking trips.

Growing and planting the trees in country areas proved a lot of fun for those

participating and the farmers were all very hospitable and hosted overnight stays during planting weekends.

The seedlings that were planted benefitted three farming properties at Kojonup, Pingelly and Moora over the seven years and a total of 10,200 trees were planted. A very commendable effort.

A note of appreciation is hereby recorded to the Bushwalker Co-ordinators from those tree growing years - Melvyn Lintern, Gloria Karnahl, Loreen Brown, Shirley Winstanley and Tony O'Brien.

And to the many Home Growers from the Bushwalking Club - thanks for your dedication in growing and planting over the years.



*Above: The Planting Team on James Tognela's farm in Kojonup. The first year's planting was largely for the Wadjekenup Byenup Landcare Group.*

*Opposite page, top: The group with the seedlings ready to plant.*

*Centre: Julian Hamlet on the mechanical tree planter at David Freebairn's Pingelly property.*

*Bottom: Suzie Roe helps with the planting.*



## EAGLE'S VIEW WALK TRAIL JOHN FORREST NATIONAL PARK



*Frank Obbens*

**A** WALKING TRAIL LEADING to the less frequented, northern parts of John Forrest National Park was first proposed in 1991 by members of the Perth Bushwalkers Club. They realised that most visitors rarely saw more than the beautiful Jane Brook area while the Park had so many more attractions to offer. Perth Bushwalkers planned a trail route in collaboration with the Park Rangers and constructed the trail during Saturday morning working bees from 1993 to 1998. Trail signage, markers and a brochure were funded and produced by the Perth Bushwalkers Club.

The Eagle's View Walk Trail is a 15km bushwalking circuit that leads to several of the John Forrest National Park's less explored areas. It was named after a wedgetail eagle's eyrie that could be seen from the trail. Unfortunately the eyrie was destroyed in a severe bushfire that swept through the Park in January, 1997.

**A**T THE OFFICIAL OPENING of the Trail in October, 1997, Frank Obbens welcomed representatives from the Department of

Conservation and Land Management, Park officials and members of Perth Bushwalkers.

The Club is indebted to Frank Obbens, Melvyn Lintern, Jerome Da Costa and Carl Erbach for their dedication in finalising this Project and maintaining the enthusiasm of the Club members who helped build the track.

This walking trail has proved very popular with visitors to the Park and remains a favourite destination for Club members.

Letters to the Editor (Venturer, January, 2000)  
*The Secretary, Perth Bushwalking Club*

*Dear Sir/Madam*

*Just a quick note to say a BIG thank you for the effort your Club has made in providing walkers with the wonderful Eagle's View Trail. Yesterday we walked the circuit completely, although we have walked other short sections in the past.*

*We had a great day experiencing the many and varied delights of the trail. We will be back on the trail on a regular basis as we live close by. We could see from the state of the trail that it has been a huge undertaking for your Club and we just wanted you to know that this is greatly appreciated.*

*Regards  
LM and RC*



*The Eagle's View Trail Marker*



*Sue, Melvin and Pete at the new Eagle's View Trail signboard.*



*Perth Bushwalkers experience the Eagle's View Trail in the wildflower season.  
Photo: Anne-Marie Regan  
The Park boasts a wonderful diversity of native flora.*

## THE BIBBULMUN TRACK

Geoff Schaffer envisaged a long distance walking trail from Perth to Albany. In 1972 he first approached Peter Hewett, Conservator of Forests in the Forests Department, with his proposal which soon met with approval. However the construction of the Trail then took seven years to complete as far as Northcliffe. Opposition from several Government Departments, in particular the Metropolitan Water Board, concerned about pollution in water catchment areas, blocked the project. The proposed route also went through logging areas and mining tenements. But the State's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Board was keen to see the Track proceed and eventually goodwill and compromise overcame all objections.

On 28<sup>th</sup> October, 1979 the opening of the Track was marked by a 500km inaugural walk from the Boorara Tree near Northcliffe to the terminus in Kalamunda. Geoff travelled from Port Hedland to meet up with others on the last section. Hundreds of people joined in the walk for a day or a week at a time and there was always 30 or 40 walking on the Track. Only 11 people endured the whole distance which took three weeks.

The Bibbulmun Track is named after Aboriginal tribes that once roamed the south-west.

Geoff said the Track opens up country which, until now, has been virtually inaccessible to the general public and will attract outdoor enthusiasts from all parts of Australia and overseas. The route goes through some of Australia's most spectacular forest and wildflower country.

In 1994, Jesse Brampton among others, was unhappy with the impermanence of some sections of the Track. Areas were often closed off for logging operations and it was

easy to become disorientated as temporary bypass trails were often not properly signposted. Also information for these diversions was not freely available.

Jesse successfully approached the Department of Conservation and Environment with an offer to redesign a new trail and make it permanent with tenements through the logging zones and agricultural areas. Jesse had walked the length of the Appalachian Trail in the US and had been impressed with their shelters and the way the Trail was maintained by volunteers.



*The Kalamunda Terminus in 1975. Left to right: Jenny, Ben, Alan, Mary and Yew Chong.*

In May, 1994, Jesse addressed a meeting of the Perth Bushwalkers Club asking for assistance in a proposed realignment and upgrade of the Bibbulmun Track, an extension of which would go all the way to Albany. The request was met with unbounded enthusiasm. In September, Geoff Palfreyman led the first pathfinding walk that went from the Helena River to Mundaring Weir. Many Club weekend walks followed, searching out a better route, flagging the way with red and white survey tape and later, selecting the trees into which we hammered the Waugal direction markers. Melvyn Lintern was the Club President at the time. He kept up our spirits by coming to Club meetings with the red and

white tape tied round his neck. Over the following few years the Club spent many weekends involved in route design, particularly in the White Horse Hills section and some areas near Dwellingup. Leaders of these bushwalking trips, among others, included Melvyn Lintern, Geoff Palfreyman, John Williams and Frank Obbens. They were inspirational in the completion of the Track. This ambitious project was embraced by many other Groups from Perth and from local townships along the route.

In 1995 a Submission to the Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation, initiated by the Perth Bushwalkers Club, requesting finance for the construction of an overnight hut on the new Bibbulmun Track in Monadnocks Conservation Reserve was lodged through the recently formed Federation of Bushwalking Clubs of WA. This funding would cover the building materials and a water tank and the amount of \$5,000 was received. This Submission was successful and was followed up in 1996 by a second proposal for another seven huts with facilities which included outdoor tables, toilets and fireplaces. This second Submission, also initiated by the Perth Bushwalkers, was successful. In all, an amount of \$55,000 was granted. Many thanks for this are extended to Mel Lintern for his vision and dedicated efforts. Other costs incurred for construction of the Track were funded partly by the Government. Donations were received from many companies, including Cullity Timbers, and Alcoa donated \$30,000 for the purchase of a track building machine.

The new extension saw the Track go through the southern heathlands and along the picturesque coastal cliffs all the way to Albany where it ends at the Terminus in the town centre.

The triangular direction markers for the Track depict the mythical Waugal. They are nailed to

the trunks of trees, are fluorescent yellow in colour and reflective in the dark allowing for limited night walking.



*A Waugal marker on the Bibbulmun Track near Walpole.*

Wooden, three sided shelters were built along the length of the Track from Perth to Albany and spaced at a distance of 15 to 27.5km apart. They were prefabricated by inmates of the Department of Corrective Services who later went out to install them on site under the supervision of the Department of Conservation and Land Management. Forty-eight shelters are now maintained by individuals and interested Groups. The Perth Bushwalkers Club maintained the White Horse Hills shelter and adjacent section of Track for many years. It was relinquished largely because the access road eventually became too overgrown for conventional vehicles. The Schafer hut on the Track near Pemberton is named after Geoff Schafer. This New Bibbulmun Track now runs from Kalamunda to Albany; a distance of 965km - nearly 1,000 kilometres.

ON SATURDAY, 13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2008, a 10 year celebration of the New Bibbulmun Track was held at the Kalamunda Terminus. Walkers, including nine 'end-to-enders', had set off from the Albany Terminus and many people had joined in for one or two sections along the way. They reached Kalamunda in time for the celebrations after 60 days walking on the Track. Geoff Schafer had travelled from Melbourne to take part on

*The Schafer Hut  
on the Bibbulmun Track  
south of Pemberton*

Photo: J. Young



the day. He was introduced to the five hundred people who had converged on the Terminus and also met up with Peter Hewett again, having not seen him since 1979.

The opening address was by the Hon. John Kobelke, Minister for Sport and Recreation. Present also was the Hon. Margaret Quirk, Minister for Corrective Services, the Hon. David Templeman, Minister for the Environment and Climate Change and Mike

Wood, Chairman of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation. A large marquee was set up for refreshments. Local Scouts were there and a School band provided entertainment for the large crowd that attended.

The Bibbulmun Track remains a hugely successful, world-class walking Trail, patronised each year by thousands of bushwalkers from Australia and overseas.



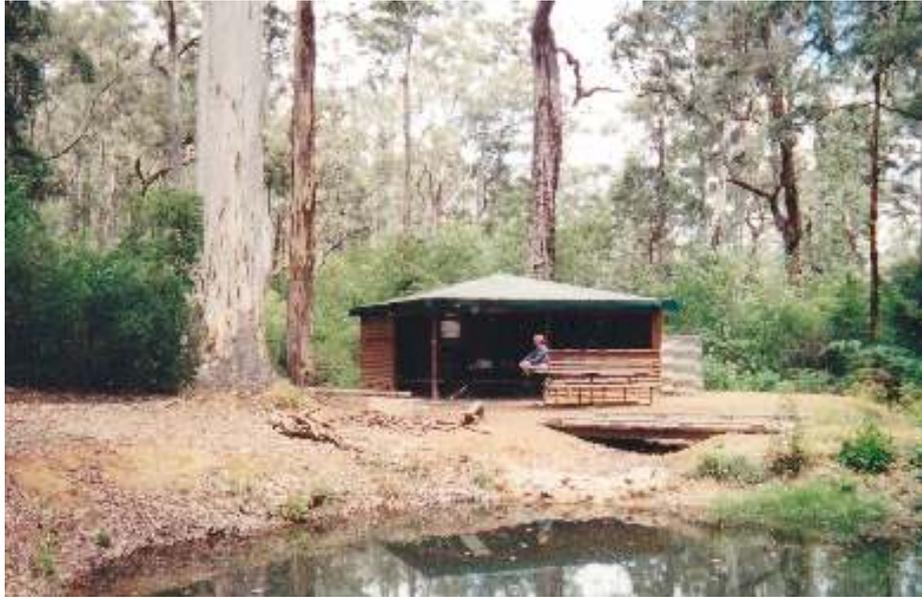
#### THE BIBBULMUN TRACK FOUNDATION

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation is an incorporated not-for-profit community-based organisation established to provide support for the Department of Environment and Conservation in the management, maintenance and marketing of the Bibbulmun Track to ensure that it remains a long distance walk trail of international significance



