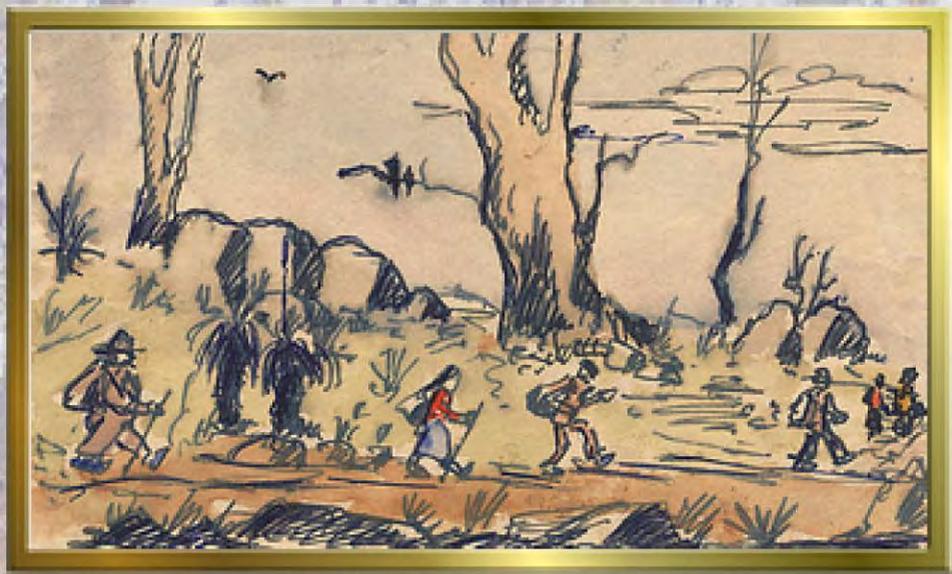
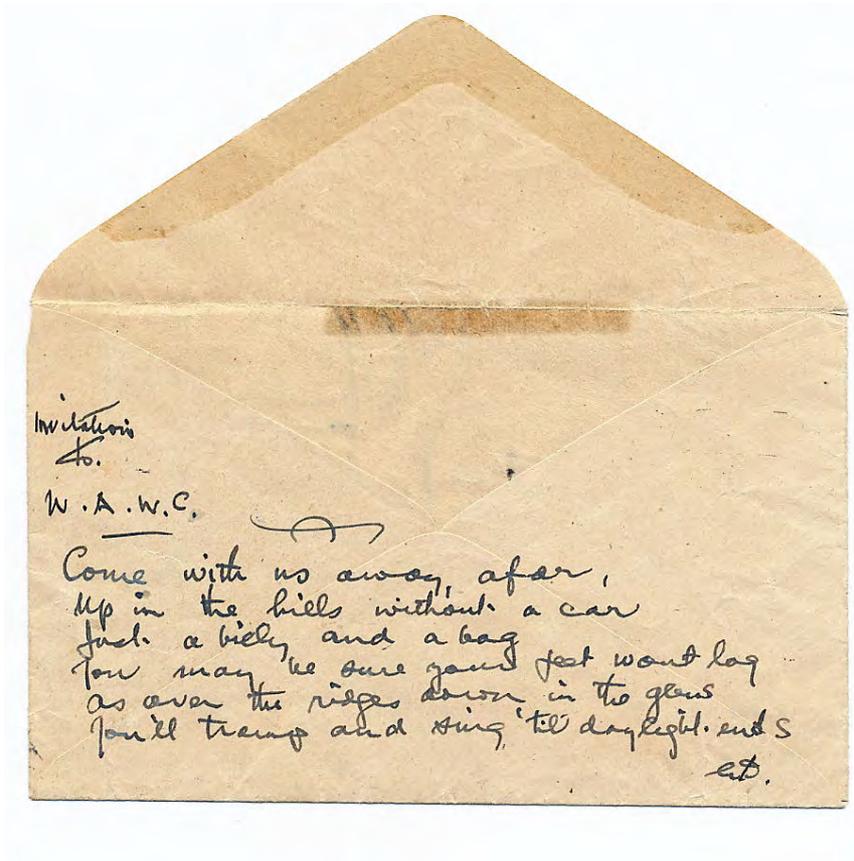


Western Walking Club 75th Anniversary



1937 - 2012

Cover: Sketch on an old envelope includes a poem by Glen Doepel, 1950s



Envelope poem reproduced:

Invitation to W.A.W.C.

Come with us away, afar,
Up in the hills without a car
Pack a billy and a bag
You may be sure your feet won't lag,
As over the ridges, down in the glens
You'll tramp and sing 'til daylight ends.

G.D.

Cover Photo: Presidents walk John Forrest National Park, May 2011, G. Ward
Rear cover photo: Kalamunda, August 2011, G. Mortlock
Background photo: E. Thomas

WESTERN WALKING CLUB INC.

Est. 1937

A Celebration of 75 Years

Editor Wendy Hampton

Compilers Helen Farrington, Wendy Hampton, Geoff Mortlock, Fiona Noble

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Preamble

Message from the Compilers

We have had much fun collecting information for this publication. Data has been sourced from our well maintained and extensive archive collections starting from Glen Doepel's time in 1950, right up to the present by Fiona Noble. The magazines contain a wealth of information specially mentioning the people who have supported the club and made it what it is today.

Over the 75 year history of the club, many members have made a wonderful contribution to the walks programme, to organising weekends away, camping trips on the Bibbulmun track as well as those tasks which are needed to keep club minutes, finances, insurance and records. It is not possible to acknowledge all who have worked to make the club activities so enjoyable. It is a tribute to the members that there have been so many willing to help when needed.

Although every effort has been made to accurately record our history and events, we may have missed out some poignant moments that others remember and would have liked to see. At times it was very difficult to decide who and what should be included specifically, and we have done our best to stick to our criteria. Where credit can be assigned, this has been noted, but some articles or sources could not be traced with a reasonable search. A list of specific accolades can be found at the end.

We would like to thank all our members who have contributed to the club over the last 75 years, recording their adventures and mishaps along the way. It is nice to see many people remaining in the club for so long, from the earliest years to more recent times.

Foreword

This year we are celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Western Walking Club. It is a significant milestone. The club would not be here today without the support of our members, whether being on the committee, leading walks or just being a member for the enjoyment of the company while walking in the bush. Many of our members have over 25 of years of membership and we have 14 life memberships for those who have made a large contribution.

The editor and compilers have accomplished a mammoth task of collecting information for this publication and assembling it all in one place. They have provided a snapshot of club activities over this period, in time for our 75th Anniversary in October 2012. It highlights the activities enjoyed by past members and still enjoyed by our current membership.

The simple act of walking in the bush and the surrounds of Perth is a privilege available to all members of our community. However, as this volume notes, the club has had to rally to preserve our beautiful and fragile environment a number of times, and continues to be vigilant in maintaining our heritage and walking areas.

I hope this publication will find a wide audience and encourage all members to proudly display it as an example of our club's commitment to a healthy society and healthy environment.

I would like to record my thanks to all the members who have contributed articles, past and present and to the four members for their time and expertise in producing it.



Photo: G. Mortlock

Terry Mahoney

President
Western Walking Club Inc.



THE ROYAL SERIES No. 21 ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE, LOOKING EAST, PERTH, W.A.

St Georges Terrace, looking East, 1930
(from <http://transpressnz.blogspot.com.au>)



Trolley Bus #2 on route 1 to Leederville, Wellington Street, Perth, 1930s
(from website Perth Electric Tramway Society)

CHAPTER ONE

It All Began ...

Compared with today, Perth looks very different in the 1930s (see photos opposite) as did bushwalkers in 1937 and 1940 (see photos on pages 5 and 11). The bush in some areas was much closer to Perth and members of the fledgling walking club used public transport to get to and from walks. A cup of tea was enjoyed at the end of a walk either in the bush or at the home of a member. Reports of early walks suggest a quaint social atmosphere. Then, as now, membership was predominantly women. Initially, there was no hint of the war to come but later reports and minutes reveal changes in membership and finances due to the war.

A Brief History of the Western Walking Club

The origin of the Western Walking Club can be traced back to 12th August 1937, when a meeting was held to discuss the possibilities of forming a walking club. At a subsequent meeting on 29th August, it was decided to form the “Golden West Walking Club”. Officers were elected and annual subscription was set at five shillings (50c). A month later the name was changed to “The Western Walking Club”. A program of walks and other activities was drawn up and the club was under way. The first treasurer’s report in December 1937, announced ‘a very satisfactory’ cash in hand of 2 pounds 13 shillings and 3 pence.

It is recorded that in October 1942, three ladies completed a walking tour from Donnybrook to Pemberton, a distance of 120 miles. After the war, membership gradually increased, as did the variety of walks and other activities such as weekends away. Until the early sixties public transport was used to get to the starting points of walks. Until 1978, the Seaforth to Crystal Brook walk was still accessed by public transport – usually at a hectic pace over the last stretch (uphill!) to catch the bus home.

1954 saw the commencement of the magazine which has progressed from an eleven page duplicated publication to a full colour twenty page presentation as from 2006.

In 1972, the club was incorporated, and later in the seventies, became involved in the “Life-Be-In-It” campaign. The numbers on walks increased dramatically (100 plus on some easy walks) with an increase in the time for a walk. In 1979, the problem was somewhat alleviated by scheduling two walks for each Sunday wherever possible – one easy and the other for more experienced walkers. Regular weekly summer walks were introduced in 1982, and have been an important part of the program ever since. The year 1973 saw the opening of the first section of the Bibbulmun track with the club, and its President of the time, Bob Frayne, playing a part in paving the way.

Club membership topped the hundred in 1966/7, reached a peak of 267 in 1988, and in recent years, has fluctuated around the 140 to 210 mark. Over the years, fourteen members who made exemplary contributions were granted life membership.

Early in 1984, the club received a \$1000 legacy from the estate of Cyril Brown, a long time member. This assisted the club library for a number of years, which contains many books and magazines relating to walking and nature. The library now consists of around 150 items with 27 loans in 2011.

Training courses were first mentioned in 1956 following a shortage of leaders, with occasional courses in following years. Regular annual training courses commenced in 2004, and in 2009 were expanded to include a course on the use of a GPS. In recent years, first aid training has become a higher priority with the club trying to ensure a trained person will be on most walks.

In 2001, the club started work on a web site. This now provides the main contact with the public and a source of many new members. Several thousand visitors view the web site each year.

The club continues to provide two walks in the hills every Sunday in winter months. These are graded from easy, to medium to hard. Easier walks around the metropolitan area are conducted during the summer months. Trips away staying in caravans and chalets or camping, at Christmas, Easter and long weekends continue to be very popular and provide opportunities to walk in other locations, mainly our south-west. The on-going success of the club is very much the result of our many enthusiastic members, the support and dedication of our office bearers and the tireless work of our willing leaders.

A big “THANK YOU” to you all.

It Began With a Letter to the Editor

The Letter

WALKING CLUB.

A Meeting was held at the Arundale Hall recently for the purpose of forming a Walking Club in Western Australia. Mr. T. H. Morgan presided and introduced Miss N. Morgan, who outlined the various types of walks organised by a similar club in Melbourne, of which she is a member. These included a Saturday afternoon walk, a full day, short week-end, long week-end, Easter and 10-day Christmas trips. It was stated that the walks commenced from points outside the city. Caravan trips were arranged for those who did not care for long walks. Miss Morgan also exhibited and explained her gear which was used to lighten the weight to be carried. A list of possible walks around Perth was submitted.

Further meetings are being arranged.

The West Australian 8th July 1937

And an advertisement

WALKING CLUB.
A Meeting will be held in Lesser Arundale Hall on Thursday evening next, at 8 o'clock, for the purpose of forming a Walking Club. All interested in outdoor life cordially invited.
MISS N. MORGAN, Convener.

The West Australian Monday 9th August 1937

A Club is formed

WALKING CLUBS.

Miss M. Morgan (Bayswater): I was keenly interested in an article on "Youth Hostels in Scotland" in your issue on Saturday. Being an active member of the Melbourne Women's Walking Club for the last five years, and knowing how very interesting and enjoyable the activities of such a club can be, I was sorry to find on returning to my home State that no such club exists here, to cater for those who desire to see the country per foot, and in congenial company, during holidays and week-ends. Would it be possible for those who have the desire to go walking to get together and first form a walking club? Then we could perhaps arrange for huts such as the rover scout crews have in Victoria, or the Tourist Department in New Zealand.

The West Australian 19th August 1937



T. H. Morgan
First President
1937 and 1938

Prominent Perth
citizen and father
of Nancy

A few days later:

The first walk, 21st August 1937

The first half-day walk of the newly-formed Golden West Walking Club took place last Saturday afternoon. The party moved off from the corner of Hay-street and Rokeby-road, Subiaco, and walked to City Beach. At a meeting held last Thursday the route for the first full-day walk next Sunday was decided upon.

The West Australian Monday 9th August 1937

Just four months later:

A farewell to our founder

WESTERN WALKING CLUB.

AT the home of the Misses Scrymgeour, Langham-street, Hollywood, last Tuesday, members of the Western Walking Club met to farewell their secretary (Miss Nancy Morgan), who is returning to Melbourne after six months' visit to this State. Musical items and competitions were enjoyed by all present after which supper was served.

On behalf of the members, the vice-president (Mr. Ryett) spoke of their appreciation of Miss Morgan's efforts. He presented the guest of the evening with a handbag. Mr. Edwards supported the remarks.

Miss Morgan thanked the members and said that she had been only too pleased to pass on to them some of the joys of the open road which she had learnt to love as a member of the Melbourne Women's Walking Club. She also paid a tribute to the assistance given by Mr. Ranford.

The West Australian 17th December 1937

The First Walk 21st August 1937 [error photo date]



The first walk of the club took place in August 1937. Based on a walk proposed by Mr E. E. Ranford, a group of three men and six women trekked from Subiaco to City Beach via the plank road. This road from Cambridge Street to the coast, passed Reabold Hill, and was built in 1918. It was not until after the war in 1951 that it was bituminised and named Oceanic Drive.

The Boulevard had been opened to the coast in 1928 and the Wembley Golf Course was established in 1932, while 1934 saw the first land sales in the older Floreat area east of Perry Lakes. It was only in 1939 that the construction of West Coast Highway commenced to link Cottesloe, City Beach and Scarborough in order to provide reliable coastal access during the war. City Beach boasted tearooms on the beach, a few houses and little more.



Mr E. E. Ranford was a keen walker and submitted eight walks to Nancy Morgan before the club got under way, the City Beach walk being one of them.

2.
PERTH TO CITY BEACH.
If a longer tramp is desired, catch a tram at the Town Hall, at say, 2 p.m. any Saturday. Alight at the Hotel on the corner of Hay Street and Rokeby Road, then walk on through the subway, following the road to Cambridge Street. Then turn to the left and keep on until you reach the Darling View Estate. Linger here

“... continue then West along the Plank Road until you reach the turn off to Reabold Hill. Go up here, and see the fine view of the surrounding country – this is well worth the effort. Then follow the road down the hill on the West side and continue on to City Beach, in passing note the various styles of houses etc. en route. Then, should a dip in the briny appeal, and you have brought your bathers, have a swim. Afterwards tasty afternoon teas are obtainable at the tea rooms, but I much prefer the Centenary Tea Rooms, situated further North along the Ocean Drive. The tea rooms are right on a bus route, if one decides to patronise it, in preference to walking back, via the Golf Links and The Boulevard. My pal and I both prefer to catch the Bus, soon after 5 o'clock, as this enables us to be home in good time, whereas to walk back means arriving in town about 6.50 p.m. and we think walking the extra distance somewhat spoils a pleasant outing.”

Life Member Nancy Morgan, Club Co-Founder

Nancy Morgan was largely instrumental in establishing the club. Living in Melbourne at the time (1937) she spent six months in Perth. Nancy's father, T. H. Morgan, chaired the first meeting in August and became the club President for the first two years, while Nancy became Secretary in September.

The second official walk of the club [28th or 29th August] was to Glen Forest Railway Station, down Helena Road and the Boya Railway Station with Nancy Morgan leading.

Although she moved interstate, Nancy maintained her interest in the club. She visited Perth a number of times following her departure. In October 1973, she drove to Perth as guest speaker to the Business Women's clubs. She joined us for the 'River Walk' on the 28th and, the next day, attended a dinner with a dozen members, which was followed by a slide show. Nancy informed us she was delighted to find the club functioning so well, with a representation of all age-groups.

Business women's clubs hold annual conference

MORE than 60 women from the city and country attended the annual conference of the W.A. division of the Australian Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs held at St. Catherine's College during the weekend.

The conference started with a dinner at the college on Friday night and an address by Mr A. R. Foyster on modern meeting procedure.

Other speakers at the conference discussed drugs, probate, superannuation, education and equal pay.

Conference resolutions covered conservation, fine print in agreements, detergents, pollution, education, equal pay and nurses' pay.

Miss Nancy Morgan, of Melbourne, told the conference that Business and Professional Women's Clubs throughout the world would make the crisis in the human environment their study theme for the next three years.

She was the Australian delegate to the Business and Professional Women's Board meeting in Dublin in April this year. She said members in every country would adopt the theme as their main topic for study sessions and guest speakers till the next board meeting, to be held in Munich in 1974.

Delegates from 23 countries had attended the Dublin meeting. She would be reporting on the meeting and its resolutions at the national conference in Canberra in November.



MISS MORGAN OCT. 73
ANNIVERSARY

Later in December, her letter to walking club members, describes her return journey to Victoria in extreme heat. The South Australian section of the Nullarbor Highway was not fully sealed until 1976.

She also walked with the club on the Serpentine Escarpment on 14th September 1975. Then on 7th August 1977, members were delighted that Nancy joined them on the Kitty's Gorge walk. She later attended a special dinner in Fremantle to mark the 40th Anniversary of the club.

Nancy visited again in September 1980, as she called in enroute from Mauritius to Melbourne.

Nancy joined part of the Club celebrations for the 50th Anniversary on Sunday 20th September 1987. Members gathered for a short walk around Perry Lakes and afternoon tea, followed by films and a display of memorabilia in

the Sir Thomas Meagher Pavilion. Five life members joined Nancy. It is noted that the Cyril Brown Memorial Library money paid for the function.

She was made a life member in 1987 and passed away in 1993.

Life Member Lucy Serventy

Lucy was a very active and enthusiastic member of the Perth community in the early and mid part of the 20th Century. The Club was very fortunate to count her among its founding members. She became a life member in 1950 and died at the age of 98 on 25th October 2003.

On the 23rd September 1937, at the meeting at which the club name was changed to the “Western Walking Club”, Lucy became assistant Secretary and a year later became Secretary, a position she held for 11 years as well as Treasurer for seven years, followed by two years as President and a further year as Vice President. During those years she was a strong promoter of the club and walking in general as these newspaper articles attest. She was honoured with life membership in 1987.

Lucy joined the Attorney General’s Department in 1928, and had the distinction of being the only permanent woman verbatim reporter in the Bankruptcy Court.

YOUTH HOSTELS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—It is with interest that I read the article on “Youth Hostels” in “The West Australian,” on Wednesday. A walking club has been in existence in Western Australia for approximately three years, and up to the present walks have been confined to distances which could easily be accomplished in one day. If hostels could be established along the lines proposed in Victoria, they would be greatly appreciated by walkers in this State, thus enabling them to go farther afield, without the necessity of having to carry a great deal of gear. The erection of shelter sheds in the popular walking districts, such as the Darling Range, would also be welcome.

Another suggestion which would facilitate walking in this State, would be the clearing of bush tracks, thus obviating the necessity in many cases, of having to keep to made roads.—Yours, etc.,

L. SERVENTY.

Hon. Secretary, Western Walking Club.
1940

PERSONALITY *of the week*

She catches words on the wing



MISS LUCY SERVENTY, of Subiaco, official court reporter in the Bankruptcy Court, likes her work so much that she reads for pleasure technical books and novels written entirely in shorthand.

Miss Serventy is a qualified accountant but found when she had finished her training, that shorthand writing attracted her more as a career.

Court examination of one witness, Miss Serventy has reckoned, may mean 1,000 questions, and of course their answers. How may words she must write would take a lot of adding up.

While she is taking shorthand, her mind must not wander for an instant. When you consider what that means, you will agree that Miss Serventy's is a most exhausting job.

Apart from her exacting occupation, Miss Serventy is a member of the Walking Club (was president in 1950), Youth Hostels' Association, on the council of the Gould League of Bird Lovers of W.A., secretary of the Wild Life Show Committee, honorary treasurer of the West Australian Naturalists' Club, vice-president of the Business and Professional Womens' Club, and a member of the executive of the Soroptomists' Club.

Coming from a family of naturalists—one of her five brothers, Dr. D. L. Serventy, has written many books

and is a noted ornithologist, another Vincent is the author of West Australian Fauna—it is not surprising that Miss Serventy takes such an active part in natural history.

Studying marine life and collecting shells is her pet hobby.

She has spent many, many hours collecting specimens along the reefs at ebb tide, and walking along the shores of our local beaches in search of unusual shells.

These she keeps at home in her private collection with specimens she has found during her several trips to the Abrolhos Islands, and the Barrier Reef.

The outdoors has always held a remarkable appeal for Miss Serventy. For years since she has been connected with the Walking Club and the Youth Hostels' Association she has been on regular excursions in the West Australian country on foot.

Although natural history, walking, and clublife take up most of Miss Serventy's spare hours, she still makes time for her “next best interests” ... reading, going to dramatic productions and ballets.

Early 1950s —Julie.

MISS SERVENTY . . . shorthand and nature study.

As well as her enthusiastic support of the Western Walking Club, Lucy was a tireless worker for the West Australian Naturalist Club from its inception, acting as Treasurer for over 30 years. During this time Lucy was in charge of junior members and rarely missed a club meeting or excursion. The Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia was another passion and in 1997, a “Serventy Perpetual Conservation Award” was established to honour Lucy and her two younger brothers Dr Vincent and Dr Dominic Serventy.

Report for Excursion 12th September 1937 Parkerville to Swan View

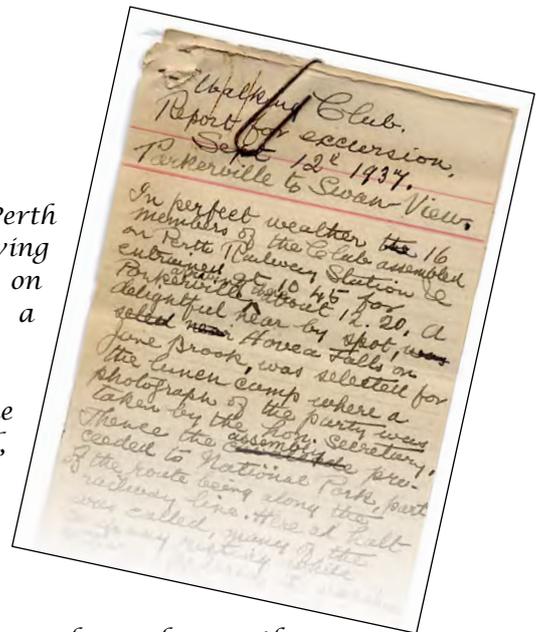
In perfect weather 16 members of the Club assembled at Perth railway station and entrained at 10:45 for Parkerville arriving there about 12.20. A delightful near-by spot, Hovea Falls, on Jane Brook, was selected for the luncheon camp where a photograph of the party was taken by the Hon. Secretary.

Thence the assembly proceeded to National Park, part of the route being along the railway line. Here a halt was called, many of the company resting while others explored the various beauty spots of that delectable reserve. Here two other members joined the party, which left for Swan View station during the afternoon.

Through following an old rough track, when there was a newly made smooth one available, about half an hour was lost before re-crossing the brook. About half a mile further on a very pleasant place was found where the billies were boiled and afternoon tea was partaken of during a beautiful sunset.

The march was soon resumed owing to the near approach of the train time, and the long home stretch, the upward incline of Peachy Road at the journey's end, this being negotiated in fine brisk style by the whole of the party which arrived on the Swan View platform with a good 15 minutes to spare. Through the kindly foresight of the honorary secretary, three compartments were reserved and these formed part of the train for the homeward journey which ended quite happily I think, for all the members and friends partaking of it.

J Pyett
Leader



Picnic group, 1930
© LSWA 2017, Creative Library. All Rights Reserved

Picnickers at Parkerville station seven years earlier

John Forrest National Park was, and still is, a popular picnic and walking destination. In the early days, train was the only easy mode of transport and here crowds leave the Parkerville station in 1930 to walk to the National Park.

The line was part of the first East West rail constructed in the 1890's and closed in 1966 with the opening of the broad-gauge Avon Valley route via Walyunga. Much of the National Park infrastructure was built in the Depression years of the 1930s. The Park railway station was constructed in 1936 and regularly used by the Walking Club.

23 SEP 1937

Western Ramblers

Outing NO 4

Report by leader E E Ranford

On Swan View Railway Station recently, it was arranged that an afternoon walk thru Kings Park take place last Saturday

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On Swan View Railway station recently, it was arranged that an afternoon walk thru Kings Park take place last Saturday starting from the Edith Cowan Memorial Clock at 2.15pm. For various reasons (all very satisfactory I hope) only two members, Mr Pyett and myself had arrived at the appointed time, and we had almost resigned ourselves to having a 'Bucks Party' when to our delight Miss Serventy arrived on the scene, and facetiously offered to give us the pleasure of her company, thus proving herself a 'Real Sport'.

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Needless to mention, by way of appreciation, Mr Pyett and myself vied with each other during the afternoon walk, to live up to rule 7a which reads as follows, 'Male members of the "Western Ramblers" are expected to show chivalry at all times, and under all conditions towards the Fair Sex.' I feel sure we each enjoyed very much the few hours ramble amid such lovely surroundings, and also the break for Billy Tea and some eats before saying Cheerio and departing for our homes, feeling just a wee bit sorrowful for those members unable to be present.

app
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follows, Male
Club are
time
the

Yours Fraternally
E E Ranford

enjoy
also the break for Billy Tea and some eats, before saying Cheerio and departing for our homes, feeling just a wee bit sorrowful for those members unable to be present.

Your Fraternally
E E Ranford

**Matters Arising ...
Our First 10 Years – 1937-1947**

A meeting was held in Perth on **Thursday, 12th August 1937**, for the purpose of forming a Walking Club.
One was formed that night and we've been minuting ever since.

12th August 1937

First meeting held, to form a walking club similar to those in the Eastern States and elsewhere. Miss Nancy Morgan, whose father chaired the meeting, explained how other clubs worked. Fifteen women and four men were present.

29th August 1937

Second meeting – club to be called the “Golden West Walking Club”.
First walk would be from Subiaco, through Jolimont and Reabold Hill to City Beach.

23rd September 1937

Vote to change club's name to “Western Walking Club”.
Nancy Morgan, now Secretary, offered to give a talk on her recent walking trip to South Island, New Zealand at a later date.

2nd August 1938 – AGM

Members to pay 6 pence for afternoon tea supplied at a member's home after a walk.
Two resignations.
Lucy Serventy becomes Secretary.
Only two new members. Now 24 members.

1st August 1939 – AGM

Mrs Langley elected President
Fourteen walks had been held plus several social activities.

<u>WESTERN WALKING CLUB.</u>	
<u>FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS AT 31st July, 1939.</u>	
Cash in hand on 31st July, 1938.	£1- 0- 0.
Subscriptions received from Members from Aug. 1st, 1938, to 31st July, 1939.	4-10- 0.
Total	<u>£5-10- 0.</u>
Expenses incurred by the Club during the last twelve months, (advertising, stamps, Hire of room for Meetings, etc.)	<u>£2- 5-10.</u>
Cash in hand on 31st July, 1939.	<u>£3- 4- 2.</u>

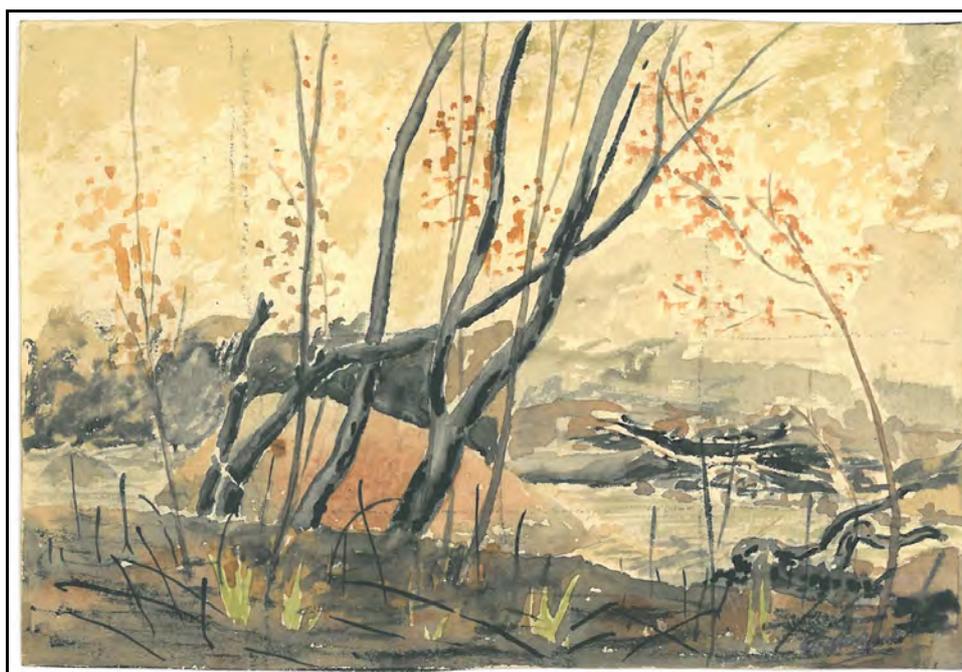
E. Langley
31/7/39.

Walk Reports

The first years of walking included a few weekend trips and seemed to remain fairly consistent even through the war years in terms of number of walks conducted. Walks were mainly held through the months April to November. Occasionally, summer walks or socials occurred at the beach.

Total No. Walks and Weekends		
Year	Walks	Weekends
1937	6	3
1938	16	1
1939	~14	
1940	16	
1941	16	
1942	14	
1943	16	
1944	~14	3
1945	15	
1946	14	
1947	13	5

Date	Walk	No.	Comment
Nov 1937	Stirling Ranges		King's Birthday Holiday – no map available so a comprehensive one drafted from our experience
29 th Apr 1938	Meelup Beach		Trip for 29 th April to 2 nd May
15 th May 1938	Glen Forest to Boya	7	Took a short cut over a big hill, very steep and going very heavy – arrived Darlington Station missing train by ten minutes! Walked on to Boya. About 11 miles covered
Jun 1944	Ravenswood	4	Long weekend
Nov 1944	West Murray	7	Spent a very enjoyable time on King's Birthday Holiday



'Bushfire at National Park', Glen Doepel, 1950s

Walk Programme 1941 – “Trains, Trams and Buses ... ”

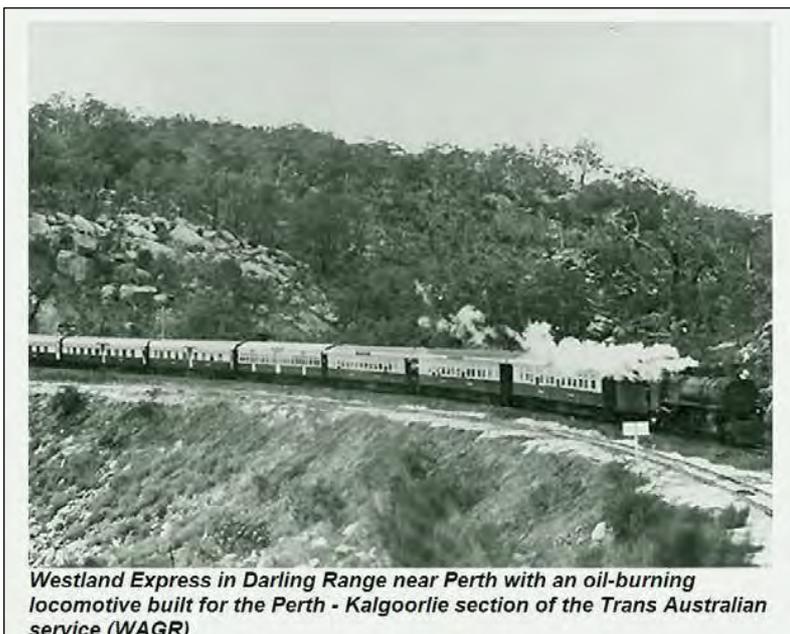
During the war years there was only Lucy Serventy, Muffi Burnett, Grace Symes, Marjorie Warnes, Nell Kniep and Frances Curtin who went on Sunday walks.

<u>PROGRAMME OF WALKS FOR 1941 SEASON.</u>		
1941. 27th April.	Fremantle, South Beach, to Coogee & Spearwood.	Leave Fremantle Station at 11 a.m.
11th May.	Kelmscott to Roleystone, via Canning Mills Rd., (back to Kelmscott by another route)	Train leaves Perth at 10.12 a.m. 2nd. class return fare to Kelmscott approx. 1/7d.
25th "	Swanbourne - Richardson Ave., to Peppermint Grove, past Sugar Refineries, to North Fremantle.	Meet at corner of Richardson Avenue, Swanbourne. Trolley bus from Perth leaves Cr.St.George's Tce. and William Street.
8th June.	Gooseberry Hill, to McLarty's Point, down the Zig Zag.	Kalamunda bus (via Maida Vale) leaves St.George's Terrace, Perth, at 10.15 a.m. (Single fare to Kalamunda) (2/-)
22nd. June.	Glen Forrest via Helena River to Darlington.	Train leaves Perth, at 9.50 a.m. Return fare to Glen Forrest approx.1/7d.
6th July.	Kelmscott to Roleystone Swimming Pool.	Train for Kelmscott leaves Perth at 10.12 a.m.
20th. "	Maddington to Bickley Brook.	Train leaves Perth at 10.12 a.m. Return fare to Maddington approx. 1/6d.
3rd. Aug.	Roleystone, via Soldiers Rd., to Churchman's Brook, to Armadale.	Roleystone bus leaves St. George's Tce., Perth, at 10 a.m. (3/3d. return)
17th "	Darlington to Bellevue.	Train leaves Perth at 9.50 a.m. (return to Darlington - approx.1/6d.)
7th Sept.	Parkerville to Margaret Rd. to Darlington.	Train leaves Perth at 10.45 a.m. Return to Parkerville - 2/2d.
21st. "	Gosnells to 60 ft. Waterfall, to Orange Grove and Maddington.	Train leaves Perth at 10.12 a.m. Return to Gosnells (/1/6d.)
5th. Oct.	Swan View, Greenmount, Darlington, back to Greenmount.	Train leaves Perth at 10.45 a.m.
19th. "	Mundaring Weir to Glen Forrest.	Train leaves Perth at 9.50 a.m.
2nd. Nov.	Mahogany Creek to Parkerville.	Train leaves Perth at 9.50 a.m. (return ticket to Mahogany Creek)
16th. Nov.	Subiaco, to Raebold Hill, to City Beach.	Meet at the corner of Rokeby Rd. & Hay St., Subiaco, at 11.30 a.m. (Trams 4,5,6 or 7 from Perth)

Walk Programme 1947 - A quieter year
Six years of war had taken its toll

<u>WESTERN WALKING CLUB.</u>		
WALKS AND WEEK-END CAMPS CONDUCTED DURING THE YEAR ended 31st. MARCH, 1948.		
1947.		
April 4th/5th/6th/ 7th. (Easter Holidays)	Busselton to Quindalup, Dunsborough, Meelup, Bunker's Bay & Naturaliste.	(Train from Perth.
" 25th/26/27th. (Week-end camp)	Mandurah. (Bus from Fremantle)	
May, 25th.	From Glen Forrest along Helena River, to Bellvue.	(train)
" 31st/June 2nd.	Yanchep.	(Bus)
June 22nd.	Gosnells to "The Cascades"	(train)
July 20th.	Kalamunda to Bickley Valley	(bus)
August 9th/10th.	Maddington to Bickley Youth Camp, and Pickering Brook.	(train)
Sept. 28th.	Kalamunda.	(bus)
October 12th.	Roleystone	(bus)
" 26th	Chidlow's to Lake Leschenaultia, Mt. Helena to Stoneville.	(train)
November 9th.	Roleystone to swimming pool.	(bus)
" 8th/9th/10th	Mandurah.	(bus)
" 23rd.	Wongong to Wongong Gorge & Armadale.	(bus)
1948.		
March 25th/29th (Easter holidays)	Pt. Peron.	(bus)

(Miss L. Serventy,
Hon. Secretary,
34 Onslow Rd., SUBIACO.)



Westland Express in Darling Range near Perth with an oil-burning locomotive built for the Perth - Kalgoorlie section of the Trans Australian service (WAGR)

The Westland Express, circa 1940 passing through National Park (John Forrest NP)
(<http://trains-worldexpresses.com/100/132.htm>)

CHAPTER TWO

Our 2nd Decade – 1948-1958

The club continues to establish itself in this decade, with the Constitution adopted in 1950. A social committee is also formed. Club magazines commenced in 1954 and provide another source of club history. Public transport is mostly still used, but private cars become more available during 1956. Hiring a bus is another mode of transport up to about 1964. Publicity drives help to increase membership, though there continues to be a lack of new leaders.

Matters Arising ... Our Second Decade – 1948-1958

23rd April 1948 – AGM

It was decided to defer the election of a President until it was known if Mrs Langley was returning from the Eastern States. It was also decided that if the club is to flourish, more members are needed. A membership drive would be embarked upon.

14th October 1948

Mrs Langley became President.

Lucy Serventy, back after a two month's absence, objected to the club paying for a social evening supper to which non-members had come. The social had been held for a club member who was getting married. The usual procedure should have been followed. It was paid this time, but would not be in the future. Costs for supper were one pound seventeen shillings, of which Grace Symes recouped one pound two shillings.

8th August 1949 – AGM

Fifteen women and six men present.

Lucy Serventy, who had been Secretary from August 1937 to July 1949, was elected President. Mrs Langley Vice President.

Miners strike had restricted trains and one walk had to be cancelled.

14th April 1950 – AGM

The Constitution was adopted.

A social committee of five members was formed.

A club recorder, Glen Doepel, was appointed to record walk routes and other information. Walk numbers varied between 17 and 34 walkers.

23rd May 1950

It was decided that if members showed they were not up to heavier walks, a letter should be sent suggesting they do not attend those walks.

17th March 1951 – AGM

Now about 70 members.

Average number on walks is 29. Forty nine walkers had been the highest attendance.

Mr Baggs said he thought a walk could be done from Pemberton, through Manjimup and Nornalup, to Albany. He proposed this should be a Christmas/New Year walk.

28th March 1952 – AGM

Mrs Stewart was thanked for being President, Secretary and Treasurer, due to several resignations – three executive and most of the social committee.

19th June 1952

It was suggested that as more females than males were joining the club, we should limit the girls and try to concentrate on more males. After discussion, it was decided that it would not be workable.

27th March 1953 – AGM

Club now has 93 members, 16 of these were non-financial. Enquiries and prospective members during the year totalled 115, but these were weeded out over the year, and 37 became members.

Leaders experienced difficulty in planning walks, because of lack of rail transport, and the large numbers on several walks. One walk, with over 50 walkers, greatly overtaxed the conveyance.