Top right: *Peter Hewett and Geoff Schafer at the 10th Anniversary celebrations at the Kalamunda Terminus on 13 September, 2008.*  
Below: *Part of the huge crowd that attended. The Track walkers had just arrived, some all the way from Albany. These 'end-to-enders' were heralded through an archway of hiking sticks.*  
*Photos courtesy of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation.*





The pretty Beavis hut

Photo: T. O'Brien



On track in the south-west

Photo: R. Kaijer



Rest stop on the Bibbulmun

Photo: R. Kaijer



The bridge over the Donnelly River

Photo: J. Young

## THE BIBBULMUN TRACK contd.

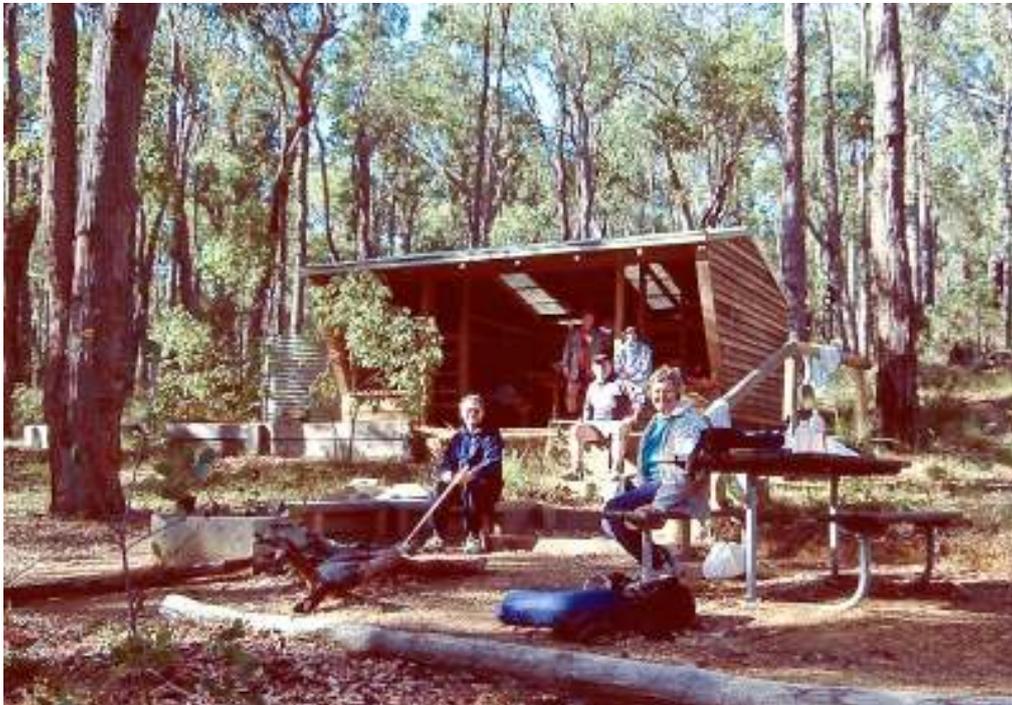
*Marking the new Bibbulmun Track with Melvyn, Sue, Andrew, Gill, Geoff and Jenny.  
Excerpt from the Venturer, September, 1995.*

**W**E WENT TO CARRY OUT the permanent marking of a section of the New Bib Track on Saturday, 5 August with bright, new, yellow waugal markers. We split into three groups and sectioned the track so we each worked several kilometres. Myself and Geoff were given the section which included the Waalegh\* campsite. This is a permanent wooden shelter offering four bunks, toilet, two picnic tables, a fireplace and four tent areas. There is also a large water tank which is filled with rainwater from the shelter roof. The site is well chosen - high up on the top of a ridge among wandoo and with a magnificent view.

It was hard work hammering the two nails for each marker into the tree trunks but we managed to complete our task by late afternoon. We all met up again and made a short car shuffle back to base. It was such fun and a great privilege to participate in this worthwhile activity.

Many thanks to Melvyn Lintern who offered his time and expertise to co-ordinate the Bibbulmun re-routing on behalf of Perth Bushwalkers. - Jenny.

*\*Place of the Wedge-tailed Eagle*



*Perth Bushwalkers enjoy a break at the Whitehorse Hills Shelter on a Track and Hut Maintenance weekend.*

## The Waugal



*The Waugal is a very powerful mythological character of Bibbulmun tradition. He is an incarnation of the Korrdon Marma man, the Creator.*

*The story of the Waugal begins a long time ago when the Aborigines had learned to live in harmony with each other and their environment. Travel routes were opened up and there was more contact between tribes.*

*Survival knowledge and languages were shared and there were many marriages between the tribes. However, there were people who ignored the sacred teachings and people began to feel fear and distrust.*

*The Waugal finally presented himself in a dream to a true-hearted son of the Bibbulmun, Buerrna, at a time when the tribe had lost contact with their customs and laws and many karriwarra (deformed) children were being born because kinship rules were being ignored.*

*In Buerrna's dream the earth was covered with water and the Waugal was swimming, carrying him and members of the tribe who had respected the ancient traditions away from their drowning kin. The Waugal eventually reached a sacred rock and left Buerrna and his small band with instructions to keep their laws and to hold him as their totem.*

*The rock he left them on was Boyagin Rock and the sacred snake sleeps in it still.*

## BOYAGIN ROCK

**B**OYAGIN ROCK IS A NATURE RESERVE 140km south-east of Perth. The granite outcrop rises 360 metres above sea level. It contains unspoilt remnant vegetation surrounded by wandoo forest and is situated on the edge of the wheatbelt. It boasts rare plants and is a haven for the reintroduction of the numbat. This is a special place of cultural significance for the Aboriginal Nyoongar people who often meet at the site.

Below: *Perth Bushwalkers enjoy a rest on Boyagin Rock*

Bottom: *On the Rock on a rainy day*

Photos: *Ralph Ditton*



## MT. NEWMAN WATERHOLE CIRCUIT

*Tony O'Brien*

*Tony has led ten expeditions for Perth Bushwalkers Club members to the Ophthalmia Ranges, north of Newman, from 1999 to 2009.*



*Tony O'Brien*

I HAD VISITED THE WATERHOLE CIRCUIT north-west of Newman, (1300km north of Perth) with friends on 4WD trips in 1994 and 1995 and fallen in love with this vast, rocky, red country interlaced with creeklines and dotted with snappy gums and waterholes.

One day I was looking at the map of the area and realised that these waterholes “Stuart's Pool”, “Kalgan's Gorge”, “Three Pools” and “Eagle Rockhole” were 10 to 12km apart, ideal for a days backpack by following creeklines and ridges, so we decided to do a recce over eight days in June, 1999, with a few Bushies including Jenny Young, Hanni La Mela, Dan Simon and with a friend providing vehicle back-up.

We started off in beautiful weather on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 1999, walking cross-country towards Stuart's Pool. It looked easy on the map until we came to a 10metre dry waterfall where we had to lower our packs down by rope and scramble down afterwards. We soon found that Pilbara walking is hard, always rocky underfoot, spinifex needles in the legs and cold nights (ice on the tents on some occasions).

These trips gradually developed over the years as our knowledge of the area increased, and we added refinements such as carrying “Pilbara Diesel” (a mixture of Shiraz and Port - 50ml each at night to recharge us!), the making of chairs and totems around the

campfire with small prizes awarded for the best, and morning “Cim Goong” exercises to limber up before walking.

For me, the highlight year was 2005 when we had unexpected rain. What to do? Abandon the trip? We were only four days into a ten day walk. As the rain continued we searched around and luckily found two caves, well above flood level, with room for the nine people in the group. We were able to light a fire in the cave mouth and had running water provided beside it! This cave was named “Doubleview” and the upper sleeping chamber “Innaloo”. We spent a very “bonding” day as the rain continued and the creek started

*The Pilbara Group  
from 1999.  
Left to right: David, Terry,  
Tony, Hanni, Jenny, Dan.  
Mt Newman is in the  
background*

Photo: *Dan Simon*



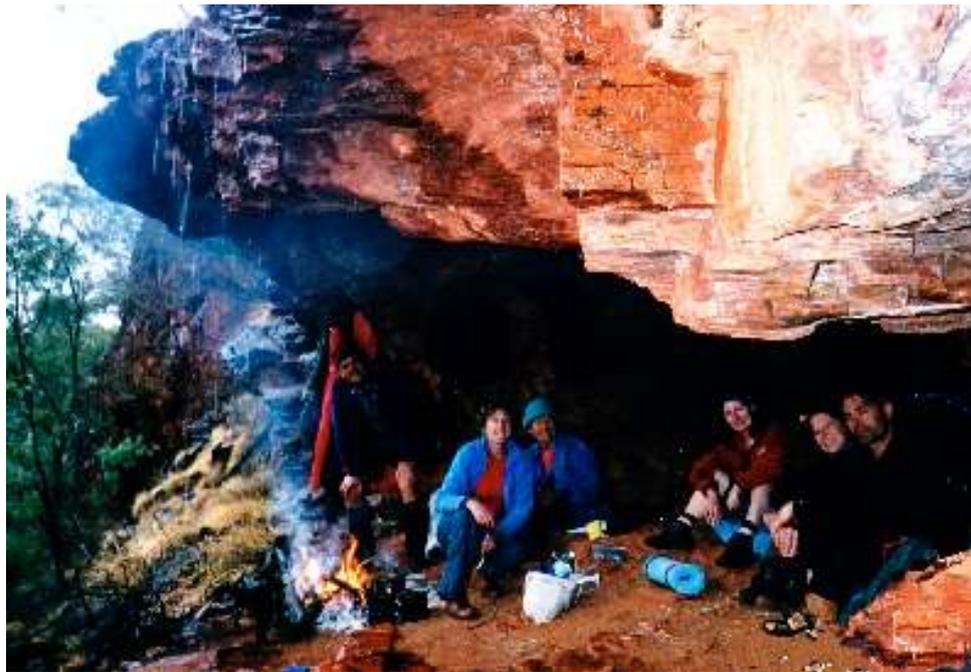
flowing, before moving to the top cave to sleep.

When the rain finally stopped 36 hours and 150mm later we had a chance to visit Eagle Falls in full flood, a marvellous sight and noise, after setting off from the caves in thick fog.

On another occasion a certain walker put a small can of baked beans on the campfire to

heat it up without piercing the lid. This, in spite of advice not to do so. We were happily sitting around the fire when next moment there was a loud explosion and we were all covered with beans and the top of the can landed about 20m away. Luckily the top had blown out so there were no injuries.

So the Pilbara Backpack has become one of my bushwalking years' highlights.