9th April 1954 – AGM

Every now and then there were whispers, that walks were always the same and that a change would be appreciated, but it was hard to vary because of transport problems and distances to be travelled.

There have been three marriages during the year between 5/6 members [as written in the minutes!].

29th April 1954

It was suggested that the next circular should advise intending members of equipment needed for an enjoyable outing: strong shoes, mackintosh, haversack and sufficient food for two meals.

19th August 1954

It was suggested that humorous resumes of each walk be read at social evenings.

It was considered a very good idea for the club to publish a small magazine that would include items of interest and amusing incidents that happened during the year.

24th March 1955 – AGM

It was decided to have only three socials, one being the Christmas BBQ.

Mr Traine resigned as a protest against the passing of this resolution that he believed would limit the club's usefulness.

Great interest was taken in the first club magazine.

26th July 1955

It was proposed at the previous meeting that name tags should be worn from now on.

Walks included in the last program were 8, 10 and 11 miles long.

5th May 1956

Lack of leaders could bring an end to walks. It was suggested that there be a two-year plan with no new walks so that new leaders could be trained up.

14th March 1957

It was suggested that two tubes of Anti Snake Venom be considered most essential. A syringe and directions for use should also be obtained. In a later meeting, the Health Department reported that serum was not available, and in any case, it couldn't be used by an unqualified person. The matter was dropped.

4th April 1957 – AGM

A motion was moved and carried that the Western Walking Club object to alienation of any part of Kings Park for any purpose whatever. [This was in reference to an Olympic Pool]. Letters to be sent to the West Australian newspaper, the Lord Mayor, Premier and Leader of the Opposition. Proposed that letters be sent inviting the Press to send a representative to a walk.

6th March 1958

Miss T mentioned that Miss Serventy had approached her saying that she [Miss Serventy] had been a Life Member since 1950, but had never received any club circulars [newsletters]. No record of Life Members could be found, and it was decided to raise this at the next general meeting when it would be proposed that Mr Baggs and Mr Doepel receive Life Membership.

7th July 1958

Moved that a letter of apology be written to Miss Serventy in view of the fact that her Life Membership had not been recorded in the 1950 minutes and therefore had been overlooked.

The Club Constitution

The club Constitution was adopted in April 1950. A set of policies and requirements is set out below. In 1972, the Club was incorporated.

THE WESTERN WALKING CLUB
CONSTITUTION.

Adopted at Annual General Meeting held on 14 April, 1950.

1. This Club shall be called "The Western Walking Club".
2. The objects of the Club shall be:-
 - (a) To promote and encourage walking and camping generally.
 - (b) To encourage a wider appreciation of the wild life and natural beauty of this country and to assist in their preservation.
 - (c) To foster social activity among the members.
3. The subscription to the Club shall be ten shillings per annum (or fifteen shillings per annum per married couple),
4. The Honorary Officers of the Club shall consist of a President and two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and a Committee of five, all of whom shall have been financial members of the Club for not less than six months, and all of whom shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting in each year, and who shall be termed the "Executive", and by whom the Club shall be governed, and in whom shall be vested the property of the Club.
5. The President shall not be eligible to hold the same office for a period of more than three consecutive years.
6. Meetings of the Executive shall be held from time to time as business may necessitate, and shall be called by the Secretary, who shall give each member at least seven days notice in writing, stating the time, place and objects of any such meeting. Five members shall form a quorum. Should the Secretary be unable or neglect to summon an Executive meeting the President or any Vice-President may do so.
7. Should any member of the Executive be absent from three consecutive meetings of the Executive without reasonable excuse he shall be deemed to have vacated his office, and the Executive shall elect another member in his place. The Executive shall decide what is a reasonable excuse.
8. Any vacancy occurring on the Executive during the currency of any season, shall be filled by the Executive.
9. Candidates for election to the Club shall be proposed and seconded by financial members of the Club, who shall hand to the Secretary a nomination form to be provided by the Club. New members shall be elected by the Executive or at a general meeting. No person shall be eligible for nomination until he or she has been present at two outings of the Club. Membership is open to persons of both sexes. The Executive shall have the right, in its discretion, to refuse any nomination if it thinks fit. It shall be under no obligation to give a reason for so doing.
Application for membership shall be made on the prescribed form, such form to include an indemnity clause removing from the Club or its agents the responsibility for and/or all liability in respect to any injury loss or damage suffered by persons participating in Club activities.
10. Notice in writing shall be sent to each new member on his or her election, and on election and payment of his or her subscription he or she shall be and continue a member (unless expelled) until written notice of his or her resignation shall have been received by the Secretary,
and after six months in arrears, no further notices to be forwarded.
The Secretary shall enter every member's name and address upon a list to be known as "The Members' Roll".

The rules of incorporation have been slightly amended over the years for items such as subscription changes, the month for the AGM, financial year and other matters.

- The Western Walking Club Constitution -2-
11. Special general meetings may be convened by the Secretary at his discretion, and shall be convened by him within 10 days of the receipt by him of a written requisition so to do signed by at least ten members of the Club, which requisition shall state the objects for which it is desired to convene such general meeting. Should the Secretary be unable or neglect to summon any such Special General Meeting the President or any Vice-President may summon a Special General Meeting.
 12. A Special General Meeting shall be called by notice in writing to each financial member stating the objects and time and place of such meeting. Such notice shall be given not less than 7 or more than 14 days before the date of such meeting.
 13. The Annual General Meeting shall be held during the last week in March or as near this time as practicable and shall be called by notice in writing to every financial member upon the Members' Roll. Ten members form a quorum.
 14. The financial year shall begin on the 1st. April in each year, on which date members' subscriptions become due.
 15. One Auditor shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting to audit the books of the Club for the ensuing season.
 16. Honorary Life members, upon the recommendation of the Executive for special service rendered to the Club, may be elected at any General Meeting, and on election shall be entitled to full Club membership and shall be deemed financial.
 17. No member shall be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Club unless he or she is financial. A member shall be deemed financial on payment of all subscriptions.
 18. Should any member be deemed to have violated the rules or by-laws of the Club, or be considered an undesirable member, he or she shall be called before a meeting of the Executive specially summoned for the purpose.

The Executive shall hear evidence, and may expel such member by a vote of two-thirds of the full executive, provided that any such member shall have the right of appeal to the next following general meeting, when such expulsion may be confirmed by a majority vote of those present. Any member so expelled shall forfeit all claims on the Club property.
 19. (a) This Constitution shall not be amended except by a 60 per cent. majority at a Special or Annual General Meeting. Fourteen days' notice in writing of such meeting setting forth the proposed amendment in full shall be sent to each member.

(b) All proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be made out in writing and delivered to the Secretary at least 30 days prior to the meeting at which such amendments are set down for discussion.
 20. The Executive may make by-laws from time to time.

Walk Reports

Although the information available for this era is scant, some data can be gleaned as shown in the tables below. Glen Doepel and Bill Baggs were by far the most frequent leaders.

Glen Doepel led walks from before 1949 up until 1972, while Bill Baggs was leading from before 1949 until 1969. Leaders of weekends away were noted for Kath Stewart, once, and Bill Baggs three times.

Total Number of Walks and Weekends			Individual Leader Statistics		
Year	Walks	Weekends	Leader	Led Approx.	Co-Led Approx.
1948	19	3	Bill Baggs	31	
1949	17	2	Glen Doepel	18	9
1950	22 (ave. 14 walkers)	3	Dr J Gentilli	9	
1951	20 (ave. 29 walkers)	6	Lucy Serventy	6	4
1952	17 (ave. 27 walkers)	7 (ave. 10 attend)	John Levitzke	6	4
1953	18 (ave. 23 walkers)	3	Frances Curtin	8	4
1954	17		Grahame Manoy	5	2
1955	19 (12-40 walkers)		Andy Schirmer	5	
1956	16	1	Beryl Temple	4	
1957	16		F. T. Traine	4	
1958	15		Kath Stewart	3	1

Below are some reports for particular walks. Such records are limited for this period. In 1952, Glen Doepel introduced a walk in the Hovea-Red Hill area.

Date	No.	Walk	Comment
28 th May 1950	21	Wungong Gorge	Bill Baggs' walk attracted 21 walkers
28 th Apr 1950	44	Kelmscott-Rolystone-Kelmscott	Lucy Serventy leading. Leaving the pool at 4pm cut it fine to catch the 5.20pm train. No rain for 5 months has left everything extremely dry and the hills burnt out
16 th Jul 1950	97	Gooseberry Hill	F. Traine led 97 walkers
Easter 1950	20	Myalup Beach, Mandurah	Bill Baggs took 20 walkers to Mandurah
2 nd Jul 1950	34	Victoria Reservoir and Bickley Brook Res.	Mr. A Schirmer and Lucy Serventy led 34 walkers over 12 miles. Came upon a lonely child's grave dating from 1870
26 th Sept 1950		Mahogany Creek to Hovea	John (Jack) Levitzke and Mrs C Cosson comment – Two distinguished members of club who were well to the rear, failed to see where the rest had turned off the track and made an excursion of their own to Helena View and rejoined the group
4 th Sept 1955		Hound of the Baskervilles	Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson – Alias Bill Baggs and Basil Jaffe!
1956		Rolleystone to Araluen	A Basil Jaffe walk. Walkers were rounded up as they left for not paying, as they had entered the wrong way

Between July 1949 and February 1950 two members of the club were strongly reprimanded with letters from the club secretary. Frances Curtin *'enticed two other members'* to join her as she left the walking group without telling leader Glen Doepel. Rolf Steilberger, a member since July 1949, disobeyed the leader by *'deliberately continuing along a path that the leader [Bill Baggs] had said was too dangerous'* and left the group when they took another track causing them much concern about his safety.

Dr Gentilli Leads a Walk, 1952

WALKERS STEP OUT

The Western Walking Club recently took its first walk of the season—through National Park. The club now has about 70 members, whose ages range from 17 years to nearly 60. They take a walk every second Sunday, covering from eight to 12 miles across picked country.



Miss Jean Dennerley (17), of Scarborough, and Miss Moira Tetterington (24), of Mt. Lawley, survey the countryside. Both are city stonographers.



Dr. J. Gentilli, of the University of Western Australia, leader of the party, checks the route with map and compass.



Below: Lunchtime. The tramp through the bush in the fresh air has put a keen edge on appetites. From left are Mrs. K. Skead, Mr. K. Skead, Mrs. J. Gentilli, Miss T. McFarlane, Mr. P. Smetana, Miss B. Steer, Mrs. K. Stewart (president of the club).



Along the track. The walkers choose routes that are inaccessible to motor vehicles.



Kings Park Walk, Christmas 1950

The Christmas barbecue in 1950 demonstrates a typical hand written walk description and map from the earlier days.

Barbeque at King's Park
Xmas Time

Xmas brings a desire for festivities so the Walking Club usually takes a short walk from the University at Gosley through King's Park to the barbeque site among the pines near Queen Victoria's statue and here indulges for an hour in true barbeque style mulling up with Xmas Carols. A moonlight night is chosen for this function - three routes from the University has been followed so far.

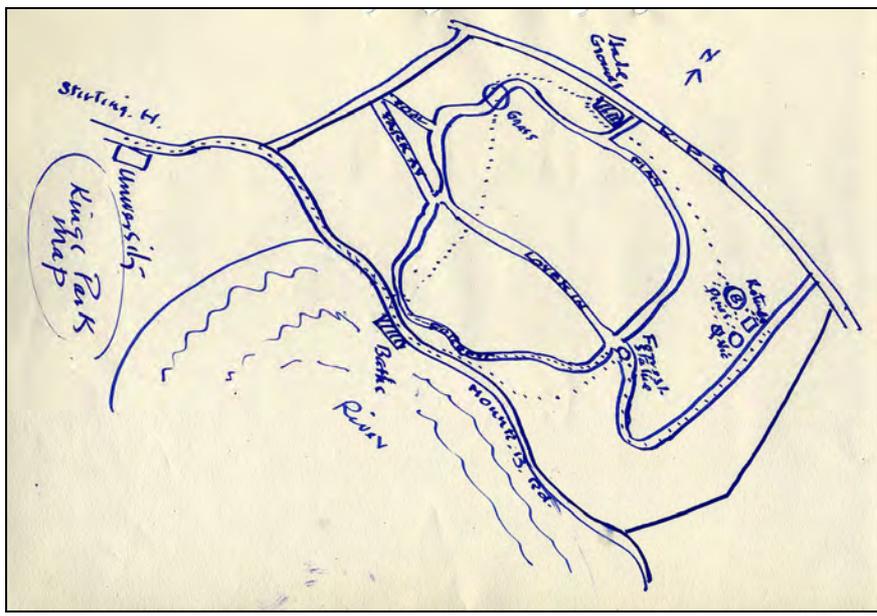
1st
Leaving the University, walk along to mount's way road follow the river along to the Crawley baths - just before reaching them turn left up the steps and thence into the park crossing Forest Drive to two white pots which mark the beginning of a slab path heading North - trail along this to a convergence of three other tracks take the middle one - in a while you cross horsham drive and later May Drive where there is a large Circus of Grass - rest here for 10 minutes then behind a large Gum tree across the drive at the north east corner there will be found a sand track running N.E. by going down this and crossing a bitumen path you eventually come to Hale School's recreation ground follow the back South fence around to SE corner cut -

Barbeque at King's Park 2

Through the bush to a track going east and by trailing this you come right to the barbeque spot among the pines. Usually a member has gone ahead and has a roaring fire going to welcome the happy band

2nd Route
Leaving the University as before instead of taking the concrete slab track from Forest Drive into the bushland turn right up Forest Drive and enjoy the up grade and view across the water from the headland continue down main drive past the War Memorial to the barbeque site near Queen Victoria's statue

3rd Route
Same route to Crawley baths and just past them around a slight curve in the road an entrance to the park is marked by white pots - a slab path leads you up the hill face to a rotunda where 10 menial's rest is very much enjoyed - leaving here the path brings you out by the John Forrest statue again and reach the pines as before about 9:15 pm. It is necessary to carry a light at the front and rear of the party to avoid accidents with care. The evening's activities usually finish about 10:30 pm.



A Walker's Alphabet

This poem mentions many of the older stalwarts of the club: Kath Stewart, Bill Baggs, Cyril Brown, Glen Doepel, Grahame Manoy, Ivy Hiscock, Basil Jaffe, John (Jack) Levitzke, Jean O'Donnell, Rolf Steilberger, Daphne Steer, Frances Curtin, Bob Woolley.

A is for asthma, Kath knows what its like,
B for Bill Baggs who leads many a hike.
C's Cyril Brown, a talkative (?) lad,
D for Doepel, one of the best leaders we've had.

E is that EASY twelve mile hike,
F for feet without no hike.
G is for Grahame arranging transport,
H is the happiness gained through our sport.

I for our Treasurer, namely Irene,
J's Editor Jaffe of the magazine.
K is for Kelmscott, well known to us all,
L's Leader Levitzke, strong lean and tall.

M are our members (financial no doubt),
N for newcomers we like to take out.
O'Donnell, our Secretary, works with a smile,
P for pedometer counting each mile.

Q for those qualities, strength and tenacity,
R for Rolf's pack of amazing capacity.
S is for Steer or otherwise Daph,
T for THAT TRAIN puffing out of Bellevue.

U for umbrella, most useful that's certain,
V our Vice President, stalwart Miss Curtin.
W for Bob that wild and "Woolley"
X for excitement – now Lynn, don't you bully!

Y for young ladies – yes, where's Dr Werther?
Z'ats all because I can't go any further.

Meryl Manoy, 1954

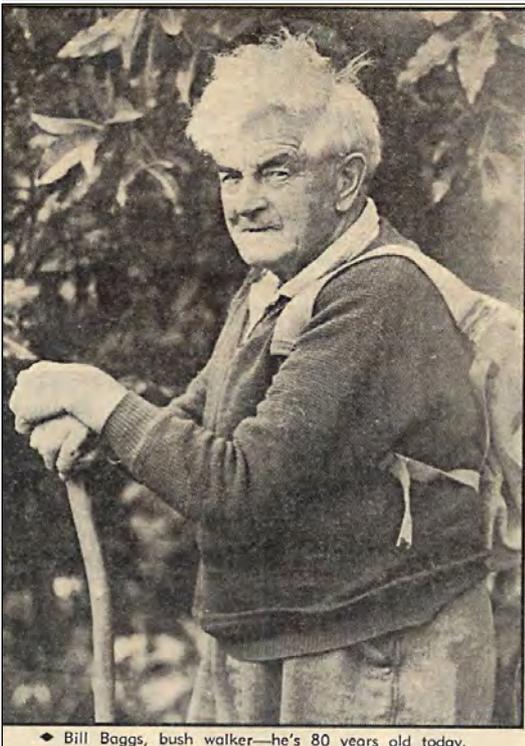
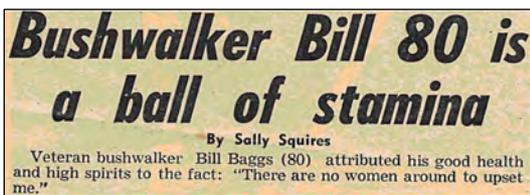
Life Members Glen Doepel, Bill Baggs

Glen Doepel and Bill Baggs were two of the most celebrated leaders of the club from the mid-late 1940s up to about the late 1960s. Both were very committed to the club and were an inspiration to all members. In 1958, the Editor Basil Jaffe, writes that Glen Doepel and Bill Baggs are to be commended for their leadership of walks and unceasing efforts. Both wrote many stories and poems and Glen was not bad at drawing too, while Bill branched out into divining. A member remembers her first walk with the Western Walking Club on 4th October 1962 to Susannah Brook with some stalwarts of the club including the “terrible twins” – Bill Baggs and Glen Doepel. Both were made life members in 1958, the club’s 21st year.

Glen Doepel

Glen Doepel joined the club in 1940 and continued to be a very active contributor up until about 1976. He led many a walk; drew good maps of his walks; and introduced many new walks. Glen joined the committee in April 1950 and was the club recorder [archivist] until 1971. His main task was ‘to record details of walks any other matters of interest in connection with walks’. While Glen was custodian of the archives, he religiously wrote up walk reports and drew many sketches of the clubs earliest hikes. His envelope sketch takes pride of place on the front cover. He was frequently mentioned in poems or stories in the magazines in the earlier days. Glen remained a club walker up until 1979 then continued to go walking on his own. It was noted at the March 1993 AGM that he had passed away since the last AGM.

Bill Baggs



◆ Bill Baggs, bush walker—he's 80 years old today.

Bill Baggs joined the club in 1947 and led many walks, introduced some new ones, and obtained help from club members with harvesting daffodils at his farm in York over a number of years. He was an outstanding personality, and over 16 years, was President (3 years), Vice-President (11 years), magazine editor (1 year), and committee member.

The 1959 magazine pays tribute “to ‘Womba Bill’; President for the last three years, for guiding the fortunes of the club and our steps in the hills and valleys of Perth. We salute him with great affection and gratitude for all he has done for us in the past and look forward to his companionship in the future.” A footnote reads – Womba in Aboriginal means old man, not in age as we know it, but a sensible man who through experience has learnt many things.

On the 16th March 1969, Bill celebrated his 80th birthday at a surprise birthday party at club member Rolf Steilberger’s house. He was featured in the newspaper at the time (left).

Bill died on 17th January 1973. It was a huge loss to the club. Four pages of tributes celebrate his membership in the magazine. Bob Frayne says, “His practical knowledge of local history based on the personal experiences of so many years, his excellent memory and great wit made his walks a joy for all participants. He was a collector of rocks and shells, and he had the gift of water-divining. He is remembered with gratitude.”

The club wrote to Bill's daughter in the following words:

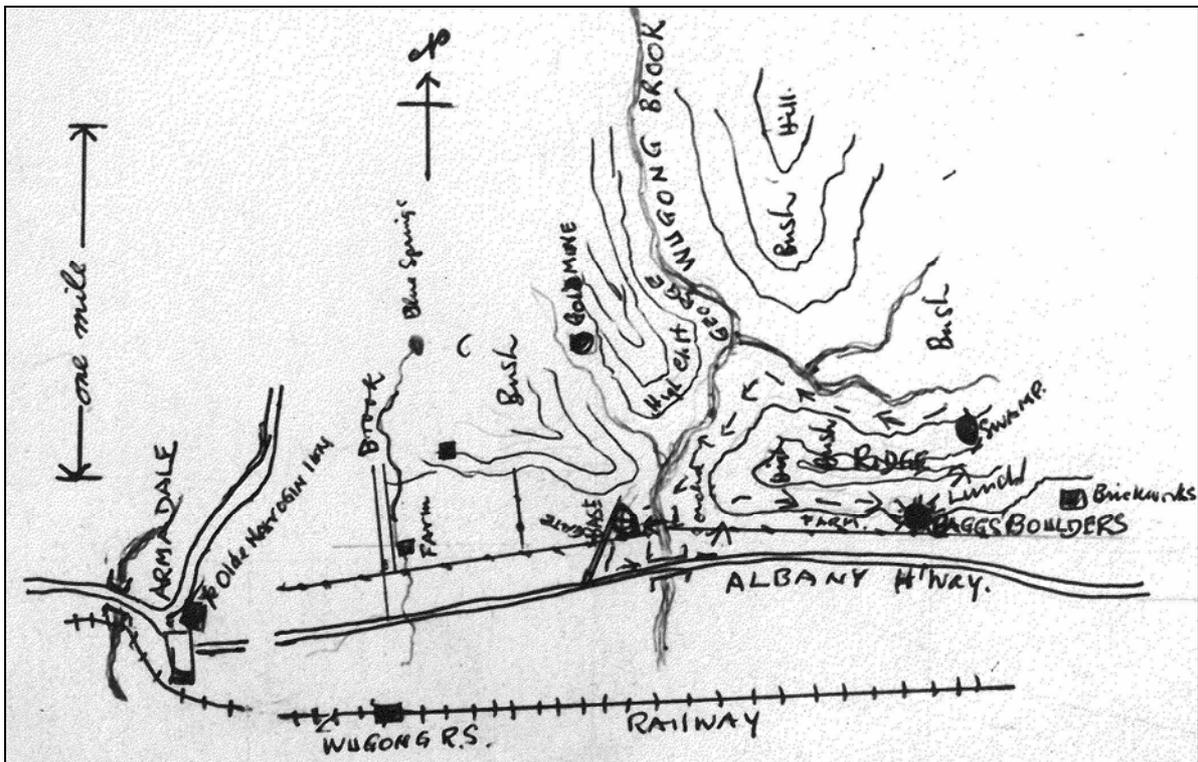
*Dear Mrs. Roberts,
The Western Walking Club extends its deepest sympathy to you on the loss of your father. One of us remarked that they don't make men like Bill Baggs any more. The truth, however, is that such men are rare at any time. He was a stalwart in both physique and personality, unfailingly good humoured and kind. He was by far our best loved member and will always be remembered and missed by those of us who knew him.*

*Yours sincerely,
June Falk*

*WESTERN WALKING CLUB,
Secretary*

Glen Doepel, one the club's oldest members at the time, relates a story about Baggs's Boulders: "... the terrain that was dearest to Bill's heart, I think, was the area around Wungong Gorge. On the way up, he would point out items of interest such as lakes, 'Quinana' [magazine spelling of Kwinana] smoke stack, Perth Gasometer and once, much to his delight, spotted a pair of Wedgetail eagles gyrating around at eye level. One very wet day just after lunch, a cloud burst and down came the rain. Bill quickly produced a plastic cap and a huge poncho. Sticking his cap on and his head through the poncho, he gathered about ten of us under his wings. It was a very jolly sight, Bill's head above the poncho and a score of legs of all shapes and sizes sticking down underneath. I would like to think that on some moonlight night, if we ever climbed up to the ridge we would spot Bill's spirit standing atop his Boulders looking for those Wedgetails again."

Wungong Gorge – Baggs's Boulders



Magazine Insights and Happenings

The first club magazine was finally produced in 1954, after the idea possibly formed at the 12th August 1949 social evening, where members were encouraged to bring poems, stories and pictures for others to see. It was a hand-roller duplicated (“spirit-copier”), hand typed affair, edited by Basil Jaffe. You can still detect the distinctive smell of methylated spirits on the pages. Some members were prolific poem and story writers who kept the members entertained, however it is now hard to tell who the author was in some cases. These days there are not many poems but more accounts of members’ travelling adventures, both in Australia and overseas. Except in 1957, a magazine has been produced every year since.

The earlier days also saw a number of sketches and cartoons from members. Many articles and President’s reports capture the problems with destruction of our bushlands and the need for their preservation for everyone’s enjoyment. Often, early articles contained history about Perth and its surroundings.

Magazines include good advice related to walking, notably about ticks, snakes, walking poles, compass reading and the use of GPS. They also record a number of weddings, births and sadly, deaths of long-time members.

First Magazine 1954

The first magazine produced in December 1954 had a plain cover. The Volume 1 editorial, by Basil Jaffe, starts with a common question from family and friends asking “*What’s wrong with a car?*” *The editor replies “You poor fish, just because of your laziness, you are missing a real treat. I have never known a walk in the hills yet where we haven’t discovered a spot which, inaccessible by transport, boasts a reward of a view that is unsurpassed by any that your would-be car enthusiasts would find.”*

President Daphne Steer credits the successful and enjoyable season mostly on the leadership of Mr. Glen Doepel and Mr. Baggs. She adds, “*I’m afraid we should have been lost in more senses than one without them.*” She welcomes newer members, Bob Woolley, Graeme and Meryl Manoy, and Basil Jaffe, for leading some walks, and states the club desperately needs more leaders. The Women’s Service Guild room in the Perth Literary Institute is the social venue for the club at this time and is “*an improvement on our previous quarters*”.

A tribute follows for Miss Nancy Morgan, a member of the Victorian Walking Club, who visited WA, for six months, in 1937. It refers to the first walk of the Western Walking Club was from the corner of Rokeby Road and Hay Street, Subiaco, across the bush to City Beach (see page 5).

“The club has had ups and downs, especially through the war period, but survived through the fortitude of the President at the time, Miss L. Serventy, and now flourishes. None of the first walk members are with us now [1954] having moved elsewhere in Australia, overseas or across the Great Divide. We are indeed grateful to our pioneers and members who followed on for opening up a wonderland of beauty and enchantment in our Darling Ranges and Coastal Plain to all who feel the urge to ramble.” says Frances Curtin.

The social notes [Basil Jaffe] mention that “*Mrs Stewart has not been out with us as often, due to domestic difficulties, but we hope next year will see her gathering her specimens again! Mrs. Gentilli, and her Paris model hat, has been seen out again, while Dad minds the infant!*”

**“Suggestions to Leaders ...”
Jack Levitzke, April 1953**

- A compass must be used when walking across country
- Know the walk well, and advise the approximate walking time and arrival at bus
- Before setting out on the walk, introduce all visitors
- Always declare your co-leader, if any
- Advise plan of walk
- Walkers must keep together and not leave party without notifying the leader
- Point out officer in charge of first aid equipment
- Make sure at lunch sites of disposal of all rubbish, and that the fire is out. This is most important
- No one is to trespass on private property without the owner’s permission
- Walkers must refrain from picking wildflowers etc. as this tends to create a bad impression
- On arrival at lunch site tell members definite time of leaving again
- Lunchtime announcements – any club matters to be discussed, and any suggestions which members might have
- Ask members to check personal belongings before leaving
- When leaving well known track for less frequented one, leaders must wait for all walkers to arrive
- Advise to keep in Indian file when walking through virgin country
- Executive members to contact any new members to create a more friendly atmosphere
- Periodical rest periods – discretion of leader. Crowd to be notified of length of rest
- Advise all members to bring an extra pair of sox, and to always wear good comfortable walking shoes or boots
- When conducting night walks rear person to carry lantern
- At conclusion of walk, leader to have a few words with the walkers before boarding bus
- Leader to check number on walk at commencement and at various intervals during day



Mt Eliza from Pt Caffal, Canning Bridge, Glen Doepel, 1950s

**The Western Walkers' Song
(Tune – The Happy Wanderer)**

We are the Western Walking Club
And love the beautiful tracks.
In rain or shine we'll walk the miles
Each with a haversack

Fal de ree, fal de ra, fal de ree, fal de ra ha ha
ha ha ha
Fal de ree, fal de ra,
Each with a haversack.

The footpaths by the roads we shun,
We climb the hillside steep;
And then we'll rest while billies boil
Beside some shady creek

So come and walk with us today,
You'll find each joyous stride
Uplifts the heart, delights the soul
Through Nature's country wide.

Fal de ree, etc etc
Through Nature's country wide

Anon, 1954

Western Walking Members 1955

Our earliest members – William Baggs,
A gay and friendly chap,
And kindly Mr Doepel
With first aid kit on his back –
There's Grahame Manoy and Basil Jaffe
With their respective spouses
There's Daphne Steer and Jean O'D
And lots of girls in trousers;

Kath Stewart with the bright brown eyes
So keen to gather specimens,
And Sybil Elliott gives their names
At this she's quite a specialist.
We've married couples starting house –
The Pat and Cyril merger
And busy putting in their lawns
Are Rita and Rolf Steilberger;

And what's happened to Bob Woolly
And his cheery wife Lynn?
We sure have missed them on our walks
But hope they'll come again;

Members 1955 continued ...

One soon to join these happy pairs
Is chatty Cyril Brown
He wooed his bride in Queensland,
Beaudesert I think the town.

There's Peter Reid and Robert Cook
There's also Thelma Anderson
And the Misses Crisp and Temple
And burly Brucie Hamilton.
The girls that find life interesting
Are Claire B. and Dora Ellis,
And what's Win Crain been up to
That she's no longer with us? (long service
leave)

There's cheery Ivy Adams
And Loyal pal Miss McLennan,
There's Mrs Cairns, Ruth Coleman
And also M. Mclean.
Another Mac, though not a Scot,
Is dark haired Kath McGrath.
And the Misses Ross and Kennedy
Make 34 so far.

There's Jean Day with the patient smile,
Linguistic Dr Werther,
And Jack Levitzke occasionally.
Oh dear, how much further!
Miss Oats finds the going tough at times,
Miss Curtin's a sturdy walker,
Bet Austin and John Adamson,
The Meiklesens, of course;
There's Mrs O'C and Marg Munro,
And I nearly forgot Grace Symes,
Now, any more names – yes, Pat Francis,
And then, of course, there's mine.

On Sundays fine, on Sundays wet,
From April to November,
You'll find us tramping even yet,
These glad days we'll remember.

I. Neille, 1955



'The Old Coast Road', 1953 Christmas card sent to some members: B. Baggs
[His photos appear to have been used on cards from about 1952]



1950s, from Glen Doepel archive [possibly a Bill Baggs photo]

It seems Claire Belford is making a pun of her initials here as the story bears no reference to a taxi. However, it is quite appropriate for our walk trips through the seasons.

I'll take a taxi!
C.A.B., 1955 [Claire Belford]

For a really exhilarating, healthy week-end sport in friendly company there is nothing quite like bushwalking, and for those that want to combine pleasure with economy, where is there another club whose subscription is a mere 7/6 and the only expenses are the fares on the particular walk you choose?

You must, of course, wear strong shoes – very important on these walks. For the girls it is not essential but most of them feel it is more convenient to wear slacks. Oh well, these items will always be useful for picnics, so you can't really count them against bush-walking, but there IS a small respirator bag for food and billy to be bought.

The first couple of walks are in glorious sunshine, the scenery is beautiful and the atmosphere delightfully invigorating and free of the dust and smoke of the city. Unfortunately, you can't really enjoy the views and the sunshine. If you stop a minute to admire the view you are awakened from your reverie by the co-leader, who points out the rest of the party disappearing over the next hill. A sharp spurt brings you up to them just as they move off from a rest pause, and you, thoroughly exhausted, and more in need of a rest than anyone, must carry on in the hope that next time you will get to the resting spot in time to enjoy it. Nevertheless, the crowd is friendly, you are enjoying every minute of it and you think that at last you've found something worthwhile. But stop a moment!

The next week is showery, and when you arrive home cold and damp, you decide that some definite evasive action is necessary, so the purchase of a plastic coat and hat and waterproof trousers that will fold up small for easy carrying becomes essential.

Now you feel you are a proper Bushwalker. You have rainproof clothes, heavy shoes and a pack. What matter if the next few walks are in bright sunshine and you carry all your extra equipment up and down steep hills and through the thickest prickly bushes? You'll get your chance to try out the waterproof stuff! Sure enough, comes the day when it rains, and RAINS, AND RAINS! Yep, waterproof gear surely is the thing. Dry as a bone, at least most of you, but just look at the water pouring into your shoes. Darn it, still an amateur! At this stage the old hands produce a dry pair of shoes from the bottom of their packs – not that you could carry an extra pair of shoes in that small pack if you had them anyway. So it's into the city again, this time for an Army haversack and perhaps even another pair of shoes. Thank goodness that, as the year goes on, you get used to the increasing weight. Whatever is going to happen next year when you start out the season having to carry everything from the beginning?

And then suddenly it is Spring. The West Australian bushland unfurls its banners of blossom. The walks increase in popularity as more and more people come to see the wildflowers. Alas, poor innocents, the wildflowers are there right enough, but who has the time to stop and look? And as for the photographic enthusiasts – well! With the warm sunshine comes the mosquito menace. How the much-despised smoke of winter fires is a boon, for perhaps it will bring a little peace during lunch. You wonder whether it would be worth buying an insect net for your hat.

But if you were asked what you really thought about bushwalking, the sunshine and rain, the haste and the dawdling, the people and the laughter, wouldn't you truly say – Bushwalking? I love it.

In 1955, an interesting article in The West Australian newspaper caught the club's eye. The editor, Basil Jaffe, comments on a most successful winter for the club and that with two exceptions, no less than twenty walkers were on each walk. This is in contrast to the newspaper claiming that:

“Walking as a form of exercise, and still less as a recreation, is almost entirely out of fashion in present-day Perth. Many of us can remember the days when it was the custom in suburban households to go for a walk on a Sunday afternoon ...”

The reason for the article observation was to explain a Policeman's actions outlined in the previous paragraph of the article, which read:

“It is a sad state of affairs when a girl cannot go for a stroll by herself beside the Swan River without a policeman enquiring whether she is contemplating suicide. Yet such was the experience of the 22 year old visitor from Melbourne, who figured in a story told in our columns on Wednesday. This lass was taking a walk along the river wall at McCallum Park, enjoying the beauty of the morning and admiring the view of the city across the water, when a motor-cycle patrolman rushed over from Canning Highway to make sure she was not about to do away with herself.”

1956

In 1956, a request for leaders appears in the magazine. The magazine informs members that the committee has adopted a plan to train new recruits for leadership by suggesting volunteers act as co-leader, but lead the walk, with guidance from the leader at the back of the line, to aid them. A club social event attracted approximately 20 members out of a total of around 50.

1958

Prior to 1958, magazines contained tales from the Straggler, but now Basil Jaffe, the editor, appears as the Stroller! He asks “A matter extremely serious to be discussed by the committee ‘How to ward off the new attractions for our future members – attractions like A.N.A.'s Excursion to the Moon Programme”, and “Very popular Bill Baggs Water Divining – No doubt extensive ground moisture aided this”, and “What happened to the walk south of Fremantle – it started at the Naval Base Hotel!”



Mounts Bay Foreshore, Glen Doepel, 1950s

Bush Lore
Anon, 1956

It's generally accepted that the bush walker has some knowledge of bush lore, how to survive when there are no apparent means, when you are lost. Here are a few suggestions on how to live off the bush the hard way.

There are several water-bearing trees (banksia and blackboy two of the best). Select the water root, usually even in thickness, like a broom handle. Make slanting cuts while making cuts of about 18'' and drain into a container by holding vertical. Early morning is the best time for results, as the tree gathers and stores up the water overnight.

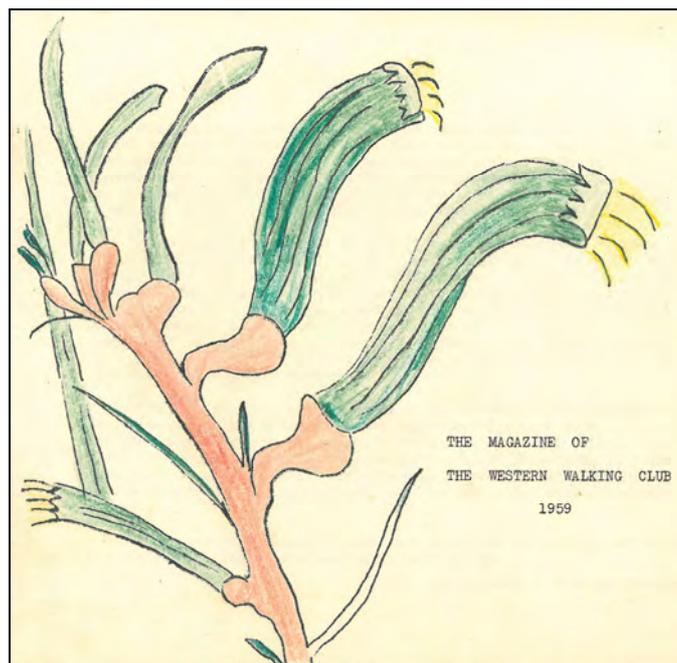
If you find a dried up swamp or waterhole, with a clay base usually cracked in all directions like a crazy pavement, look for the lowest point of the hollow and dig down about 18''. You'll find the water-filled frog, hold him up by the hind legs, and squeeze the water from his mouth into a container. Never toss the frog aside to die a lingering death. Be merciful!

Watch the flight of birds, particularly at sundown. They are often a good guide to water.

If you are getting hungry by now, the witchetty grub is a good stand-by, and they are often found in fallen blackboy and wattle trees. During the war years when the Americans were introduced to the witchetty and its abode, there was a huge outcry from the farmer when it was discovered that his trees were being mutilated by the Yank in his search for the witchetty.

Canned rattlesnake is considered a delicacy in America, so we add to our menu here snake, most lizards, including our amiable friend Stumpy Tail, goannas and ants' eggs. Now if you insist on vegetables, there is the root of the fringed violet, the heart of grass tree or Yacca (Xanetorrea) or watercress, just to mention a few.

Perhaps the best advice, after all, is to stay with the crowd and don't get lost.



First pictorial magazine cover, by Anon

CHAPTER THREE

Our 3rd Decade – 1959-1969

The third decade of the club discusses an age limit for members, while older members are starting to request shorter walks. Magazines are sold to members in the early 1960s. Private cars are now being used to get to walks; rather than public transport. This allows more varied walks.

Matters Arising ...

Our Third decade – 1959-1969

27th July 1959

The need for Insurance was raised. Members could be insured from the meeting place until their return. A list of members was needed by the Insurance Company, and visitor names were needed the Friday before. This was considered not possible and the matter was not pursued.

23rd May 1960

The Constitution was changed so that the President could not continue for more than a three year term. Other office bearers would be able to do so.

6th April 1961 – AGM

It was suggested that the club should find out if it could become a Life member of the Tree Society, and as we have a common interest, we would probably attract some of their members to our walks.

5th April 1962 – AGM

An age limit for membership was discussed but it was decided to leave the existing arrangement of no age limit. Juniors could attend walks in the company of an adult.

19th June 1962

As this is the 25th Anniversary of the club, a suitable function should be held.

A fancy dress social “Craziest Walking Outfit” to be held in October.

A club age limit was again raised, and it was decided to allow juniors to join us provided they conducted themselves in a fit and proper manner.