*Bushwalkers shelter at "Doubleview" cave*

*Photo: T. O'Brien*

*Eagle Falls  
in flood*  
*Photo: T. O'Brien*





*In the Ophthalmia Ranges. Ken Bushell admires the view*



*Walking along the Coondiner River in 2004*

Photos: J. Young



*Leisure time was spent making totems*

Photos: T. O'Brien



*Bushwalkers enjoy a rest stop along the Kalgan River*



*A hazardous creek crossing*



Left: *Ancient rock engravings. Many of these are found throughout the area*  
Centre left: *A spinifex covered hillside*  
Bottom: *A delightful rock pool*



*Mulla mulla*



## BACKPACKING IN THE PILBARA

*Jenny Merritt*

WHEN PEOPLE ASK US, where in the Pilbara we do our backpacking? the answer is usually something vague like “north-east of Newman” or we may say “The Ophthalmia Ranges”.



*Jenny Merritt*

The area that Tony O'Brien has taken us to four times and has led walks himself seven times is very special. You never see a beer can or a plastic bag or are subjected to cigarette fumes.

After meeting up in Newman, our first night was at Eagle Pool which is about 70 km from Newman along dirt roads. We then walked to Eagle Falls. What a magnificent place, that is when the Falls are really flowing in the wet. It is such a vast country. There are old trees with girths as wide as a house and snappy gums and river gums that struggle to survive at the first sign of the wet's rushing torrents.

Each day started about 6 am and Tony was always up first and had the fire cracking and the billies on, despite me trying to beat him to it on a couple of occasions. After breakfast we had an exercise session to loosen our limbs up for the day's walk. We set off early each morning and aimed to be at camp around lunchtime. This was about 4-5 hours walk on fairly heavy terrain. It had been the plan to backpack every second day so that we had a day walk to explore in between.

Like all Pilbara walks you don't know what will evolve, what you plan doesn't always happen. In fact we stayed at one spot for four nights as we didn't find enough water further afield to risk moving on. The good thing about this was we got to do some more adventurous day walks. We found new waterholes and went places we had not planned, all were beautifully picturesque. The walking is hard underfoot and there are rocks, rocks and more rocks. We had a few tumbles, sprains, blisters, scratches and allergies but no one seemed any worse for wear at the end.

This year was different for us it was the first time we had not done a food drop so we went back to the cars at the mid point to restock and head off in another direction. This meant there was time for a few decadent goodies that had been stashed away, Cherry Ripes and extra mulled wine to name but a few. It is amazing how good a tin of beetroot and a tin of tomato

juice tastes after nothing but dried food. As always on these trips, conversation inevitably gets around to our stomachs and food other than dried peas, tuna and muesli bars!

WE DO NOT KNOW how long these pristine conditions will continue. Mining companies move nearer to our peaceful paradise every year. We enjoy it while we can and remember those hard mornings walking and climbing in the river beds and on the hill tops, viewing the magnificent vista; peaceful afternoons watching the birds; the evenings sitting by the campfire and looking at the millions of stars. We must not forget each other, living in harmony with others for ten days was an important part of the journey.

Thank you Tony, without your skills and thoughtfulness for the group we could not have done it.



*Above: The bushwalking group at the end of the trip*

# TONY O'BRIENS PILBARA EXTRAVAGANZA

*Libby McGill*

**I**N WINTER WHEN THE WATERHOLES are full and the daytime temperatures are mild it is a joy to be walking and camping in the Pilbara.

In June, 2007, seven bushwalkers travelled up to Newman after overnighing in a very cold Mt. Magnet. We then left for the area of the Wanna Munna art site for the first two nights of our trip.

A day was spent exploring the surrounds including the old malachite mine. While on the old airstrip we put up a Spotted Nightjar which flew off silently low down between the trees where the white spots on its wings were obvious. Other birds seen here included zebra finch, budgerigar and three types of pigeon plus a bluewinged kookaburra.

Next morning we moved to a new site, loaded up fresh ration bags and made our way down to Hidden Three Pools after pushing through reeds and negotiating a rocky cliff. An exploratory walk down a new creek resulted in the discovery of a previously unknown pool which was named Junction Pool and a new cave which went right through the ridge line and was named Tunnel Cave. Here we also found an aboriginal ochre mine.

We later made camp at Paradise Pool where those who camped lower down near the water woke up next morning to frost on their

rucksacks which were left outside the tent. Next day we admired Eagle Rock Falls then continued down the Coondiner River Gorge to Camel Pool. Later we made our way upstream to what was to become my favourite camp which we called Coolabah Camp. Here we recorded bee-eaters, babblers, whistlers, cuckoo shrikes, woodswallows and zebra finches as well as hearing a boobook owl and a bower bird. Our task at this camp was to design and make a totem for ourselves. This resulted in wood and stone creations decorated with leaves, feathers and white ochre.

After three nights we had to pack up and leave, retracing our steps. We found several pebble-mouse mounds and watched a group of painted finches drinking in a pool while we had lunch. We then headed for Five Pools. The countryside here was flatter with less spinifex. The water level in Five Pools was noticeably low and I boiled my drinking water for the first time on the walk. A walk to Stuart's Pool down the Kalgan River showed it to be low as well.

**N**EVER HAVING VISITED the Pilbara before I found this outing to be the most wonderful experience. The walking was not difficult, the weather was perfect, the company great and there were no injuries. What would I do differently? I would take more dried peas and beans and some hand lotion!



Above: *Hanni at a pebble-mouse mound*  
Left: *Bushwalkers at the aboriginal ochre mine*  
Photos: *T.O'Brien*



Photos: K. Bushell and J. Young

Top: Tony and Hanni at the Coondiner River campsite  
 Centre left: Bushwalkers sheltering in a cave during a shower  
 Centre right: A rest stop at a pool below Eagle Falls  
 Below: An array of some of the wonderful flowers in bloom -  
 left to right: *Hakea lorea* ssp. *lorea*, the yellow cassia and Sturts desert pea.



## INTRODUCTORY WALKS

### *Organised Risk Management in action*

**P**ERTH BUSHWALKERS CLUB MEMBERS operate safely and easily in an environment that is extremely arid by international bushwalking standards and often in very isolated conditions. If members do not have the required attributes for an expedition then many more precautions need to be taken by the leader and other participants.

Early records of the Club showed that from time to time people with inappropriate footwear, equipment and insufficient water - effectively insufficient knowledge - would turn up on activities. Sometimes this endangered the person involved, or the group, or both. Often it would lead to a significant re-planning of the expedition and, in some cases, the expedition had to be cancelled.

In response, rules were developed, operating procedures devised and leader and navigation training courses organised. This led to a reduction in the number of incidents. However, by the late 1980s, the Club recognised that it had to start educating all new members on safe bushwalking practice in Western Australia to ensure they had a known minimum standard of knowledge and fitness. So the system of introductory walks was born. The person most responsible for the initial development of the system was Jerome DaCosta, now a life member. He was strongly supported by Barbara Jess, Cynthia Butherway and many other enthusiastic leaders of the day.

**T**HE TURN OF THE CENTURY brought new changes. It was realised that the introductory walks were not attracting known competent walkers. A sub-committee was formed to change the curriculum and set the process for continuous improvement. The latest continuous improvement' is directed at the wording of the material sent to potential participants with the purpose of reducing the number of people who are not competent for the walk undertaking it and subsequently requiring evacuation.

By 2009 all new members and all returning members whose membership has lapsed by more than two years are required to complete an introductory walk. Each introductory walk is intended to replicate as closely as possible a typical average walk for Perth Bushwalkers Club a 'medium' grade walk. The course is carefully selected to give participants a mixture of terrain, informal trails and rock scrambling. The walk is led by one of a group of nominated expert leaders from the Club. The co-leader is also expert, fully able to lead the walk in place of the

leader, to cover for the possibility of a participant being unable to complete the course and requiring evacuation. Other experienced Club members are invited to mingle with the group to provide additional resources in case of an unforeseen event.

*Right: On a rainy day a new participant turns up for an introductory walk in a pair of old shoes, the soles of which soon came adrift in the wet conditions. The leader, always prepared, bound both shoes up on the spot with duct tape.*

*Below: The group is well prepared for wet conditions with appropriate rainwear:*

Photos: *Ralph Ditton*



**D**URING THIS TIME THE CLUB conducted a less formal 'introductory programme' for overnight bushwalks. It is less formal because the Club walks in many different areas and specific skills differ from season to season and from area to area, and many leaders on the more specialised expeditions insist on 'shakedown walks' for all participants to ensure all are competent.

Most people who complete the introductory walk acknowledge that they have had a thoroughly enjoyable day and go on to join the Club. The introductory walk ensures that they have enough knowledge of bushwalking safety in the Western Australian bush and of Club custom and practice to move seamlessly into Club activities. In 2009, a total of 166 people came on introductory walks and 118 of them joined the Club.

*Ian McDonald*

*The snapshots below are from an introductory walk in the Serpentine/Jarrahdale area. The Darling Range scarp is popular for introducing newcomers to the Club as it is picturesque and offers interesting landforms and habitats with a degree of challenge.*



Top: *Dangerous Crossing*  
Below: *Lunchtime.*

Photos: *Dana Iwachow*

## SAFETY AND FIRST AID

*The Club decided to subsidise First Aid Courses run by the Red Cross and St. Johns Ambulance and many members took advantage of the 50% rebate. Active trip leaders are also entitled to a 50% rebate off the St. Johns Ambulance Remote Area First Aid Course.*

*The training proved valuable. Here is a shortened excerpt from the Venturer, October, 1997 about an accident that occurred on Geoff Palfreyman's expedition to Jumperkine Hill, as recorded by Pat Giles.*

“.....somewhere between 50-100 metres down the incline I had the misfortune to make an uncalculated slip on the dead leaves and guildford grass. I managed to give my left foot an uncharacteristic left twist on the way down which was accompanied by a tell-tale snap, followed by my loud cries that ricocheted across the valley.

The events that followed were truly complimentary to the whole team of walkers. From the assessment to the splinting of my leg to the moral support, encouragement, care and concern, the whole performance was flawless. Geoff and Loreen took off on a trek to a farmhouse for help and the others took on the task of getting me back up to the top of the hill. With Steve and Malcolm either side and Peter leg-bearing in front, we took the ascent metre by metre. With the splint applied and secured, my pain abated enough to share in some of the funnier aspects of the situation. Remarks such as “going to any lengths to avoid the walk back and more hills” and “doing anything to gain notoriety among the bushwalkers” were made.

Once at the top I was transported across a flat bit and over a fence to the road where we sat to wait for help. Our rescue chariot showed up in the form of a time worn 4WD driven by nearby resident, Eric Taylor. Eric took Steve and I and a couple of other drivers, back to his house and his wife, Bev, generously took us back to the Walyunga car park.

Steve and I ventured on to Swan Districts Hospital where the splint was admired by nursing and medical staff alike. I went into x-ray and a fracture of the fibula into the lateral malleolus was diagnosed.

I would really like to compliment everyone on the walk for the impressive way they handled everything. I am informed that the Club has had very few experiences of this kind. My trip to the orthopaedic surgeon at Royal Perth Hospital found it to be a spiral fracture which has extended to the joint and had been kept stable by the initial splinting.

Grateful thanks to a great bunch of people who gave up the rest of their walk to help me in such wonderful style”.

**Steve, who applied the splint, was integral to Pat's rescue. He said “It is imperative that we each ensure that we have sufficient knowledge of First Aid and carry an appropriate First Aid Kit. In this case I took charge due to my level of training and experience”.**



*Gordon Daghish leading the river crossing at Bells Rapids in Walyunga National Park  
Photo: Jan Anderson*



*Bushwalkers in the wandoo forest at Walyunga  
Photo: Haydee Adel*



*Cradle Mountain, Tasmania  
Photo: Sue Thompson*

## Mishap on the Overland Track, Tasmania - March, 1997

**S**UE THOMPSON RECALLS - "I had joined up with Perth Bushwalkers Wendy Cooke, who had organised the walk, Joy, Laura, Rita and Tom for the eight day trek from Cradle Valley to Cynthia Bay.

On the third day it was cold and wet as we left the Windermere Hut. After approximately two hours, whilst walking through a wooded section, I slipped on some tree roots. Falling on my side, the weight of my pack pushed me forwards hitting my head on a rock, badly gashing my scalp. Tom behind helped me to my feet and took off my pack. Rita examined the cut and quickly cleaned the area, applied pressure swabs on the wound and bandaged me up, not easy as it was still raining. The bleeding soon stopped. She said it was a deep cut and required stitches.

The group decided they should take my pack and walk me back to Cradle Valley. Rita walked with me. A young man passed us and, after dropping his pack at the Windermere hut, kindly came back to carry my pack. At the hut they helped me change into dry clothes. After lunch they took out the heavy items in my pack to carry themselves; the lighter pack would help to keep me warm, it was still cold and raining. When we reached the Waterfall Valley hut it was full so we stayed overnight in the smaller hut, 100 metres away, with no heating. Fortunately I had some strong pain killers, which I always carried. My neck was more painful than my head, having wrenched it during the fall.

Next morning we walked back to Cradle Valley via the Horse Track to avoid the steep descent from Marions Lookout. A Ranger then drove me to the Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre while the others arranged for a taxi



*The Group at the start of the Walk. Sue is on the right.  
Photo: Joy Stewart*

to take me to Latrobe Hospital near Devonport and made a phone call to my friend, Steve, who was to meet me in a couple of days in Hobart. The group camped that night in Cradle Mountain and managed to complete the walk in five days but unfortunately missed out on the side trips Wendy had organised.

At the Hospital I had six staples put in my head which were taken out ten days later in Strahan. Several visits to the Chiropractor helped my neck.

It is with the great help and unselfishness of the others that I was able to get back to the Visitor Centre safely and receive treatment."

**Correct procedures were followed in this case. First Aid kits were carried and utilised and appropriate clothing was worn. The group was well prepared enabling Sue to reach safety and obtain medical aid.**

## 2000-09

THE YEAR 2000 OPENED with a membership of 332. The popular introductory and backpacking walks were on the Programme throughout the year. The Club continued with submissions to the Conservation Council on environmental issues. First Aid Courses with a 50% rebate remained on offer encouraging members to participate. There was a full social calendar with indoor rock climbing added to winter events, largely organised by Robin Waldie.

For the past year John Williams had systematically led Club walks along sections of the Bibbulmun Track and finally completed the whole route by Easter 2001, finishing in Albany. Well done, John.

In April the Club made a purchase of a GPS (Global Positioning System) for loan to leaders on walks and this was followed up by the purchase of an EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon) as a safety measure should an accident occur while walking in remote destinations.

At the May AGM Jerome DaCosta was made a Life Member. Jeromes's involvement with the Club was considerable. His roles in Committee positions lasted 22 years including two terms as President. He set up and promoted the Introductory Walks programme and was instrumental in the formulation of the Federation of WA Bushwalkers.

Also in May, a Dale Carnegie Training Course was attended by Leaders over three nights to improve leadership skills. The Club subsidised the course by 50% and it was voted an excellent programme.

By June the Club Website and email address was up and running. It was designed by member Richard Inglis. The Home Page introduced the Club and provided information on activities.

The Bibbulmun Track and Eagle's View Trail maintenance were ongoing activities. The maintenance of the Eagle's View Trail was later taken over by the John Forrest National Park Management.

Navigation Training by Ian Denny, Xmas in July, a long range trip to Kalbarri led by Ian McDonald and a Christmas Camp on the Warren River ended another full year of activities.

2003 was another busy year. A Sub-Committee was set up to document Policies and Codes of Practice. Also the Club's Public Liability and Personal Accident Insurance was arranged by Ian McDonald through the auspices of the Federation of WA Bushwalkers and Bushwalking Australia Inc.

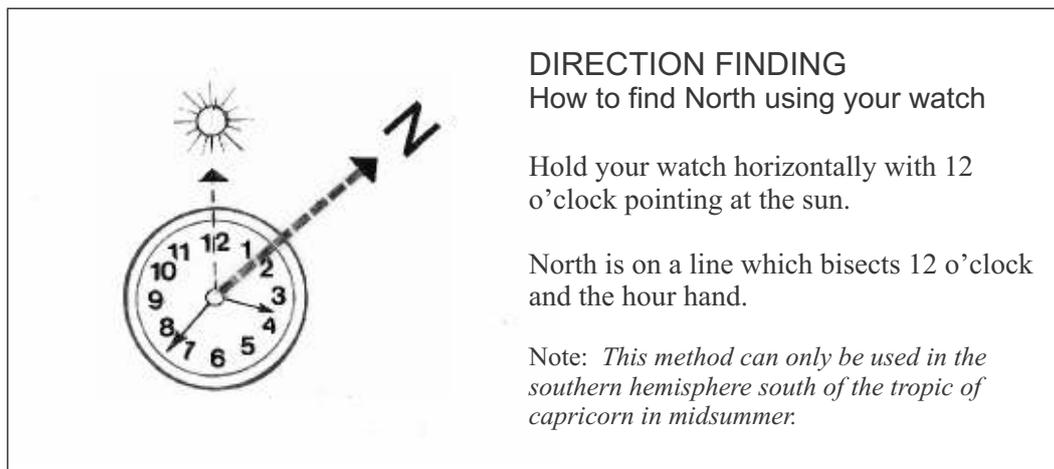
At the AGM in May, Life Membership was conferred on Geoff Palfreyman, recognising his outstanding input to the Club over many years, particularly his leadership role on the Bibbulmun Track realignment. Geoff was also a past President and walks leader.

A full social calendar included indoor rock climbing, squash, canoeing and bike rides and a real sense of fun and enjoyment prevailed. Introductory walks were still in demand. Membership reached 399. The Venturer newsletter was now being emailed to members.

Throughout 2004 a Sub-committee, with Pete Hegarty as Chairman, was busy developing Rules and Policy Codes for the Club. A new indemnity form for insurance coverage was extended to visitors registering on walks.

To reduce overheads in hall hire it was agreed to reduce meetings to one a month.

There were many activities on the Programme, including a trip to the Pilbara by Tony O'Brien and a Navigation Course organised by Colin Walker.



In January 2005 the Club's maintenance of the Whitehorse Hills section of the Bibbulmun Track was relinquished. The access track had now become overgrown which, coupled with the added paperwork, had presented difficulties.

Introductory walks were still in demand and it was realised a Co-ordinator was needed to organise them. There were currently 3 walk activities on the programme most weekends. Membership fees rose to \$30. Navigation Training and First Aid courses were on the events calendar.

At the May AGM Life Membership was awarded to Ian McDonald. Ian had served the Club as President for a number of years and had been instrumental in the compilation of the Club Rules and Policies. Ian was an inspirational walks leader, he also led introductory walks and organised many long range trips. Ian also represented the Club on the Federation of WA Bushwalkers.

During 2006 a data Projector was purchased for meetings which replaced the old slide projector. Some compasses were also bought for use on training courses.

A new website was designed by Hecate Jay, the programming by David Stephens, Ian McDonald and Noelene Proud supplied information and content while Peter Hegarty provided expertise.

By June the smart new website was up and running. The finalised documents of the Codes and Practices were posted on the website.

During December there was a temporary closure of the meeting room due to the Loftus Centre upgrade and construction of an adjoining new Leederville Library and Sporting complex. The Committee was looking for an alternative venue to hold Club meetings.

January, 2008 saw the move of the Club over to south of the river at Swan House, Heathcote Centre, Applecross. The first meeting was a New Years BBQ in the attractive grounds overlooking the Swan River. Club meetings continued to be well attended.

In early May a full colour flyer was produced by Colin Walker promoting the Club which was distributed at selected outdoor retailers.

At the AGM in May, Jennifer Young was awarded Life Membership. Jenny was a long term member of the Club, leading walks in the early years and a consistent supporter of Club activities - notably the annual Xmas camps.

Recording of the Club's 40 year history began with members contributing photos and articles.

The year ended with an Xmas camp under the peppermints at the popular Whalers Cove Campground at Contos. 25 bushwalkers attended.

2009 marked the anniversary of 40 years of the Perth Bushwalkers Club. To celebrate the occasion a weekend camp was organised by Don and Karen Allanach at the Jarrahdale Bush Haven. Over 60 members, past and present, attended. Among them again was Geoff Schafer. A popular slide and film show featuring members bushwalks ran during the evening. Day walks on the Saturday and Sunday broke an all time record for attendances. Comfortable accommodation, meeting of friends from the early days and lovely, sunny weather rounded off this highly successful event.

**In this decade new positions for a Training and Safety Officer, Federation Representatives and Introductory Walks Coordinator were added to the Committee and a new, enhanced website was designed by members of the Club.**

**Special thanks to Peter Hegarty for his Chairmanship over several years of the Policies and Codes of Practices Sub-committee.**

**The Club is now on a firm basis for the future.**

## THE THREE MOUNTAINS WALK

*Tony O'Brien*

**I**N THE MONADNOCKS NATIONAL PARK, situated 70 kms south-east of Perth on the Albany Highway, there are a variety of routes of interest for the keen bushwalker. Most walks start and finish at Sullivan Rock picnic area.

For a circuit walk, encompassing a height of over 500 metres, proceed north from Sullivan Rock to Mt. Vincent and Mt. Cuthbert to Mt. Randall, visiting the Monadnocks hut on the Bibbulmun Track to

replenish with water and have a rest stop for lunch.

A return route can be made along the ridge, roughly running south from Mt. Randall. This route passes the spectacular *Fang Rocks* on the way or, going further north along the Bibbulmun Track, ascend to the equally stunning *Eagle's Balls* on Eagle Hill.

All in all, a wonderful area for a day's walk not far from Perth.