8th April 1963 – AGM

Small notices to be distributed for display on boards at the university, Aherns, Boans, Foy and Gibson, [major family businesses] YMCA, YWCA, Graylands and Point Walter Migrant Camps and some other venues.

22nd October 1963

Discussion took place for a venue for the Christmas Party to be held on 14th December at 8pm. Members would have to bring their own food and a billy for tea. Secretary to arrange for a Christmas cake. Plans for campfire singing were made – two mouth organs could accompany the singing. Miss Mary Hackett to obtain two dozen song booklets and stencil some Christmas carols.

26th February 1964

Ninety-three copies of the 1963 magazine had been distributed. They were sold at 1/6d each.

Walks in April and May include details for car, bus and train transport. The Mt Cooke walk had car transport only.

The Secretary said that some older members would like to do half or a portion of walks. This would be brought before the new Committee.

13th April 1964 – AGM

Mr Parker suggested that there is a need for harder and longer walks to get young boys interested in the club. We had a lot of young people but more girls than boys. He proposed to lead a 20 mile rough walk, which could be advertised in The West Australian. It was moved, seconded by Geoff Schafer that Mr Parker works out the details. It was further noted on the 7th August that the ‘Challenge Walk’ would be from Kalamunda to Mount Gungin and return.

It was agreed that harder walks were a good idea if the club could get support for them.

5th November 1964

Mr Parker reported on the Challenge walk. It went well, even though it had only four walkers. They completed 23 miles from Kalamunda to Mundaring Weir through bush and came back following the bitumen road (see page 54).

6th April 1965 – AGM

It was moved after amending an original motion, that from April 1965 every private car transport trip would cost a five shilling donation for up to 20 miles to destination point, paid to the walk leader. Car drivers would receive half and the rest would go into Club funds for special bus hire. This would be reviewed in three months.

Miss R strongly objected to the original motion giving only five shillings to the driver, saying “*it was a paltry pittance...it had to be more or it had to be nothing.*”

9th July 1965

Special General Meeting to consider private car transport and visitors’ fee. It was noted that walkers liked to give something. Cars were needed as the bush was now further out. Drivers were worried by their insurance clauses that warned against taking a reward.

It was decided to have a trial period for one year – five shillings for up to 20 miles and seven shillings and sixpence for over 20 miles. It was also decided that visitors should contribute two shillings per walk, and non-earning juniors, one shilling.

23rd March 1966 – AGM

Although Miss R still disagreed with passenger contributions, it was confirmed that drivers could accept a gratuity or gift from passengers. It would be a private donation. Talks with SGIO and the RAC confirmed that this was all above-board.

Note: It seems after much discussion, a motion was passed that enabled walkers allotted to a car to make a private arrangement with the driver regarding a fare donation.

Member Geoff Dean made the first properly surveyed map of the Stirling Ranges (previous maps had not been entirely accurate).

5th April 1967 – AGM

Club now has 138 members.

Mr Parker offered to donate a trophy to a new leader for a new walk. The President thanked him for his offer but said it was not warranted.

It was suggested that walkers be made aware of the direction in which they were going.

The importance of a tail-ender to stop walkers from lagging behind was also raised.

27th February 1968

Secretary to write to the Water Supply Department again to ask which catchment areas were out of bounds.

11th November 1968

It had been reported that private transport cars had been leaving Barrack Street Jetty early and that walkers had been left behind.

31st March 1969

Bill Higgs becomes President.

Catchment Area – It was reported that there should be no difficulty in getting access for walking through catchment areas if the club applied for permission a couple of months beforehand.

20th April 1969

Proposed that in future, walks be classified Hard, Medium and Easy.

Geoff Schafer expressed appreciation to WWC for help in the inauguration of a new club – Perth

Bushwalkers – and in particular for referring new members who wished to have weekend walks (see page 55).

Walk Reports

In the early days enthusiastic descriptive reports were produced in considerable detail and sometimes in immaculate copperplate hand writing. A couple of such reports are reproduced earlier in this publication. A 1963 walk report talks of Hillarys – a village of 18 fishing shacks, without power or water, and access via four-wheel drive vehicle. As the years progressed, reports became more and more brief and today might simply say “all OK”.

Year	Total Walks	Individual Leaders	Individual Co-Leaders
1959	19	5+	4+
1960	21	6	3
1961	18	11	
1962	17	9	
1963	13	11	2
1964	25	13	
1965	24	13	2
1966	27	13	2
1967	31	17	4
1968	31	12	9
1969	25	16	12

Individual Leader Statistics		
Leader	Led	Co-Led
Bill Baggs	39	2
Glen Doepel	21	1
Bill Foulds	15	
Rolf Steilberger	13	6
Mary Hackett	13	5
Bill Higgs	13	3
Ron New	12	

Incidents, however, do occur, and here are some of the more interesting. Also of interest is the number of walkers, bearing in mind that in the earlier years “Western Walking Club” was the only club in Perth and there was only one walk each week. Many of the locations and comments will ring a bell with walkers today.

Date	No.	Walk	Comment
2 nd Aug 1959	14	Lake Leschenaultia	Train delayed at Blackboy until engineer was able to stop a car and obtain the loan of a screwdriver. Train ex Perth 9:30 am Ex Stoneville 5:20 pm
17 th May 1964	25	Mt Cooke	Water is a problem. Two years ago in October, ground was swampy and streams hard to cross. This year in May, streams were dry. Water was carted from Perth for billy tea
23 rd Aug 1964	35	Kitty’s Gorge	Heavy rain this year. Usual crossing log washed away. Had to throw another log across the brook.
6 th Sep 1964	4	Kalamunda-Mundaring weir	Stone fruit orchards in bloom. Very beautiful Start time 11 am. Finish 6:30 pm (back at Kalamunda)
12 th Sep 1965	40	Walyunga	River water too salty for tea thus water got from streams. Many wildflowers, orchids in bloom.
16 th Oct 1966	49	Mt Randal [see separate article on a lost person on this day page 42]	Walker became ill during ascent – stomach trouble. A small party including a trained nurse stayed with her while the main party continued. Return journey was difficult, as the ill walker could only travel slowly, while another wanted to be back in Perth by 6 pm.
4 th Jun 1967	60	Mt Cooke	Member escorted back from 2/3 up the hill – her first walk for many years.
5 th Nov 1967	30	Mussel Pool	Cyril left stranded at the Guildford meeting place
3 rd Dec 1967	13	Mullaloo - Wanneroo	Only five finished the walk. Eight dropped out at various intervals and made their way to the beach. Main complaint – heat. [In 1967, the area north of Mullaloo was just bush and sand hills!]

Walk Report - Mullaloo Beach 1965

This Walk Report from 29th November 1965 shows just how much things have changed over the years. The walk through scrub and sand-hills took the party through what is now the suburb of Ocean Reef.

Name of Walk: *Mullaloo Beach* Miles. *5*

Number of Members Present: *27* Number of Visitors Present:

Mode and Time of Transport to Starting Point:
From Barack St Jody Perth
9:30 am. by car transport to beach

Mode and Time of Transport back to City:
By car transport, departing 5 pm

Were Maps and Compass Used? *no*

If so, what maps?

Weather conditions: *Fine, Sunny.*

Incidents and Features:

Itinerary: *Left parking area 10:30 am walked due north behind Sandhills following cart-track over rocky outcrop onto sanddunes until reaching cross car track running to beach - sighted disused quarry and finally came to beach.*

Starting Time: *with rocky sanddunes - turned south along the beach followed the beach back to base arrived noon.*

Lunch Period: *Lunch + swimming* Rest Periods: *Afternoon Tea Time: 4 pm*

Finishing Time: *5 pm*

Route:

← Perth
 Bilston Rd.

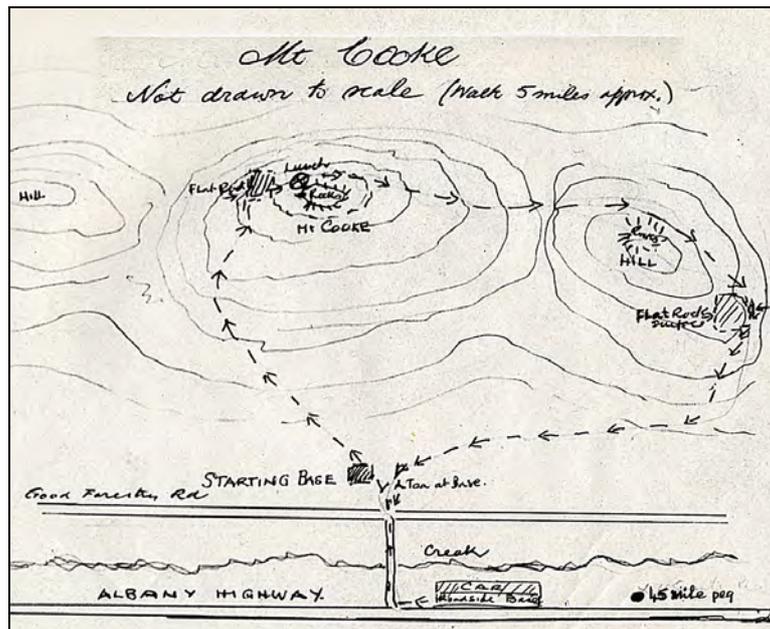
Leader *R. STEILBERGER* Co-Leader

A similar walk two years later (see page 36), took a compass bearing inland through the bush to a “petrified forest” somewhere near where Marmion Avenue is now. On that occasion, only five of the thirteen starters finished the walk.

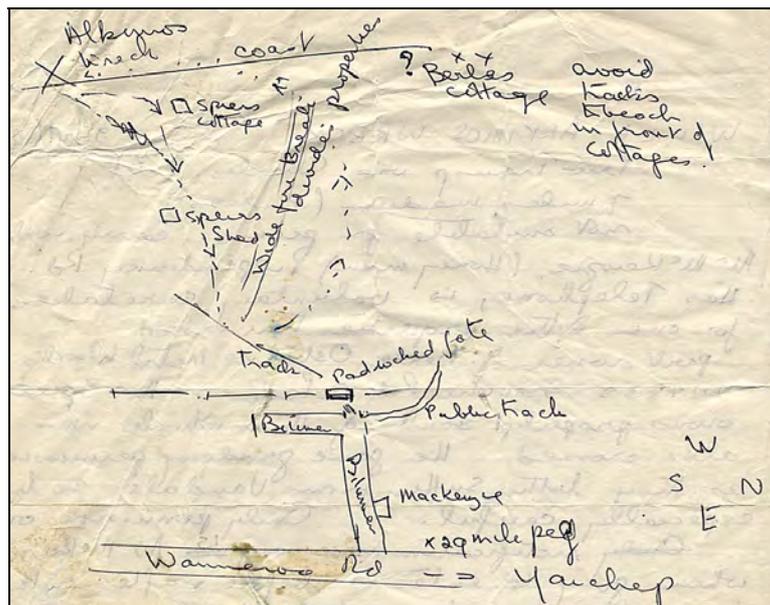
Early Walking Maps

Early in the club history, rough maps of the chosen route were sketched. Sometime after the Second World War, detailed army ordinance contour maps became available and, together with forestry maps, became a valuable resource. Working maps were traced over the published maps or sketched freehand. In the 1960s photographic reproductions of a number of the popular walks were made and, by the 1970s, photocopies became available. In recent years various new maps have become available, both in print form and via the internet, but many walk leaders still prefer the old forestry maps which show the location of rock outcrops, forestry tracks and reference trees. A GPS is now a useful addition to a leader's tool kit but compass and map skills still play an important role in walk planning.

The maps here are typical of many hand drawn from these early years.

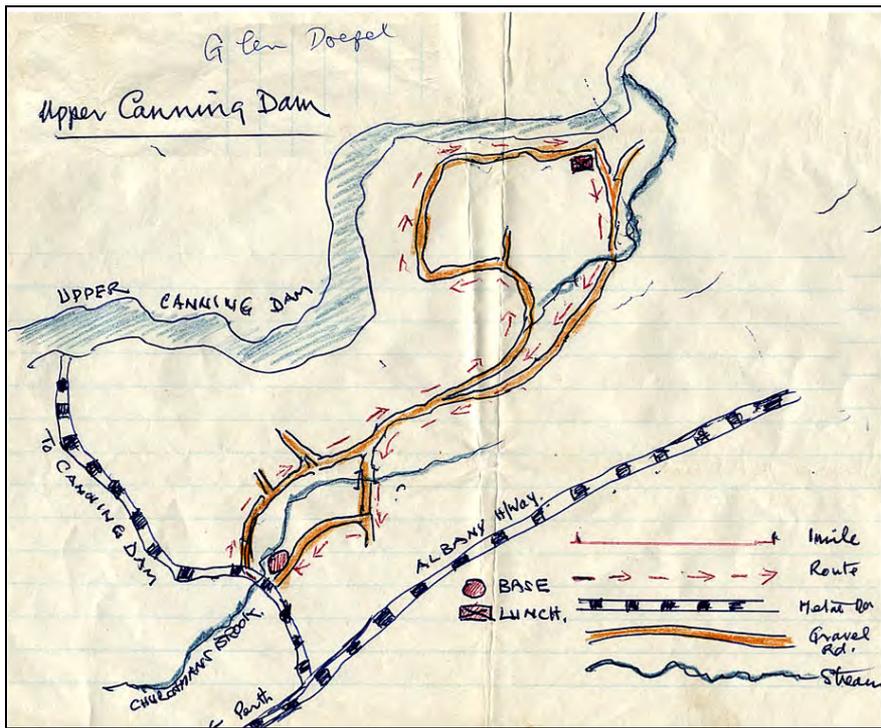


Mt Cooke, the inaugural walk 14th October 1962, John Parker

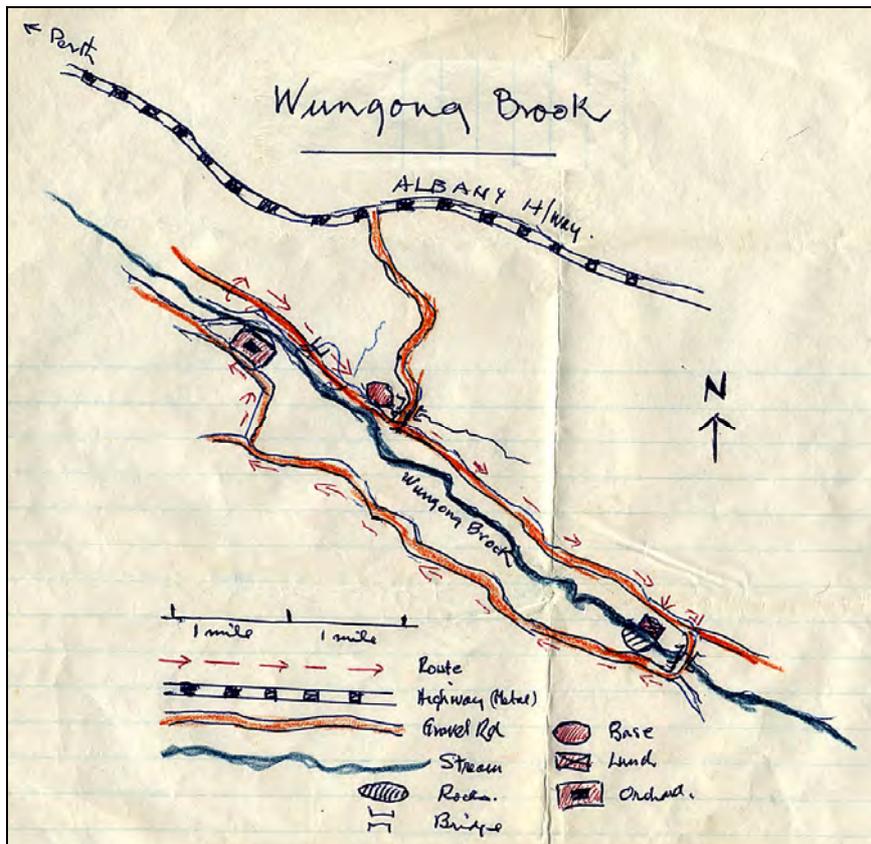


Alkimos walk 20th April 1969, Audrey Robinson, Bill Higgs

Maps from Glen Doepel, 1960s



Canning Dam



Wungong

New Walks Introduced – Others Re-Introduced

Glen Doepel introduced the club to his Fern Gully Walk in 1960 – “*a delightful spot well worth the long approach.*” It is situated on Lilydale Road, south of Noble Falls, off Toodyay Road.

Several old walks were re-introduced in 1960. The Reabold Hill Walk was featured in the West Australian. Two other old walks were Camel Valley and the weekend walk from Jarrahdale to Wungong. In 1962, Mt Cooke was introduced by Vice President John Parker.

Cyril Brown introduced the club to walking the highest hills near Perth in 1963, which became very popular with members. He introduced Mount Randall and Mount Solus to the club in 1966.

An interesting area for walking Cyril Brown, 1963 [condensed]

I have always had a soft spot for the region within about 25 miles south and east of Armadale, the only area in which the Darling Range looks more like a range than the scarp it really is. Here is Mt. Cooke (1910ft. named after a WA Government Astronomer, not after the Captain), the highest point of the Range, near the 44-mile post on the Albany Highway.

Mt. Dale (1780ft.), Mt. Solus (1892ft.) and Eagle Hill (1552ft.) – these three being reached by Forestry Department roads leading right up to the look-out towers on their summits. The whole region, being a Forestry Reserve and little visited by the general public, is usually a riot of wild flowers from July to October.

So it was with great gusto that I climbed recently, for the first time, three hills in this region: Mt. Randall (1720 ft.), Mt. Cuthbert and Mt. Vincent. ... The only thing lacking to complete the perfect day was another car and driver at the Vincent end, to relieve one of the two and a half miles' walk along the Albany Highway. (If only my faithful dog Peter could add to his splendid sense of direction, a driving licence!)

A new walk on 1st November 1964, was added to our list by Noel Hamilton and co-leader Glen Doepel; ‘Diamond Springs’ – no diamonds and no springs, but a lovely day’s hike.

DIAMOND SPRINGS

“Come to Diamond Springs,” our Glen did say, “We’re coming to Diamond Springs,” Glen finally
“What’s there?” I queried, as we climbed away. said,
Above Seaforth – sparkle of cascade along the way. and to see this jewel we craned our heads.

Glen replied: “We named this spring some time ago. But alas our hopes so swiftly sped,
Its drops are like diamonds – the best I know”. for the diamond drops under clay had fled.
We lunched o’er the falls, the ridges climbed, to a Poor Glen could only hang his head!

But our hearts and minds like diamonds felt,
rendered clear and bright by this diamond day. I.H.

Ivy Hiscock, 1964

1960s photos from Glen Doepel archives



Cyril Brown in poncho and his VW in background



Bruce Donaldson, unidentified, Margaret Munro, Kate Ryan, Jean Day



Wungong or Walyunga [?]

Daily News, Perth, WA, Wednesday, 19th October 1966



Gleneagle Today:
Lost for 68
hours in dense
bush, school
teacher Leita
Turner was
found safe
today.

She had existed on water, an orange and a few digestive tablets, but could not sleep because of the cold for two of the three nights.

"I am very pleased to see you" were her first words when searchers reached her. Miss Turner (42), of Kent St., Victoria Park, had walked about 32 miles in rugged jarrah country east of Albany Highway since she was lost on Sunday. For two days she stayed at a camp she made in the bush. The well organised search was hampered because she had walked in the opposite direction to the area in which she was thought to be.

Miss Turner said she did not panic at any stage. "I knew someone would be looking for me and I left signs wherever I could," she said. "My concern was for my parents. I think I probably would have stayed in the one place had it not been for them. But I could not sit still because of my worry and thought the only thing to do was, keep walking."

A Forests Department vehicle in radio contact with the Gleneagle base found her. While 100 RAN recruits and 30 SAS troops combed the area in which she was presumed to be lost, this vehicle carrying Laverton native tracker Jimmy Pollock, supervisor Ken Jones and police sergeant Tom Guppy, searched east of the main search area. Early today the group found a rough bush bed of blackboy tops, a message scrawled in the dust which said "Left 10am" and an arrow showing the direction. Miss Turner was following overhead power lines, knowing they would cross Albany Highway somewhere.

Miss Turner said "I left my car about 1pm (Sunday) to join the other hikers (a party of bushwalkers who were hiking toward Mt. Randall). "I had a haversack with first-aid kit, matches, water, an orange and some digestive tablets. I decided not to follow the others but to go for a walk on a triangular course and return to my car by myself. I climbed a hill, then cut back to one of the Forestry roads. Something went wrong, and I got confused in direction and walked along a track which took me away from my car instead of towards it.

Coo-ee

"Then I thought I heard some coo-ee-ing, and walked in that direction but found nobody. By this time it was 6 pm and getting cold so I started a fire" she said. "It was too cold to sleep. I walked along the track for about half the first night, returning to my fire about midnight." On Monday she walked along a track until she came to a fork and decided that the forestry tracks were too confusing, so she made another bed, lit a fire and camped there for two days. Said Miss Turner, "I tried everything to send up a smoke signal. I put on green leaves, old rubbish

and blackboy tops. But the easterly wind was so strong I couldn't get the smoke off the ground."

"Twice I thought I heard aircraft and once I thought I heard a vehicle," she-said. "I had plenty of water from creeks but I was rationing myself to one digestive tablet a day. I had six matches left and thought I could hold out with a fire for the next six days. Early today I was bored stiff with just sitting there and decided to move on again." She left a note in the earth "*left 7.30am Wednesday*" and an arrow showing her direction. Miss Turner was given sandwiches and tea when she was brought back to the search headquarters. She was quite composed and borrowed a comb to tidy her hair before cameramen converged on her.

The club walk report for that day makes no mention of the drama that unfolded. The leaders knew nothing of Leita's presence and in any case had their hands full with a group of 49 walkers, one of whom became ill and needed a slow return to the cars with many rests (see page 36).

A message here for all of us! Sometimes our rules seem pedantic but there are good reasons behind them and this story illustrates the point to stay in one place.

A club member since July 1958, Leita Turner led a number of walks in the 1960s; 'A Mystery Hike' on 9th July 1961, 'Victoria Reservoir' 22nd September 1963, as well as weekend trips. She was magazine editor/co-editor from 1961 to 1963, and remained a member up until 1968.

In 1959, Leita wrote this interesting piece for the West Australian

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN, SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1959.

In Them Thar Hills

By LEITA TURNER

SEVENTY years ago men believed there was "gold in them thar hills"—the Darling Range hills.

Evidence of their efforts to win it can still be seen in odd places quite near Perth.

Behind Gosnells there is an old shaft. There's another hole near the Sixty Foot Falls. Not far from Wongong Creek is yet another.

Recently members of the Western Walking Club included an inspection of the old Wongong shaft in one of their outings.

Just before South Western-highway crosses Wongong Creek near Armadale there is a gravel track leading away to the left. The party followed this for half a mile or so, then turned off into the bush, going steadily uphill.

It was dirty walking because the bush had been burnt during the summer. Later an old dray track with deep gutters was followed. There were numerous sergeant ant nests.

The party saw the whitened bones of a cow, also a piece of broken glass and a scrap of china. Nothing else indicated that humans had lived near.

After a stiff climb their way was barred by a great slope of granite. Clearly discernible, a thick vein of quartz striped the undulating stone.

At the base of this slope was a hollow and much broken rock. The quartz was very thick here, the granite having been blasted away. Slight copper stains showed in places, also black mineral markings.

To the right of this and higher up yawned the old shaft. It is now just a hole in the ground and the bottom is obscured by a clutter of bush timber.

One man in the party caused a minor stir when he found a rock bearing quartz and definite dull metallic specks. Perhaps after all there was gold "in them thar hills." With little effort the rock was split along the quartz. Tense moments. Gold? Wongong gold? No, only pyrites.

It was time to move back down the hill. One felt as though the pages of history had rolled back and something of the lure of gold revealed. It was worth the effort to find those old workings.

The desolate shaft with its rotting timbers and gaping black hole is a mute memorial to the sweat and disappointment of forgotten men who sought wealth in the wilderness now so near to the metropolitan area.

Is there gold near the Wongong? In "them thar hills"? . Perhaps.

**Life Member
Kathleen Stewart**

Kath Stewart became a life member in 1962, after joining the club in 1947. She was described as an enthusiastic and versatile club executive member. She was President from 1951 to 1953, Vice President in 1950, 1956 and 1959, Treasurer in 1960 and Auditor from about 1964 to 1974. Kath attended the 1987 50th Anniversary celebrations.

She was a keen photographer of nature and would collect specimens along the way when out in the bush – if she had the time!

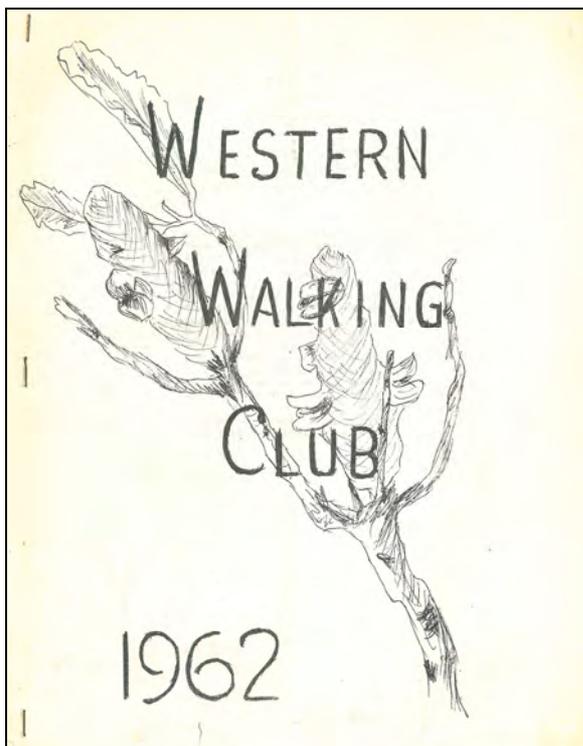
In 1960, 'The Stroller' writes, that "*Kath Stewart is seen in the bush with a lump on her back looking more like a helicopter – but assures us she is just a walking photographic studio.*" Kath passed away in 1992.

Lament of a Walking Photographer

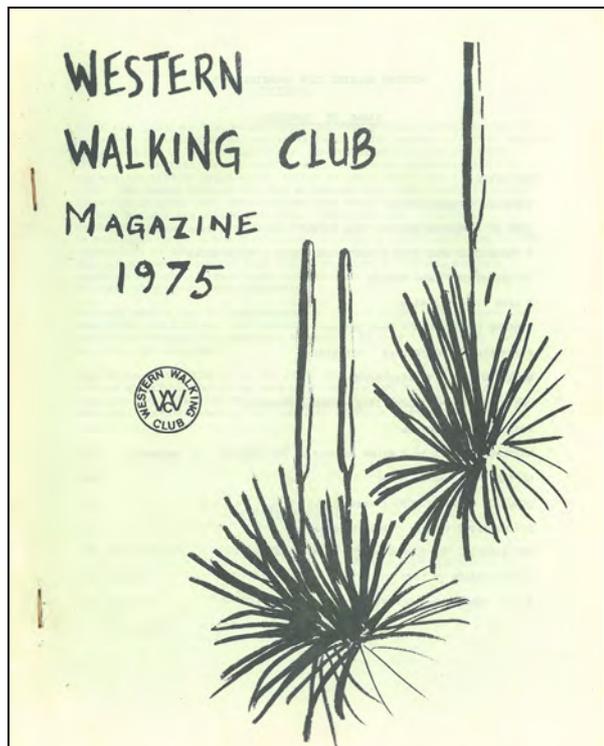
When we joined the Western Walking Club
A-many year ago,
It seemed the leaders weren't so fast,
They often went quite slow.
But somehow now we like to pause
To watch the birds and bees,
But the tail-end leader always seems
To implore on bended knees:
"Come hurry up, or you'll get lost,
Bush Walking is our theme."
So on we rush for many a mile
And the silence is supreme.

When the lunch site is at last approached,
Sticks large and small are sought.
The campfire quickly is a-blaze
While the smoke by one is fought.
Two members of the Walking Club
Whose problems have not passed:
How can they photo coloured flowers
When travel is so fast?
So they have decided on
This simple remedy –
The Western Walking Club provide
A movie camera free!

Kath Stewart, 1956



Cover, Anon



Cover Joyce Foulds, also used on 1969 cover

Special Tribute Joan Marshall

Joan Marshall was so tragically cut from life on 25th June 1968, when she seemed to be at the peak of fitness and happiness. She joined the club in 1963, having recently arrived from the East. She became our most enthusiastic and popular member at this time, and was elected President in 1965 until 1967. Joan noted in 1967 that a number of new walks were needed for the club to continue to function, especially with the increased restrictions in water catchments and development of the outer suburbs of the Darling Ranges.

Although apprehensive at first, her great organising ability and the enthusiasm she radiated gave impetus both to membership and range of activities undertaken. She had a happy knack of appealing to young and old alike. Joan never shirked the annoying small tasks or the large ones which no one else would undertake. Her friendly knock on the door when a walker was ill or in difficulties was known to so many of us.

She had confided to Charles Pratt that she found the warmth and comradeship of club members had done much to tide her through the grey patches in her life.

Ivy Hiscock, adds, “... as an instance of the affection which she inspired, this sad June day saw a getting together of walkers in a spirit which was touching in its thought for others. Since then, any wishes of which Joan may have expressed have now been carried out by other members in the club. A review of Susannah Brook, since it has become private property and 13 members climbed Ellen Peak (3420 ft) in the Stirling’s in October led by Geoff Schaefer. She lived up to the highest ideals of walking and of friendship.”

Climbers Aim To Tackle Higher Peaks

A successful climb of the 3,300ft. Ellen’s Peak in the Stirling Ranges has made members of the Western Walking Club eager to try the more difficult peaks in the North-West.

Members of the club, which was formed in the 1930s, will go to Wittenoom Gorge next Easter.

The club has members throughout the metropolitan area.

Last weekend, 13 members of the club climbed Ellen’s Peak in 90deg. heat.

INACCESSIBLE

The peak, named after Capt. James Stirling’s wife, is one of the most inaccessible in the Stirling Ranges, according to expedition leader Geoff Schaeffer.

There were no tracks to the peak from the boundaries of the Stirling National Park, he said, and the climbers had to travel along a creek and through thick scrub to reach the foot of the peak.

They began the ascent at 7 a.m. on Sunday and

reached the peak at noon.

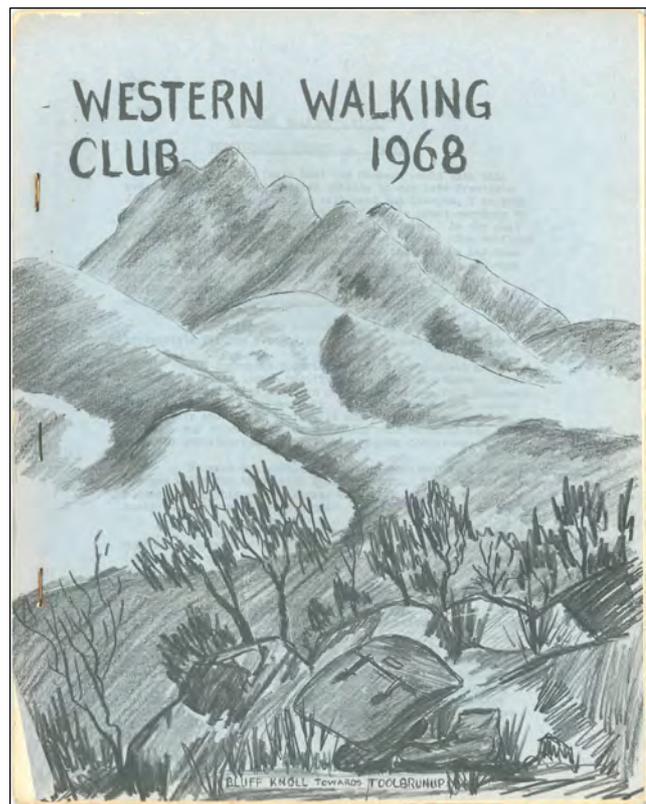
The view from the top was well worth the effort. It was a clear day and they could see 50 miles over the Porongorups to the southern coastline.

A book recorded all the climbers who had climbed the peak since 1962. An average of 12 climbers a year reached the top.

The walkers rested for three hours on the peak and then began the descent. They arrived at the foot about 6 p.m.

It was only in the past few years that the club had expanded rapidly because of the increasing popularity of the sport.

There was a membership of about 150 and their average age was 40. Members were mostly husbands and wives.



Stirling Range as a tribute to Joan Marshall, drawn and stencilled by Joyce Foulds

Remembering and Reflecting David Shattock

David joined the club in 1968 and was President in 1976. His time with the club has been broken by absences but he has always returned to share our company again.

The Day I Stole a Walk from Cyril Brown

Soon after joining, Cyril Brown invited me to co-lead a walk with him. Cyril was an amazing character, an encyclopaedia of knowledge on flora and fauna, not to mention ancient Greek history. His small brown dog always accompanied him on walks, and to me he was an icon of bushwalking in his ex-army poncho as he loomed through mountain mist and rain. He could read a compass but somehow it seemed to me to be a major epic when he reconnoitred Mounts Cuthbert and Vincent. After driving for miles down a disused track in his VW van, he set up his compass bearing and we battled through virgin bush toward the high peak. It took a whole day in those days of pre-Bibbulmun Track, but you got a sense of achievement, and the walk was popular.



I attended my first AGM and for some bewildering reason, found myself appointed as President. Then came the bad news – I was expected to lead a walk on the next programme. “Ok”, I said naively, “I’ll lead the Mounts Cuthbert and Vincent walk.” I was not aware of the etiquette involved in leading walks, presuming that walks were pre-ordained, the property of the club in general. It wasn’t until the day of the walk when on the way home Cyril said to me in a gentle manner, “I thought that was my walk.” I felt bad.



MY BERGEN BACKPACK

David’s Backpack

David was convinced in 1952 to partake in a four day hike (long before he came to Perth and the WWC). He located a Bergen pack suitable for the job and after 30 years of use, his son borrowed it. After he had hitched a ride on a truck, David’s son saw the truck drive off with the pack still on board. Twenty five years later, David saw a Bergen on offer at a local garage sale for \$1. Once he told his story the pack was given to him for free.



1960s

Magazine Insights and Happenings

The 1959 magazine is the first to contain a sketch on the cover; a Mangles kangaroo paw in colour (page 32). It is noted that on all walks billies are boiled at each lunch break. 'Extras' in the walking programme appear to be social events, sometimes at member's houses.

Several news articles appeared in local newspapers in the 1960s, informing the public of the availability of walking with a group, and the various activities undertaken by the Western Walking Club. And "... *It wasn't long before every man and his dog was turning up, including on one occasion, a lady with a walking Siamese cat ...*", recalls David Shattock, "... *We still, however, manage to maintain the casual atmosphere of good humour and mateship.*"

EDITORIAL

Since the last issue of this magazine we have achieved fame - of a sort. The club has been photographed in the wilds of Floreat Park and publicised in the "West Australian" and the Women's Weekly - but to crown it all, this magazine - this literary masterpiece of your own imagining will rest henceforth, with past and future issues, in the archives of the State Library.

Think of it. In years to come a future sandgroper will pick up a copy and there will be your name, Joe Bloggins or Prudence Pipwhistle, and an undying memory of how you made tea by Walyunga Pool in the rain, with salt water and survived, of how you crossed that mighty, raging torrent, on the way to Fern Gully, in your poor bare feet, or got all misty-eyed at sniffing a bit of boronia in Hay Street.

Ah! I can see the creative urge stirring within you. There's not a moment to lose - take up your quill and dash off that witty, wonderful piece for next year's mag. Of course it will be in time; for the Editor will continue to nag, badger, cajole and threaten you for the next twelve months. Even if you are no poet (who wants to rhyme, anyway) or hive of culinary information (wot no frogs legs?) you can at least write a snooty letter to the Editor (pro bono publico) and in due course (aforementioned twelve months) you will be answered more facetiously and evasively than any civil servant (superannuation, long service leave, cups o'tea) ever knew how.

Right here and now make up your mind that your news and views will be in next year's issue. And in the meantime - here's to a new season, here's to all the fun and companionship we share together in the Western Walking Club.

Nan Lloyd, 1960



1960s

1960

Ron New and Nan Lloyd married this year. They both joined the club in the 1950s and led many walks up to about 1969. Both were committee members and large contributors to club activities.

An historical mention of Perth's first reticulated water source in October 1891, appears in the 1960 magazine [author unknown].

SOME NOTES ON THE VICTORIA AND BICKLEY BROOK RESERVOIRS.

The Victoria Reservoir on Munday's Brook, approximately 15 miles by road from Perth, has a storage capacity of 189 million gallons. The original capacity was 200 million gallons, but subsequent alterations to the by-wash has reduced the capacity. The impounding wall, of mass concrete construction, was built during the years 1889-1891 by a private firm known as the "City of Perth Waterworks Company". This company also constructed 17 miles of 12" steel trunk main to carry the water from Victoria Reservoir down to a small (784,000 gallons) service reservoir at Mt. Eliza. From there the water was reticulated through smaller pipes to the city and its environs. This scheme provided Perth with its first supply of reticulated water in October, 1891.

In 1896 the Government purchased the complete works for £220,000 and placed them under the control of a board. In 1911 a pipehead dam was built on Bickley Brook above the confluence of Bickley Brook and Munday's Brook, in order to augment the hills supply. Victoria Reservoir, however, remained Perth's chief source of hills water until 1925.

In 1921, the 23 million gallon Bickley Brook Reservoir (also with an impounding wall of mass concrete construction) was completed and brought into use. The primary function of this reservoir, which lies about two miles below Victoria Reservoir, was to impound the overflow from the latter and so provide additional hills water for the city until other larger storage facilities were available in the Darling Ranges.

Bickley Brook Reservoir was drawn on from September 1921 until June 1928. By that time Churchman's Brook Reservoir (capacity 480 million gallons) and two pipehead dams, one on Wungong Brook and the other on the Canning River, were in use, and the supply from Bickley Brook Reservoir was discontinued. The supply from Bickley Brook pipehead dam had been discontinued 3 years earlier. The Bickley Brook Reservoir is now leased to the National Fitness Council of W. A. who use it as a swimming pool for their camp nearby.

1962

During 1962, the club heard with delight of the marriage of our Secretary Joyce Cook to Bill Foulds, a frequent leader of club walks. Both have been committee members. Joyce was Secretary for three years and she drew a few of the cover designs for the magazine. They remained in the club until 1971.

The club celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 1962, but surprisingly no mention of the events that took place is found in the magazine. John Parker presented a story of Three Rivers – Jane Brook, Susannah Brook, and Ellen Brook. He presumes Captain Stirling named them but did not know who after.

1963

This year sees the club growing in number, with 3 pounds 4 shillings 2 pence in the bank. The magazine has now climbed to a 30 page, typed and stapled publication.

Challenge Walk – 23 miles in one day
John Parker, 1964 [condensed]

In 1964, we adopted for the first time, a form of keeping fit which even we, as a Club, had been too sane to tackle previously; a 23 mile trek to Mt Gungin and back. Four fresh, healthy people at the start, 23 linear miles later, seven and half hours later, three thousand feet of contours later, we were still healthy, and we were still four. And this, in the circumstances, was all that we could expect.