*Bushwalkers on the summit ridge take in the view all the way to the coast*  
Photo: Barry Powell

*Below: A rest stop at Fang Rock*  
Photo: I. McDonald



*Exploring the boulders of Eagle's Balls high up on the ridge on Eagle Hill*

Photo:  
I. McDonald

## KALBARRI

*Mark Weston*

*Mark Weston came to Perth from England on a Teacher Exchange in 2002. He joined up with Perth Bushwalkers and enjoyed the bushwalks so much he returned again for another visit in 2007. The following is his report of a six day backpack from the September Venturer of that year.*

**T**HANK YOU TO IAN MCDONALD for allowing me to join in his highly developed Kalbarri Gorge backpacking trip and to Colin, Vince, Jenny, Eddie and Truc for their kind welcome. I rapidly discovered just what I had let myself in for when the sand track to the campsite was located by GPS and led deep into the bush, more than 50km from anywhere. Then the duties of collecting firewood, lighting the fire, boiling water for tea and setting up camp.

At Wine Bottle campsite I realised the meaning of the word *waterhole* (a puddle in English) - our safe and sound water supply for the night. I remembered from my earlier experiences that the availability of water was one of the biggest challenges here. Vince helpfully advised that it is necessary to take precautions against various organisms, eg mosquito larvae. Ian helped further by advising that the more things living in the water, the more healthy it should be!

The next consideration was about my beloved Trangia stove that I was told not to bring, that

fail-safe, controlled, versatile system that all backpackers use for their dinner. No, no, a billy can was required, just one. And indeed, it is just as versatile for boiling water, making tea, making more tea, cooking all the ingredients in one pot, eating out of, washing up and making more tea. You can fit lots of useful things inside it and you don't run out of fuel. Next time I will know to take a spun aluminium billy, not a tin-coated steel one that starts rusting after a few days of use and abuse, just like a baked beans can.

So what of the typical English 25km days? No chance; all the skill and time and walking is applied to climbing up, down, down, up, up, up, down - from level to level to find a route through the many strata of the gorge, together with rock hopping, sand trudging, traversing, chimneying, pack passing and various contortions to find a way through the complexities of the rock formations. Arriving at the campsite in the early afternoon allows the necessary contingency time for all of the above as well as just time; time to sit and look



*Bushwalkers at Nature's Window, Kalbarri National Park*



*Negotiating the rocks along the Murchison River*

Photo: C. Walker

and wonder and celebrate the beautiful Australian wilderness. More than 50km from anyone, anything. In Dartmoor, it's just about possible to be three miles from civilisation. In England most of the time is spent inside waterproofs whilst studying the map at every turn.

Rivers are not recognised as suitable navigation routes in England. They have footpaths alongside them, footbridges or rocks to hop over. They are cold, flow fast and can sweep you away. Here, when the gorge becomes two sheer faces either side of the Murchison River, you swim. Just undress, place everything inside the rucsac, place the pack cover over the rucsac. Lay the boots alongside as outriggers, lay the raft into the water and it floats, then swim along and push the pack ahead of you. Just like that. Efficient, safe and fun. In England, expect to be arrested without clothes!

Ian has a wealth of experience and thoroughly enjoys sharing his knowledge with those who join him. A week in the Australian bush is a unique and highly rewarding experience like no expedition that could ever be done in England. Come to England for an expedition, prepared to wear your waterproofs all day, every day, covering long distances through soggy bogs and collecting water from fast flowing rivers. Don't forget the Trangia. No sunnies necessary.

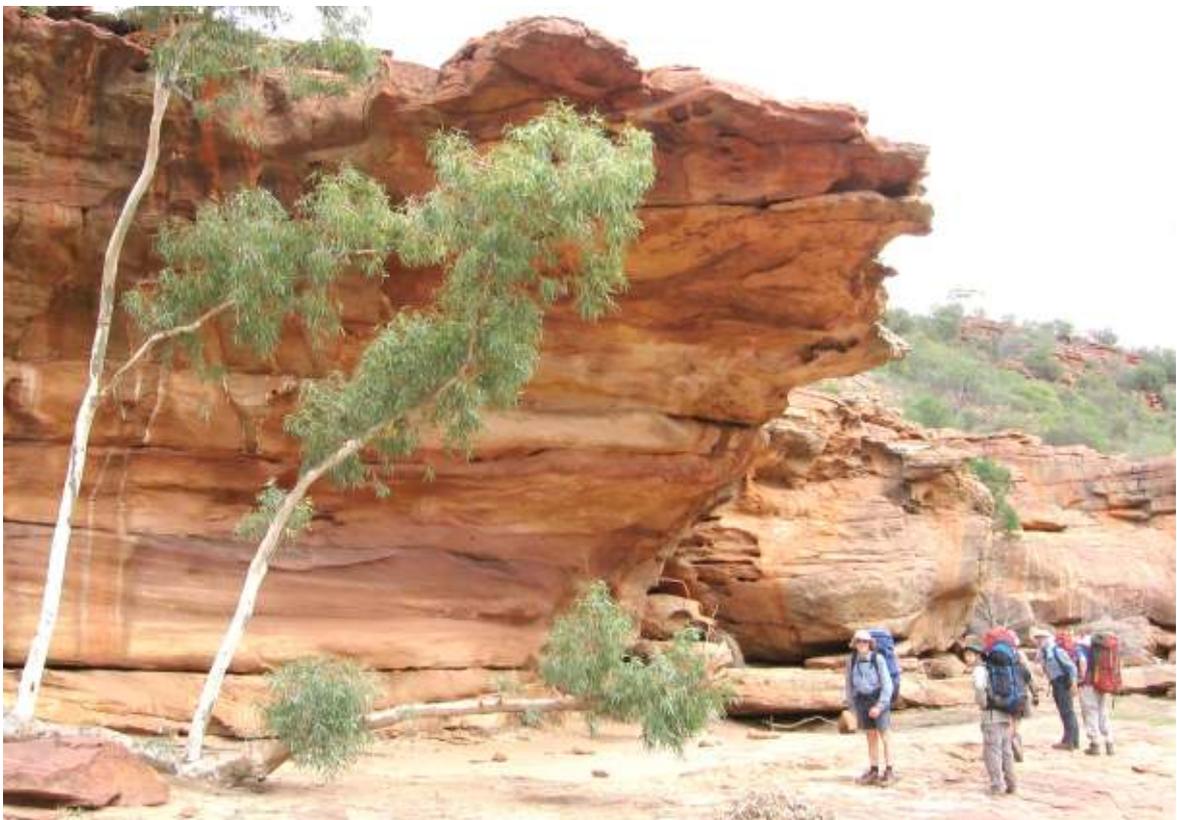
I hope to be in WA again in 2010!  
- Mark

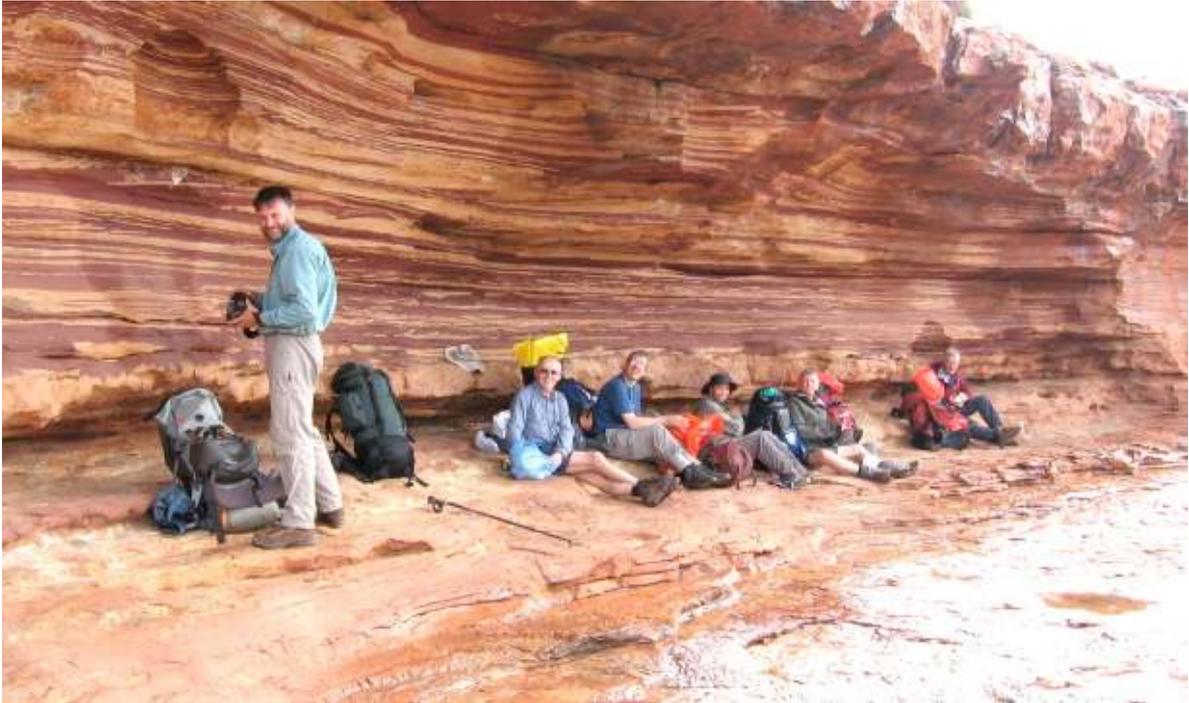


*A pack float across the river*  
Photo: C. Walker



*The Murchison River gorge in the Kalbarri National Park from the ridge top* Photo: T. Quach  
Below: *Bushwalkers on the river bank* Photo: C. Walker





*Rest stop at a section of banded rock wall*  
Photo: J. Fitzgerald



*Clambering along the cliff face*

The Murchison River flows for 80km along the lower reaches of the Kalbarri gorge and through a ravine with 150m cliffs on either side.

*One of the Bushwalkers' campsites*  
Photos: T. Quach



## THE STIRLING RANGES

### STIRLING RIDGE WALK IN A DAY

*Melvyn Lintern*

I RECENTLY COMPLETED THE “RIDGE WALK IN A DAY” ably led by Peter Haythornthwaite. Why I even contemplated this crazy venture I was unsure particularly at 4.15am on the Saturday morning of the walk when my alarm went off. I could in fact spend a potentially nicer day strolling around the bushland looking at orchids and birds and paying frequent visits to the nearby Bluff Knoll café for cappuccinos, cakes and other assorted goodies. Unfortunately, this wasn't to be as by the scheduled start of the walk (4.45am) the belting overnight rain had eased.

We started off and made our way up Bluff Knoll. The steps are conveniently placed at just over a stride apart, are uneven and occasionally are very high but at least there were steps. After about half an hour the rain started and the nowhere-to-be-seen sun provided enough twilight for us to see that the whole of the Stirling Range was bathed in cloud. Too late to turn back – we were on a mission!