We walked the Kalamunda to Mundaring track along beautiful, tranquil and inviting tracks through bush, along roads. Then along the pipe track which was a steep and rugged route where they negotiate on backs, stomach and sometimes the neck! Eight hundred feet of climbing in a mile, we reached the top for breath, and heard music! A brass band and cars. Back down to Kalamunda roughly along the road as we cut the corners by going up and over more very steep hills, towards Peisse Brook bridge. And finally back at the cars to a drink and a wonderful seat.

Club History, Re-written
Bill Baggs, 1964

No more will our old Club member, Martin M. be sarcastic when talking over those lovely Wongong Walks of ours -- His "It always rains on those walks" may have a little truth, but now I can counter with: "But you should have been on Thelma A's National Park Walk, 1964!" Did it rain? Well, the morning was beautiful as Glen led us up and over to Hovea Falls and got us back for lunch in sunshine.

After that interlude we set off for Swan View up that long uphill lead to the high north ridge of the Park. It was blowing strongly as we started; the continuous rain of the winter made detours necessary as we crossed under the Railway bridge. Going up the long hill the wind got worse and worse. Away to the West the sky was ominously black/grey, and just before reaching the ridge the thunder and lightning started. No chance for a rest -- we were in it and best to keep going. Then how the rain pelted down and small branches kept coming down from the tree-tops.

As we began the long descent westward, the centre of the storm was some distance to the North, but how it blew! Then the rain changed to sleet, but we kept going -- "Better than mortar, bricks and putty, is the great outdoors on a blowing day". Each little furrow became a rivulet and each streamlet a river, until we reached that off-shoot of Jane Brook that crosses the track out of the Park. This was a raging torrent. It just had to be crossed; there could be no turning back. As all of us were pretty wet, in we went to ford this knee-high torrent. But we got through, then continued to Swan View Station -- and home. Martin M. - you missed something! The Wongong weather takes second place!

* * *

"Billby".

The History of the Kalamunda Railway
Bill Foulds, 1963 [condensed]

The walk down the route of the old Kalamunda railway, better known as the “Zig-Zag”, is a well-liked one and perhaps members might be interested to know something of the history of the line.

It was originally opened to serve the timber industry concessions around Bickley, and had various stations along its 21 miles. One of the originals – Gooseberry Hill – was still in use at the time the line was closed in 1949, with the last passengers and goods being carried on July 22nd of that year. By 1952 the land reverted to the Crown.

The stations we are mainly interested in from Kalamunda northwards towards Midland Junction were Kalamunda, originally Sturk’s Crossing; (Sturk Street, [now Stirk St] Kalamunda is a reminder of this); Gooseberry Hill (just south of where Gooseberry Hill Road now runs into Railway Parade, where there is a crossing); Statham’s at the bottom of the Zig-Zag; Ridge Hill; Rifle Range; Bushmead; and Midland Junction. We leave the old track at the site of Ridge Hill Station where the line crossed Ridge Hill Road and disappeared north-west towards Rifle Range.

It is interesting to note that the fares from Perth to Kalamunda 50 years ago were 2/7d. and 1/6d. single and 3/10d. and 2/3d. return first and second class. The journey took one and a half hours to cover the 20 miles. Incidentally it took 40 minutes to travel the 12 miles by train from Fremantle to Perth in those days.

Origins of Kalamunda
Bill Foulds, 1963 [condensed]

The origins of the Kalamunda district have a connection with another of our walks inaugurated by Bill Baggs this year. Some of you will recall Bill leading us to an obelisk on the banks of the Canning River commemorating Mason’s Landing – the site of a timber loading wharf.

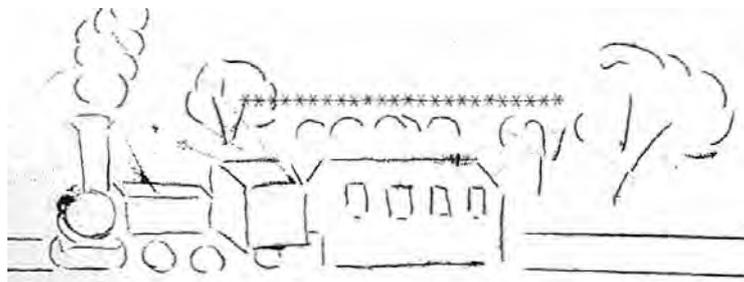
Benjamin Mason, a general dealer of Hay Street, Perth, started a timber station near Bickley Brook in the Darling Ranges, and another at the site of what came to be known as Mason’s Landing, on the Canning. In 1872, in partnership with a man called Bird, he opened a 3ft. gauge tramway constructed of jarrah rails embedded in jarrah sleepers, to carry timber from the Darling Range mill to the Canning River, whence it was floated on barges to Gage Roads. A line had been surveyed as early as 1869 to carry timber from the foot of the Ranges right down to a point just north of the present Canning Bridge. However, this did not eventuate, although the route used by Mason and Bird followed part of the surveyed route.

Railways, Walkways, History-Ways
Rita Steilberger, 1970 [condensed]

On July 22, 1949 (the year of the Australia-wide coal strike) the last passenger and goods train passed through Kalamunda. An engine, carrying an early number (118) has found its last resting place in the grounds behind the library. Innumerable children have “driven it”, explored and played in it. It has been retained for future generations of kids to enjoy, the land upon which the engine used to travel, also.

On a more recent date the rails were removed, and the area on which the lines lay is now used as a bridle path, ideal for exercising the family hound. One’s mind wandered back to train days when recently the Kalamunda Primary School held a family hike for fund-raising for the school library. The old rail line area, used for a great part of the ‘jogathon’, was followed as far as Walliston Progress Hall. After that, the energetic ones passed over Lawnbrook Road, along Banksia Road, past the Council depot, past the Radar Tower and rejoined the old line at Stanhope Road, and on to the swimming pool before the tired legs rested at the school grounds. This was a delightful walk enjoyed by 150 children and some of their mums and dads.

It is to be hoped that the trail, along with the old gravel track, will be preserved for many more folk to meander along. Many will be interested to know that the old railway station is also to be retained, probably to become part of a museum. Nearby the old station now stands a building which was the hills’ districts first school. It once occupied a block in School Lane (a short street behind Woolworths). When the present Primary School was built, this original structure was taken and placed at the back, and another classroom added. Last year it was decided that the old building had had its day and should be demolished; but the Shire took over and saved the old remains, which the Kalamunda and District Historical Society are now busy renovating, to become its desirable headquarters. There are many interesting relics of the pioneer days in the Hills’ area, which the Historical Society together with the Tree Society, will work to preserve.

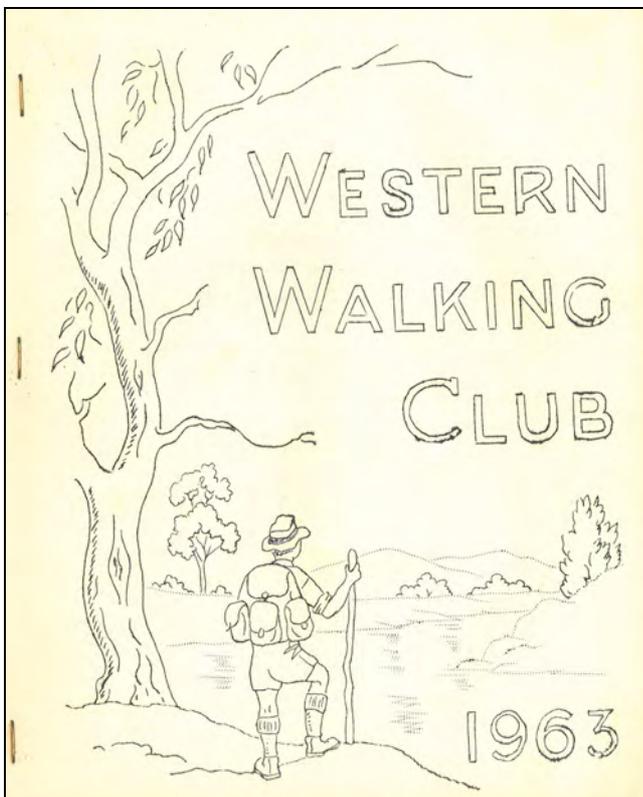


1965

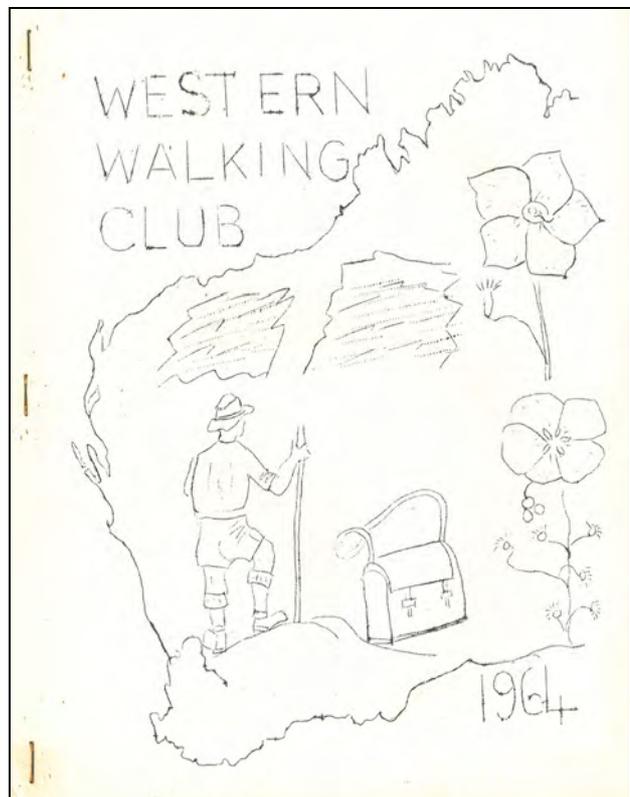
By 1965, most walks were being attended by 50-60 walkers. During this year, a number of innovations occurred notably a trip to the Stirling Ranges for a week, and once again, there were several beach walks during the summer months to enable members to keep in touch.

In May 1965, the YHA and Western Walking Club produced a 21 page booklet to encourage walking. Called "Come Bushwalking – hints for bushwalkers in W.A.", it contains eight pages of club supplied information. The contents include: what to wear, food to take and amount of water, leadership and obeying the leader, cooking gear, how to deal with snakebites, hypothermia, and camping, among other topics. Cyril Brown wrote a review of this booklet with some disagreements on clothing such as a fly net with chin strap (he finds chin straps irritating), food such as the recommended chocolate being thirst producing and melting in hot weather, water at 15 pints being too much even on a hot day, and a few other items. He goes on, "... let me say that I found many times as much useful information as unsatisfactory advice in this excellent publication, which I recommend to every bushwalker to peruse at least a quarter as thoroughly as I myself have done."

In August 1965, the Secretary (Ivy Hiscock) and President (Joan Marshall) attended the official opening of the Peisse Brook Youth Hostel. [The club had been involved with YHA since 1943, and were custodians of the Quindalup YHA hut near Yallingup from 1976 to 1980, where the club frequently stayed for weekend trips.]



Cover design, Daphne Oliver, stencil work by Joyce Foulds



Cover design Ivy Hiscock

Mary Hackett led a walk to Hackett's Gorge for many years

HACKETT'S GORGE.

Hackett's Gorge was named after Police Sergeant David E. Hackett, who was the leader of a party pursuing Thomas Hughes. Hughes was wanted for the murder of Police Constable Carroll. Earlier Hughes had burgled a jeweller's shop, and P.C. Carroll had gone to the shop and was shot by Hughes at Fremantle. Hughes escaped to the hills and Hackett and his party pursued him in and around this Gorge. Hughes found the sandflies a menace and to escape their aggressive attacks he lit a smoky fire; this smoke betrayed him to the police, and Hughes was arrested on 12th December, 1887. For his part in the pursuit and capture, Police Sergeant David Hackett was given a reward of £40, which was quite a large sum in those days, and the honor of having the Gorge named after him.

* * *

Mary Hackett.

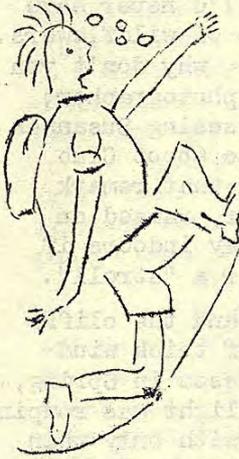
1966

**This year the club 'issued' its ten commandments
from George Malmo, 1966**

1. Thou shalt listen with intent to the sermons of the President or Leader even should it sound like the braying of asses, and the number of voices or shuffle of feet shall be likened to the sounds of the swineherd
2. Should it come to pass that the Keeper of Treasures requires an offering thou shalt cough up and not be stingy, nor shall the words "next time" or "mark up" fall on his sensitive ears
3. When leading thou shalt not show the winged heel nor will thy voice be heard among treetops
4. Thou shalt not spurn the outings it has been decreed thou shalt not lead ("Attention, Marie!")
5. Those that lag behind and cause grievous concern to the tail-ender shall be cast out into the wilderness
6. When the hour to partake of sustenance comes to pass thou shalt not sit in solitude but will eat, drink and be merry in the company of your fellow walkers
7. During the showing of colour slides thy lips shall utter forth sweet approbations and thine eyes shall remain open even until the last when the hands will beat together in a final valiant show of wakefulness
8. Ye who would dare to pluck the flowers of the wilderness shall feel the heavy burden of guilt like a great stone on the back and the wrath of the multitude shall descend upon you
9. Thou shalt look upon your fellow walker as a brother and shalt not cast remarks such as "slow as a snail" or "old mountain goat", nor shall titterings or raucous laughter accompany the putting on, or removal of, wearing apparel of the like of hats, coats and shirts
10. Thou shalt not earbash thy fellow walkers for long periods on thy favourite subject or topic of the moment, for the sounds of the bush are eternal and like music to their ears, but the fancies of men are fleeting and are swept away on the winds of time like the falling leaves of autumn

OUR WALKERS.
(With Apologies.)

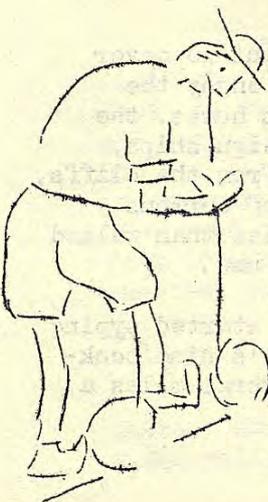
-27-



There is a Walking Club, surviving way out West,
With photogenic President, one of the very best;
With near 100 Members, and Leaders who confess
To taking them up mountains, through creeks and all the rest.
We have some sleepers, creepers, some trudgers and some cranks,
(We must be that to walk 12 miles and give the Leaders thanks!)
It is a major problem a-keeping them together
In sun and rain, in lots of wind, and other kinds of weather;
With sodden hair and sloppy socks, and bodies in a lather,
We struggle and we straggle, we giggle in a gaggle,
The fat ones and the lean ones, the elderly and young,
Till the line becomes extended, and things usually go bung,
Like the girl who looks at flowers and gets quite in a whirl,
We lose her three times over, then find her once again,
Emotionally the Leader seems to suffer quite a strain.
There are the purple shoes, and gear of no description,
That Yellow Hat competing with those of queer construction,
There are the Fair Isle sweaters, as well as torsos bare,
And tightish pants, and blankets, and skirts with quite a flare.
There are the French and Irish, and Pommies, too, galore,
And now and then an Aussie just to even up the score.
They walk and winge and chatter, and do a little moan,
If it's so bad you wonder why they don't try staying home.
There are the artists and the writers, and servants not so civil,
Maybe some learned discourse -- maybe a bit of drivel.
We tumble over Bobtails, trapeze on tree-trunks neat,
And perform with great abandon some acrobatic feat;
We suffer from the arguments, smoke, mozzies and the ants
(Who frequently investigate the insides of some pants).
We shudder at that laugh, despite its dulcet tone,
We'd like to tip her down that gorge before we journey home.
Through tunnels dark, to waterfalls, or on the Darling Scarp,
Our mouth-organ expert can always play his part,
But how we wish the covy of camera clicking dears
Would dwell upon the faces -- and neglect so frequent rears!
There are the Elder Statesmen, who are so young in heart,
A-sharing of their knowledge with the boys who need a bath;
There are the happy couples who canoodle on the rocks,
How could romantic notions come with heavy boots and socks?
We puzzle at the Parka, like a tent upon the ground,
It seems to hide a woman -- is it flowers or bugs she's found?
And what about the bloke who to V.W.'s gave fame,
Then bought a more superior car -- what a crying shame!
We reach our final point at last -- cars, buses, or a train,
But the Rolls Royce looks so very couth a-sitting on the plain.
So here we go a-tramping on walks programmed as "easy",
We grizzle that they're "rough", but never cry "Enough!"
Yet despite this grouse in verse, we invite you all and one,
To discount our dismal ditty -- come now and JOIN THE FUN!

* * *

A Nonny Nong. A Walkin Nong.



1967

In 1967, a number of walks attracted as many as 70 people, while the York trip had an all time record of 110 walkers. One activity included in the programme was a train ride to Boddington, via Kwinana, and Dwellingup. During the year, weekly walks were implemented again.

1968

By 1968, increased restrictions in catchment areas have crystallized into a 'positive ban' on walking there, but the club found at least one new walk too, and excursions to the Murchison and Stirling Range continued this year with outstanding success.

What's it like on Carnac Island?

Ivy Hiscock, 1968

We were told we must be agile, and of course we are! We didn't quite realise that besides a walk on the land, we would be walking through the sea! The boat crept carefully, as near to shore as possible, then we transferred to another one which crept a bit closer, but there was still about 15 or 20 yards to go. Those who resisted the strong shoulders offered to ride pick-a-back to the beach thought the water looked shallow, and with walker's agility, leapt into the sea. It was rather a surprise to find it up to the hips! Talk about styles in clinging slacks and shirts!

In fact, the whole outing was a "Fashion Show" – in reverse! We had been warned to wear leggings because of the tiger snakes, so weren't surprised by the notice to beware of the usual variety living there. The leggings were a highlight of hilarity; there were the snappy floral Bermuda shorts, bra top, floppy hat – and gaiters. There was the red beach hat, yellow blouse over almost unseen bathers – and knee-high leather leggings; borrowed red shorts (pants too wet to wear) stared at khaki boots with long lace-ups to the knee. Short khaki gaiters hesitantly worn with wet rayon slacks; when bought, the salesman had looked stunned with the request for gaiters, and said; "And, Madam, what would you want gaiters for?" He was convinced of insanity when advised "To keep the tiger snakes from biting!" And the W.W.C. President was quite a Huckleberry Finn in sensible overalls for the bathe, with his famous battered straw hat floating above [Charles Pratt].

If we were rather stunned getting on to Carnac, on that beautiful clear morning with its gem-like colouring, we felt even more hilarious getting back. An old tyre hung on a rope over the boat's side; the first lady on the way back, having experienced wet slacks for two hours earlier, rode on stalwart shoulders; the tyre, however, was a little too high, and the gentleman's back leant outwards to try and hoist her up, while she literally sat on the sea. A lot of stripping off went on then, one natty pair of briefs hiding delicately under a cotton cardigan lap-lap, with dry slacks held overhead for the change on arrival at the boat. The "get-ups" queuing for the one toilet-cum-dressing room, made one wonder if the Naturalists were "Naturists", as is often suggested by the ignorant!

1969

In 1969, the Perth Bushwalkers Club was formed by our club member Geoff Schafer. The club developed from a desire by the younger, fitter Western Walkers to primarily partake of more back packing and away trips. Geoff joined the club in 1963 and remained a member up to 1983, then returned from 1991 to 1994. Later in 1970, our President Bob Frayne, welcomed the Perth Bushwalkers Club to the scene and the Perth Bushies, as they are affectionately known, joined our club on a number of occasions through the 1970s.

In 1969, the club ventured north on a North West Safari with 12 members leaving from Perth Rail Station for 15 days. The trip included Gascoyne Research Station, Dampier and Mt Tom Price with a visit to the mine; on to Wittenoom Gorge, Marble Bar, and Mt Henry, before the return journey through Meekatharra and Wubin to Perth.

Down on the Farm
Bill Higgs, 1968

On the annual invasion of my property at York [daffodil time], many walkers have the impression that farming is an idyllic existence and indeed it can be most satisfying; but this isn't always "beer and skittles" – let me picture a day not so long ago.

When I awoke that morning the skies were cloudless, the birds were singing, and all was right with the world – or so I mistakenly thought. My first task was to repair a fence, which involved lifting into place a heavy piece of timber. This promptly fell on my foot, causing appreciable damage to the big toe, which unfortunate member still bears the scars of the encounter. Undaunted by this mishap, I set out to use the tractor, but found that one front tyre was flat. While attempting to remove the tyre, a finger became caught between the rim of the tyre and the wheel. If you've experienced this on a cold frosty morning, you would forgive the mild profanity polluting the pure country air.

With repairs affected, both to the tractor and my finger, I commenced to push some logs together. While reversing the tractor, the steering wheel spun violently, causing one elbow to hit a mudguard with considerable force. More incidents followed, all of which occasioned me some injury, so I concluded then that I should be safer in bed and duly retired. It so happens that the farm wall is on the left side of the bed, while in Perth the wall is on the right. As soon as I had dozed off the telephone rang; in my haste to answer it, I forgot where I was and tried to get out of bed on the wrong side. Result: more injuries. Does anyone want to buy a farm?

More Adventures on the Farm
Bill Higgs, 1968

On my ancestral estates at York I have two tractors, which, for the purposes of this anecdote, I shall call the big tractor and the little tractor, although they are both quite small as tractors go.

It so happened that one morning the big tractor wouldn't go, even after carrying out the usual emergency procedure of running it down hill in gear. Eventually it reached the creek, and as it still wouldn't start I decided to use the little tractor to tow it up the hill to the shed. About half way up the towrope broke and of course the big tractor started to run down hill again. In my haste to stop it, I jumped off the little tractor while it was in motion. I was then faced with the awkward predicament of having one tractor racing towards the creek and the other tractor moving determinedly towards a clump of trees.

By calling on reserves of speed I never knew I possessed, I was able to stop the big tractor before it plunged to a watery grave, and the little tractor just as it was shaping up to a tree three feet in diameter.

My old pappy would have been proud of me that day.

CHAPTER FOUR

Our 4th Decade – 1970-1980

The 1970s bring change and growth to the club and to the wider bushwalking scene. Perth Bushwalkers had just been formed, and initial discussions for the Bibbulmun Track started in 1972. A vote for Incorporation is passed by the Committee in August 1972, and by 1973 we wore name badges using the logo we still have today. Membership grew, and by early 1977, we had 162 members and 30 juniors. By the end of the 1970s, easy walks had become so popular with visitors that we had to stop advertising them!

Matters Arising ...
Our Fourth Decade – 1970-1980

6th April 1970 – AGM

Proposed that in future, walks be classified Hard, Medium and Easy.

Geoff Schafer expressed appreciation to the club for help in the inauguration of a new club – the Perth Bushwalkers.

12th April 1972 – AGM

Secretary reported it had been a year of contrasts. Walk attendances were down – possibly too many hard walks. But the annual safari to the Kimberley was perhaps the biggest and best yet.

The subject of incorporation was raised. It would relieve individuals of liability arising from club activities, plus other advantages. A motion passed to enable the committee to find out more information and report back.

7th August 1972

Proposal for incorporation passed.

23rd October 1972

Club to have a badge. A walking boot with WWC on the sock was well favoured.

25th January 1973

President announced that Bill Baggs had died on 17th January.

4th April 1973 – AGM

This was the first season the club had walks each week during the cooler months.

Plastic name badges would soon be issued, with cost covered by membership fees.

Forests Department reported to be pressing on with [Bibbulmun] track from Perth to Albany.

25th October 1973

Nancy Morgan, a co-founder of the club in 1937, was visiting Perth, and would be coming to the evening social on 29th October.

25th January 1974

It was suggested that Cyril Brown be granted Life Membership at the next AGM.

13th April 1976

President reported that dieback restrictions were in force and care must be taken not to violate these.

It was proposed that the walks programme should include a statement not to pass the leader. *“People try to make walks into what they want, that is, if they want a more vigorous walk, they tend to press on ahead”*.

It was mentioned that the club normally distributed 400-500 copies of the program.

22nd June 1976

Membership to date was about 100 adults and 24 children.

Of the walks during the past eight weeks, three had 60 or more walkers. There had been 117 visitors.

Cottage sub-committee was looking into the cost of buying a disused Forestry hut.

It was noted that a number of people were not willing to take their cars to the start of the walk, so they parked away from the group at the meeting place and were imposing on others.

21st September 1976

Latest membership was 144 adults and 28 juniors.

No Forestry huts available, but a YHA hut at Yallingup might be available free of charge. It would need about \$100 worth of repairs. [Note: the hut was used by club members from 1976 to 1980.]

29th March 1977 – AGM

President mentioned a “*predominance of the fairer sex on most walks*”, and that it would be nice to see ladies represented in senior positions of the club.

11th July 1977

A report was submitted about a visitor, an apparently ‘experienced bush walker’ from another club, who was separated from the main group. There were 44 on the walk. At afternoon tea he was absent. He had had a habit of disappearing on some previous walks. Three police vehicles and 15 people searched for him. He reported “safe” to the Perth police at 11pm. A week later he phoned to see about the day’s walk, by the same leader, but was told he could not come. He expressed no apologies or regrets.

15th March 1978 – AGM

Two nominations for President so a secret ballot needed. Pam Ranzetta elected President. It was considered impractical to take visitors names and addresses in case they got lost. It was up to the leaders and members to see no one strayed. As well, the leaders should make it clear that rules had to be obeyed – no getting ahead of the leader or pressing to go faster.

21st March 1978

A suggestion for an official checklist for leaders not approved. Leaders should explain about what to take (to visitors), and about footwear, and should enforce the rules.

14th March 1979 – AGM

Secret ballot again needed for the Committee.
Forty-nine members present. Membership now 210 adults and 31 children.

27th June 1979

The meeting started at 7.38pm and ended at 11.54pm!
A motion put that only Medium Hard and Hard walks get advertised, as the Easy walks were getting too big. Bert Howell led a walk in Walyunga. [Note: Bert continued to lead a Walyunga walk for over 20 years]

17th August 1979

General meeting to amend the Constitution for minor wording changes relating to subscriptions. The meeting closed at 10.45pm, after which there were refreshments and a film – ‘On the Edge of the Forest’.

12th March 1980 – AGM

Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation to run a Proficiency Level of Bushwalking course. No members offered to attend.

21st April 1980 (Special meeting to discuss bush hut)

After extensive discussion it was decided to tidy and clean up the hut and grounds and advise the YHA that the club would hand it over in June. The hut no longer had sufficient regular use as it was too far away.

9th June 1980

Request for petrol money to cover the cost of surveys. Treasurer to investigate and report to the next meeting.

22nd September 1980

Proposal to pay 3 cents per kilometre for winter walk surveys. Estimated cost based on one survey only would be \$149.

Walk Reports

More weekend trips occurred during the 1970s with up to five in a year.

Year	Total Walks	Individual Leaders	Individual Co-Leaders
1970	20	15	11
1971	37	18	12
1972	42	13	15
1973	36	13	20
1974	33	15	19
1975	34	19	17
1976	33	20	19
1977	46	22	24
1978	56	22	25
1979	56	23	25
1980	51	22	31

Individual Leader Statistics		
Leader	Led	Co-Led
Bob Frayne	41	19
Pat Kennedy	37	10
Bert Howell	22	5
Les Green	22	
Cyril Brown	18	2
Pam Ranzetta	17	10
Gil Bower	16	14
Peter Chandler	15	13
Stuart Smith	13	3
Rick Walne	12	13
Graham Mealyea	10	15

Date	No.	Walk	Comment
25 th Apr 1971	28	Goldmine Gully	“We got lost!”
6 th Aug 1972	9	Seaforth – Crystal Brook	The route followed was not entirely as planned! i.e. the leader walked in a circle!
17 th Sep 1972	27	Kelmscott - Roleystone	One landowner was cross because we walked onto his land at the edge of the river.
7 th Jan 1973	26	Quinn’s Rock	... we came upon some nudists!
15 th Jul 1973	28	Kitty’s Gorge	One car had a serious breakdown and was abandoned.
26 th May 1974	13	Helena Brook	Rained nearly all the walk. Heavy shower at Lunch. Made a wrong creek crossing and ended up 3-4 miles NE of where the walk was planned.
14 th July 1974	46	Wungong Gorge	A few heavy showers. Some of the group missed the easier alternate wading spot across the causeway. This would not have occurred if members had kept people in front in sight!
28 th July 1974	17	Wooroloo Brook Start walk 10:40 Finish 6:40	Fine following two weeks of heavy rain. Rivers and creeks very swollen – crossings difficult. Nasty falls sustained on account of slippery rocks. Two people got a dunking!
18 th July 1974	12	Mountt Solus	Dark, cloudy, cold, heavy showers. Poor views. Log across the track added 2km to the walk.
1 st Sep 1974	32	Bald Hill	13 visitors from Perth Bushwalkers Club. Prickly Moses a sore trial! One member got lost – co-leader quickly rounded him up.
17 th Nov 1974	25	Reabold Hill	The party got spread out. Many visitors went off on their own. We took a wrong turn.
3 rd Aug 1975	43	Mountt Mambup	Accosted by man about right to cross private land and to use foot bridge across the Avon. Said to seek permission next time, but gave non listed name and phone number!
6 th May 1979	87	Walyunga	4.5km + 5km easy walk [note walk numbers!]
20 th May 1979	71	Clifford with Cliff	Club member wandered away during lunch

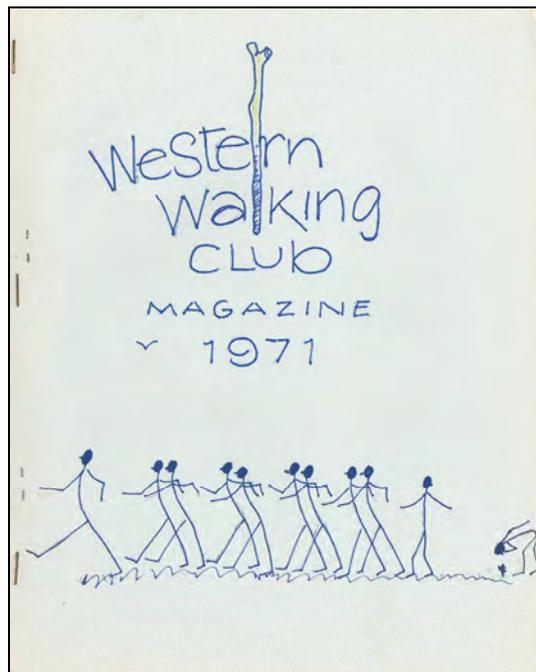
New Walks Introduced

Carla Denholm introduced her Fremantle Walk in 1972. In 1978 a trip to Yeagerup Dunes was added to our walks.

A BRIEF CHRONOLOGY OF FREMANTLE TO 1900

1829. 2 May, Captain Fremantle hoisted the Union Jack in a little bay just south of the river mouth and thereby 'formal possession was taken of the whole of the west coast of New Holland'.
June, arrival of 'Sulphur' and 'Parmelia' with 68 settlers. John Roe surveyed the townsites, and first land sales held in September.
Slow and laborious progress, due to labour, finance and sand problems. Buildings small, simple & rough. But gradually fewer tents and huts, and some 'good stone and brick houses in progress'.
Essential public works, e.g. a school and gaol (the Round House) in 1831, Wesley Church 1842, old St John's 1843, a few hotels, stores & govt. buildings.
1833, first race meeting at South Beach!
Agriculture, whaling & boatbuilding pioneered.
1848, the first Fremantle Town Trust.
Labour problems of 1840s led to request for convicts.
1850. 1 June, 'Scindian' arrived with 75 convicts.
Adequate labour force, many public works were built at this time, e.g. the Gaol 1855, Warders' Quarters in Henderson St. 1851, Commissariat Stores in Croke Lane 1853, Asylum 1850s. Streets, Traffic Bridge 1866, and the Perth road were completed.
1868. 10 Jan, last convict ship arrived.
A period of busy prosperity followed, with a bit of colour added by the exploits of Moondyne Joe, the escape of the Fenians on an American whaler in 1875, a Royal visit, the opening of the railway from Fremantle to Guildford in 1861, and the opening of the Town Hall in 1887.
1889, first lumpers' union formed, and in the same year they had their first strike.
1890, Responsible Government was granted to W.A.
1890s. gold rushes in W.A.
Consequent boom days in construction and commerce, and high & lively living - 'roaring nineties'.
1897. Opening of Fremantle Harbour in river mouth.

- WESTERN WALKING CLUB
FREMANTLE ARCHITECTURAL WALKABOUT
29 Oct 1972
1. St. John's Church, Adelaide Street, AT 2P.M.
 2. Fremantle Town Hall, Adelaide Street.
 3. Terrace Houses, Henderson Street.
 4. Police Station & Court, Henderson Street.
 5. Distant view of gaol and clock.
 6. Private house, 160 High Street.
 7. Offices, 195 High Street.
 8. Fremantle Music School, 21 Parry Street.
 9. Christian Brothers College, Ellen Street.
 10. Private houses, Ellen Street.
 11. Museum.
- 20 minute break for sketching, or going through Museum. N.B. Toilets are available, and OPEN.
12. Y.M.C.A., Quarry Street.
 13. St. Patrick's Church, Adelaide Street.
 14. History stop for Proclamation Tree and W.E. Marmion Memorial.
 15. Princess May School, Edward Street.
 16. Street signs.
 17. Overseas Terminal, Victoria Quay.
 18. Railway Station, rear view, Victoria Quay.
 19. C.Y. O'Connor Statue.
 20. Railway Station, Phillimore Street.
 21. Horse Trough, Elder Place.
 22. Customs House, Phillimore Street.
 23. Fremantle Port Authority Building.
 24. Elder Building, Phillimore Street.
 25. P. & O. Building, Phillimore Street.
 26. Tarantella Nite Club, 5 Mouat Street.
 27. Round House.
 28. Lionel Samson & Son, 31 Cliff Street.
 29. Government Buildings, Cliff Street.
 30. Fishmarkets - buy your tea.
Those with good feet, CARRY ON.
 31. Esplanade Hotel, Marine Terrace.
 32. Old Time Music Hall, Collie Street.
 33. Presbyterian Church, South Terrace.



A popular cover, also used for 1970, 1974, 1977, 1979, Mabel Pratt

New Leaders are always needed!

The West Australian 22 May 1975

DAVE REG BOB CYRIL
FOSTER HOOTON FRAYNE BROWN
8 1975 PAT DULCIE VINCE PAULINE
KENNEDY HOOTON PIPER SOUTH SECTION ROSE



Members of the Western Walking Club meet before heading for the Darling Range for their usual Sunday walk. The walks average 8km (5 miles).

Walkers seek new leaders

The Western Walking Club needs new leaders and will coach anyone interested in becoming a leader on its walks.

The club has a walk each Sunday for six months of the year and less frequently in the summer months because of the hot weather.

Most walks are in the Darling Range and transport to the start is usually by car.

The meeting place in Perth, each Sunday morning, unless otherwise specified, is the car park behind Government House, at the intersection of Terrace Road and Governors Avenue.

All cars leave at 9.15 am for secondary stops—made at either Boans forecourt, Cannington, or at the Caltex garage at the intersection of Great Northern Highway and Spring Park Road, Midland.

Walkers may join the group at the secondary stop at 9.45am.

Walks are designed to last all day, so walkers should take a picnic lunch and drinks such as hot coffee in cold weather.

Walks are defined as "easy", "medium" and "hard". Hard walks are only for the fit, active and experienced walker.

Boots and long trousers should be worn and people should not take part if they have any hesitation about their fitness.

Subscriptions are \$2 single and \$3 a family.

Prospective members are invited to join after completing two walks.

For further information telephone Bob Frayne on 351993 or 301897.

Life Members

Grace Symes, Margaret Munro, Cyril Brown

Grace Symes



Grace was awarded life membership in 1979, after joining the club in 1942. She was given a certificate when she had been bush walking continuously for 50 years with the Western Walking Club.

Grace continued to walk well into her eighties. She had an excellent technique, which allowed her to keep up the pace as she grew older. Whenever we stopped for a water break you could watch Grace weave between the walkers ahead of her until she reached the leader, thus ensuring a good start when the walk resumed. Grace was a very lively conversationalist so it was a pleasure to discuss ideas with her. We lost a well loved member in 2008 aged 96. Many members have very fond memories of Grace, who was a very active member.

Grace enjoyed a beer. Her good friend Bill Higgs would often bring a beer for her. Bill Higgs recalls *“Grace enjoyed an occasional sip of beer (the word occasional here is used in a broad sense). I think that she and I started the practice of adjourning to a hotel or tavern for a few drinks after Sunday walks. When she felt like another one she would bang her empty glass on the table to attract Bill’s attention. She would never simply ask!! I cannot conclude without mentioning Grace who walked regularly with the club for over fifty years and despite increasing frailty still tackled difficult walks. She was an inspiration to all of us.”*



David Shattock remembers *“Sometimes in life, one of the personalities you have met will stand out, not so much for what they have achieved, but for who they are; their enthusiasm for life, with its infectious flow on to those around them. Grace’s enthusiasm was only surpassed by her sense of humour.”*

Jackie Furby remembers Grace walking up a steep hill beside Ivor Sutton, *“... and keeping pace with him, no mean feat, and all the while having a robust discussion – something in which Grace and Ivor excelled.”*

Margaret Munro

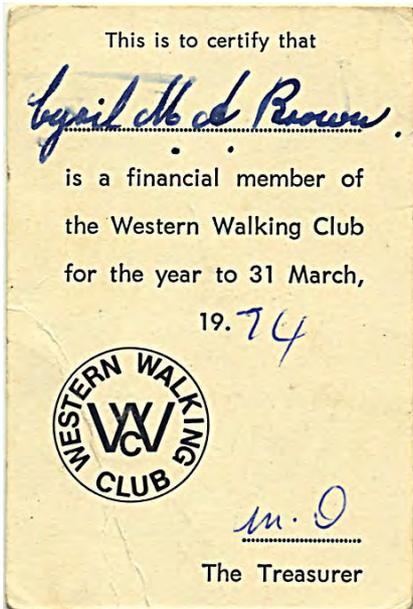


Margaret, club secretary for many years, was honoured with life membership in 1970. She joined the Western Walking Club in 1953. She was Secretary from 1958 to 1960, Vice President in 1964, Treasurer in 1965 and Secretary again in 1966 and 1967. She also wrote a number of articles for newspaper advertisements and other information about the club. Margaret led a number of walks for the club.

In 1959, the magazine paid tribute *“to the hard working and staunch committee member”* for her endless hard work deciphering horrible script, correcting spellings, and neatly typing the magazine.

Cyril Brown

Cyril (photo page 72) joined the club in 1953 and was made an honorary life member in 1974. He joined the committee in 1965 and became editor of the club magazine. His own contributions were many and varied, witty and wise; verse and prose. Later he was Vice President (1972-1974) and also held the archives from 1971-1983.



He was the first to take members to Mount Solus and Mount Randall, both in 1966. Most often he was accompanied by his dogs Peter, and later Potsie, until the executive excluded dogs from walks. Cyril was rarely seen after that decision.