By 6.10am our little group was on top of the mountain standing around eating breakfast in freezing conditions. We soon set off trying to find the mysterious track off Bluff Knoll that would take us to Moongoongoonderup (MGGup). I have been on the Ridge Walk about half a dozen times and each time I got lost coming off Bluff Knoll. This time was no different. We spent the best part of half an hour walking down a creek bed masquerading as a foot track (in the footsteps of previous walkers) which was taking us inextricably down to a firebreak on the southern side of the range.

We came finally to the “correct” base of Bluff Knoll at the lowest point between it and MGGup. The climb up MGGup was spent juggling which clothes to take off (during steep sections) and which to put on (during rest breaks) and when to put on and pull off rain gear.

The clouds were coming back in and visibility was so bad that I swear we were actually heading back towards Bluff Knoll. We scaled the last peaks of MGGup and Isongerup (south) by 10am. This to me is the start of the ridge proper and we were greeted on cue by a lifting of the clouds, a ceasing of the rain and the warmth of a brilliant sun. From Isongerup there are just superb views along the nobbly ridge to Ellen Peak and back to Bluff Knoll.

*Climbing the steep slope through the mist*  
Photo: *Wayne Eddy*



The climb up the 1<sup>st</sup> Arrow is a bit like the climb down off Bluff Knoll with tracks going every which way – again I have always gone the wrong way here. I dropped to the back of the group here and, with Peter at the helm, we made no mistakes. The clambering up the 1st Arrow was made so much easier with our light day packs that I was now beginning to enjoy the whole exercise. It was an almost vertical rock scramble but definitely the quickest route.

We completed Baker's Knob and Pyungoorup peak turn-off just after 3pm. We were not rushing and many photos were taken of the views. The scaling of Pyungoorup was left to a couple of mad keen “peak baggers” in

the group while others rested. Ellen Peak was scaled by 4pm and final photos were taken back along the entirety of the ridge. I signed the Visitor's book on the top of Ellen Peak before the descent. We reached the “flats” and then the firebreak by 6.35pm and the cars by 7pm.

Peter did a great job of keeping us on the track on the “flats” through rapidly failing light otherwise we would have been a lot later getting back to camp. Many thanks go to Peter and the rest of the group for an excellent day.

Ridge Walk in a day? NO WAY!! It took me at least another day to recover.

*Bushwalkers traversing the ridge between Bluff Knoll and Ellen Peak.*



Photos: *Wayne Eddy*





## The Stirling Ranges

Top: *Ken Bushell, Tony O'Brien, John Lang and Hanni La Mela on Mt Trio*

Above left: *On the way to Mt. Magog*

Right: *Bushwalkers on Mt. Magog*

Left: *Kingia australis, Mt. Trio*

Photos: *Jenny Merritt*



Above: *Bushwalkers rest on top of Mt. Trio*  
 Photo: *Anne-Marie Regan*



Left: *Hanni La Mela, Tony O'Brien and Morris Jones*  
 Photo: *Jenny Young*

The Yungermere Walk Trail has been closed for a number of years due to dieback control.



*Bushwalkers at the Lookout below Bluff Knoll*

Photo: *Haydee Adel*

## KARIJINI

### LOST IN SPACE - CANYONING IN KARIJINI

*Noelene Proud*

*At 2,500,000 square kilometres WA makes up one third of our island continent. Smack in the middle of it is the beautiful Pilbara region which has some of the oldest rocks and most stunning scenery on earth. The Perth Bushwalkers Club members have been walking in the Pilbara for over 35 years.*

*One of the favourite areas is Karijini National Park which is the second largest park in WA. This park has many wonderful gorges with walls 100m high and permanent water cascading through them. This is three dimensional space, perfect for backpack exploration!*

COLIN WALKER LED A FIVE DAY canyoning trip to Karijini National Park in July, 2007. After attending two days abseiling with Colin in Perth prior to the trip, our group of four, Colin and Ryan Walker, Ken Hardwick and myself, set out on our big adventure, 150 kilometres west of Newman.

We crossed a few kilometres of spinifex before dropping down steeply into Hancock Gorge. This required one short abseil, a good warm up for the abseiling to come. Hancock Gorge is a beautiful rocky gorge and it was not long before we were into wetsuits for deep wades, boots swapped for sticky-soled reef shoes.

Our wading brought the party to the chasm above the waterfall into Kermit's Pool. Colin set up the abseil and belayed from the top



Left:  
*Over the edge  
with the  
adventurous  
Jenny Fitzgerald*

Photo:  
*Colin Walker*

while we abseiled 20 metres down the steep rocks, over the waterfall and into the pool. It took all the strength I have, but I managed to 'tie off' while still dangling on the rope so had both hands free to unscrew the carabiner connecting me to the belay rope, take my pack off and drop it in the water. I then lowered myself into the water and set off on the short, chilly swim across Kermit's Pool. Kermit's Pool is surrounded by rock on all sides, with the waterfall tumbling into it. It is beautiful. Colin was the last to abseil down, bringing the rope with him.

Some more rock hopping and gorge walking brought us to the Chute and our second watery abseil. The water was flowing very strongly, threatening to pull our feet out from under us with every step. Ryan belayed from the bottom on the 35 metre abseil. We assembled at Junction Pool where Hancock, Red, Joffre and Weano Gorges meet.

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Before setting out on this trip Colin Walker gave practical instruction on abseiling techniques to all participants so they could gain confidence and become conversant with the rock climbing gear that would be used.



*Snappy gums and spinifex - the picturesque country above the gorges*

Photo: Wayne Eddy

We soon made a small fire and warmed up with Milo and soup before setting out on a long, cold swim down Joffre Gorge. I towed my pack on a short rope and the others pushed theirs ahead, using packs and sleeping mats for flotation. We reached the rocks after a few hundred metres and basked in the warmth of the sun. While Ryan and Colin went looking for a camping spot, Ken and I saw a dingo amble by, having a good look at us before wandering away.

Our first night's camp in Joffre Gorge was in a scenic spot next to the river. We walked as far as possible on the rocks the next day but it was soon into wetsuits, stashing boots in packs, for a day of swimming, regularly broken up by rock hops to the next pool of water. We climbed up a waterfall and had a shivery lunch in the sun. Most of us had beanies on to help keep warm in the water. We were using our thermarests for flotation,

trying to preserve heat by keeping our torsos out of the water. We ended up at Joffre Falls onto the tourist track where we gladly got back into warm clothes. We then made our way to a campsite on the river where our food cache awaited us.

**W**ITH THE ABSEILING OVER, we cached helmets, harnesses, ropes, carabiners and descenders and set out on our third day by heading east across the spinifex, then dropped steeply into Knox Gorge. This was another day of swimming and, where the water ran out, it was tough getting wet packs across the rocks while wearing reef shoes. We reached a lovely campsite, the river running around and over rocks. We each grabbed a rock ledge to roll out the bivvy bag. Bivvy bags are used rather than tents as flat ground for tents is limited here. It also allows fantastic views of the millions and millions of stars.



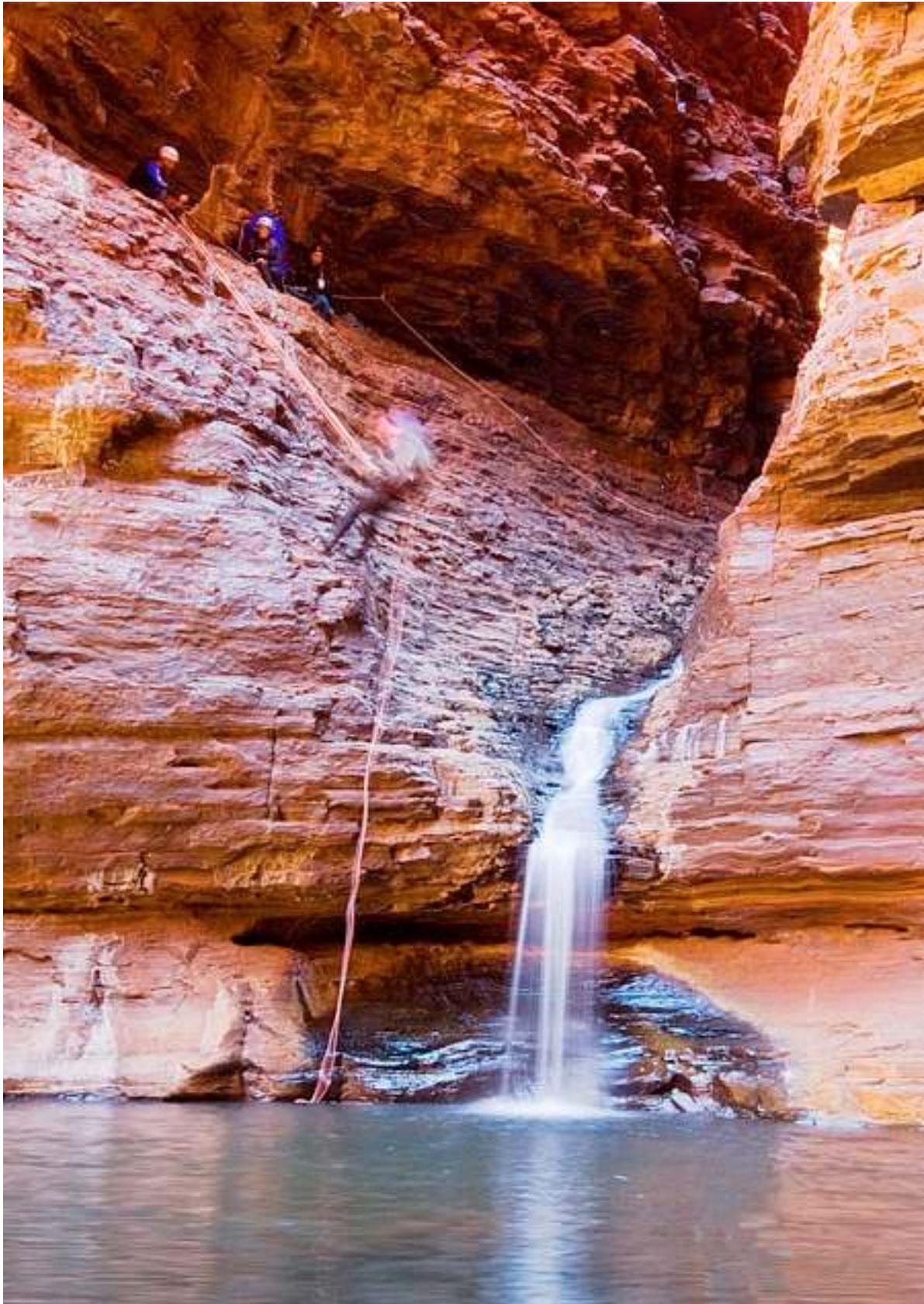
*Pack floating below the magnificent Weano Gorge waterfall at Junction Pool* Photo: Wayne Eddy

On our fourth day we all gathered again and set out for Knox Gorge, walking down the gorge and then climbing out and then across the spinifex (the tips of which I am still pulling out of my shins) to drop back into Joffre Gorge. From here we swam back past Junction Pool and into Red Gorge, passing high waterfalls and soaring red cliff walls. Red Gorge emerges into Wittenoom Gorge, the site of our last camp.