He was active with the Tree Society, the Wildflower Association and the Naturalist Club. He traveled widely, staying in YHAs and was an avid climber in the Stirling Ranges. In 1972 he wrote a review of the book, "A climber's guide to the Stirling Ranges Western Australia" by John Watson from the Climbers' Association. He had almost completed a definitive guide to the Stirling Ranges before his death on 18th September 1983 at the age of 76. It was to be completed by a close friend and fellow enthusiast. Bob Frayne wrote that "*The club lost one of its more colourful personalities, a talkative lad*". David Shattock recalls his friendship with Cyril in a story on page 46.

The Cyril Brown Memorial Collection Library was established in 1984 with \$1000. The intent was to gradually purchase books, cassettes and magazines connected with walking, bush and wildlife to add to the existing library [early minutes mention Lucy Serventy suggesting four books for the 'club library']. The fund was exhausted in the mid-2000s.

Remembering and Reflecting Betty Forbes, Pam and Gerald Ranzetta

Betty Forbes



Betty was a member of the Ramblers in the UK enjoying walks in the Lake District and in Scotland before she migrated to Australia. When she arrived here, she looked in the Yellow Pages to find a similar club and joined in 1970. She is still often seen on the summer walks and occasionally on winter walks, although her other interests now vie for her time. Betty has co-led a few walks, mostly in the 2000s.

Betty is also a Friends of Kings Park member and was awarded a Certificate of Merit in 2011 (right). She has been with the 'growing groups' for more than 10 years and is an exceptional volunteer, devoting hours of her time to the propagation and nurturing of plants. Betty is always willing to help out with the upkeep of the nursery.



Betty recalls ...

Betty says members met behind Government House at 9.15am or at Carousel at 10.15am. Many members did not have cars so there was car pooling from Government House. After the Sunday walks they often had a barbecue at places such as Forsyth Mill where there were facilities.

Betty first encountered a snake in 1970 on Mount Cooke, which was definitely something to write home about. Fortunately it remained coiled up on the rock, ignoring the walkers!

Pam and Gerald Ranzetta

Pam and Gerald Ranzetta joined the club in 1973, and both were substantial contributors to the club with 23 and 16 years committee service respectively. They also led many walks, including away trips, and organised a number of bush skills and orienteering courses for members. Pam was President in 1978 and 1979, and Vice President for six years as well as librarian for four years. Not to be outdone, Gerald was President, Treasurer, or Secretary for one year each, editor for six years and our archivist for 13 years. They were members of the club up until 1996.

Pam's boots made for walking

March 1978

BEST FOOT FORWARD



Mrs Pam Ranzetta

Mrs Pam Ranzetta's boots—and feet—are made for walking . . .

A librarian at St Hilda's girls' college, in Mosman Park, she is the first woman president in 10 years of the Western Walking Club.

And she is putting her best foot forward to encourage family groups to discover the great outdoors.

"The club is a family walking club", she said.

"We have 176 adult members and 34 children. It's a great pastime for anybody who wants to go places you can't normally go by the conventional way.

"You can keep fit and get out and see different places."

Club leaders have taken walking parties into some of the State's most beautiful national parks, through Jandakot and its lakes district and into the picturesque Stirling Ranges.

Said Mrs Ranzetta: "We restrict our weekend jaunts to places which are near the metropolitan area and easily accessible by car . . .

On holidays and long weekends the group goes further afield.

"At Easter we had an outing to Pemberton," she said.

"Often we plan treks through the Darling or Stirling Ranges and go to places like Cervantes."

The club has a regular programme every Sunday from May to October.

"We don't like planning programmes in the summer months because it gets too hot," she said.

Has anybody ever been lost during walks?

"Yes, once," said Mrs Ranzetta, "but we don't really like to place too much emphasis on this."

She said that the walk leaders were experienced people who had covered all routes taken by club members and knew everything there was to know about the track.

Bibbulmun Track – Idea and Development

For many years the club has been an enthusiastic promoter of access to the wonderful bushland near Perth. In the 1972 magazine President Bob Frayne talks about his letter included below, "Together with a number of other interested organisations, we were invited, this year, to submit to the newly formed Department of Environmental Protection our ideas and suggestions concerning national parks in W.A. In addition, W.W.C. joined five other outdoor clubs in presenting a joint submission to the D.E.P on the same subject. More recently, the Forestry Department has started moves towards creating a long-distance walking track from Perth to the South West and on to Albany. This project was one of the detailed submissions put forward by W.W.C. as mentioned above [see point e], and we were represented at a meeting held under the chairmanship of Mr Peter Hewett of the Forestry Department to pursue this aim." The track development overcame many hurdles and delays to officially open in 1979.

Western Walking Club,
P.O. Box 153,
FREMANTLE. W.A. 6160

13th July, 1972.

Dr. W. D. L. Ride, Chairman,
Conservation Through Reserves Committee,
Department of Environmental Protection,
B.P. House,
1 Mount Street,
PERTH. 6000

Submission re National Parks in W.A.

Dear Dr. Ride,

In reply to your letter inviting submissions on the subject of national parks in W.A., I would first like to outline the activities of the Club.

1. Each Sunday, for six months of the year, members travel by car or bus, up to 50 miles from Perth, and then walk for several miles through natural bush, before returning to Perth for tea. A picnic lunch is taken.
2. During long weekends, longer trips are organised, visiting national parks up to four hundred miles from Perth. Members make use of organised camping sites where these exist; but in some areas where no facilities are provided, a simple overnight camp is made using lightweight equipment.

Our submissions follow directly from the above:

- (a) Our walks, (1) take place largely in the catchment areas for the metropolitan and country water supplies in the Darling Range. If these areas were closed to us, our activities would be drastically curtailed.
We therefore recommend that all these areas be declared A Class reserves, and placed under the general direction of the National Parks Board, with provision for adequate management in cooperation with the Forests Department and water supply authorities. We would welcome the appointment of rangers in these areas to control public access, which could be limited to pedestrian traffic.

- (b) Other areas frequently visited by the club include the areas adjacent to the Serpentine River (between the main dam and the falls) and the Avon Valley (between Upper Swan and Toodyay). We recommend extension of the existing National Parks in both these areas to include the several tributary creeks displaying good waterfalls and paying particular attention to the area needed for the abundance of kangaroos and emus in the Avon Valley. We note with concern the rapid extension of clearing for agriculture on the South and East of the Avon River, which places severe limits on the fauna habitation.
- (c) Our activities (2) show a need to permit lightweight camping in outlying areas of the State (not only in National Parks), where no organised sites are provided. Again, in more remote areas we would welcome the appointment of more rangers to supervise the national parks. This club has always enjoyed friendly relations with individual rangers in a number of parks, and our members are always ready to cooperate and assist the ranger with his task.
- (d) One National Park of which we have first hand experience is the Nambung National Park, which we recommend be extended to include the Tombstone Rocks and the Namban River valley.
- (e) We recommend the establishment of long distance walking trails, e.g. Perth-Albany and Perth-Augusta.
- (f) We have noted with concern the number of wild fires which have occurred in reserves in recent years. We recommend an extended programme of controlled burning to counter this problem.

The above submissions are considered to be specifically relevant to this Club. However, many of our members are members also of the Tree Society and/or of the Naturalists Society. In so far as our interests coincide, we wish to associate ourselves with submissions presented by those bodies.

Furthermore we have joined with other rucksack clubs in preparing a joint submission, which expresses the combined views of the signatory clubs.

We wish to thank your Committee for inviting our views and to assure you of our complete cooperation at all times. In particular we shall be glad to elaborate on the submissions herein if required.

Yours sincerely,

R. Frayne
President

Found in WWC archives: Bibbulmun News
Issue #7, November 1994

Bibbulmun People – In 1970 Peter Hewett was Superintendent of Extension Services with the Forests Department ... One day, Peter said, "this chap – who seemed a bit odd at first – wandered into the office and said "why don't we have a long-distance walk trail like they have in America and Victoria?". Geoff Schafer (a WWC member and founder of Perth Bushwalkers in 1969) has a slightly different recollection. He has hand written on the bottom of the article that he took in a written proposal and a map. He first saw Tom Evans, Minister of Forests, who took him to Mr Beggs, Conservator of Forests, who took him to Dr Hopkins who later took him to see Peter Hewett.

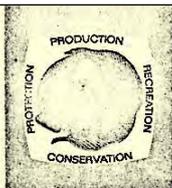
Assistance with Establishing the Long Distance Track ...

Soon after Bob's letter and a visit by club member Geoff Schafer in July, the Forests Department called a meeting ... (below)

Govt. aid for bushwalkers

Sunday Times 30 July 1972

Bushwalking is seen as a major new pastime in WA, according to the newly appointed Minister for Recreation, Mr. T. D. Evans.



FORESTS DEPARTMENT

54 BARRACK STREET, PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6000
TELEPHONE 25 8077

Address all correspondence: Conservator of Forests

Your ref:

Our ref: 331/72

Inquiries: Mr. Hewett, Como (67 6333)

The Secretary (Mr. Frayne)
Western Walking Club
C/o 9 Museum Street
PERTH 6000

Dear Sir

PERTH TO ALBANY WALKING TRACK

It is proposed that an exploratory meeting of some representatives of bodies believed to be interested in the development of a WALKING TRACK from Perth to Albany, be held on September 19, 1972.

Your organisation is invited to send one delegate to this meeting which will be at 8 p.m. in the Forests Department's Institute of Forest Research and Protection, Thelma Street, Como. A diagram showing the location of this building is attached hereto.

It would be appreciated if you could notify our Mr. Hewett on telephone 67 6333 of the name of your nominee by September 18.

No formal agenda is proposed but topics which might be gainfully discussed are:

- the need for a walking track or tracks
- potential demand for this type of facility
- problems of overnight accommodation
- use of standard markers on the track
- availability of labour to check and define the track on the ground

Mr. Hewett of the Forests Department will be chairman of this exploratory meeting and will look forward to meeting your delegate.

Yours faithfully

A. J. Depp
CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS

August 31, 1972 MM

Mr. Evans said yesterday the Government was likely to follow South Australia's example and survey suitable routes for bushwalking.

The survey could be made by the new organisation of youth councils which the Government proposes to set up.

A Bill to merge the functions of National Fitness Council and the State's Youth Councils will be introduced in the adjourned session of Parliament on Tuesday.

Bushwalking enthusiasts have criticised the lack of any proper routes to carry out the pastime.

They say bushwalking could be an important recreational pastime, improving health and fitness and make city dwellers more aware of the natural environment.

Government support (above) at this time made a big difference to bush walking in Western Australia, and greatly assisted development of the Bibbulmun Track beginning in 1973.

The result of that September meeting was a process that produced our much loved Bibbulmun Track. The club's President, Bob Frayne, and club member Geoff Schafer were a driving force in this development. Note that three of the delegates were members of the Western Walking Club at the time, but representing their other interests: Cyril Brown and Geoff Schafer (see page 55, formation of Perth Bushwalkers Club).

BUSHWALKING IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA - INFORMAL MEETING 19/9/72.

At the request of the CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, a meeting was convened at the INSTITUTE OF FOREST RESEARCH AND PROTECTION at 8 p.m. on September 19, 1972, to discuss proposals for developing long distance walking tracks.

DELEGATES attending represented groups as listed below:

Forests Department	Dr. Hopkins, Mr. P. Hewett (Chairman)
Naturalist Club of W.A.	Mr. Cyril Brown
Youth Hostels Association	Mr. Geoff Dean, Mr. Terry Amer
Perth Bushwalkers	Mr. Geoff Schafer
Western Walking Club	Mr. Bob Frayne

APOLOGIES had been received from:

National Fitness Council	Mr. Wally English, Mr. John Graham
Albany Walking Group	Mr. Mike Moran

GENERAL DISCUSSION

The Chairman (Mr. Hewett) welcomed the delegates and introduced Dr. Hopkins as Chief of Division, Extension Services for the Forests Department of Western Australia. Mr. Hewett then described action already taken by officers of the Forests Department to indicate on 1:63360 scale plans their proposals for a "CORE" bushwalking track between Perth and Albany. Plans were displayed on pinboards together with a set of forest block plans at a scale of 1:190080 onto which proposals had been transcribed.

Dr. Hopkins then outlined the Forests Department policy of encouraging a range of forest recreation and pointed to some of the problems which could evolve from the opening of a long distance walking track.

The maps and proposals were received with some enthusiasm by delegates and there followed a lively discussion of potential for use, facilities required etc.

POTENTIAL LEVEL OF USE AND ORGANISED TRACK USERS

Mr. Dean advised that, from estimates prepared for Dr. Ride's "Conservation Through Reserves Committee" by an 'ad hoc' Council of W.A. Rucksack Clubs, there are 2,000 active club walkers in W.A. at present. A list, which is not necessarily exhaustive, of clubs and organisations with an interest in bushwalking is appended to this summary. It was agreed that promotion of walking tracks could be expected to cause a rapid growth of interest in this activity.

SPECIFIC TRACK REQUIREMENTS

Although representatives agreed that much detail should be left for consideration of a properly constituted committee, there were some points of detail which need to be considered at an early stage, for example:

- realistic length of track sections
- provision for organised campsites
- legal position of "wild" camping
- provision for zoning of use intensity with proportionate levels of track facilities
- nomenclature

Club President, Bob Frayne, on the Bibbulmun Opening 8th December 1973
The first section is now ready for walking ...

Trail of the pioneers re-opens as an adventure trek for bushwalkers

Story by Philip Bodeker; pictures by Rod Taylor.

You could still see the marks of the axe on the blackened jarrah stump that had been felled before the turn of the century.

Swarms of bushflies that must have coated the backs of axemen 100 years ago clung like a metallic skin to our haversacks.



◆ Four walkers set out on the Bibbulmun Track. From left, walking club president Bob Frayne, Forest officer Peter Hewett, reporter Philip Bodeker and photographer Rod Taylor.

A small yellow triangle high on a tree trunk told us that this was the new Bibbulmun Bushwalking Track.

The first section of the 450-mile track, which has just been opened by the Forests Department, leads from Mundaring to Northcliffe.

Eventually it will end at Albany, but most people will tackle only short sections, as our team did this week.

The first person to attempt the track, Colin Gawned, of Armadale, pulled out with a leg injury after one day and 25 miles at the start of the week.

We were less ambitious. Ten miles was our limit and this, according to our bushwalking guide Bob Frayne, is a good day's walk with a 30 or 40lb pack over uneven country.

But the track was good. An old state forestry vehicle track, in the hills east of Waroona it was alternately gravelly and sandy.

The wildflowers were glorious and with forestry officer Peter Hewett as expedition leader, we were treated to instant identification of trees, plants, fungi, fauna and history of the track.

The Bibbulmun Track is named after the Aboriginal inhabitants of the area through which it passes.

The name was used by early writers to describe the inhabitants that travelled freely as family groups rather than tribes up and down the coastal plain and along the south coast.

The track, however, travels east of the plain through state forests, using a wide range of river valleys and hill scarps for changing views.

There are only two sections where you must travel as far as 10 miles between permanent water.

At some of these drinking water must be boiled.

The department's guide advises walkers not to go it alone, to take care with fires, to carry adequate water, wear strong and comfortable footwear with thick socks, take weather-proof clothing, rucksack, compass, snakebite kit and insect repellent.

Huge stinging march flies, twice as long and fat as the beach variety, hovered over bare skin and took a liking to photographer Rod's blue denim jeans, which at one stage was studded with 30 or 40 of the brutes. We were assured flies were not bad in the early spring when the trail was at its best.

The section of track chosen by our forestry organisers was between

the forestry lookout at Mt William, south to Logues Brook Dam, one of the earliest jarrah workings in the state.

We started our hike close to the overgrown site of Waterous, a mill town site abandoned about the turn of the century.

The huge concrete block which carried the steam boilers that drove the Waterous mill wheels and pulleys and circular saws stood like a grey tombstone. Around it irrevolent 50-year-old blackbutt trees sprouted from what was mill floor.

A 6ft circular saw, rusty and bent, was nailed to a tree.

Remnants of mill town life in the last century lay half buried, pieces of rusted, broken kitchenware, bits of mill tools, old railway tracks, a crumbled garden wall. The Bibbulmun Track passes by several similarly abandoned mills.

The start of our hike was through country cut over in the last century and again recently.

Some butts were eight or nine feet in diameter and were probably 500 years old when selected by axemen last century.

Few jarrah trees will ever grow so old in future. It would be 30 years before the Forests Department would permit falling again in this area.

And meanwhile, faced with the dual threats of bauxite mining and jarrah root rot dieback, there was no telling what would happen.

As we walked, big patches of dieback were already evident.

The gravel that crunched noisily under our walking boots was rich in bauxite.

The whole of our walk was in a bauxite mining lease.

A yellow plastic ribbon fluttering from a tree branch showed that Alcoa had been here.

Bob Frayne, the president of the Western Walking Club, had brought a two-man tent which folded into his knapsack and weighed only 4lb.

Our two-two-man tents stood up to a stiff land breeze that lifted cool across the lake.

Breakfast was billy tea, sausages and toast.

The rest of the trail skirted the dam and headed south. We finished our walk a little south of the dam, a little weary but sorry that the pressures of work and the city allowed only a short hike of this adventurous new trail.

One day we would be back.

Bibbulmun Track Story Continues ...

The first plans for the long distance path were a Lancelin-Albany track, but in planning, it became unrealistic, so a shorter Kalamunda to Northcliffe section was agreed upon. The first complete alignment of the track was marked on the ground in March 1974. In 1975, the Bibbulmun track was still not complete after diversions around die-back areas and problems with the Water Department. For the next three years this route was subject to a range of modifications.

Official Opening – Bibbulmun Relay Walk 1979

Finally in 1979, the track was opened as part of the Western Australia's 150th year celebrations, after reaching the Boorara Tree outside Northcliffe. The club was involved with the official opening by the presence of our secretary Bob Frayne, who as President had helped with the instigation of the track in 1972. A campsite near Northcliffe is named after Geoff Schafer – Schafer Campsite, another member of the club and a major instigator (see footnote page 67). The YHA initiated a staged relay to walk over three weeks from Kalamunda to Northcliffe, to celebrate. Bob Frayne represented the club on this walk.

Walkers were using the track all through the seventies and the Forest Department recorded over 1000 enquiries a year. Club member Jack Slatterly took up the challenge and completed the walk in 1979.

Club Badge

A club badge was first discussed on 1st July 1963 and again in April 1964. In 1971, Cyril Brown suggested a Christmas Bush. Then in October 1972, a number of designs were put forward. One 'contestant' was Peter Chandler. He designed the club crest that we still use today. The crest first appeared on the 1973 Autumn – Winter Programme, from a rubber stamp. Name badges were distributed to members in 1973. It is interesting that the design is quite different to that mentioned in the minutes of October 1972 "*A walking boot with W.W.C. on the sock*" was a favoured one.



Peter joined the club in 1966, was President in 1975, Vice President before that, and on the committee for another six years. In 1972, Peter also set up the Bunbury Walking Club, when he lived there for six months, but stayed on the committee of the WWC until 1979.



Graham Mealyea (left) and Cliff Marquis (right)
"Never get ahead of a leader": D. Shattock, 1974

1970s Photos



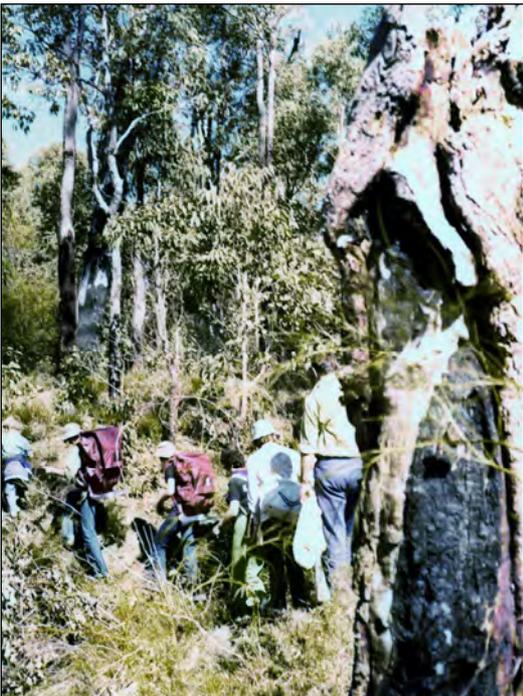
Margaret Munro

Pam Ranzetta (leader)

Reg Hootton



Margaret Dawbarn, Cyril Brown, Julie Harrison, Bob Frayne, Nancy Morgan
28th October 1973, Mosman Bay Walk



Magazine Insights and Happenings

In this decade excursions continue with trips to the North West and Stirling Ranges. We see a correspondence column called 'The Agony and the Ecstasy' later become 'Bleeding Heart'. These were for members to write for advice about, well anything. During the 1970s many of the walk stories were presented in poem form.

1970

Rolf Steilberger arranged another bus camping trip north with 15 walkers visiting Wittenoom, Cossack, Millstream, Hamersley Range. There were lots of snake stories.

The President noted the sudden death of Ralph Strawbridge. Ralph joined the club before 1964 and led a number of club walks.

The editor, Cyril Brown, described the purpose of the magazine as primarily to discuss walking, appreciation and preservation of wild life and natural beauty, and social activity, as laid out in our constitution. Articles could describe new walks or give advice for improvement of walks and the comfort of walkers. "*Poetry and prose on the beauties of nature or cries aloud for preservation are welcome*". To spur the achievement of this, he added a correspondence column called "The Agony and the Ecstasy".

1971

A disappointing year with low numbers on walks; maybe they were too long and too hard, were some comments to the President. Speakers such as from The National Trust, Forestry Department and two travel agencies provided entertaining evenings, as did members slides and travel adventures. The President thanked Secretary June Falk, who had proved a good Girl Friday, and Treasurer Margaret Dawbarn who was so ready to volunteer for new enterprises.

Rolf Steilberger took eighteen members to Marble Bar, Derby, Windjana Gorge, Tunnel Creek, Hall's Creek and Kununurra. They called into Arglye Downes (Durack) but there was no welcome, "... *tired of tourists methinks ...*", Frances Curtin says. Then back along the coast through Port Headland, Karratha, Carnarvon, Geraldton, and home at 6pm. They covered 5045 miles and it cost approximately \$150 each.

Bob Frayne organised an Orienteering course for club members.

Cyril Brown, editor, proposed that the club should have a banner to display at the starting transport point; a club badge possibly with a Christmas Bush flower on it; club colours of blue for Australian skies and yellow for the 'Golden West'; and a motto such as "I'll take you up the country" or perhaps "We must strike across the country".

The only woe that walkers know,
When they wander far too slow;
Is that the disappearing leaders go
Over the hill ignoring "WHOA!"

Audrey Robinson, 1971

1972

The 35th year of the club arrived and with a declining membership, the club advertised and reduced walks to only one a week instead of two. The number of long, away trips was cut down to avoid fragmentation and to avoid smaller groups in different places at the same time. This strategy succeeded in increasing the average number on Sunday walks. President Bob Frayne said "*We intend to extend the summer programme and continue to advertise our walks and for new leaders*".

Bob continued ... *"I have heard that several members were under the impression that we had intended to join with another walking club, but this is not so. In fact, we may be said to have a child, for Peter Chandler, after many active years in our own W.W.C., has now formed a new walking club in Bunbury."* [Peter stayed in Bunbury for only six months before returning to Perth and the WWC once more]

Bob also records in his Presidents article, *"Another major event took place on 30th July. Together with five other clubs, we took part in presenting a seminar concerned with adventure and survival. Held at Nedlands Teacher Training College, this consisted of a series of slides shown by each club in the morning, followed by illustrated talks by experts in the field of survival in the afternoon. The hall was filled to overflowing, and the National Fitness Council was so impressed, they created a library of the slides to use for depicting adventure activities in W.A. The club is most thankful to Pat Kennedy who went to considerable trouble to assemble this collection of slides, most of which come from his own camera."*

This year also acknowledged three still active members who had completed thirty years of regular walking with the WWC [possibly referring to Glen Doepel, Bill Baggs and Cyril Brown.]

At the AGM this year members voted in favour of becoming an incorporated organization in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 1895-1969. Shortly after, the name of the club was changed slightly to The Western Walking Club (*Inc.*). June Falk, our secretary, carried out all the necessary formalities to incorporate the club. This process allows many contractual advantages and provides a large measure of legal protection to all members against possible litigation.

1973

Summer walks were held twice monthly, mostly by the ocean or river. The highlight of the walks was the Christmas Barbecue beside Keith and Carla Denholm's new pool, attended by 60 members and friends. Weekly walks continued through the six cooler months. The average number of walkers crept up to about 23, while the number of members remained 80 to 100.

Rolf Steilberger has organised a new walking club in Kalamunda. Rolf is a very old member and previous Vice President for four years and committee member for another two. [Rolf Steilberger was a member from 1949-1973. He attended the clubs 50th Anniversary in 1987 and completed the Endurance Walk in 1988 (see page 91). On this walk he entertained them on his harmonica whilst walking as he regularly did on club walks. He introduced a few new walks to the club and led or co-led many. He also organised a number of North West Safari's, Kimberley Safari's and Yanchep holidays as noted in the previous page.]

1974

In 1974 a lot of activity occurred in the bush. Over the last three years the club has seen an increased interest in walking, due to a seminar in 1972 organised by the National Fitness Council (see above quote from Bob Frayne). New trails were being blazed in the Stirling Ranges National Park by a botanist preparing a vegetation map of the park. The Stirling caravan park was opened during this time. The Cape York Conservation Council and Aborigines Historic Places Trust purchased 300sq miles for the future Quinkan National Park, for which the club donated \$25. Talk of preserving 400 acres at Reabold Hill to add to Bold Park was publicised. The Perth Bushwalkers joined the club on the Bold Park walk this year.

1975

In 1975, we celebrate our 21st year of the club magazine with a continued preoccupation with the club history. It is noted that there are several walkers still in the club from the early days. This was a year of 'rapid expansion' with an increase in walkers each week. The average age of walkers is decreasing due to an influx of younger members during the year. The first trial of two walks on Sunday on two occasions occurred this year.

Bob Frayne organised another Orienteering Competition this year with only Ron Ellis completing the course. Some new leaders had offered to lead walks but more are called for.

On a trip to the Stirlings Ranges at Easter, one couple found a night to be ‘unbelievably cold’. The ‘chief packer’ had thought the leader was joking when told to bring hot water bottles and bed socks!

Stuart Smith introduced an orange sticker for the rear window of members cars to help traveling in convoy through the suburbs.

1976

The editor, Bob Frayne notes *“Membership of Western Walkers in 1976 has never been higher at 164, despite other clubs popping up. Increased numbers can be attributed to advertising, which makes it necessary to plan two walks on Sunday, one ‘easy’ and one ‘hard’ to keep numbers manageable. The second reason for increased numbers is the quality of our unspoiled scenery of mountain, forest and rivers etc., and even historic and unique places, which are often off the tourist track. The well-organised club walks also contribute.”*

A brief history of Whittaker’s Mill set up in the Darling Range, east of North Dandalup, in 1903. Horses originally pulled logs to the mill, later pulling the logs along Jarrah laid tracks. In 1907, steam driven hauling and saws replaced the manual process. Surrounding the mill area were workers cottages to house them, and their families. The mill was destroyed by fire in 1944.

1975



Gerald Ranzetta and Pat Kennedy



Les Green “Impromptu ceremony for unknown bushwalker”

Photos: D. Shattock, 1976

Lost in the Bush - A day I'll never forget
Betty McAllister, 1976

It was a lovely walk up Churchman's Brook on Sunday 4th July. We were about to return to the cars after a little rest half way down a valley. I was told it was easy, only about 4 1/2 miles, so I decided to change out of my army boots to light canvas shoes. Two people passed close to me as I sat, but, as they were wearing mackintosh hoods, no doubt they did not notice me. I ran quickly up the bank to join the others; but they had completely disappeared.

Accustomed as I was to the Indian Jungle, and African bush, I looked for signs of tracks. But Australian bush is so different; it all looks the same. ...Then I remembered that there were no wild animals to kill and eat me (unlike Africa), and remembered Robinson Crusoe from my childhood and decided I also had to build a house for the night.

It was too late to be found, it was getting dark, and heavy rain was coming. I looked for cover. There was nothing but the hollowed stump of an old burnt tree, approximately two feet high. I carried large heavy stones and made walls, filling in the gaps with undergrowth to keep out rain and draughts. The roof I made first with branches, laid close side by side; then a cover of undergrowth; then large stones and more large branches, in order to prevent violent winds removing my roof. At the entrance I made a barricade, behind which I was to sit, with a long stick to defend myself against kangaroos. How I longed for my .22, or .303! I was not concerned about snakes, for I knew their habits, but the kangaroo was a new animal to me.

I had chocolate, a banana, an apple and water, so apart from being very wet, I would be fine till morning, when I intended walking down to the dam and following the stream till I reached a farm and civilisation.

Then at 4.20pm, I heard voices: "Betty, it is alright, we are here." I was so excited, I dropped my armful of undergrowth and ran towards them, and then, turning, I found I had lost my house, with my boots, and bag containing unit keys, and money etc. All in the bush looked so alike. However, it was found after quite a hunt. It all ended happily in a nice warm pub, with a gin and tonic!

1977

This year activities included an orienteering competition in August, run by Gerald and Pam Ranzetta. Team 1 located 15 out of 16 markers – Andrew Mays, Gwen Malone, Bob Frayne and Marjorie Lyons. Team 2 collected five out of ten markers – Stuart Smith, Julia Kidd, Mary Kidd and Sue and Graham Mealyea, both were classed as medium category.

Another story gave an account of the leader of the orienteering group, Pam Ranzetta, demonstrating how to set the compass course and duly adding about 8 degrees to her compass by accident.

Even though the group had all set their own compasses, off they all went following their trusted leader. “But how do you tell all those faces you are completely lost, after only 20 minutes?” Chief Scout [Pat Kennedy] headed off in hopefully the right direction, and found a track, and a short time later all came across the marker. The next marker would be found along the left fork in the track, but alas the leader turned right instead. By now there were muted mutterings from the group as the Chief Scout sidled up to the leader to quietly suggest she might have taken the wrong fork. But soon a marker was found, even if it was the after lunch mark. All was forgiven as they marched off to an early lunch. “Several walkers were kind enough to say they had learnt a lot – but refrained from specifying just what!”

On the 22nd September 1977, Bob Frayne was interviewed on the Radio 6NR breakfast show, fielding many questions about the club for 20 minutes of airtime.

1978

The 1978 editorial [Bob Frayne] urges members “... *as individuals and members of the walking club, we have an obligation to inform ourselves of current events. Many dedicated people are currently studying how a number of different land uses can be accommodated by the forest without destroying it. These people are not all reaching the same conclusions - controversy rages - and the forest is being degraded. If you think this is a problem which can not affect us, talk to some of the people who have been walking with the club for many years. Ask them how many former club walks are no longer available, and why.*

So don't just stand there - do something - say something - write something. Every written submission to your MP or to the EPA is acknowledged.”

The President [Pam Ranzetta] notes this is the first time in nine years we have had one hundred on a single walk and so many visitors on the easy walks. “*We needed to count the members instead.*” This number was partly due to the ‘Life Be In It’ campaign.

Fresh ground has been broken in new weekend walks, Easter at Pemberton instead of October and a trip to Yeagerup Dunes. The Christmas party was at Dave and Maureen Shattock’s house again this year, in their lovely bush setting. On the Toodyay Moonlight Walk in September members witnessed the total eclipse of the moon, reports the club Astronomer, Howard Smith.

Life, Be In It

There are members who walk
And members who talk
And members who walk about, talking;
But very much worse
Is the awful reverse
Of those who just talk about walking.

Even these are less bad
Than the ones who come clad
In ridiculous footwear and kit.
They ruin our day
And then fade away
To talk about how to get fit.

Audrey Robinson, 1978

A Moonlight Walk

Julia Kidd, 1978 (condensed)

On a chilly evening in September nine intrepid bushwalkers set off from Toodyay Youth Hostel.

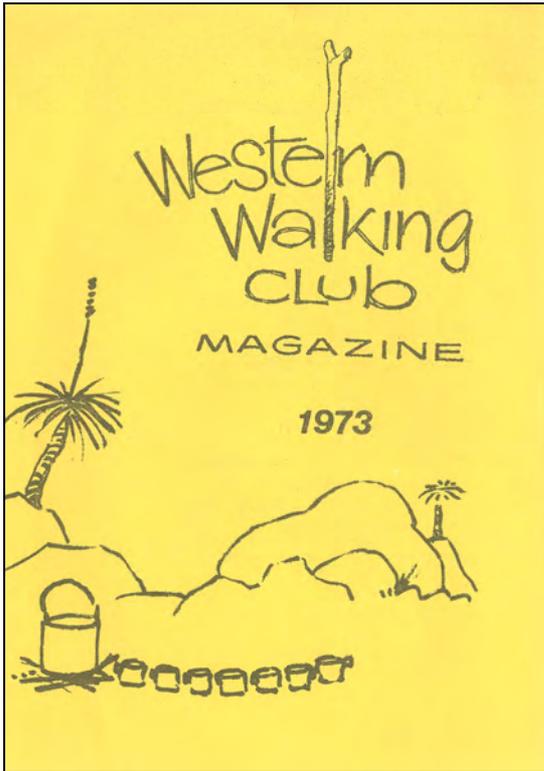
They started walking at 7.30pm, but were soon stopped by the sight of a strange sculpture – a lavatory pan with matching seat. Leader Bob soon found the track of the former Toodyay railway line so, after falling over a few jarrah sleepers, they boldly set out to follow it over many farm paddocks. Some of the ladies, after being caught on some barbed wire fences, prevailed upon the men to do the honours and lift them over, and after that the progress was much faster.

After a stop at the halfway mark to view the beautiful moon with binoculars, co-leader Mary led the way through cuttings where high wire fences seemed determined to halt their progress.

A suitable spot was chosen for a fire, and everyone searched for wood. Everyone sat around, told limericks, passed the rum bottle, dried their shoes and had a nice cup of coffee from the billy. They discussed the possibility of being overtaken by darkness of the total eclipse of the moon. The return journey was resumed.

After crossing a narrow bridge, high over the road, they came across the dreaded wire, and for 1km all conversation stopped, and the familiar call, “wire”, was all that could be heard. Later scaling a wall to avoid a steep sided cutting and reaching the road as the moon was eclipsed and visibility decreased rapidly.

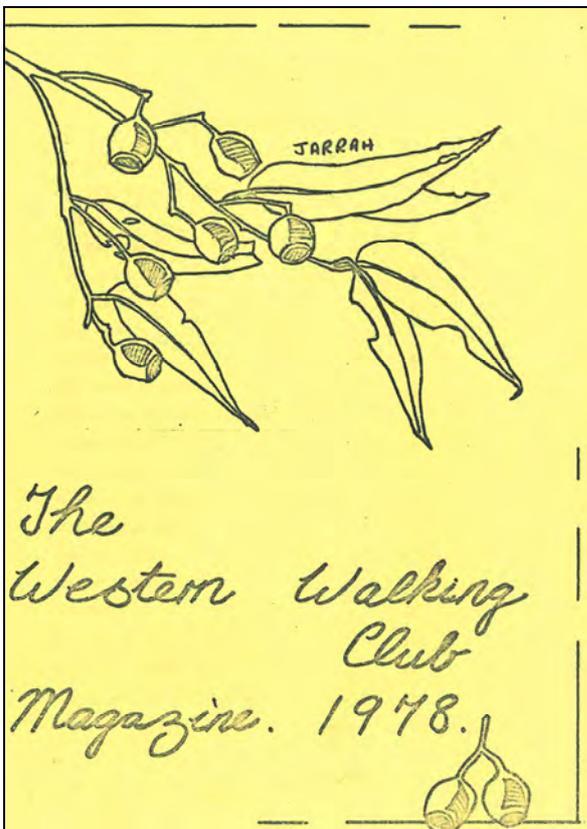
Arriving back at the YHA at 2.30am for a warm coffee and a good sleep, they disturbed a member who had remained behind. He had a few choice remarks to make before he was permitted to go back to sleep.



Cover design Mabel Pratt



Adapted by Ivy Hiscock from Mabel Pratt's 1967 cover



Cover design, Mary Kidd



Cover design, David Shattock

1979

With sadness we record the demolition of No. 12 Museum Street, Perth, the former Headquarters of the Temperance League. It was the hall at this address that the inaugural public meeting was called at which the club was formed in August 1937.

Club Crisis!

In 1979, the club is in crisis with divisions between committee members, and within the membership. One problem was that with the increased membership from heavy advertising, the number of walkers on some walks exceeded 40, which was thought to be unwieldy. There is a high turn over of visitors matched by a high turnover of members. Two walks were initiated for most Sundays, but this failed to ease the big numbers on the easy walks. It was mooted that there should be less advertising, making it more difficult to become a member, but this was rejected by a Special General Meeting. The meeting also made it clear the committee should not have the power to act without the consent of members.

Bob Frayne, Editor

A navigation course on 13th September 1979 organised by Pam and Gerald Ranzetta was once again highly successful. However, there was a down side as some of the markers had been removed to which Pam wrote to The West Australian appealing “*to all who use the bush to show consideration to other users.*”

1980

The magazine contains a discussion about the new forestry maps moving to metric, with a declaration that they are wonderful for farmers, merchants and the public ... but not for walkers! It adds “... *but we can still obtain the old maps from the office in Wembley.*”



Max Bailey “Bragging again”: D. Shattock, 1976

CHAPTER FIVE

Into Our 50th Year – 1981-1991

As we move through the 1980s we come to our 50th year, and celebrate it in style at Perry Lakes Stadium. Our library becomes The Cyril Brown Memorial Collection, in 1984. The decade ended with the proposal, from Perth Bushwalkers, for the formation of a bushwalking Federation of WA.

**Matters Arising ...
Into our 50th Year – 1981-1991**

23rd March 1981

Moved that we start having a form for all to sign each week, regarding risk acknowledgment.
[Note: a year later this was changed so that only visitors need sign the form.]

15th March 1982

Pell's Surplus Store, Shimenson's, Wellington Surplus and Boots Camping WA to be approached for donations as prizes for the Madhatter's Walk on 2nd May.

15th March 1983 – AGM

Twelve nominations for seven appointments – ballot needed.
Thea Black – President; Noreen Thomas – Secretary. Cyril Brown resigns as Archivist.

20th September 1983

Notice to be inserted in The West Australian newspaper in memory of the life of Cyril Brown – Life Member – who died on 18th September.

13th March 1984 – AGM

After discussion about paying petrol expenses of walk leaders and co-leaders, it was generally agreed that leaders enjoyed doing surveys and did not expect the club to pay their expenses, despite a motion that \$6 per head be added to fees to cover these.

26th June 1984

Cyril Brown bequest to Club, money (\$1000) to be used to develop the library collection.

11th March 1986 – AGM

Noreen Thomas elected President.
252 members. The May-July walks advertised in The West Australian each Saturday, produced many phone calls and visitors, only some becoming members.
Thea Black's car vandalised during a survey at Walyunga. Repairs cost \$200; the club paid \$50 as a token of goodwill.

10th March 1987 – AGM

Bill Higgs becomes Treasurer. [Note: Bill held this position until the end of the 1990s.]
Mary Hackett to be given life membership. She joined in 1957 and had been a committee member, Treasurer and walk leader.

19th May 1987 – Special 50th Anniversary meeting

Plans for the occasion are as follows:

13th September: three walks on the Bibbulmun Track. Each to end at Carinyah picnic site about 3pm.