The next morning we climbed out of the gorge and returned to the car, arriving by 11am. Not being a group to wait around, we

jumped into the car and stopped 1,600 kilometres later in Perth.

**K**ARIJINI IS A MARVELLOUS PLACE of gorges, waterfalls, narrow chasms and towering cliffs. I love bush walking in places like this where you can only get to under your own steam. Thanks to Colin for organising and leading such a great trip, Colin and Ryan for their abseiling expertise, Ken for his rope carrying feats and to all for their fantastic company in this amazing place.



*Abseiling into Kermit's Pool*

Photo: Wayne Eddy

## WALKING IN THE KIMBERLEY

*Colin Walker*

*Colin is the Club's Safety and Training Officer and runs navigation courses for members. He has extensive experience in bushwalking in remote areas.*



Photo: Hoydee Adel

**T**HE KIMBERLEY IS RECOGNISED as one of the largest untouched wilderness areas of Australia. The logistics required to get there and the remoteness of the area are daunting but the attraction of experiencing this land is great.

In late 2007 I became aware of how long it had been since the club had offered a trip to the Kimberley and decided to rectify the situation. By Christmas we had enough interested participants to progress the planning. The first hurdles were the distance to get there, 3000km, and the time needed to make the trip worthwhile. Because of the distance involved a minimum of 2 weeks was agreed. The transport options were

to fly into Broome and hire a 4WD or get dropped off at the walk site by vehicle or helicopter or to drive the full distance. As the costs of the first options mounted the benefits of driving our own vehicle became obvious. Only one suitable 5 seat 4WD vehicle was available amongst the walkers, this limited the group to 5 which is a good size for speed of travel and safety.

The next problem was deciding where in this vast wilderness to walk? Maps were bought, online aerial photos examined and possibilities pondered for weeks. The final area selected was between Prince Regent in

the north and the Charnley River to the south. This would mean driving the hazardous Mt. Elizabeth Station to Walcott Inlet track.

Our final group was Ken Hardwick, Truc Quach, Rikus Kaijer, Graham Marshall and myself. On the 17th July, 2008 with the plan agreed upon and provisions packed we pointed the Landcruiser north with three drivers and headed for Broome. There we collected Rikus and Graham from the Broome airport and set off for Mt. Elizabeth Station.

We camped overnight near the homestead and at first light headed west past Jameson



*Setting off across country*  
Photo: C. Walker



*Rikus, Graham, Ken and Truc at the Charnley River*

Photo: C. Walker

Arch to Bachsten Creek and a campsite on the Calder River. Thankfully the track was in good condition though it required a high ground clearance vehicle to get over some of the jump-ups. Waking up on the fifth morning by the Calder we all realised how far from anywhere we were - just what we wanted!

Packs checked, we finally headed off on foot up the Calder River soon passing what we hoped was only a freshwater crocodile. The Calder is a beautiful river carved through rock dotted with distinctly Kimberley flora including Boab trees. The terrain varied from soft sand to large boulders that required a couple of attempts on a couple of routes to get through. The first night we camped on a white sandy river bank.

The plan for the following day was to traverse from the Calder to the Charnley River. Starting in tall grass, Ken, the tallest in our party, was chosen to lead. The grass soon behind us we headed for high ground picking our way as we walked. Keeping to a wide gully we found our first spring. This was marked on the map and recorded on our GPS in case we returned through here. Walking

across the top between the rivers was easy going but when we decided to drop down into a gully to access the Charnley thick scrub made progress painfully slow.

Walking through dense scrub Green Tree Ants were a constant pest. If you were unlucky enough not to see their leafy nest and pass under them they would drop onto you and bite any bare flesh. We all had plenty of opportunities to experience this attack. After a while we realised that though they bit they did not sting and no one reacted badly to the little nips they gave. Further on a 20m cliff stopped our progress. Climbing back up the gully the search was on for an access route. Exploring the area we found a steep, sandy descent to the Charnley. Crossing the river we found a lovely site with white sand



*A Green Tree ants nest*

Photo: C. Walker



*Walking through the tall grass*  
Photo: R. Kaijer



*Negotiating the gorge wall*  
Photo: C. Walker



*Ken, Truc, Rikus and Graham enjoy a well earned break*  
Photo: C. Walker



*At the site of the rock paintings*

Photo: C. Walker

surrounded by young trees; our second campsite for the walk.

For the next two days we explored as we moved downstream, finding the path challenging between the steep walls of the gorge through which the river runs and occasionally backtracking to find alternate routes. We sometimes swam across the narrow river after first looking for any signs of saltwater crocodiles! Steep cliff faces and rocky terrain often had Indigenous rock art and, with wallabies and many birds and unusual plants, there was much to explore and photograph.

The last night in the Charnley we slept high on a rocky outcrop covering the rock with sand so that it could be swept off into the river in the morning and not leave a trace of us having been there. Ken amazed us with his ability to catch Sooty Grunters on a hand line so we all had fresh fish that night.

The next morning we climbed up the gorge wall into 1km of the roughest terrain of the trip. Dubbed The World of Pain this area, which looked suspicious on the aerial photograph, revealed a maze of steep

gullies filled with high, sticky spinifex. We took hours to stumble through this before finally reaching easier terrain.

Walking back north we crossed the now familiar Calder River and returned to the car mid-afternoon. This gave us time to drive to Walcott Inlet then back to a campsite at Bachsten Creek run by the very friendly Bush Track Safaris Hosts. And showers!

The next morning we walked north along Bachsten Creek and headed for Prince Regent. This trip was constantly hard going so after a couple of days we turned the compass around and headed back to Bachsten Camp. Thankfully a short cut we took proved to be easier and, before reaching camp, we found an outcrop with an extensive collection of Wadjinas, a style of Indigenous rock art. This site seemed untouched for many years and the Bachsten camp hosts were not aware of its existence.

Many things about this area surprised me – the amount of rock art, the number of streams flowing in what appeared to be dry areas and the stunning diversity of the terrain. We will return!

## THE CAPE TO CAPE TRACK

**T**HE CAPE TO CAPE TRACK is a distance of 135km. It is a walking track from the Waterwheel at Cape Leeuwin north to Cape Naturaliste and is located within the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park. The Track is maintained by the Friends of the Cape to Cape Track, supported by staff from the Department of Environment and

Conservation. The Track offers magnificent coastal scenery and remote beach walking. Humpback whales can be seen migrating up the coast from viewing points on the Track and dolphins surf the breakers. Prolific wildflowers and good fishing add to the popularity of this scenic coastal area.



*Above: Anna and Patricia enjoy the track walk  
Left: On track at Contos beach  
Below: Walking the track above the cliffs*

Photos: J. Young





Above: *Bushwalkers on the Cape to Cape Track south of Yallingup* Photo: Rikus Kaijer  
Below: *On top of the coastal cliffs* Photo: Barry Powell

## CHRISTMAS CAMPS

*Kate Steinitz*

Sometime before the turn of the century the tradition of the Bushies Christmas was born...

Originally the event was designated the 'Orphans' Christmas' as the attendees were those whose families were overseas or in the Eastern States and not close enough for the traditional family lunch. However once word got out about how enjoyable the camps were the event became open to all and increasingly popular with 20-30 members joining in.

One of the attractions is to head south from the summer heat of Perth and find a leafy spot with a swimmable river or near a beach in which to cool off. Often one or two members who were not in Monday to Friday jobs would set out before Christmas Eve to bag a prized spot for the group, ahead of the parties of fishermen escaping their seasonal duties.

The Bushies Christmas is an outdoor event with a large tarpaulin strung up in the bush and multiple picnic tables placed together to form a shaky and somewhat asymmetrical 'long table' for the dinner. Each member at

the camp brings an item for the menu which is cooked on the campfire. But since the fire ban, the welcome arrival of Rod with his weber means a full roast turkey which is much appreciated. The typical Christmas meal would include pre-dinner snacks and drinks. After an hour or so the feasting would start in earnest. Always a turkey with roast potatoes and three veg and anything a creative cook felt like adding. A pause after the main course allows the distribution of presents from Santa. Everyone brings a wrapped gift up to \$5 in value. Some of these gifts have acquired the status of JRR Tolkien's "mathoms" over the years, reappearing at subsequent Christmases rewrapped until their ultimate fate of donation to the Salvos.

After this modest amount of physical activity it is deemed time for desserts; Christmas pudding, mince pies and custard is served up. Carol singing and jokes round the fire end the evening.

Here's to the next Bushies Christmas!

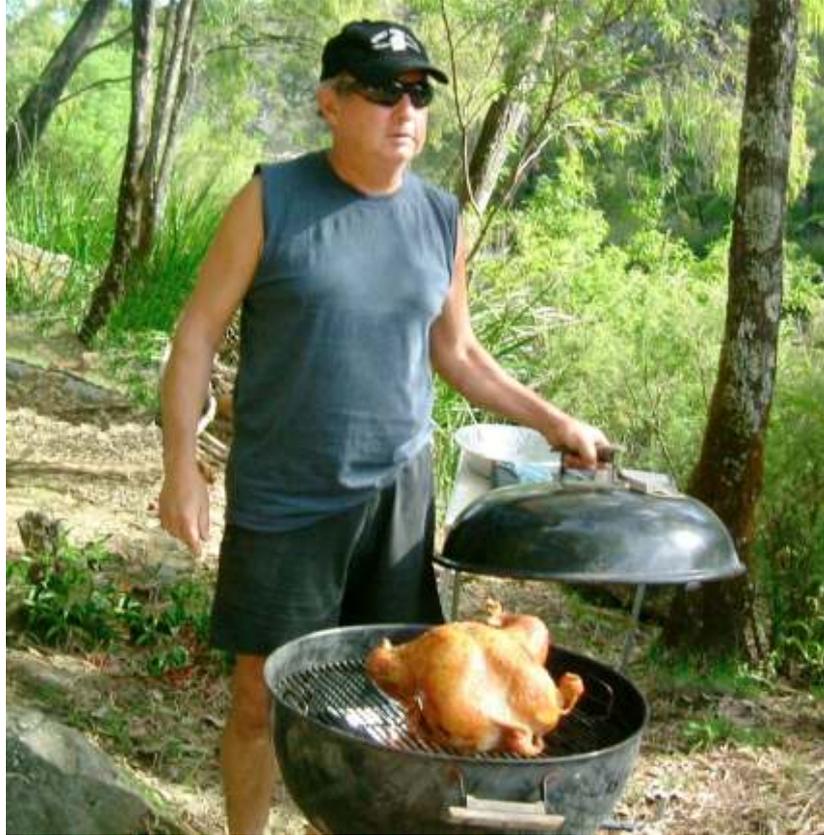


Opposite page: *Bushwalkers at the 'long table'* Photo: B. Powell

Below left: *Santa's helpers*

Right: *Our master chef, Rod Cattermole, does us proud*

Below: *Relaxing at the tranquil camp on the Warren River* Photos: J. Young



## GNAMMAS

*Ian McDonald*

**G**NAMMA IS AN ABORIGINAL WORD current over most of Australia which means rockhole and water. The common usage of 'gnamma hole' is tautological . Gnammas are usually not always associated with granite.