20th September: A Function suite had been hired at Perry Lakes Stadium from 10am to 7pm.

TV, Video, Slides and 8mm film of early days to be shown. Refreshments would include sandwiches, party pies, sausage rolls, tea and coffee and a special birthday cake. Cream coloured T-shirts would be available for purchase.

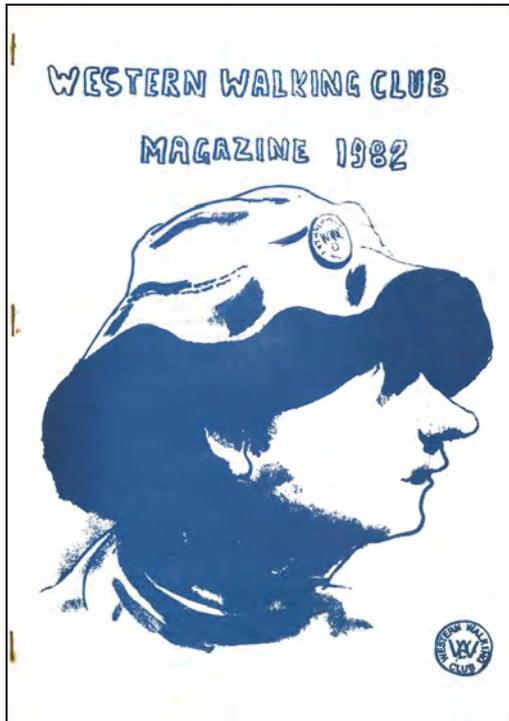
Nancy Morgan and Mary Hackett to be made Life Members.

14th March 1989 – AGM

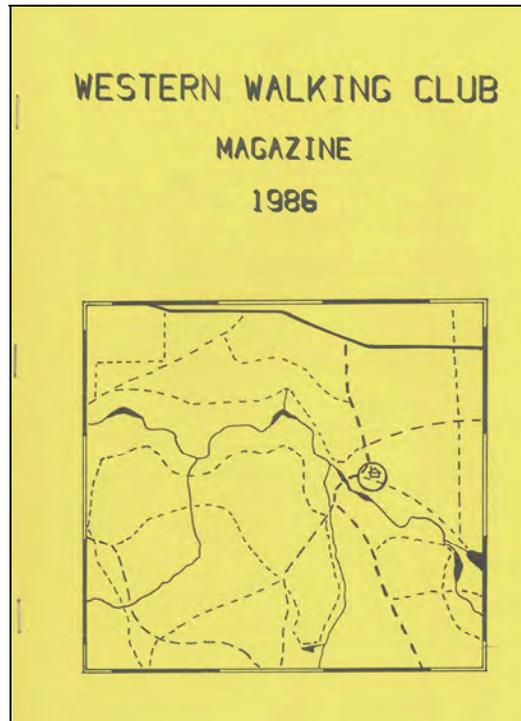
The Conservation Council delegate gave a very thought provoking report on meetings attended. There is public apathy towards saving forests and rare flora and fauna as well as towards fighting pollution. The need for club members to support the Council and its work was also highlighted.

The Cyril Brown Memorial Collection Library

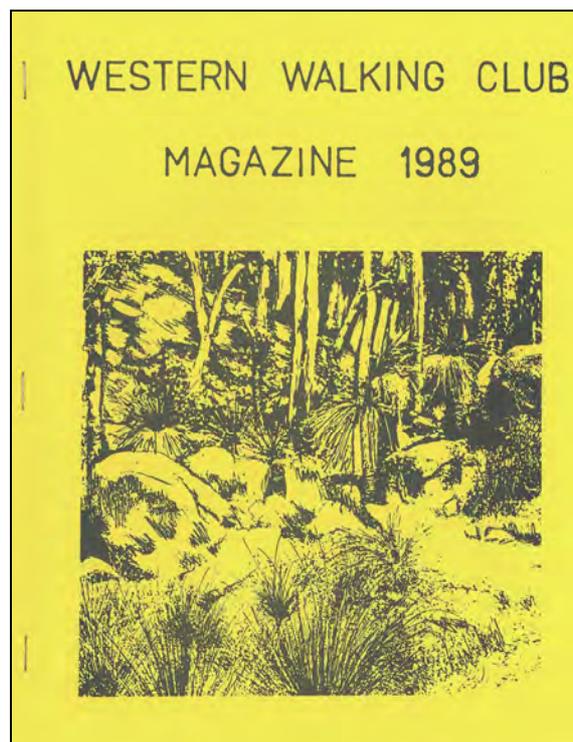
In the 4th June 1953 minutes Lucy Serventy suggests three to four books for the club library. Later in 1984, The Cyril Brown Memorial Collection Library was established with a \$1000 bequest. The intent was to gradually purchase books, cassettes and magazines connected with walking, bush and wildlife. Most librarians still carry the box of books to walks and members can browse and borrow them from the car boot or picnic circle before or after walks.



Cover by David Shattock



Cover, Anon



Cover, Anon

Walk Reports

In this decade a good number of new leaders and some familiar faces appear. During 1981 and 1983, Nancy Johnson co-led six walks and led one. Our regular walker John Davies is seen on his first walk on 28th May 1989. Cliff Marquis regularly teams up with Bill Darby during these years. Weekend and away trips continue to be popular with up to seven and eight separate holidays in one year occur a number of times.

Year	Total No. Walks	Individual Leaders	Individual Co-Leaders
1981	52	20	27
1982	61	23	24
1983	57	27	28
1984	66	25	26
1985	57	23	23
1986	62	26	28
1987	67	33	32
1988	61	33	27
1989	59	28	29
1990	65	33	18
1991	60	30	12

Individual Leader Statistics		
Leader	Led	Co-Led
Thea Black	29	42
Bob Duncan	14	43
Noreen Thomas	26	24
Cliff Marquis	46	
Les Green	41	4
Pam Ranzetta	18	20
Bill Darby		38
Graham Mealyea	18	17
Kathleen Vander Roest	8	25
Harry Vander Roest	23	9
Jim Rule	30	1
Pat Kennedy	30	1

Date	No.	Walk	Comment
3 rd May 1987	109	Gleneagle – 5km morning and 5km afternoon easy	Walk report says “ <i>weather fine and sunny</i> ” with no mention of the number of participants! However, there were three leaders. (see below report card)
21 st Jun 1987	27+1	Glen Forest Hills	Walkers plus one brown dog, name unknown
17 th Jan 1988	19	Chidley Point	Margaret Dawbarn: no mention of members, only visitors at 19!
19 th Jun 1988	57	Mason Mill	Very heavy rain all day with brief spells for tea and lunch breaks. Whole group in exceptionally good spirits despite weather
14 th Aug 1988	31	Bungendore	Nice compact group. Weather not in our favour but the bushwalking spirit was very evident. Area well worth cultivating
22 nd Apr 1989	46	Kings Park (at night)	Perfect night, perfect company
28 th May 1989	60	Little Oven Circuit	Visitors included current member John Davies
13 th Oct 1985		The Dell at Dawn	Walk led by Graham Mealyea and Charles Broderick, Kalamunda with a 4.30am start 9.30am finish then breakfast
16 th Mar 1986		The Zig Zag at Dawn	Mobil Service Station, Kalamunda 6am bring breakfast. [Is it possible that the dawn was too early in Spring?]
6 th Feb 1988		Midnite Ramble	Meeting at Kalamunda at 9pm and finishing at 1am. And another at Armadale on 3 rd March at 9pm-1am.

WESTERN WALKING CLUB		
NAME OF WALK:	GLENEAGLE.	
DATE OF WALK:	3/5/87.	
LEADER OF WALK:	NOREEN THOMAS.	CO-LEADER: PAM RANZETTA. THEA BLACK.
<i>Weather - Fine & sunny</i>		
No. of Visitors:	43	No. of Members: 66
		TOTAL: 109.

Life Member

Mary Hackett



Mary joined the WWC in 1957 and was given life membership in 1987. While attending Italian classes she heard about a group who went walking for pleasure every fortnight. This appealed to her so she followed up on the idea. Mary was on the committee from 1965 to 1970 serving as Treasurer in 1968 and 1969. She was a frequent walk leader, in particular the Hackett Gorge, which is still very popular with members (see page 53).

Mary is still in touch with the friends she has made in the walking club, seven of whom still holiday together at Kalbarri, Dunsborough or Rottnest – testament to the friendly nature of the club.

Mary Recalls ...



In those days, club members would meet in front of Government House when their outing was on a bus. Sometimes they caught steam trains at Stoneville and Parkerville to Chidlow or Mundaring, walking a loop or a figure eight, and then they caught the train back. The train trips were fun with sing-a-longs and games of 'I spy'. Children were welcome to come along with their parents.

In the early days there was a long lunch break to boil the billies for tea - not much fun on wet days. Christmas parties were always held in the rotunda at King's Park where everyone drank lemon or orange drinks and shared Mills and Wares fruit cakes. It was a simpler time than the present.

When they went down to the Stirling Ranges for a weekend away they had accommodation in old farm houses. These became available when the farmer could afford to build a new and better house. It happened on some occasions when they arrived at the accommodation on a Friday evening, it

was clear that the previous occupants had been a messy lot and a massive clean up was needed to make the place habitable. The boys were allocated one big room and the girls another, but the food and cooking were shared.

A group of nine members went on a camping safari on 9th August 1969. They travelled on the Gunbarrel Highway, via Kalgoorlie, to Alice Springs. Several times they were bogged in the red sand and, just out of Leonora, one of the vehicles 'did-in' the big end, so there was a major delay whilst waiting for new parts to arrive. They camped under the stars and woke one morning to find that camels had walked all around them!



Tiger snake on a summer walk, Kent St Weir

Remembering and Reflecting

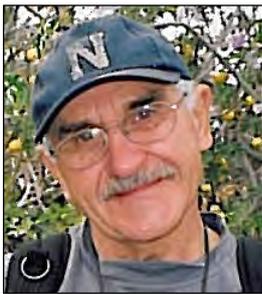
Ivy Hiscock, Wolfgang Schlieben, Cathy Phillips, Betty Holmes (nee Upson),
Keith Hill, Bill and Rudy Johnson, Beth and John Davies,
Olive and Alf Moredount, Audrey and Frank Bowyer

Ivy Hiscock

Ivy joined the club in the mid-1950s. She was secretary for two years, editor for three and co-editor for one year, as well as a committee member for one year. Ivy wrote many articles for the magazines and drew some of the cover designs. While Secretary in 1965 she asked walkers *“to do what we can to help preserve the beautiful land we have in Australia, including Aboriginal history, cave conservation, and bushlands for future generations.”*

She was a member of the National Trust, the Tree Society, and WA Historical Society. A book detailing the history of navigators who first discovered Western Australia was written by Ivy. She was also a keen photographer and won many prizes in international competitions. Cyril Brown was shown around her *“beautiful native garden in Dianella”*, when he visited for afternoon tea. She had a gentle and sweet nature and a sense of humour. She said to a friend, before her brain tumour operation, that she hoped they didn't remove her sense of humour. But sadly, she did not regain consciousness and passed away on 26th February 1982.

Wolfgang Schlieben



Wolfgang is one of our current more colourful members and is always ready with a joke or two to make us laugh. He has been ably conducting leadership training since 2006 along with David Smith. Since 1990 he has led 81 walks for the club and co-led 22, an impressive record. Wolfgang prefers the harder walks and frequently leads the VCR walk – Mt Randall-Mt Cuthbert-Mt Vincent and Mt Cooke or any other mount that he can find.

Wolfgang Recalls ...

In 1981, Wolfgang had an interest in looking to the landscape beyond the parks, and he wanted others to join him in climbing some of the hills in view. As the others showed no enthusiasm, he looked in the Yellow Pages and found the WWC.

Children were welcome in those days, and Wolfgang carried his four-year-old Quintin on his shoulders when he tired. Walks were longer then, usually 18kms plus, and they were much harder. With his wife Lelani as co-leader, Wolfgang ‘took over’ the Mount Cooke walk, and he admits they were rather green as leaders when they led their first walk! That day it was raining heavily and after about two kilometres Wolfgang tried to help Grace Symes to cross a creek. Grace had a special stick. Wolfgang took hold of one end of the stick, which came apart and both fell over. So much for chivalry!



It was cold and windy as they walked to the morning tea spot and one lady turned blue in the face. A fellow walker, Bob Duncan, who was an ambulance driver, recognised that she had hypothermia. Six men carried her down an extremely steep slope over many rocks to Cook Road. They almost fell over each other. Wolfgang believed that she began to feel much better, but was too embarrassed to admit it.

Adventures continued when Wolfgang and Lelani headed for a designated area which they could not find. They scrambled through thick bush down a steep slope only to find another stream to cross. A tree with a narrow trunk

provided a makeshift bridge but everyone had to straddle the log, which some were not happy about. Still they were lost. Eventually they could hear traffic sounds which reassured them that Albany Highway was not far away and so they finally reached Cook Road. There was a warm congratulatory speech, with a great deal of applause in appreciation for an excellent walk. Lelani recalls that neither of them had eaten lunch that day!

Cathy Phillips



In the late seventies, Cathy joined the Stourbridge Rambling club in the West Midlands of England. When she came to Australia in 1981, she looked for a similar walking group and joined the club in 1983, where she received a warm welcome and made lots of good friends.

Cathy Recalls ...

On a survey for the walk “Round about Randall” they found a well grown, fenced-off marijuana patch. They also met a lad who may have been involved, as he had an unlikely story of being part of a scout group, which was nowhere to be seen. Cathy rang the police with her information, declining to go to the site with them but giving them the map references.

As a committee member, Cathy was involved with the WWC magazine in 1989, and she helped organise accommodation for weekends away. These weekends have always been an attractive part of the club calendar, providing moderately priced accommodation and wonderful opportunities for exploring the countryside. In the eighties the cottages were closely monitored and quite regimented, with an inspection of tidiness and order before people could go home. At first people would cater separately, each person cooking for themselves. Gradually cooking and sharing food has become the norm. Committee members would survey walks beforehand and be responsible for leading them.

When Cathy joined the club the walks were often longer, and commenced further afield before petrol became so expensive. There were limited summer walks, about one a month, with just one walk each winter Sunday. Children were welcome and maintained the pace of the adults.

Betty Holmes (nee Upson)



Betty has been a member of the club since 1984, when she and a friend went on a Sunday walk with the club. In 1993, Betty married Art Holmes, a Canadian, who she met on a Casey’s camping tour to Mount Augusta in November 1988.

Betty Recalls ...

Betty recalls her favourite walk to Mt Dale, walking along the saddle to the top. The view towards Albany Highway on one side and the view across the rolling hills the other is very striking particularly when the everlastings are flowering.

Keith Hill



When Keith joined the club in 1984 he wanted to foster his interest in outdoor activities, which he had enjoyed at school, in junior sports, rowing and school cadets and later in the army reserve. He was able to be involved in walking and camping with the camaraderie of like-minded people in the beautiful forested areas in the south west. Keith became President in 1989 and was Vice President for the following three years.

His first walk with the club was the President's walk and he recalls the pleasant car trip to Gleneagles with Wal and Margaret Fink. Another memorable walk was on Sunday 13th June, 1993. The program featured three walks, a 14km easy medium, a 16km medium and a 35km hard from Mt Dale to Spring Road, Kalamunda. He chose the long one. The walk was led by Del Garrow and Derek and it finished at Del's house with a birthday cake and other refreshments. These were very welcome after a long beautiful cool walk and all walkers slept well that night.

Now Keith is semi-retired he mainly does the easier walks. He has enjoyed every walk and activity with the club and he continues to enjoy the friendship and company of club members. He still has approximately 20% of the Bibbulmun Track to finish his end-to-end walk. Now he has much pleasure in being a maintenance volunteer on the Bibbulmun Track looking after the Possum Springs campsite and the adjacent track. In the future, as well as continuing with easy walking both locally and overseas, he may take on an activity such as breeding Burmese cats!

Bill and Ruby Johnson



Bill and Ruby joined the club in 1988. Although still very busy caring for children Sunday was sacrosanct, dedicated to walking! They met and made friends with so many wonderful people that greatly enriched their lives. Retirement and grandchildren brought a huge change in their lifestyle and sadly a decline in their association with the WWC.

They are forever grateful to the club as it has laid the foundations for their continued growth. Hardly a day goes by without some recall of experience with places they visited. Our debt is great to all those who have worked so hard to make this such a wonderful social network

Beth and John Davies



Photo: G: Mortlock, 2008

Beth and John have been major contributors to the club since joining in 1989. John is currently our Auditor. He served as President from 1997-1999, and was a committee member for another seven years, including librarian for two and was also a Federation of WA Bushwalkers delegate.

They were attracted to joining the Western Walking Club, because of their interest in keeping fit and their delight in walking in the bush. They have continued to be members for these reasons and for the friendships they have made.

The Davies Recall ...

John first heard about the Club from one of his clients at the bank where he worked. On their first club walk, they persisted despite some problems. The leader had not surveyed the walk nor had he appointed a co-leader. After the walk was supposed to be finished, it took an hour and a half to find the cars, which had been broken into!

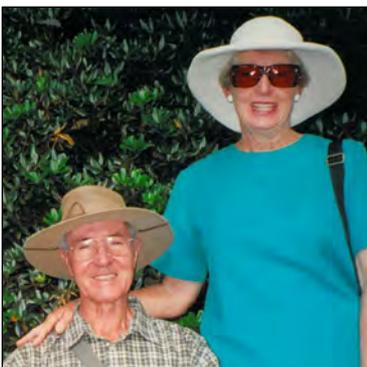


Eventually Beth and John took over this walk though controversy has remained over the designated level: on fine days it is a medium walk, on hot days a hard walk and on wet days it has had to be abandoned half way through. The walk has been changed a little, to become the ‘Martin Scarp Walk’ now led by David Smith.

Their first weekend away was at Lewana Park. The leader took a wrong turn and the walk stretched to become 25km in length. Four Bibbulmun Track walkers whose tent had blown down at their campsite in Balingup were rescued by Keith Hill, who drove them to join the group at Lewana Park. Cathy Phillips, Del Garrow, Noreen Thomas and Ann Williams were grateful for the warm welcome, a good meal and a share in Keith’s flagon of Pinelli Wine (see page 91). So much for the strict “No alcohol” policy that was in place for camps at that time! Campers used to have early dinner followed by a games night when people joined in playing Bridge, Pictionary, Scrabble and so on.

An incident which stands out in the memory for Beth and John occurred in Kalbarri, when they were climbing in a gorge. John stood on a large rock which split in half. Luckily, he fell only a metre but the possibilities were frightening [the magazine records *“he jumped up like a jack-in-a-box and assured us he was alright”*.]

Alf and Olive Moredout



Joining the club in 1989, Alf was President of the Western Walking Club for three years from 1994 to 1996. These were very busy years for the club and Alf contributed an enormous amount of his time to our benefit and to the position he concurrently held as president of the Federation of WA Bushwalkers.

He played a major part in the completion of a five year agreement between the Federation and the Water Authority of WA, whereby the clubs were able to access certain water catchments with the approval of the Authority by submitting details of proposed walks for prior perusal. It is interesting to note that no requests have been made for details of proposed walks nor have any details been offered. This formal agreement was terminated without notice in 2003 when the Statewide Policy No. 13 - Policy and Guidelines for Recreation within Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs) was drawn up. Alf was also involved in the obtaining of a \$50,000 grant for the Federation to assist with the Bibbulmun Track project, and he was invited to the opening of the northern section of the track in recognition of his contribution.

Together Alf and Olive led or co-led 56 walks between 1990 and 2001, and organised a mid-week camp at Dwellingup which was very successful. They retired from the club in 2003.

Audrey and Frank Bowyer



Audrey and Frank came to the club in 1990. They have been leading walks since 1991, about 75 in total now, with their wander around City Beach in summer still pulling the crowds.

Audrey and Frank Recall ...

Our first walk was to us, fast and furious and we didn’t have time to smell the flowers or to see them either. We thought that one walk was not a fair test, so we fronted up the next week and, of course became hooked. We turned up every week regardless; sun, rain, hail, whatever. Even the year when there were eleven consecutive wet Sundays, the number of walkers was high. Western Walkers are a tough lot!

The year we went to “Camp Mornington” at Easter we shared the kitchen with dozens of mice. There were many nibbled loaves of bread and packets in the cool room the next morning. We hadn’t expected the mice to be able to get in. The Easter we spent at the Stirling Ranges, a group of our senior members, after climbing Bluff Knoll and enjoying their lunch, were called to help the ranger and ambulance driver with the stretcher to carry a woman down. Easter at Peaceful Bay saw one member do some aerial walking, when a snake was seen where his foot was about to go. Also one couple at lunchtime found a cozy spot among the bushes and went to sleep. It took a while to wake them and they got quite a cheer when they were ready to leave!

In 1995, the Western Walking Club hosted a highly successful training camp weekend for bushwalking clubs at Icy Creek in Lane Poole Reserve, near Dwellingup. Icy Creek was aptly named as overnight it was below freezing and only camping was available. However, a very informative weekend was enjoyed by all the campers.

The sixtieth birthday of the club in 1987, organised by Frank, was celebrated by sixty members at the Peppermill Restaurant in Scarborough with a special menu provided for our club. A cake in the shape of a pair of boots made by Lyn Baldwin was enjoyed with coffee.



Cathy Phillips, 1980s: C. Phillips



Cyril Brown’s VW

1980s: C. Phillips



Cathy Phillips, Janet Haswell, Pam Ellinson, Wolfgang Schlieben, Keith Hill, 1991 (?): C. Phillips

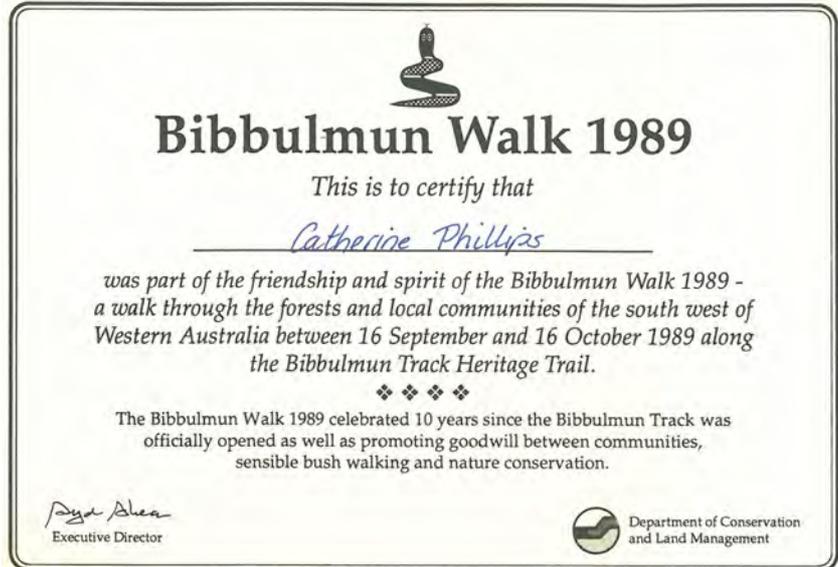
Bibbulmun Track Story Continues ... **Endurance Walk, April 1988**

In 1988, CALM significantly relocated the track and extended it to Walpole. On the suggestion of Drew Griffiths, Recreation Projects Officer at CALM, the 'waugal' was used as a trail marker. It officially opened on 8th October. To celebrate Angela House conducted an Endurance Walk and arranged pickups at the end of each day's walking. Several members of the club who completed the whole route included:

Linda Franziscos (1970-1984, passed away in October 1988)
Tim Hynes (1984-1992)
Nancy Park (1979-2002)
Noreen Thomas (1979-2001) and
Ann Williams (1984-1995)

Other members who completed sections of the walk were:

Betty Webb (1978-1996) and
Rolf Steilberger (1949-1971) who entertained them on his harmonica whilst walking, as was his habit on WWC walks.



End-to-Enders – Bibbulmun Champions, September 1989

The following year in September, five members of the club set out to complete the track. Cathy Phillips (she also completed it in 1997), Noreen Thomas (she didn't get enough the previous year!), Geoff White (1979-present) and Anne Williams and Dell Garrow (1983-2009). They were found at Balingup after their tents had blown down and taken to Lewana Park by club member Keith Hill where he was staying. They were consoled by sharing his flagon. It was some walk by all accounts:

Perils of the Bibbulmun Track **Cathy Phillips, 1989**

September 16th we set off from Kalamunda for Walpole. A pleasant walk until day ten near Stirling Dam where we met a ranger who told us about flooding and that we should take an alternative route. We set off downhill following the waugal signs and came to a sudden halt; a raging torrent between us and the next waugal. A tree was found to aid crossing but required a 1m leap to the bank as the tree had fallen short. We then missed a sharp turn and went up the steepest hill 'ever seen'.

A few days later we were required to walk across another tree, this time with rails and wire. However, a tree had fallen onto the rails and we had to carefully negotiate a slippery log with no support. Once safely on the other side we couldn't find the next waugal. After some looking around and consulting the Bibbulmun book, to our horror we discovered we were now on the wrong side of the river. Other times, howling winds turned our ponchos into parachutes and soon it began to hail. The next day after leaving the picnic area, the track suddenly stopped submerged at a bend in the track. With water up to their knees, two of the party went to investigate, and found it went 150m before dry land.

Magazine Insights and Happenings

The magazine went metric in 1981, becoming A4 in size from its usual 10 inch paper.

1981

The editor, Laurence Travers, observes that *“Bert Howell, who had a serious accident at the beginning of 1981, is fast recovering and has been seen out on a few walks. Bert's company has been sadly missed this year, but we will be seeing more of him in 1982 and 1983. This will be welcomed by all his many, many friends”*.

Laurence Travers also notes a number of new leaders have appeared this year, but still there were murmurings *“... about the number of people on walks, and some walks with no advertised co-leader.”* *“What's the answer to satisfy all? Should the committee organise leader's courses as an adjunct to orienteering? Should the leader be allowed to nominate the number they prefer to lead? Should we book a walk as happens elsewhere?”*

Advice from Bleeding Heart 1981 letter

Dear Bleeding Heart

My boyfriend wants me to go on a weekend hike in the bush. I do not own a tent - but he says it will be alright - I can share his. A girl at work says I shouldn't go, as he only has 'intentions'.

What do you think? Should I go? I love him very much and do not want to upset him.

Juanita

Dear Juanita

I can see from your letter that you are an old fashioned girl with old fashioned values, so I strongly recommend that you accept your boyfriend's invitation and do not disappoint him. But exercise prudence. Do not be pushy, like these silly women's libbers; remember you are a lady, he carries the rucksack (joyously take one) - you pack it. So be sure you play the little house maid and pack the rucksack - be sure it weighs at least 60kgs, preferably more.

If you maintain a jolly chatter all day long hopping over fallen trees and boulders; if you do this for 30-40kms; you will find that by the time you have pitched the tent and cooked tea, he will have intentions (men are evil brutes they always do), but it will all be in his mind, your honour will be safe.

Bleeding Heart

Note: Advice is a community service of the Western Walking Club magazine. All letters are answered with tenderness and common sense. Letters of a delicate nature are replied to in private. Please send a stamped addressed envelope in such cases.

1982

The Mad Hatter's Walk took place on 2nd May 1982 to start off the new walking season. Members dressed up in their best walking hats with first prize going to Eve for her most artful 'emu with ticks'; 2nd place went to Bob wearing a "bushwalker's friend"; 3rd went to Jean for the originality of her tropical island hat; and 4th to Effy for her 'onions hat' deserving a prize.

1983

In 1983, the Editor [Gerald Ranzetta] relates “*disturbing events at the last AGM ... of inadequately researched motions put to the meeting and acted upon, and now we have a ridiculously complicated membership structure for a small, friendly, low-cost club*”, referring to subscriptions rising by 65%, against the original advice of the treasurer. He further states that “*only essential motions put to the club at an AGM should originate from the committee*”.

The editor advertises the availability of the Mundaring and Kelmscott forestry maps for about \$3 from the Forestry Department in Hayman Road, Como. He asks for members to locate any 1960 vintage or earlier maps. Gerald also informs members that the Perth City Council is planning to construct a network of walkways in Bold Park to replace the loose sand paths, which are difficult to walk on. These walkways will connect view points, beauty spots and areas of special botanical interest. Paths will be constructed of limestone and also be accessible by maintenance vehicles on some tracks, while others will be narrower. A total of 20km in tracks will be completed along with spurs and other paths of 10km.



Photo: G. Mortlock

The President, Cliff Marquis, requests members write to the Conservator of Forests, if they find Reference Trees are not ‘in place’ anymore. They are meant to be cut above the reference mark to preserve them, but members have sometimes found the whole tree completely gone.

1984

The 1984 Bush Navigation exercise at Pickering Brook included 10 groups, leaving at intervals from 10.50am, to locate markings to practice map reading skills. All returned by 4.55pm with the best group finding 26 out of 39 stations in five hours. Observations for the exercise were that members should practice laying the compass on a map and using contours correctly to judge highest and lowest points on a track. All enjoyed themselves and gained confidence in finding their way in the bush.

Some notes outlining an approach to selecting a walk to lead appeared in the 1985 magazine:

1. Select an area not far from Perth, check that it is not already covered by an existing walk
2. Get suitable equipment to survey i.e. map, compass, notebook/pencil and walking gear such as pack, poles etc
3. Learn to read a map by attending navigation courses put on by the club each year
4. Inspect the area by driving around to become familiar with the surroundings and note suitable parking areas
5. Preliminary survey – familiarise yourself with the map/walk and note features for reference
6. Main survey – plan final version and detail the walk to keep time records

1987

1987 was the 50th Anniversary of the club. Many changes over the years were noted – fewer family groups; walks were fortnightly; fewer restrictions on where we could walk; travel to the walk was usually by public transport; some walks only had 5-6 people and most walks were 10-12km, the billy was always boiled at lunchtime, frequently an amateur botanist within the club would give a talk at lunchtime, the average age of walkers was generally lower than in 1987, walks were only during the winter.

To mark the 50th, on Sunday 13th September, three walks – hard, medium and easy were undertaken, with all 84 walkers meeting up and proceeding to Carinyah picnic area, joining 15 non-walkers for a BBQ. On the

next Sunday, 20th September, members, including Nancy Morgan, gathered for a short walk around Perry Lakes and afternoon tea followed by films and a display of memorabilia in the Sir Thomas Meagher Pavilion.

The photo below shows some of the ‘oldies’ of the club at the time. David said he wanted the old time members in the photo, but a “*young bloke*” jumped in too – that being Jim Rule.



Back Row: Dave Shattock, Pat Kennedy, Harry Vander Roest, Dave Foster, Bill Higgs, Grace Symes, Jim Rule
Front Row: Bob Frayne, Mary Hackett, Kath Vander Roest, Joyce Faulds, Bill Faulds, Margaret Dawbarn, 1987:
Photo D. Shattock



Len Harper, Bill Higgs, Grace Symes, Cathy Phillips, Betty Holmes, 1987: M. Dawbarn

The President [Noreen Thomas] noted that funds should only be spent on club activities and not be donated to outside causes when club members have wide and differing views on certain current issues. It is best to respect this.

The editor [Gerald Ranzetta] laments the “*accelerating degradation of our walking environment*” due to the demands of the woodchip industry, which is “*appalling particularly near Whittaker’s Mill and Margaret River around Pemberton*”. As well, he notes that the “once pleasant tracks have become dust baths due to motor vehicles” and calls on CALM to create separate walking trails. These factors caused the editor to call for everyone to actively contact CALM, their MP, and Conservation Council etc.

Bold Park walkways were completed this year and a map would be made available soon. A total of 70 maps are available for members to borrow, including some from NSW, NT, and Eastern states, along with nine forestry maps. Four forestry maps were distributed to leaders to mark on their walks for future reference by fellow leaders. It is hoped to purchase the whole series as they become available.

The Bibbulmun track has been re-routed, improved and extended with many shorter local trails constructed by local authorities.

1990

In 1990, urban areas continue to invade our bush lands. Over the past 12 months, 42 submissions have been given to the Environment Protection Authority, Department of Planning and Urban Development, and CALM, while 10 appeals were lodged against EPA recommendations. Helena Valley, Canning Vale and Kwinana, are particular areas of concern where large numbers of public meetings were held to save open land and preserve quality of water. A call to help save our native forests and wilderness areas was made to the club members.

1991

A proposal from the Perth Bushwalkers Club this year suggesting the establishing of a bushwalkers Federation of WA, to enable all bush walking members to speak with one voice for all walking clubs to increase effectiveness.

CHAPTER SIX

Walking into a New Millennium – 1992-2002

We're walking on, soon to be in the 21st Century. We record with sadness the death of Nancy Morgan in 1993, one of the club founders, and two life members in 1992. We have increasing involvement on the Bibbulmun Track, with members helping with signage in the section between Kalamunda and Brookton Highway. As the 1990s draw to a close, we make our walks a non-smoking zone, and take out public liability insurance. Soon after the start of the new millennium, we plan a club website and celebrate our 65th birthday.

Matters Arising ...
Walking into a New Millennium – 1992-2002

10th March 1992 – AGM

Club's two delegates to the Conservation Council of WA resign after serving several years. Subscriptions to the Council to rise from \$60 to \$100 based on our membership numbers.

16th March 1992

Members unanimously agree to Bill Higg's suggestion that a letter be sent to Grace Symes acknowledging her 50th year with the club.

9th March 1993 – AGM

The Federation has had discussions with the Water Authority regarding access to catchment areas. Proposed access would be similar to that of the Orienteering Association. Formal approval to be sought for areas currently out of bounds to the public.

Jim Rule, as President, paid tribute to Thea Black, a long-standing member of 16 years, who had passed away during the year (see page 98 and 100). It was noted that life members Glen Doepel and Kath Stewart, and member Harry Vander Roest had also passed away.

Keith Hill elected as the new president.

13th October 1993

The Federation recently reached agreement with the Water Board for freer access for Federation Clubs to water catchment areas. A number of commonsense obligations will allow access into the 2km exclusion zone for bushwalking and camping. The agreement will be in place for the 1994 walking season.

8th March 1994

Minuted that life member and founder of the club, Nancy Morgan, had passed away since the last AGM.

26th September 1994

Bibbulmun Track Realignment: Interested clubs have been allocated a 40km section of the proposed new track to survey. Our club and Perth Bushwalkers have the section from Kalamunda to Brookton Highway.

20th September 1995

68km of the realigned Bibbulmun track from Kalamunda to Brookton highway has been officially opened.

12th March 1996 – AGM

The President, Alf Moredoundt, reported that club members had spent many hours walking the proposed new alignment of the Bibbulmun Track before its opening, as well as placing new waugals on the section from Kalamunda to Brookton Highway.

11th March 1997

President, John Davies, reported that the wet winter resulted in fewer walkers. And those who braved the elements were well rewarded with streams flowing forth, the first time in many years, and a bumper crop of wildflowers.

10th March 1998 – AGM

In his report, the President [John Davies] quoted from a notice he had seen outside a shop in Shark Bay: "*Would you like to speak to the man in charge, or the lady who does all the work?*" [He was referring to our hard working and efficient secretary, Janet Haswell at the time!]

24th June 1998

It was agreed to put something in the program to the effect that members and visitors refrain from smoking during walks.

9th March 1999 – AGM

Resolutions were passed for public liability insurance and also for an increase in annual subscriptions to \$15 per annum for single membership and \$25 for family membership. Membership now 207, with 39 new members during the year.

23rd June 1999

Passengers have complained that some drivers are refusing to accept petrol money. It was agreed that drivers should accept something even if it was only \$2.

14th March 2000 – AGM

Pam Ellinson, as newly elected President, thanked John Davies for his contribution as president, in particular for his role in organising insurance for the club and in helping to keep the Federation of WA Bushwalkers going.

Bruce Jackson thanked for the very successful Bibbulmun walk between Northcliffe and Albany, where 23 members took part.

Jackie Furby becomes Treasurer, taking over from Bill Higgs.

20th September 2000

Proposal for Noreen Thomas to be elected a Life Member of the Club.

13th March 2001 – AGM

Neil Thomas, Noreen's son, accepts Noreen's certificate of Life Membership on behalf of Noreen [She was too ill to be present and died in November]

202 members at end of 2000.

In 2000 there was only one hard walk in our winter season. The President, Pam Ellinson, in her Report suggested we cater more for strong walkers by having one hard walk each month.

20th June 2001

A club web site to be investigated

Catchment areas: Accepted use for walking clubs but no non-essential activities to be allowed.

19th March 2002 – AGM

Pam Ellinson retires as President due to ill-health. Edith Thomas elected President.

4th July 2002

Plans for 65th Birthday: River boat cruise and three course lunch. Bus transport. Cost to be \$35.

Walking in catchment areas: – Water Board wants details for our walks in these zones. It was decided that we would produce information upon request.

14th September 2002

82 members enjoyed our 65th Birthday. Some took the coach and others drove. There was a heavy downpour at lunchtime, which caused a few leaks and some damp diners, but we took it in our stride in true Western Walking Club fashion.

Walk Reports

The period from 1992 to 2002 sees the number of walks increasing per year but about the same number of individual leaders and co-leaders as the last era. Edith Thomas strides ahead leading walks, with Kevin Gleeson not far behind, closely followed by Jackie Furby.

Year	Total Walks	Individual Leaders	Individual Co-Leaders
1992	38	29	16
1993	62	31	14
1994	61	33	11
1995	74	30	16
1996	72	32	15
1997	73	35	17
1998	49	28	13
1999	76	35	17
2000	57	29	22
2001	82	31	18
2002	78	35	18

Individual Leader Statistics		
Leader	Led	Co-Led
Edith Thomas	64	10
Kevin Gleeson	44	4
Jackie Furby	16	29
Wolfgang Schlieben	34	7
Frank Bowyer	13	26
John Davies	34	4
Alf Moredoundt	26	11
Cathy Phillips	24	13
Janet Jackson	7	24
Lynn Baldwin	23	6
Bruce Jackson	21	2

Date	Walk	Comment
5 th Jul 1992	Mundy Brook No.2	Long time member Thea Black (see page 100) dies on the track from heart failure
22 nd Jun 1997	Pipehead Perambulation, Kalamunda National Park	The tail-end gentleman hurried forward to help the not-so-agile members past a tricky, slippery rock. In his haste to find his position, he lost his purchase and did an undignified slide on boots and backside
15-17 th Sept 1997	Taunton Farm	At tea time someone put their backpack ‘on the unmentionable’ – phew, what an odour. Another time a husband went for a mud bath while his wife went for a swim – both finding the water deeper than expected
24 th Sept 2000	Walyunga Escarpment	A new walk [?] by Bill Higgs
3-5 th Nov 2000	Rottneest Island	Trip organised by Margaret Dawbarn was a highlight for those who went
11 th Mar 2001	Karrinyup Canter	A new walk [?] by Ivor and Ann Sutton



On the Bibbulmun Track 1999: H. Farrington

Life Members **Bill Higgs, Noreen Thomas**

Bill Higgs

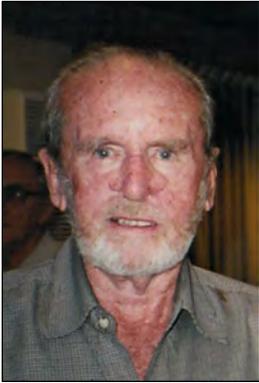


Photo: T. Blakers

Bill joined the club in 1965 and became a committee member in 1966. He was President in 1969. He has been a staunch worker for the walking club, and took on the role of Treasurer in 1987, continuing in that capacity for 14 years. He was honoured with life membership in 1998.