A gnamma is created by chemical action of water on rock with some scouring to remove the product of rock decomposition. This scouring is usually caused naturally by water run- off but there are numerous cases where the scouring is very likely to be caused by the action of taking the water to drink and in cleaning the hole to improve water quality and quantity. Some gnammas have also been created by fire and subsequent cooling by natural radiation or by quenching with water.

Gnammas come in all shapes and sizes. Most are perhaps 10 or 15 centimetres deep and have an area of several square metres and with the high ration of area to depth,

hold water for a relatively short period after rain.

The gnammas of most interest to bushwalkers, as a water source for extended walks or in an emergency, may be half a metre deep or more and have a surface area of perhaps a square metre. The Aborigines, who used these gnammas as water sources and who scoured the sides of the hole, often placed rock or brush lids over the holes. The lid kept animals from falling in and contaminating the water; it dramatically reduced evaporation and it reduced photosynthesis. It is not uncommon to find covered gnammas in bushwalking areas in a pristine condition. Unfortunately some have not been cleaned out for many years and have been filled with detritus and are consequently very difficult to find.

Bushwalkers treat these gnammas and the water in them with great respect.



*The pile of rocks here cover a gnamma hole - a valuable source of fresh water*

Photo: *I. McDonald*

*Gnamma hole at  
Hancock Brook.  
The stone at centre  
of picture covers the  
water source*

Photo: Ian McDonald



*Ian lifting the cap stone of  
the gnamma*



*Gnamma hole at  
John Forrest National Park  
Photo: Gwyneth Iffe*



## PERTH BUSHWALKERS AND CONSERVATION ISSUES

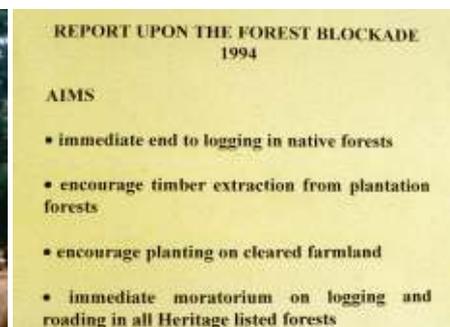
*Melvyn Lintern*

**W**E LIKE BUSHWALKING in natural settings preferably those that appear pristine as this gives us a sense of connectivity with nature and helps us unwind from the pressures of our normal daily lives. There is mounting scientific evidence that urban-based people actually require to be with nature on a regular basis for their psychological well-being. Thus it will come as no surprise that over the years since its formation in 1969 the Perth Bushwalkers Club and its members have been associated with many conservation and environmental issues that have endeavoured to protect the bush, not only for the native fauna and flora, but for our own requirements. Of course, the two are inextricably linked since we get immense pleasure when walking from seeing kangaroos, flowering plants and birds. There is nothing soothing to the spirit to see or hear noisy trucks, rumbling conveyor belts, chain saws, clear-felled forests or mining operations while we are walking.

Our bushwalking environment is threatened by habitat clearing and by competing economic activities. Unfortunately, when we are not bushwalkers we are mostly urban dwellers needing financial support for our activities - a clear conflict of interests! In a nutshell, Western Australia is a growing economy which relies heavily on extractive

and primary industries e.g., minerals, timber and agriculture, to create wealth. We have already lost large percentages of bush to clearing by agriculture. Research has shown that by clearing the land, erosion and salinity problems follow. The rate of clearing of native vegetation has been dramatically reduced in recent years and in many places the reverse is occurring with trees being planted as part of a "landcare" programme. Our responsibility now is to balance the conflict in the short term by protecting as much of the remaining bush as possible whilst maintaining our wealth-generating capabilities.

**O**NE OF THE MAIN conservation issues affecting bushwalking in this state is the loss of native forests. In the late 1980s through to this century this issue came to a head after successive governments from both sides of the political spectrum and at State and Commonwealth levels failed to stop the clear-felling of forests for woodchips. At the height of the protests The Forest Blockade was set up which saw large groups of people lying down in front of bulldozers, chaining themselves to forest clearing equipment and scaling large trees to form tree houses high in the canopy. The south west community, including Perth, became divided into pro-logging (supplying jobs) and the anti-loggers



Left: *A clear-felled part of the forest*  
Above: *A sign with the Aims of the Protest*  
Photos: *Melvyn Lintern*



*The Forest Blockade. Cynthia Butherway, a Perth Bushwalkers protester, stands beside a newly felled Karri tree. Photo: Melvyn Lintern*

(the "greenies"). Members of the Perth Bushwalkers joined the Forest Blockade which had a base at Northcliffe and participated in activities designed to slow the clear-felling of native old growth forests. Thankfully, as a result of the protests and change in government with a strong environmental protection message, clear-felling of native old growth forests for wood chips has now halted. The struggle continues however to stop further selective logging of old growth forests for other purposes such as for building products. Perth Bushwalkers is a supporter of the Forest Alliance.

**A** PROPOSED COAL MINING project in the sandplain north of Perth saw many conservation groups become involved. A little known area of bush near Hill River to the east of Jurien Bay, supporting eucalypt woodland and sandplain kwongan vegetation, became the focus of protection in the late 1980s when a proposal to mine the deposit was submitted.

The Mt Lesueur area was brought to the attention of the Perth Bushwalkers by botanists who regarded it as a jewel in the crown of botanic diversity. Though well known to botanists it was not well known to the general public and thus began a campaign of education into the natural beauty of the area. The Catch 22 was the susceptibility of the area to *Phytophthora* dieback and stringent precautions had to be taken to avoid contaminating the bush when showing people around.

*Phytophthora cinnamomi* is an introduced fungus that affects water and nutrient uptake of hundreds of species of native plants in the south west. Perth Bushwalkers pledged our support in the fight to save the area by writing submissions, circulating petitions and by promoting extended walks in the Mt Lesueur area to our members. As a result of these activities, the Mt Lesueur National Park was gazetted in 1991 and we now have a splendid area to lead some winter bushwalks amongst some unusual landscapes and rare flora.

**T**HE SOUTH COAST between Augusta and Walpole is renowned for its wilderness-like qualities. It supports varied environments ranging from karri forest, bullich, yate and peppermint forests, large swathes of coastal shrubland, large freshwater lakes and pristine, deserted beaches. One can imagine therefore the fuss that was generated when, in 1989, it was proposed to explore for mineral sands in the area. It followed an earlier proposal to open a large mineral sands mine at Beenup near Augusta. Another campaign was started to save the D'Entrecasteaux National Park in the first instance from exploration activities. Despite protests exploration was allowed to continue but, fortunately, little was found. However, a mineral sand deposit was discovered close to Lake Jasper on the edge of the park and land was swapped with the mining company to allow exploitation of the deposit. The mine at Beenup never went ahead because of fears that acid sulphate waters would pollute the Blackwood and Scott Rivers. A watching role by the D'Entrecasteaux National Park Coalition, with whom we affiliate, continues in case of further developments in the area and we need to get involved again.

The jarrah and marri forest that stretches from north of Perth to near the south coast is under threat from a number of processes. These include fire, bauxite mining, dieback (Phytophthora), logging and climate change. We have campaigned to stop the overuse of prescribed burning in our native forests. This controversial issue rears its head in various guises now and then, for example when a pall of smoke wafts over the city or of prescribed burns that get away such as the one that devastated the Stirling Range National Park a few years back causing it to be closed off. The mining of bauxite in the Darling Range is a *fait*

*accompli* with mining leases locked in for many years to come by agreements between Alcoa and governments; it has affected large areas of jarrah forest. Also, as with the logging operations, mining increases the chance of spreading dieback. Coal, bauxite (source of aluminium), gold and tin are some of the minerals currently being extracted from our forests. These areas will be rehabilitated by the mining companies but, as with logging, they will not reach their former status for a long time to come.

Jarrah dieback is one process that, as a Club, we have led the way. We have been active in practising bushwalking techniques that minimise the spread of dieback in our forests and our policies have become a model for the Federation of Western Australian Bushwalkers website policy adopted by 900 members in this state.

**I**N CONCLUSION the Perth Bushwalkers Club can hold its head high as being actively at the forefront of conservation issues in this State. The Wilderness Society (Tas) had its origins in the bushwalking community who feared they were going to lose many rivers and natural areas to hydro-electric dams and, while we are not as large as this organisation, we continue to contribute to the major issues of conservation that affect us. We are now more likely to do this through the Federation of Western Australian Bushwalking Clubs. The Federation, along with the Australian Conservation Foundation, The Wilderness Society and the Conservation Council of WA, can present a united front with more political clout.

*Take only photographs ... leave only shallow footprints.*

## LOCAL WALKS

Many wonderful locations for day walks are within reach of the city.

### HERDSMAN LAKE

*Herdsman Lake is in a tranquil setting situated in the heart of Perth. It is a wildlife reserve and many species of waterbirds are found here which can be viewed from several bird hides on the lake perimeter. It is also home to a large number of water amphibians such as frogs and turtles*

*Great egret Photo: R. Kaijer*



*A leisurely walk around Herdsman Lake*

### THE SWAN RIVER



*A summertime walk beside the Swan River*

*Photo: G. Palfreyman*



*Photo: R. Kaijer*

## PRESIDENTS

Steve Pawley	1981-84
Judy Jarass	1985-87
Jerome Da Costa	1988-90
Melvyn Lintern	1991-93
Jerone DaCosta	1994-95
Douglas Brown	1995-96
Geoff Palfreyman	1997-98
Richard Inglis	1998-99
Lisa Pickering	2000-01
Andrew Priest	2002-03
Ian McDonald	2004-07
Lance Costello	2007
Don Allanach	2007-08
Ralph Ditton	2008-09

## LIFE MEMBERS

Geoff Schafer	1989
Jerome DaCosta	2000
Geoff Palfreyman	2003
Ian McDonald	2005
Jenny Young	2008

## SURVIVAL

Basic guidelines for survival if lost.

- S** Size up the situation. Check resources. Stop, think, plan.
- U** Undue haste makes waste. Make decisions and act quickly and rationally.
- R** Remember where you are. Observe the country, note geographical features, watercourses and vegetation.
- V** Vanquish fear. Fear is a natural reaction in a survival situation. Make provisions while still alert.
- I** Improvise. Use what comes to hand. Car boot lids can be used for shade.
- V** Value living. Do not give up.
- A** Act like the natives. Rest in the shade. Look for water in the cool of the evening.
- L** Learn basic skills. Forward planning and practice of skills
  - If lost on foot, make for higher ground
  - If lost in a car, stay with the vehicle
  - Assess requirement for water, shelter, warmth and food