Bill had a fund of stories about his life on the farm in the York district (page 56) which he owned until 1996 and of his trips with club members. He joined club members to the Kimberley, though he was rather disappointed with the volume of water in the Mitchell Falls. But the Bungle Bungle Range did not disappoint at all. In a magazine article about his Kimberley Safari, he described how they whiled away the time on the more monotonous parts of the journey by playing a game of identifying West Australian towns and localities from cryptic clues: 'Payment for fuel at a meeting place'. The answer was Gascoyne (coin) Junction. Another was 'the floorboards behind the front door need oiling because ...' The answer was Halls Creek.

Bill Recalls...

I nearly wasn't allowed to join the club, as I disgraced myself on my first walk. To answer the call of nature at lunch time, I crossed a stream, climbed a hill, walked through scrub, then down a hill, walked through some more scrub ... to find I had walked in a circle and the group was not more than fifty metres away.

He enjoyed visiting Nyamup, though his visit in 1997 almost made club history as he was separated from his walking group. Although he was the leader, he found himself at the rear of the group. The track from there took a semi-circular course to join up with the main road back to the village. In a flash of brilliance he decided to take a short cut and surprise them by appearing in front when they thought he was behind. However, he did not reckon on the group getting themselves lost on a 500m circuit in fairly open country! After frantic whistling and shouting, contact was re-established and all was well.

One day a visitor briefly left the group at lunchtime and returned with a club name badge that he had found. I said, "Oh, we lost someone here a few years ago, did you find any bones?" the poor chap turned quite pale.

Noreen Thomas



Photo: C. Phillips

During her 22 years in the club Noreen served for nine years on the committee, including as President, Vice President and Secretary, and was a leader of countless walks. She was honoured for her contribution to the club with life membership in March 2001. Noreen was loved and admired for her courage, cheerfulness and willingness to help. She gave unstintingly of her time and energy.

She took part in the inaugural walk on the re-aligned Bibbulmun Track in 1988 when it rained almost every day (see page 91). One of the last walks she enjoyed was the Cape to Cape Walk in 1999, along with ten club members. Noreen died on 15th November 2001. So many members have voiced the feeling that it was a privilege to have known her. She will be sadly missed. *"In spirit we're all walking right beside you."*

Remembering and Reflecting

Thea Black, Edith Thomas, Janet and Bruce Jackson, Jackie Furby, Fiona Noble

Thea Black



Photo: C. Phillips

The club remembers Thea Black who died suddenly on 5th July 1992 while walking with the club at Mundy Brook. She was an active member since 1976 and served on the committee for 11 years, including President and Vice President. She was a tireless worker for the club, surveying and leading many walks from 1979 to 1992. Frequently, she teamed up with long time member Bob Duncan; for about 20 of her total 43 walks.

In 1988, along with club members Mary Hackett, Joan and George Slee, and 26 others, she went gliding at Beverley, and even piloted the glider herself. Her cheerful outlook on life and love of the bush brought many long lasting friendships. This was evident by the number of club members in attendance at her funeral.

Edith Thomas



Edith joined the club in 1991 and has made a large contribution to the club having held a continuous role on the committee since March 1995 as President, Vice President, magazine editor and Federation representative. She has led a vast number of walks (see page 117) and numerous trips away.

One of Edith's fortes is planning. She pores over maps looking for interesting features – rocks, streams, hills, but seldom tracks, then off she goes with her trusty compass and notebook surveying walks. She has taken the club away over the Christmas/New Year period to places such as Albany, Denmark, Walpole, Margaret River, and Nannup, which has lead to many happy, enjoyable occasions.

Edith has introduced many new walks to our walk programme for example – 'Llama Lunch' and 'Nyaania Creek' in the hills around Darlington; 'Hills and Dales and Bells' in the Avon Valley; Julimar; and the 'Roller Coaster' around Gooseberry Hill. She delights in checking out new venues. Driving home from Bridgetown one Easter, she and Jackie diverted off the main road to find Evedon Park, that hidden gem in the Ferguson Valley and have since stayed there on several occasions.



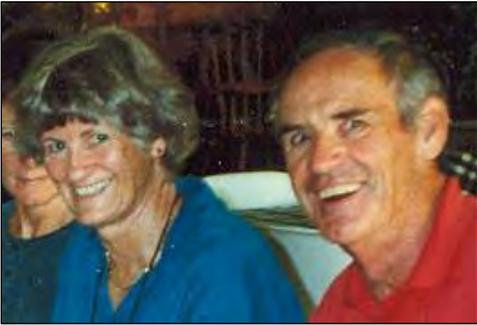
Edith (left) and Magda Lawes layout the lunch, Christmas 2001

Edith has many talents - the cakes she has provided at morning tea on walks are legendary, the camp meals at New Year are mouth watering delights. It was always a wonderful surprise to find a couple of bottles of wine cooling in a stream at lunch time, if it was a birthday occasion.

Edith has given many hours of volunteer service to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation. She is an End-to-Ender, having completed the track in sections over the years. She has been one of the main organisers of our clubs track maintenance teams, first at Dwellingup and now in the hills around Perth.

In this celebration year of 2012 Edith has been granted Life Membership in honour of her commitment to our club over the past 22 years.

Janet (nee Haswell) and Bruce Jackson



It's very easy for us to remember how old the club is, as we were both born in the same year. We have some good memories of our time with the club since joining in 1992 (Janet) and 1994 (Bruce). Bruce served four years on the committee, while Janet was Secretary for six years, co-web site design for four and editor for two. Together they led many walks and they showed their organisation skills when they planned, coordinated and led a group of club members on the Bibbulmun Track from Northcliffe to Albany in 1999 and then from Collie to Northcliffe in 2002.

Bruce Recalls

There was back packing with Jim and Jill Rule and learning how to concoct a 'Whisky Mac'. Then back packing with Wolfgang for 'Cooks Night Out' and drinking pumpkin wine – warmed us up if nothing else! Another time, they found a camp in the bush, and later the police going in to have a look because they thought they had found a grave.

Weekends away were always good fun; sharing cottages and meals and getting to know our fellow walkers that much better, though there was always the risk of finding your bed short sheeted by some of your cottage friends. They shared many happy "happy hours" at the different cottages.

Then there were the Bibbulmun Track walks Bruce organised (see page 105) where we were dropped off at our starting point each day, then picked up in the afternoon to go back to camp for a shower, a glass of wine or two ... or three, and then a good meal provided by our caterers. Those walks were a good experience, walking through some beautiful areas, particularly along the south coast – Peaceful Bay, Conspicuous Cliffs and West Cape Howe. They had different leaders each day, so everyone had a chance to lead. The shortest walk on a day was probably 15km and the longest was approximately 22km, so they were all pretty fit by the time they finished, though they didn't lose weight as they were so well fed.

The fellowship developed with many people from diverse backgrounds with a passion for bushwalking will stay with them. Also the quiet drink at the end of the day's walk at the various watering holes is another pleasant memory. Janet and Bruce left us as club members in 2002. Their walking these days is with the dog each morning, but Bruce plays golf twice a week and Janet goes off kayaking two to three times a week.

Jackie Furby



Jackie joined the Western Walking Club in 1994 and in 1999 took over from Bill Higgs as club Treasurer. Jackie is now in her 13th year. At the time, with the retirement of our President and Secretary at the same time, the committee members found it a bit of a challenge to learn the ropes. At times, Jackie takes on much more than the duties of the Treasurer. If something needs to be done, she puts her hand up.

Jackie has her heart set on the safety and wellbeing of our club members and has been involved with club Risk Management, and a delegate and Treasurer of the Federation of WA Bushwalkers for many years. As well as all this, she also organises the accommodation for weekend trips. This is not an easy task, catering for those in chalets, caravans and in tents, especially if there are last minute cancellations.

Jackie is always a willing party in leading walks. Together with Edith, they have surveyed most of the bush around Perth, and had a few adventures along the way. On one of the surveys, all morning they heard

motorbikes in the distance. As there had been some trouble with bikes at the time, when they heard them approaching, they looked at each other, then covered behind a spindly grasstree. Then around the corner came a motorbike, all of 12 inches high, ridden by a four year old; followed by his older brother, mum and dad.

Fiona Noble



Another of our hard-working and enthusiastic club members Fiona joined in 1997. She was club secretary initially for five years and then again for three years. She has been our archivist since 2000.

Fiona has contributed articles to our annual magazine with enthusiastic reports on walks that she has done, encouraging others to follow her lead. She has camped and walked in England, particularly enjoying the Cornish coast. As well, she has tramped in New Zealand and hiked in the French Alps. Her enthusiasm for backpacking on the Bibbulmun Track has inspired others to follow her example.

Fiona has no need for a pedometer as she has an in-built feel for numbers. She is very accurate, for instance, explaining that she got away at 13mins past the hour, or that she had walked approximately 8.3 km!

Fiona is an active club participant, a Bibbulmun Track End-to-End'er, and a regular leader of quite challenging fast-paced walks. When she offers her help, you know she will be assiduous and persistent in completing the task.



Bibbulmun, 1999: H. Farrington



Jarrahdale Bridge, 2001: H. Farrington



Mid-1990s: H. Farrington

Chapter Six – 1992-2002



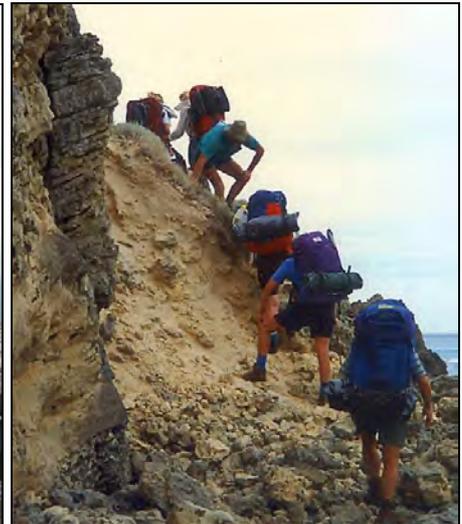
Bluff Knoll, Easter 1992: C. Phillips



Walyunga Ramble, 21st March 1994: B. Rocke



Toolbrunup, 1995: A. Sutton



Bib. Track near Walpole, 1996: J. Rule



New Years Eve Nannup, 1998



Lake Herdsman, Jan 2001: T. Blakers



Firewood Ramble, back of Mundaring, 2002

Bibbulmun Track Story Continues ...

The Bibbulmun Track 80% Realigned from Original Route

By 1993 CALM, the Government Department that managed most public lands, national parks and forests, had realised that the Bibbulmun Track needed changing. There had already been various alignments and changes, due to mining leases, and also because the existing track used unattractive roads that were used by vehicles, which conflicted with walkers.

It was decided a more attractive track was required. The Appalachian Trail in the USA was the model to follow. Initially, Jesse Brampton (author of “Promises to Keep”, an account of his journey on the Appalachian Trail in 1987) was appointed to get the new alignment under way. Notice was sent out to various walking clubs detailing CALM’s intentions, and it included an invitation for club members to attend an inaugural meeting. A good body of Western Walkers turned up at the meeting. Help was required in surveying the route of the new alignment. The track from Kalamunda to Brookton Highway was officially opened in August 1995.

In 1997, the upgraded and realigned northern half of the Bibbulmun Track was opened on 14th August at the Harris River Bridge, north of Collie. The club President, Alf Moredoundt and his wife Olive attended. This portion of the track now contains 26 upgraded campsites. A new set of maps was produced – Maps 1-6 to replace the pages 1-66 of the Guide to the Bibbulmun Track. The maps accompany the new booklets with point to point details about the track. The Bibbulmun Foundation was formed at this time to facilitate community and walker information.

Jim Rule Recalls ...

Club member Jim Rule’s first experience of co-leading a walk was in fact a commercial walk in 1992, promoted by a camping store in Walpole. Starting at the Walpole end of the Bibbulmun, in wet conditions, the number of people decreased as those not fully prepared, pulled out. The remaining group became fitter and more cohesive, and morale lifted. At the beginning, the pit-stops would see individuals almost disappearing, but later they hardly got off the track and any tree or bush would do! With canvas tents etc in those days putting up and pulling down each day became a chore. All the wet clothes, wet tents etc and a wet arrival into Kalamunda, were soon forgotten at the sight of the Kalamunda Hotel. Jim recalls being paid \$100 a week and his keep.

Frank Bowyer Recalls ...

During 1993, members of our club, other bushwalking clubs and interested organisations, attended a meeting at CALM headquarters where we were addressed by Jesse Brampton, the newly appointed Bibbulmun Track coordinator. He outlined his plans and ambitions for the track and asked for help. All the walking clubs volunteered to be part of this project of realigning the track for the 68km section between Kalamunda and Brookton Highway. He issued us with maps of the proposed route and asked us to survey the sections, checking alternatives and marking possible trails. He had to report back in six weeks. We accepted the task of placing the waugals on some parts of this new section.

Kevin Gleeson Recalls ...

Members of the Western Walkers volunteered to work on the section from Kalamunda to Brookton Highway, as they all had experience in this area leading walks. Members had the job of nailing the waugal markers along the length of the track before it was officially opened.

When this task was completed Western Walkers were asked to sort out the Loops off the main track, between Kalamunda and Mundaring, which included Little Oven and Kalamunda Loop in 1997. Starting at The Dell our gallant and fearless band split into two groups hoping to do a “Stanley and Livingstone” reunion at about the midpoint of the loop. The old trail signs had to be removed and new loop signs nailed on trees at eye level. Our two groups worked their respective ways around the loop, attacking the old signs with great

determination and vigour, which was required, as many of the old signs did not want to leave their host tree where they had been for many years. Finally our two groups met, task completed. We all had blackened faces from the sooty bark. We wasted no time getting back to the Dell for lunch and the welcome thermos.

The next day, we received a phone call from CALM, that they had received complaints that some ‘Hoons’ were out in the bush, tearing markers off trees and to make matters worse, they were not young ‘Hoons’ but older people who should know better.

Kevin and his wife Val continued their Bibbulmun Track work by being caretakers for the area between Dwellingup and Davis Brooke. They spent days in Dwellingup at various times doing track maintenance, which included replacing markers, cutting back wild blackberry bushes, or any other matters for the safety of track users. When the track was in good condition, they did a day a month on the job. They enjoyed their days in the forest around Dwellingup. It was a labour of love.

Helen Farrington Recalls ...

Bruce and Janet organised two fortnight-long walks on the track for club members (see page 101), which were greatly enjoyed. In September 1999, a walk of 280kms was held, from Northcliffe to Albany. A bus was hired to take the walking party from Perth down to the first camping site at Northcliffe. Each morning the bus took the walkers to the starting point on the trail and picked them up at the designated destination and drove them back to camp.

Each person was responsible for their own tent, sleeping bag, cutlery, crockery, backpack and boots, but all the food was provided and cooked by a lovely Swiss couple, Helen and Max. They produced delicious meals for 23 hungry walkers under difficult conditions. Walkers packed their own morning tea and lunch from a wide selection of fare.

The walking day varied from 17km to 27km depending on bus access. The second campsite was at Walpole for eight nights. Day eight was a rest day following a great dinner and night out at the Walpole Tavern. All enjoyed the magnificent wildflowers and the great views across to Peaceful Bay, Nornalup Inlet and West Cape Howe. The triumphant group reached the Albany terminus, ending a great adventure.

Spurred on by the great success in 1999, Janet and Bruce acceded to the many requests for another Track Walk in 2002. The bus headed to Collie on the last Saturday in September and next day the walk began from the Harris Dam site. As on the previous walk, everyone took a turn as leader or tail-end Charlie.



September 1999: H. Farrington



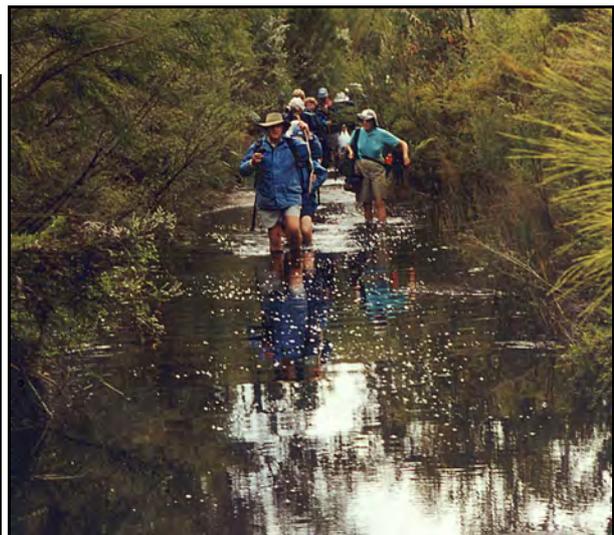
September – October 2002: H. Farrington

The bush was alive with flowers, with lots of orchids on display and with birds, particularly red tailed black cockatoos. The next lodgings were at Donnelly River. On the route there the floral displays were exceptional. The bakery at Balingup gave some the energy needed for “Cardiac Hill” the next day. The week ended well with a parade of hats and a taste of champagne. The rest day enabled some to check out the drop off and pick up points for the next few days.

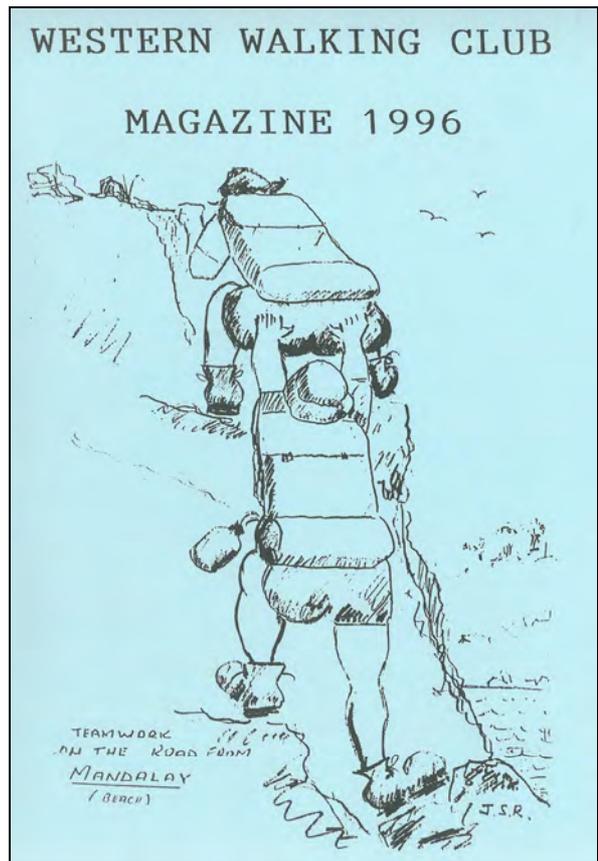
From Donnelly to One Tree Bridge was 27km with lots of Bossia to contend with. Everyone enjoyed walking through the big trees, near the Karri Valley Resort and Beedelup Falls, but were not so delighted to see three snakes sunning themselves by the track. On the twelfth day the group relocated to the Pemberton Camp School. The walk of 280km was completed in cold, but fine weather. Masses of Hovea, Wattle and Clematis made a lovely show. Presentations to the bus driver, caterer and to Bruce were made at the final Happy Hour.



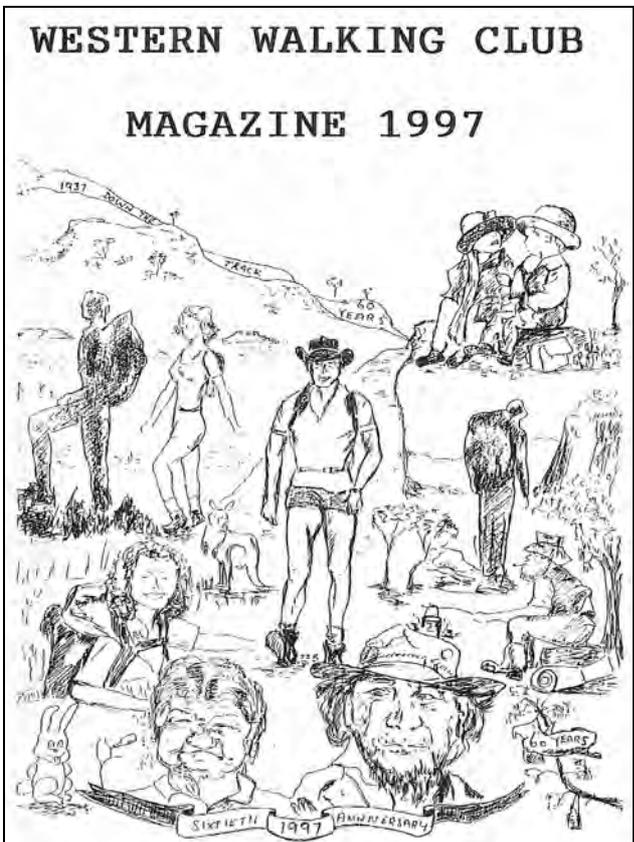
Bibbulmun Track, 1999: H. Farrington



Bibbulmun Track, 1999: J. Rule



All covers by Jim Rule



Magazine Insights and Happenings

Conservation and the environment are common discussion points through these years. The Federation of Western Australia Bushwalkers is formed and makes some significant achievements. Colour pages did not appear in the magazine until 2006 with just a colour cover, and then from 2010, colour is found throughout the pages.

1991

The inaugural meeting of the Federation of Western Australia Bushwalkers was finally held on 4th December 1991. Action Outdoors joined the Federation in September 1992. Currently, four clubs have joined the Federation and have achieved a number of significant outcomes.

1992

In 1992, a very wet and miserable back packing trip in the Kalamunda National Park area took place, led by Del Garrow and Cathy Phillips. Although wet, with water knee deep over the bridges, and some ‘troubled’ limbs, the party remained in high spirits, with Jim Rule breaking into verse at one point, and a sumptuous fruit flan and tea at Dell Garrow’s house at the end.

1993

In May, Christine O’Dea (joined 1989) and Richard Evennett (joined 1992) married. Both of them led many walks and were quite active in the club at this time.

1994

In 1994, a Bush Skills weekend was held at Icy Creek with 80 plus people. It was run by the club on behalf of the Federation of Western Australian Bushwalkers Inc., in May. Festivities included speakers, activities and a course in navigation. Jesse Brampton was one speaker, who talked about his travels in the Appalachian Mountains along the trail, an event that changed his life. His book on the adventure is available for loan from the club library.

Several articles on dieback appear in magazines. *Phytophthora cinnamomi* is a fungus that thrives in our dry climate, and lives and grows in the soil. Feet and vehicles should be cleaned before moving to unaffected areas of bush to prevent the spread of the disease. Cleaning stations can be found near tracks in the bush affected areas.



V.C.R. Ramble, June 2002: T. Blakers



Mann's Gully, June 2002: T. Blakers

Kevin Gleeson (see page 104) joined the club in 1994, and went straight onto the committee. He suggested soon after that someone should find out what the correct whistle signals are for emergencies. He and wife Val led many walks and some away trips. They retired from the club in 2003.

Chapter Six – 1992-2002

A wet winter this year caused smaller numbers out on Sundays, but many new leaders and new walks were introduced. The wetter weather also created a bumper crop of wildflowers for the desert walkers. A number of walks used the new section of the Bibbulmun track between Kalamunda and Mt Dale, where club members have assisted with the realignment as part of the “Building a Better Bibbulmun Track Project”.

Bill Higgs took 21 members to ‘Dawdle at Dwellingup’ over the September long weekend. They visited the Ochre trail and Arboretum among other walks in the area.

1995

The fourth Icy Creek Bush Skills weekend occurred this year.

1996

The Summer Games Day took place with great fun had by all who took part and the spectators too. This year there was also canoeing and walking at Moore River and a visit to Nyamup cottages over Easter.



Summer games October, 1996, Beth Davies and Grace Symes in centre: B. Rocke

During the year the Ministry of Sport and Recreation conducted a walking initiative program to look at needs of walkers and outdoor groups, and a number of our lady members were seen in the launch video "Turning Tracks into Trails", which explains the trails funding program, and features the Cape to Cape Walk, Margaret River Trail, and Mundaring Rail Trail.

Bruce and Janet Jackson ran another leadership training course this year.

Marilyn D'Angelo has established a monthly movie night on a regular basis and it is now a recognised part of the club program. Marilyn and David Gibson provided some more challenging walks this year.

2001

An article from the Reader's Digest was presented to the club by Frank Devine, the Editor in Chief, in 2001. He says he thought the article may be of interest to us. It contains details on planning your trip; carry the right equipment; never go alone; dress for protection and even in summer carry warm gear if in mountainous areas; and how to react to emergency situations.



Grevillea: B. Rocke

RAINY DAY IN THE BUSH

Alarm clock rings at 6.00 a.m.
On a rainy Sunday morning.
I could stay home in a heated bed,
But it would be pretty boring.

Addicted to the Sunday walks
It makes it hard to miss,
But walking in the wet terrain
Is surely no great bliss.

So, up I get, made up my mind,
There is little else to do.
Make up my lunch, pack up my pack
And take the rain gear too.

Hopes are high at the meeting place,
Six walkers only present.
They say, if now the rain would stop
The walk would be so pleasant.

But no such luck, it rained and
rained
And winded all day through
The tracks we trudged and trod along
More suited for canoe!

By now the boots, they fill with
water
Right up to the rim.
This makes each step truly sound
Like an old fashioned washing
machine!

The tea and lunch breaks, great
experience
As rain runs down the face galore,
Soaking up sandwich, bun and bis-
cuit,
No chewing needed any more!

No laughter, jokes, or giggles,
As on cold rocks and wet logs
Our cold bottom wiggles.

The afternoon goes by with pain,
The walk is finished early.
Let's hope next Sunday it does not
rain!
If it does, we'll do it all again!!

Wolfgang Schlieben

LEARNING TO LEAD

I was new to the WWC and one day on
a walk I heard this cry 'We need new
leaders'. As I thought this club
offered much to its members and
should be supported, I mentioned to
the leaders of the day that I would
be interested in becoming a walk
leader. Their response was to invite
me on a survey.

The day was fine and cold and I was
learning about the mysteries of
using the compass and about con-
tours, etc, when we came to a
reasonably wide creek, with a log
across it - a narrow log mind you!
Great navigation you realise,
finding a spot with a log across.

Now to learn about creek crossings!
The leader's brother-in-law started
across, but within a few steps of
the other side his foot slipped, and
in he went up to his knees. After
lots of concerned calls of 'Are you
all right?' from our side and a few
mutterings of 'Yes' from the other
side, our leader started across. But
just a few steps out onto the log
there was a stringy bit of weed
waiting for him to catch his foot,
which he did. Then he tumbled back-
wards to submerge into the deepest
part of the creek then, up he
popped, soaked and with green water
weeds hanging from his ears and his
specs (which miraculously had stayed
in place).

After noticing he wasn't hurt I
found it very hard not to laugh at
this humorous spectacle in front of
me. To my relief I saw his wife and
daughter had both succumbed to their
laughter and so I was able to join
in without feeling guilty about my
amusement, as did our unfortunate
water baby.

I was worried for a while that this
was perhaps part of a leader's
duties to entertain the mob, but
subsequent observations proved it
wasn't, so with my faith restored I
put Kev's and Val's coaching to use.

Janet Haswell

2000

In 2000, the club used the Perup Ecology Centre this year for a three day walking trip organized by Lynn and Bob Baldwin. The club has been a Friend of Perup for two years now.

2002



Bruce (left) and Doris Roche, collected many photos of club activities and donated two full albums to the archives for safe keeping. They were club members from 1992 until 2004, when Bruce passed away.

Their daughter, Lynn also joined in 1992, and she and husband Bob Baldwin have been active members ever since, leading walks and serving on the committee.

Terri Blakers (right) was the unofficial photographer for the club during her membership. She always had her camera ready to catch walkers at their best and sometimes not their best. Terri

gave seven albums to the club archives, spanning 1997 to 2005.

Our Unofficial Photographer

Terri Blakers joined the Club in 1997 and immediately began to photograph the walk leaders and any interesting scenes on every walk she took part in. She has given everyone so much pleasure with her beautifully compiled albums, recording so vividly the events of our Club. In addition, many members have been delighted to receive some of her photos.



Terri with camera in hand

Photo: P. Ellinson, 2002

Alligator?

On one of our Sunday walks, an American lady joined us. We were on the track and came across a rather large Bobtail lizard. After explaining to the visitor what it was, she exclaimed – “Oh, I thought it was an Alligator!”

Betty Holmes, 2002

The 65th celebrations in 2002 were well attended despite black clouds in the morning. A bus trip to Yunderup saw 48 on board. Morning tea was at Tumbulgum Farm then on to North Dandelup Dam. Another 30 people joined the group for a cruise on the Murray River. The forecast storm eventually arrived but they were safely inside at Clansman restaurant for lunch.



Rest Day on the Bibbulmun Track walk, Mad Hatters Party, 2002: C. Phillips
Elizabeth Hartmann, Cathy Phillips, Lorraine Young, Chris Evennett

Chapter Six – 1992-2002



Bell's Rapids, 1997/8: A. Sutton



Pool below Fernhook Falls, nr Walpole, 1999: H. Farrington



Kalamunda in autumn, April 2000: T. Blakers



Porongurups, April 2001: T. Blakers



Dwellingup, March 2002: H. Farrington



Little Oven Loop, May 2002: T. Blakers



Margaret Dawbarn, Ray and Lorraine Young, Bill Higgs,
Dryandra, 2002: T. Blakers



Dryandra, 2002, Margo Armstrong (right): T. Blakers

CHAPTER SEVEN

New Responsibility, New Technology – 2012

Risk Management has now become an important issue for bushwalking clubs, and we start this last decade needing to consider Personal Accident cover for all members. Part of our duty of care also calls for trained first aiders on walks. Walking in catchment areas is still being negotiated by the Federation, and all clubs start recording statistics to show how effective bushwalking is as a recreation. We're walking well – statistics for the year ending 31st August 2011 show we had walked just over 17,000km!

Matters Arising ...
New Responsibility, New Technology – 2012

16th January 2003

Meeting called because the Federation needs our Risk Management Policy.
Motion for Bert Howell to be given life membership.

11th March 2003 – AGM

Ivor Sutton outlines Risk Management issues:

- It's a problem across Australia
- We need insurance to cover our members being sued for damages.
- It will be Ivor's task to deal with problem people!

Secretary's Report accolades:

Hottest Walk: Alfred Cove - 41 degrees at 2pm on 8th March.

Most Dangerous Walk: Abseiling down Wilyabrup cliffs head first by Elizabeth Hartmann. She had seen it done in films and just had to try it.

21st June 2003

First Aid courses deemed not much use, as there is no guarantee people who have done the course will be on walks.

Club members only covered for Public Liability. We need Personal Accident cover as well.

10th November 2003 – Extraordinary Meeting

Ivor Sutton explained the new Government Policy 13, which says we are not to go within 2km of the dam high water mark. The Government requires the Water Commission to support activity where it has been continuing for some time. Water Commission thinks we have potential to cause damage.

15th March 2004 – AGM

Secretary's Report accolades:

The Wettest Walk to Margaret Dawbarn and Betty Forbes – Round about Dalkeith [7th December 2003].

23rd September 2004

Motion passed that Margaret Dawbarn be made a Life Member.

23rd May 2005

Sub-committees formed to help share committee workload – walk development and leader training; walks and programming; social committee; publications.

28th September 2005

It is part of our duty of care to have trained First Aiders. \$1500 to be spent on training up 10 leaders.

14th March 2006 – AGM

Margaret Hooker incoming President for one year. She would be coordinating the proposed Risk Management Review.

8th November 2006

Risk Management document adopted. To be distributed to all members and to new members when they join. At a recent Federation meeting, other clubs were amazed that we offer petrol money of up to \$20 for one walk survey. Their representatives planned to take this idea back to their own clubs.

14th February 2007

Proposal to alter our Constitution to enable our membership year to start in July as it fits in better with Insurance numbers.

13th March 2007 – AGM

Office bearers and committee elected. No nomination for President.
113 members plus six Life Members.

6th June 2007

It was agreed that the club become an associate member of Outdoors WA, to ensure we receive up to date information about Adventure Activity Standards.

70th Anniversary in October: Plan to have lunch at Tumblegum Farm in Whitby.

8th August 2007

Edith Thomas takes on role of President. Membership numbers going up, now 169 members plus six life members.

The club has submitted two walks for the Great Australian Bushwalk [see 18th March below].

10th October 2007

Decision to replace existing Constitution with new Rules of Association based on requirements of the Department of Employment and Consumer Protection.

18th March 2008 – AGM

A special resolution that the existing Constitution of the Western Walking Club Inc be replaced with the Rules of Association.

Great Australian Bushwalk generated much interest. Fifty-three visitors on our two walks in Walyunga and Bold Park. Eight new members came from this.

Federation Report: Ongoing saga of the Water Corporation wanting to ban us from walking, other than on tracks, within the catchment area, and not at all in the 2km Reservoir Protection Zones.

Outdoors WA currently running workshops to draw up Adventure Activity Standards. We attend meetings, as our interest is to ensure Standards conform to best practice, have good safety and are not too onerous to be complied with.

26th March 2008

The club will write to the Minister about forest to be cleared near Hackett's Gully (440ha – size of King's Park) for Western Power Eastern Sub Station.

25th June 2008

Adventure Activity Standards circulated to members. We will need to comply with them to ensure we get insurance cover and to demonstrate to members that we operate to high standards.

4th March 2009

The club has a responsibility to have a certificated first aider on all walks. A copy of the Emergency Evacuation guidelines is to be carried by leaders at all times.

Website Development – the website has had approximately 800 hits since the last meeting.

25th November 2009

WWC submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry on Recreation in Public Drinking Water Source Areas – Draft document tabled.

The Federation endorses a proposal that all clubs should keep statistics on person / kilometres to promote how effective bushwalking is as a form of recreation.

7th September 2010 – AGM

Nomination for Jim Rule to be given Life Membership of the club.

Parliamentary Enquiry into Recreation in Water Catchment areas expected to report by 30th September 2010.

The Federation now working on a bushwalking strategy document. It aims to have associate members such as the Bibbulman Track Foundation, to boost its lobbying voice.

Between 1st November 2009 and 5th September 2010, the club had 1167 participants who walked 12,675km. These figures revealed that our club had out-walked other clubs.

1st December 2010

Report of the Parliamentary Enquiry into Recreation in Water Catchment Area:

Access now restricted to 2km with fines to \$5000 for infringements. Maps showing the 2km exclusion zone were not available. Access to some water catchment areas was available, e.g. Harvey and Bickley.

AGM Venue – Low attendance at the last few Annual General Meetings reflects an ageing membership not wishing to go out at night. Suggestion for an Annual Picnic / AGM at a location that would encourage non-walkers to attend, and possibly accommodate a pre-picnic walk.

13th July 2011

Review of duty statements has been completed, with some changes and recommendations suggested for easier running of the club.

11th September 2011 – AGM

It was commented that a calendar of events in the metropolitan area is needed to avoid holding walks / activities in a similar location to the event or that may affect members getting to and from the club activity.

Visitors – Seventy-five visitors attended walks with twenty becoming members.

Several members have participated in the GPS training course, with two female members taking up the previously male dominated GPS technology.

The Treasurer reported that current assets total \$13,881.54.

Statistics for the year 1st September 2010 to 31st August 2011 showed that the club has had 1578 participants walking 17,098km.

1st February 2012

Club now has 147 members.

75th Anniversary – Special function date set for Sunday 7th October 2012.

The Minutes conclude here. Much has arisen over the past 75 years, and we look forward to celebrating on Sunday 7th October.



John McLaughlin, Walpole, 2008: E.Thomas

Balingup Campsite, Carol Curtis, Sue Folks, David Gibson, Wolfgang Schlieben, Marilyn D'Angelo, Ros Griffiths, Avril Scott, Jack Scott, Nov. 2009: E. Thomas

Walk Reports

The period from 2003 to September 2012, sees the total number of walks per year maintained in the 60-80 range. However, Edith Thomas has excelled herself with leading 119 walks during these years.

Edith Thomas Walks		
Year	Led	Co-led
2003	19	1
2004	18	2
2005	8	1
2006	13	
2007	16	
2008	8	1
2009	4	3
2010	14	
2011	11	
2012	8	To Sept.



Year	Total Walks	Individual Leaders	Individual Co-Leaders
2003	83	33	20
2004	81	29	18
2005	63	27	14
2006	72	27	15
2007	76	23	15
2008	66	28	16
2009	43	25	10
2010	79	29	11
2011	76	20	16
2012	48	20 to Sept.	7 to Sept.

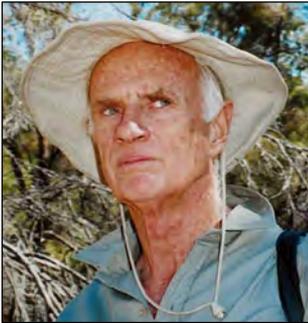
Individual Leader Statistics		
Name	Led	Co-Led
Edith Thomas	119	9
Jackie Furby	47	59
Margaret Hooker	38	24
Cathy Phillips	28	12
Wolfgang Schleiben	43	14
Fiona Noble	24	23
Stuart Barker	24	20
Lorraine Young	30	12
Marg Clark	16	24
Margaret Dawbarn	22	8

Date	No.	Walk	Comment
7 th Dec 2003	21	Around About Dalkeith	'Wettest walk' award – a 10 year record for Perth
28 th Sep 2003	21	Spring into the Park	Brilliant flowers. We took our badges off so as not to be seen to be a group!
16 th Jan 2005	25	Half Safe and River Reflections	Meeting place not clear, confusion resulted from old and new road guides – but walkers enjoyed the walk
30 th Oct 2005	17	Picnic at Yanchep – Ghost House Walk	Picnic held under cover in cold, wet, windy conditions but a good time was had by all
26 th Aug 2006	9	Overnight at Waalegh	Mishap on track – lady broke ankle; carried out to car, then hospital
23 rd Sep 2006	1	Kangaroo Paws of Koondoola	No one turned up except the leader!
18 th Mar 2007	8	Star Swamp and Sorrento	Absolute devastation in Star Swamp from deliberately lit fire early in March
6 th May 2007	38	President's Walk	One visitor car missed turn to start and missed walk
26 th Aug 2007	19	Jack and Gawk	Picked up two nomads who joined us for walk and lunch

Life Members

Bert Howell, Margaret Dawbarn, Jim Rule

Bert Howell



Bert joined the club in 1965. He lived in Maylands at the time and was very knowledgeable about the history of the area. His summer Alfred Cove and winter Walyunga walks were always popular. He began leading walks in Walyunga National Park in 1979, and continued to for over 20 years. Bert led walks from 1969 until 2009, with a total of 53 walks in that time. On top of this he co-led 12.

Bert was awarded life membership in January 2003.

Margaret Dawbarn



Margaret was honoured with life membership in 2004. She was magazine editor for 10 years, committee member for two, and librarian for another four, as well as Treasurer for three. She is always ready to lend a hand where it was required.

Margaret recalls ...

Back in 1968 I went to a kitchen tea for someone at work. People asked where Ellen Pole was, and someone said she had gone for a walk with a club. Most people thought this was a very strange thing to do, but I was interested. I asked Ellen about it the next day. I went along on the next walk and have been going ever since. I guess I was looking for a hobby. I played a bit of golf, but not very well. I agreed with Ellen that golf was a good walk spoil!

I remember that we met behind the Concert Hall in Governors Ave by the Terrace Road car park and then drove to a secondary stop at Cannington, Midland or Kalamunda. This meant a lot of time was wasted and we started walking much later than we do now. This was because in those days some members did not have a car. I used to do a few medium hard walks, but I have not done these for a long time. One of my favourite walks is Kitty's Gorge.

The first weekends away were to a place near Bluff Knoll, in the Stirling Range. In more recent years, we have been to a greater variety of places and the standard of accommodation is much better now. Certainly, in more recent years we can thank both Edith and Jackie for organising these weekends away. I am sure everyone appreciated their efforts as much as I did. I organised two weekends at Rottnest (she is a volunteer guide), which was a walking highlight for many.

I became Treasurer in 1971. Later, I was the first to do the magazine on computer. Betty Forbes and I led a walk "Round about Dalkeith" on the wettest day for 10 years, when rain was bucketing down and thunder rolled.

[With great sadness we heard Margaret passed away on 13th June 2012]



Margaret (left) and Betty Forbes asking a pioneer the way: T. Blakers

(Jill and) Jim Rule



Jill and Jim Rule joined the club in 1985. Jim served on the committee as Auditor for 13 years to 2010, President for three from 1990 and committee member in 1989. He was given life membership in 2010.

Along with Keith Hill and Jesse Brampton, Jim attended meetings with CALM about the realignment of the Bibbulmun Track in the 1990s. He enjoyed being involved in the planning.

Jim's first experience of co-leading a walk was in fact a commercial walk in 1992, when he led 20 people from Wrights Bridge to Walpole in September-October along the Bibbulmun Track (see page 104).

Jim Recalls ...

Jim was friends with Noreen Thomas's brother and Noreen encouraged him to join the club where she was an active member. At that time there was a hard core of younger keen walkers. Brian Grout and Graham Mealyea who worked for Ansett had the reputation for leading particularly hard walks. The first walk that Jim and Jill led was 27km. Brian and Graham were surprised that this did not earn any criticism for being very demanding!

For many of the walks, they used to go much further afield; to Mount Lesueur and down Albany Highway to Mount Observation. Many of these walks were not documented as they were through the bush, away from established tracks. They were very surprised to find a blow-up doll one day and they also found, and destroyed, some marijuana plantations.

The average age of club members now, is older than when Jim joined, but even then they felt that they were not attracting younger people. Bill Higgs was Treasurer for many years, and a hotly debated issue was whether the annual subscription should be increased from \$5 to \$7, a large percentage increase!

Jim remembers the time when the desire by some club members to go on more backpacking weekends and holidays, led to the establishment of Perth Bushwalkers in 1969 (see page 55) and later, BOWA (Bush Walkers of WA)



Peter, Rhoda Counsel, Helen Farrington, Elizabeth Hartman, Wolfgang Schlieben
'Manning Meander', December 2005



Herdsmen in Reverse, November 2003



Eagle Walk, June 2004: Both T. Blakers



Luke Pen River Walk, Kalgan River, March 2005



Northcliffe, September 2003: Both T. Blakers



Hairpin to Pickering, October 2003: T. Blakers



Julimar, 2002: T. Blakers



Gooseberry Hill area, 2012: W. Hampton

Remembering and Reflecting

Pam Ellinson

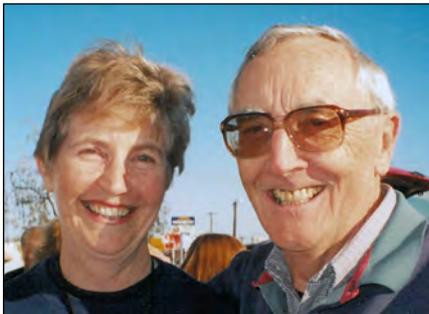
Ann and Ivor Sutton, Helen and Peter Farrington

Pam Ellinson



Pam joined in 1990 and is remembered as the soft voiced lady who joined us on numerous camps including Bald Rock in the Avon National Park, where Edith could not find a hill high enough to stump her. She was a tireless worker for the club and a committee member for five years including President and Vice President. Her walks that ended at the winery were a highlight of the season. Pam astounded us with her courage as she kept on walking throughout her cancer treatment. *"I think she fooled us all with her positive outlook and never-ending smile"*. Pam passed away on 7th May 2003.

Ann and Ivor Sutton



Ann and Ivor joined the Western Walking Club in 1993 and were enthusiastic walkers, both in Western Australia and abroad. They recorded their walking adventures in the club magazine on a regular basis, including walking in France, USA and Britain.

Together they organised a club trip to the Gum Grove Chalets near Denmark for three days in 1997, and a group stay in Augusta in 2001, as they enjoyed time away with club members.

Ivor was on the committee for two years and Vice President for two years. He helped on insurance issues, risk management and the steps the club could take to ensure we could continue to walk in areas we enjoy. He died in June 2005.

Ann is the epitome of the quiet achiever. She spent many years as the club Librarian, from 1996 to 2004 and again from 2006 to 2009 and was Vice President for a year. Her many contributions to the club magazine make interesting reading as she describes the joys of walking in various places. She is a keen bird watcher, with her binoculars at the ready and she enjoys leading club walks.

Helen and Peter Farrington



Peter was an active committee member soon after he and Helen joined in 1996. He was a Vice President for two years and committee member for two. His zest for life and adventure was something we all admired and he found the greatest "breathtaking" hills on his walks. Many members accompanied him and wife Helen overseas, and in the West on many away trips. He is described as, *"...a gentle and kind man who enjoyed life and walking so much"*. Peter passed away on 25th October 2003.

Helen has served on the committee for three years, two as Vice President.

Bibbulmun Track Story Continues ...

End to Enders – Bibbulmun Champions

Many stories abound from the late 1970s of hardy members bravely completing the entire length of the Bibbulmun Track in one go or in large sections at a time. The following completed the track more recently.

Frauke and Keith Chambers completed the track in 2002. The secret to Frauke and Keith's success is to keep the pack light. They carried no more than 12kg each containing one set of day clothes, one pullover or jacket, one set of thermals, a lightweight raincoat, one extra pair of socks, and a pair of very cheap lightweight sandals. Cooking gear was also kept to a minimum. Dividing the trip into sections seems to have a psychological effect as you see it all in manageable bits. Buying everything on the way helped.



Rudi and Ethel walked their Bibbulmun in sections, some of it with Bruce Jackson's two group walks. They finished it in 2002. Ethel recalls that at times it was so hard, especially the sand dunes near Boat Harbour. The flowers were marvellous and altogether it was a fantastic thing to do – she sometimes 'almost' misses it!



Marg Toohey completed her end-to-end during the winter months of 2002 with her son Ben when the days were short and the nights were long. Marg feels it's an experience that stays with you for the rest of your life, and that it is such a privilege to have it in our own back yard. This would not have happened for Marg without advice and encouragement from Frauke and Keith and Ethel and Rudi.

Fiona Noble (see page 102) and her friend Dawn completed their walk in December 2005. Fiona recalls feeling a definite sadness as the last few days came, and they knew that it had to end. But she and Dawn felt they'd really achieved something very special as they drank their champagne at the southern terminus sign – a job well done!



Edith Thomas (see page 100) completed the track in 2009 by walking a series of sections.

John Bornholdt completed his walk in the autumn of 2011. He says he felt fortunate to have had the opportunity to enjoy such a unique and rewarding journey, in all its facets. His sincere thanks go to the creators of the Bibbulmun and to those who maintain the huts and the track, to make it such a special experience.



Jess Wolff started her walk on 6th October 2011 and finished on 18th November – a very rapid pace! Wolfgang and John McLaughlin shared some of her walk as well. Jess feels the Bibbulmun offers a unique chance to test oneself physically and psychologically. She recalls the joy of putting one foot in front of the other, of identifying with nature and being infused with the natural environment.

Wolfgang Schlieben (see page 86) completed his end-to-end in November 2011. He had already walked to Balingup in July 2007, but bad weather and a foot problem caused a temporary stop. In October 2011 he started again from Balingup. This time his journey was shared at times with WWC friends. Wolfgang says the first section was mostly solitary, and gave him lots of time for reflection. The second section was much more talkative, with little reflection, but altogether it was fantastic!

Addendum: On 19th April 2012, The Western Australian contained an article by Frank Roberts, an architect and planner, suggesting the Perth to Albany Bibbulmun Track be extended through the city to reach the coast, making it a West coast to South coast walk, extending it to over 1000km and making it even more attractive to tourists and visitors as a world class walk.

Club Web Site

A club internet presence was first mooted in 2001 and a basic web site was later established under the guidance of Fiona Noble and Janet Jackson. The site was expanded and enhanced in 2005 by Geoff Mortlock and has been managed by him since then.

Welcome
Western Walking Club (Inc)
Founded 1937 Incorporated 1972
WA's longest continually operating Walking Club

[\[Walks Programme\]](#)

[\[Walks Classification\]](#)

[\[How to Join\]](#)

Introducing our Club

Our early Club records go right back to 1937, and they tell of members meeting at Perth Railway Station and travelling to Fremantle, which in those days cost 1 shilling return; or catching a train to Armadale, or a bus to Kalamunda, to start their walks. Although our mode of transport is very different now, Club activities such as walking, camping and social occasions have continued through the years.

2003

Today we have a Club membership of around 190. We have two walks most Sundays, May to October.



2010

Western Walking Club
Who we are
Programs
Information
History

Western Walking Club Who we are and what we do

Walks every week around Perth and the South West of Western Australia
Winter bushwalking in the hills. Summer walks by the river, the ocean or suburban parks. Easy medium or difficult walks to suit differing needs. A friendly, supportive and fun community. Social activities and weekends away. For fitness, friendship and connection with nature. For challenge or for simply a relaxing Sunday. New members and visitors always welcome



Contents

- [The Club](#)
- [Weekends Away](#)
- [Social Activities](#)
- [Like to check us out?](#)
- [Subscriptions and Programs](#)

The Club

The Western Walking Club is a not for profit organization with an active membership of around 150 people. Walks are organized throughout the year, mainly on a Sunday and are pre-surveyed and led by two experienced and trained members of the club. Some walks are easy, usually of around 8km to 10km with no steep hills or difficult terrain. Others, of medium grade, are a little longer, perhaps 15km and may include rougher terrain. Harder walks may be longer again, include rough and hilly terrain and may be off track through the bush (see under General Information for a fuller description of walk grading.) In winter there are usually two walks in the hills around Perth, one easy and one a little more difficult. We stop for a cuppa and for lunch. In Summer we start early to beat the heat and walk through the beautiful parks and suburbs of Perth, or along river or coastal foreshore, and often stop for a cuppa and chat after the walk. All walks are within reasonable traveling distance from Perth and car pooling is encouraged to keep costs down. (A small donation is suggested for the driver).

For those with a greater sense of adventure and those who like maps and compass, there is the opportunity to undergo training courses and to lead walks and survey and develop new walks for the club. Despite the availability of GPS and modern navigation tools, there is still the fascination of crafting a walk by "reading" the contours and shape of the actual land and guiding the path by compass. We do, however, run courses in GPS navigation and several of our leaders will use them.

In the 9 months from January 1st, club members have walked 13750km

Magazine Insights and Happenings

Colour pages in the magazine did not arrive until 2006 with a colour cover only. Then from 2010, colour is found throughout the pages.

2003

On the trip in 2003, to the Christmas camp at Fonty's Pool, near Manjimup, the club met Andy Russell of the Pemberton Hiking Company, after lunch on the shores of Yeararup Lake. He asked if we knew a Ruth, because he had found a badge three days ago. By chance, she was standing right beside him.

Round About Dalkeith

(The Wettest Walk, see page 114, 117)

Splashing around Dalkeith
Summer Skies in our Suburb after a Stormy night.

Sinister Southerly thunder clouds where
Surveyors were Staying in Dwellingup (Edith and Jackie)
Shimmering, Silvery "Swan" reflecting sulky grey clouds.

Sturdy walkers with raincoats and umbrellas
Starting to Stroll around Dalkeith.
Softly raining, umbrellas Shimmering with drops of water.

Streaming rain, Suddenly drenching,
Shattering thunder and lightning Striking overhead.
Snapping Shut umbrellas, walkers Seeking Shelter.

Sodden leaves falling and Sailing down Saturated Streets.
Surfing in Soaking sandshoes through tumultuous Streams,
Shivering Strollers reach cars and Safety

Stalled cars seen Stranded in lakes of rainwater,
Slippery roads all the way home.

Still Sunny in suburb and in Dwellingup.
Surveyors dry - Strollers wet

Margaret Dawbarn
7th December 2003

2006

President Margaret Hooker urges members to read the Risk Management booklet that has become necessary for club activities despite an excellent record with few mishaps since the club's inception. It will be standard practice for new members to receive a copy when they join the club.

Weekend Therapies
Nola Lane, 2005

Why waste a lot of money seeking counselling or support when you can go away for a weekend with Western Walking Club? During the course of our Northcliffe adventure in Chalet 2, we covered the following topics:

- suggestions for residency
- cooking and recipes
- fashion guidance
- affairs of the heart
- world politics and local identities
- ear candling
- travel suggestions
- life histories
- family problems
- children / grandchildren

All these areas were discussed at length and with frequent interjections. However, the most valuable exercise was of an informal 'Laughter Workshop'. People go along to these camps to lift their spirits, so if the amount of fun and foolishness and downright bellyaching laughter is the outcome of such circles, we obtained the benefits in abundance. All in all, we returned to everyday life refreshed, rejuvenated and revitalised.

Oh! by the way, we did do some walking!



Margaret Dawbarn, Jan Maher, Cathy Phillips, Bob Porter, Chris Evennett
Pickering Brook, June 2003: T. Blakers



Another wet morning tea,
Margaret Hooker, Northcliffe, 2003
Photo: T. Blakers

2007

The 70th Anniversary of the club was celebrated this year and included a special lunch held at Leonda Function Centre, south of Byford. The event was attended by distinguished guests, life members and long time members such as, Bert Howell, Mary Hackett, Bill Higgs, Margaret Dawbarn and Bob Frayne (1965 to about 1988). Edith's scrumptious cake, decorated with the club badge, was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

During the year, activities included learning to circle dance with Liz and Geoff Mortlock at the New Year's Eve away trip. Wolfgang entertained us with his mouth organ at Collie, on the Murray River trip.

The club participated in the Great Australian Bush Walk in September this year, walking at Walyunga (medium) and Bold Park (easy). Eight visitors later joined the club from these two walks. The Walyunga walk included track and bush walking sections for about 12km. There were 29 visitors and 15 club members in excellent weather as they set off in two groups 20 minutes apart. Four experienced leaders came along to help with numbers: David Smith, Margaret Clark, Lynn Baldwin and John McLaughlin.

The Bold Park walk attracted 31 walkers (25 visitors) including several children. Lorna Stanton, Margaret Hooker, Beth Davies and Kyr's Kerr were the leaders.

Waltzing Matilda
Edith Thomas, 2010 [condensed]

Once a sunny Sunday joined the Western Walking Club
Under the shade of the tall Wandoo trees
And we walked and we talked until we reached the first big hill
With views so magic it was sure to please.

Chorus:

*We love our walking, we love our walking
We'll come on Sundays to climb mountains high
We sing and we talk as bubbling streams are flowing by
You'll come a walking if the weather is dry*

Down we walked among the trees from Mt Dale
And we laughed as we hiked without any care
'Til we reached another hill, end of a very long day
Not sure if it truly was the shortest way

Chorus

Out come the GPS, our boys' latest toy
Prickle bushes galore, oh what a ploy?
While others use a compass with old fashion skill
To skirt around dryandra, and to miss another big hill

Chorus

Since 1937 amongst wildflowers we walked
Sang around campfires, getting truly smoked
And jokes were retold while we rested by a billabong
And long may we sing our happy walking song

Chorus

In 2007, Jackie Furby, a club delegate of the Federation meetings, presents an update on restrictions to catchment areas and how it may affect our insurance. Should a member be injured on a walk within the restricted 2km zone, it would probably violate our insurance cover as we would be walking in a prohibited area. The leaders have maps, compasses, and sometimes GPS, so it would be quite difficult to argue that we were lost.

Margaret Hooker is commended for her time and effort put into amending and updating the club's Constitution. The current constitution was replaced with 'Rules of Association'. This meant a change from a financial calendar year to a June end, and moving the Annual General Meeting to September. The consequences of changing to the Rules of Association system will not impact on the club dramatically, other than a movement of the financial year and membership lapsing after three months for non-payment. Some details of the club management and meeting procedures will be affected.

2008

The club library subscription to 'Great Walks' replaces 'Wild magazine', as the later has been discontinued.

It is noted that some Darling Range Parks have had a name change recently to Aboriginal names representing their land before Europeans arrived. Chidlow Regional Park becomes Wooroloo Regional Park; Kalamunda Regional Park to Mundy Regional Park; Kelmscott-Martin will be Banyowla Regional Park. Wungong Regional Park remains the same.

For National Parks – Mundaring National Park is now Beelu; Pickering brook now Korung; and Canning National Park changed to Midgegoroo.

Mundy was a leader of the Beelu people who occupied an area generally bounded by the Helena, Swan, and Canning Rivers. Midgegoroo was a Nyongar elder of the Beeliar people. Banyowla was an elder of a group whose territory is marked by a line from Mangle's Bay to the Darling Range.



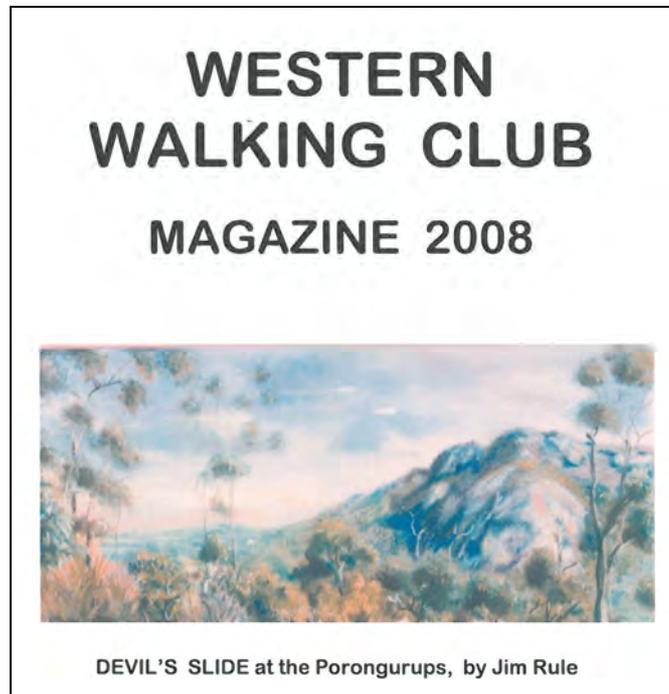
Bob Porter (1989), Margaret Dawbarn (1968), Beth and John Davies (1989), Mundy Brook, 2008: G. Mortlock

2010

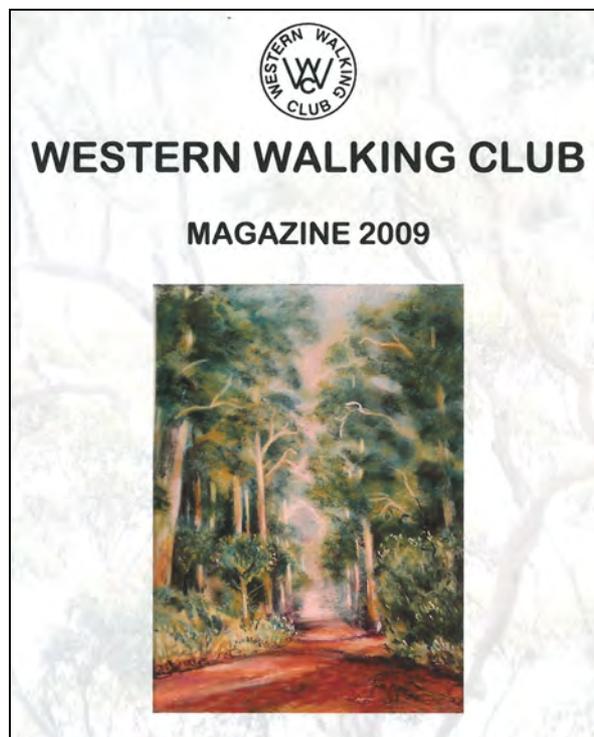
Club members put in a submission for access to water catchment areas, while the Federation put a very detailed submission forward.

2011

The Federation informs walking clubs that we are now also competing with mining leases, mainly for bauxite, issued for up to 20 years and covering 80% of the Darling Ranges.



Cover by Jim Rule



Cover by Jim Rule

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It Could not be Done Without All of You ...

Acknowledgements and Honour Lists

Acknowledgements

Brief History – Introduction

We thank Pam and Gerald Ranzetta, Frank Bowyer and Geoff Mortlock for compiling the collective history of the club over its 75 years.

Interviewees

A big thank you to Helen Farrington for conducting and soliciting words and stories from our past and present members. We thank those who were contacted for your memories of your days in the Western Walking Club.

David Shattock
Betty Forbes
Mary Hackett
Wolfgang Schlieben
Cathy Phillips
Betty Holmes
Keith Hill
Ruby and Bill Johnson

Beth and John Davies
Audrey and Frank Bowyer
Bill Higgs
Janet and Bruce Jackson
Margaret Dawbarn
Jim Rule
Kev Gleeson

Photos Provided

Thank you to the following for providing photos/graphics over the 75 years. So many pictures of fun times and adventures meant it was quite difficult to choose.

Ann Sutton
Bruce Rocke
Cathy Phillips
David Shattock
Edith Thomas
Helen Farrington
Geoff Mortlock
Jim Rule
Margaret Dawbarn
Terri Blakers
Wendy Hampton
and those others who could not be identified

Content / Proof Readers

Cathy Phillips and Betty Forbes, we thank you for your contribution in helping us with the compilation and content checking of this momentous task. Thank you for pointing us in the right direction as we got bogged down in the business of covering as much as possible. Thanks also to Margaret Hooker for reading the complete manuscript and suggesting some refinements.

These three have enabled us to produce an excellent summary of the Western Walking Club Inc over 75 years.

Thank you to the committee of 2011-2012 for approving the final draft and recommending slight changes.

And finally to all of our members, active or passive, who have kept the club enthusiasm alive through the lean times and the good times.

Acknowledgements and Honour Lists

Life Member list

	Joined	Year of Life Member	Deceased
Lucy Serventy	1937	1950	2003
Nancy Morgan	1937	1987	1993
Glen Doepel	1940	1958	1993
Grace Symes	1942	1979	2008
Bill Baggs	1947	1958	1973
Kath Stewart	1947	1962	1992
Margaret Munro	1953	1970	
Mary Hackett	1957	1987	
Bert Howell	1965	2003	
Bill Higgs	1965	1998	
Cyril Brown	1953	1974	1983
Margaret Dawbarn	1968	2004	2012
Noreen Thomas	1979	2001	2001
Jim Rule	1985	2010	
Edith Thomas	1991	2012	

Longest Serving Officers

(bold type are those currently members in 2012)

Name	Total Years	Highest Position Held
Kathleen Stewart	24	President
Gerald Ranzetta	21	Committee
Glen Doepel	21	Archivist
Jim Rule	21	President
Margaret Dawbarn	19	Treasurer
Tom Lane	19	Auditor
William Higgs (Bill)	19	President
J. William Baggs (Bill)	17	President
Edith Thomas	16	President
Cyril Brown	15	Editor
Lucy Serventy	15	President
Ann Sutton	14	Vice President
Fiona Noble	14	Secretary
Jackie Furby	13	Treasurer
Robert Frayne (Bob)	13	President
Miss E. Houghton	12	Vice President
Pam Ranzetta	12	President
Irene Langley	11	President
John Davies	11	President
Thea Black	11	President
Dell Garrow	10	Committee
Jean O'Donnell	10	Treasurer
Majorie Warnes	10	Vice President
Margaret Munro	10	Vice President

Acknowledgements and Honour Lists

Significant Membership Years

(L) means Life Member

Members for more than 50 years

Nancy Morgan	1937-1993	(L)
Lucy Serventy	1937-2003	(L)
Grace Symes	1942-2008	(L)
Margaret Munro	1953-present	(L)
Mary Hackett	1957-present	(L)

Members for more than 40 years

Kath Stewart	1947-1992	(L)
David Foster	1965-present	
Bill Higgs	1965-present	(L)
Bert Howell	1965-present	(L)
Marjorie and Jeffery Tills	1966/71-2006	
Val and Eric Ryan	1968-2006/10	
David Shattock	1968-present	
Margaret Dawbarn	1968-present	(L)
Max Bailey	1969-present	
Betty Forbes	1970-present	

Members for more than 30 years

Glen Doepel	1940-1979	(L)
Geoff Schafer	1963-1994	
Pat Kennedy	1968-1999	
Leigh Lugton	1970-2001	
Gerald and Pam Ranzetta	1973-2004	
Adrien Payne	1975-2006	
Hildegund Wittenburg	1977-present	
Geoff and Esther White	1979-present	
Wolfgang Schlieben	1981-present	
Cathy Phillips	1983-present	

Members for more than 25 years

Nell Kniep	1943-1970	
Bill Baggs	1947-1973	(L)
Audrey Robinson	1966-1994	
Gwen George	1969-1996	
Dorothy Shaw	1971-1996	
Joan Gear (later Slee)	1975-2002	
Len Harper	1976-2003	
Dell Garrow	1983-2008	
Lynette and Susan Yagmich	1983-present	
Joan Eddington	1984-present	
Keith Hill	1984-present	
Betty Holmes (nee Upson)	1984-present	
Pat Ruksenas	1984-present	
Ray and Lorraine Young	1984-present	
Jim and Jill Rule	1985-present	(L)
Phillip Hynes	1986-2011	
Marianne Walker	1986-present	

Members for more than 20 years

Frances Curtin	1938-at least '60s	
Rolf Steilberger	1949-1971	
Bob Frayne	1965-1988	
Pam Norcott	1966-1987	
Ellen Pole	1966-1990	
Max Bailey	1969-1992	
Vancie Smith	1970-1990	
Harry & Kathleen Vander Roest	1971-1995/93	
Laurence Travers	1975-1996	
Ann Taphorn	1975-1996	
Tom Lane	1977-1999	
Brian Lisle	1977-2000	
Bob Duncan	1979-1999	
Charles Broderick	1983-2004	
Marie Williams	1984-2005	
Hilary and Tom Lane	1977-1980/99	
Margaret and Walter Funk	1978-1998	
Bob Duncan	1979-1999	
Noreen Thomas	1979-2001	(L)
Nancy and Brian Park	1979-2002	
Merilyn Millar	1979-2002	
Richard O'Donoghue	1980-2002	
Leilani Schlieben	1981-2004	
Marie Williams	1984-2005	
Hannelore Geerken	1985-2008	
Ruby and Bill Johnson	1988-2010	
Chris and Richard Evennett	1989/92-2009	
Beth and John Davies	1989-present	
Bob Porter	1989-present	
Lisa Sinclair	1989-present	
Robert Rodriguez	1989-present	
Edna and Gordon Darge	1990-2011	
Chris Pidd	1990-2011	
Frank and Audrey Bowyer	1990-present	
Veronica Brusaschi	1990-present	
Avril and Jack Scott	1990-present	
Edith Thomas	1991-present	(L)
Magda and Michael Lawes	1991-present	
Lynn and Bob Baldwin	1992-present	
Merrilyn Millar	1979-2002	

Acknowledgements and Honour Lists

Honour Roll 1937 to 2011 (life members in bold)

Yr	Mem	President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary	Auditor
1937	11	T. H. Morgan	Miss E. Scrymgour, J. Pyett	Miss E. Houghton	Nancy Morgan, Lucy Serventy	
1938		T. H. Morgan	Marjorie Warnes, J. Pyett	Miss E. Houghton	Lucy Serventy	
1939		Mrs I. Langley	Marjorie Warnes	Miss E. Houghton	Lucy Serventy	
1940	24	Mrs I. Langley	Marjorie Warnes	Miss E. Houghton	Lucy Serventy	
1941	16	Mrs I. Langley	Marjorie Warnes	Miss E. Houghton	Lucy Serventy	
1942	8	Mrs I. Langley	Marjorie Warnes	Miss E. Houghton	Lucy Serventy	
1943		Mrs I. Langley	Miss E. Houghton	Miss E. Houghton	Lucy Serventy	
1944		Mrs I. Langley	Marjorie Warnes	Miss E. Houghton	Lucy Serventy	
1945		Mrs I. Langley	Marjorie Warnes	Miss E. Houghton	Lucy Serventy	
1946		Mrs I. Langley	Marjorie Warnes	Miss E. Houghton	Lucy Serventy	
1947		Mrs I. Langley	Marjorie Warnes	Miss E. Houghton	Lucy Serventy	
1948		Mrs I. Langley	Marjorie Warnes	Miss E. Houghton	Lucy Serventy	
1949		Lucy Serventy	Mrs I. Langley, Bill Baggs	M. Westwater	Miss M. Westwater	
1950	28	Lucy Serventy	Kathleen Stewart	M. Westwater	Miss M. Westwater	
1951	45	Kathleen Stewart	L. Serventy , J. C. Levitzke	Miss H. Williams	Miss H. Williams	
1952	53	Kathleen Stewart	J. C. Levitzke, Bill Baggs	Mrs K. Skead	Mrs K. Skead	Ken Skead
1953	71	Kathleen Stewart	J. C. Levitzke, Bill Baggs	Miss A. Johnson	Jean O'Donnell	Lucy Serventy
1954	63	Daphne Steer	F. Curtin, Bill Baggs	Irene Neal	Jean O'Donnell	Lucy Serventy
1955	54	Daphne Steer	F. Curtin, J. C. Levitzke	Irene Neille	Basil Jaffe	Kath Stewart
1956		Daphne Steer	Kath Stewart, B. Baggs	Irene Neille	Basil Jaffe	Jean O'Donnell
1957		Bill Baggs	Beryl Temple, G. Manoy	Jean O'Donnell	Basil Jaffe	Irene Neille
1958		Bill Baggs	Beryl Temple, G. Manoy	Jean O'Donnell	Margaret Munro	Jean O'Donnell
1959	44	Bill Baggs	G. Manoy, Kath Stewart	Jean O'Donnell	Margaret Munro	Kath Stewart
1960	55	John Parker	Nan Lloyd, J. Griffiths	Kathleen Stewart	Margaret Munro	Kath Stewart
1961	44	John Parker	Nan New, J. Griffiths	Jean O'Donnell	Joyce Cook	Kath Stewart
1962	41	Ron New	Bill Baggs , J. Parker	Jean O'Donnell	Joyce Cook	Kath Stewart
1963	46	Ron New	Bill Baggs , J. Parker	Jean O'Donnell	Joyce Foulds	Kath Stewart
1964	66	Ron New	Bill Baggs , M. Munro	John Parker	Ivy Hiscock	Kath Stewart
1965	66	Joan. Marshall	Bill Baggs , Noel Hamilton	Margaret Munro	Ivy Hiscock	Kath Stewart
1966	68	Joan. Marshall	Bill Baggs , Rolf Steilberger	Rita Steilberger	Margaret Munro	Kath Stewart
1967	105	Joan. Marshall	Bill Baggs , Rolf Steilberger	Rita Steilberger	Margaret Munro	Kath Stewart
1968	138	Charles Pratt	Bill Higgs , Rolf Steilberger	Mary Hackett	Margaret Munro	Kath Stewart
1969	125	Bill Higgs	G. Bower, A. Robinson	Mary Hackett	Margaret Munro	Kath Stewart
1970	126	Keith Denholm	A. Robinson, R. Steilberger	Gil Bower	Ellen Pole	Kath Stewart
1971	113	Keith Denholm	Bob Frayne, D. Turner	M. Dawbarn	June Falk	Kath Stewart
1972	105	Bob Frayne	Carla Denholm, C. Brown	M. Dawbarn	June Falk	Kath Stewart
1973	127	Bob Frayne	C. Brown, W. Lambrechts	M. Dawbarn	June Falk	Kath Stewart
1974	118	Bob Frayne	C. Brown, P. Chandler	Stuart Smith	Julie Harrison	Kath Stewart
1975	171	Peter Chandler	H. Smith, D. Shattock	Stuart Smith	Bob Frayne	Julie Harrison
1976	173	David Shattock	H. Smith, Stuart Smith	Gil Bower	Gerald Ranzetta	L. Travers
1977	195	Gerald Ranzetta	Stuart Smith, Rick Walne	Graham Mealyea	Pam Ranzetta	L. Travers
1978	209	Pam Ranzetta	Stuart Smith, Rick Walne	Graham Mealyea	Mary Kidd / Pam Ranzetta	Tom Lane
1979	195	Pam Ranzetta	L. Travers, Howard Smith	Cliff Marquis	Bob Frayne	Tom Lane
1980	202	Cliff Marquis	Les Green, Max Bailey	Graham Mealyea	Margaret Funk	Tom Lane
1981	204	Cliff Marquis	Les Green, Tom Barley	Max Bailey	Patricia Gilddon	Tom Lane
1982	199	Les Green	Pam Ranzetta, M. Funk	Tom Barley	Noreen Thomas	Tom Lane
1983	203	Thea Black	Pam Ranzetta, M. Funk	Tom Barley	Noreen Thomas	Tom Lane
1984	238	Thea Black	Pam Ranzetta, M. Funk	Tom Barley	Noreen Thomas	Tom Lane
1985	252	Thea Black	Pam Ranzetta, M. Funk	Gerald Ranzetta	Noreen Thomas	Tom Lane
1986	249	Noreen Thomas	Pam Ranzetta, Thea Black	Bill Higgs	Colin Schofield	Tom Lane
1987	264	Noreen Thomas	Pam Ranzetta, Thea Black	Bill Higgs	Colin Schofield	Tom Lane

50 Years Walking

Acknowledgements and Honour Lists

Yr	Mem	President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary	Auditor
1988	267	Noreen Thomas	T. Black , Colin Schofield	Bill Higgs	Pam Ranzetta	Tom Lane
1989	248	Keith Hill	Thea Black, N. Thomas	Bill Higgs	Hannelore Geerken	Tom Lane
1990	257	Jim Rule	Keith Hill, Anne Williams	Bill Higgs	Hannelore Geerken	Tom Lane
1991	242	Jim Rule	Keith Hill, Anne Williams	Bill Higgs	Hannelore Geerken	Tom Lane
1992	230	Jim Rule	Keith Hill, Anne Williams	Bill Higgs	Olive Moredoundt	Tom Lane
1993	224	Keith Hill	Jim Rule , Alf Moredoundt	Bill Higgs	Olive Moredoundt	Tom Lane
1994	224	Alf Moredoundt	Jim Rule , Kevin Gleeson	Bill Higgs	Janet Haswell	Tom Lane
1995	210	Alf Moredoundt	Jim Rule , Kevin Gleeson	Bill Higgs	Janet Haswell	Tom Lane
1996	198	Alf Moredoundt	K. Gleeson, Frank Bowyer	Bill Higgs	Janet Haswell	Tom Lane
1997	189	John Davies	K. Gleeson, Frank Bowyer	Bill Higgs	Janet Haswell	Jim Rule
1998	207	John Davies	E. Thomas , Frank Bowyer	Bill Higgs	Janet Haswell	Jim Rule
1999	214	John Davies	E. Thomas , Pam Ellinson	Bill Higgs	Janet Jackson	Jim Rule
2000	202	Pam Ellinson	E. Thomas , M. Toohey	Jackie Furby	Fiona Noble	Jim Rule
2001	223	Pam Ellinson	Edith Thomas , M. Toohey	Jackie Furby	Fiona Noble	Jim Rule
2002	212	Edith Thomas	P. Farrington, Ivor Sutton	Jackie Furby	Fiona Noble	Jim Rule
2003	214	Edith Thomas	Peter Farrington, I. Sutton	Jackie Furby	Fiona Noble	Jim Rule
2004	203	Edith Thomas	Stuart Barker, Moray Ross	Jackie Furby	Fiona Noble	Jim Rule
2005	269	Martin Jardin	H. Farrington, E. Hartmann	Jackie Furby	Marg Clark	Jim Rule
2006	176	Margaret Hooker	H. Farrington, E. Hartmann	Jackie Furby	Marg Clark	Jim Rule
2007	186	Edith Thomas	Caro Knight, Ann Sutton	Jackie Furby	Marg Clark	Jim Rule
2008	171	Edith Thomas	Jack Scott, Terry Mahoney	Jackie Furby	Fiona Noble	Jim Rule
2009	136	Terry Mahoney	Jack Scott, Marg Clark	Jackie Furby	Fiona Noble	Jim Rule
2010	137	Terry Mahoney	Jack Scott, Geoff Mortlock	Jackie Furby	Fiona Noble	Jim Rule
2011	139	Terry Mahoney	Jack Scott, Geoff Mortlock	Jackie Furby	Marg Clark	John Davies

75 Years Walking (to 2012) and Still Counting ...

Acknowledgements and Honour Lists

Officer List – Committee Members

Yr	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1937								
	No records available of committee members							
1950	J. Gentilli	C. Cossons	J. Levitzke	F. T. Traine	K. Stead			
1951	E. Marsh	M. Bowen	D. Howe	F. T. Traine	D. Reid	A. Schirmer		
1952	B. Temple	D. Steer	A. Notley	F. T. Traine	Mr D. Reid			
1953	D. Steer	F. Curtin	G. Symes	F. T. Traine	G. Doepel			
1954	M. Manoy	K. Stewart	G. Symes	J. C. Levitzke	F. T. Traine			
1955	M. Manoy	J. O'Donnell	Mrs Michielson	B. Temple	W. Baggs			
1956	M. Manoy	T. Anderson	Mrs Michielson	B. Temple	G. Manoy	F. Curtin		
1957	K. Stewart	T. Anderson	Mrs Michielson	M. Manoy	G Doepel	F. Curtin	D. Steer	
1958	K. Stewart	T. Anderson	Mrs Michielson	Mr Michielson	B. Jaffe	J. Levitzke		
1959	M. Manoy	N. Llyod	Len Harper	C. Read	J. Parker			
1960	B. Temple	W. Baggs	T. Anderson					
1961	K. Stewart	W. Baggs	S. Elliott	Ron New	F. Curtin			
1962	K. Stewart	M. Munro	W. Foulds	Nan New	Mrs J. Parker			
1963	M. Hackett	June Day	W. Foulds	Mr McGrath	I. Hiscock			
1964	M. Hackett	June Day	D. Knott	R. Steilberger	J. Parker			
1965	M. Hackett	J. Robinson	Ron New	R. Steilberger	J. Parker			
1966	W. Higgs	R. Strawbridge	B. Donalson	G. Malmo	J. Parker			
1967	W. Higgs	R. Strawbridge	E. Duffield	G. Schafer	J. Parker			
1968	Gina Frayne	P. Chandler	W. Foulds	G. Bower	A. Robinson			
1969	T. Norcott	P. Chandler	K. Denholm	E. Duffield	Ellen Pole			
1970	T. Norcott	L. Anderson	R. MacLean	G. Schafer	M. Hackett			
1971	P. Kennedy	P. Chandler	B. Goss	G. Bower	V. Smith			
1972	P. Kennedy	P. Chandler	K. Denholm	T. Tangney	C. Guldemond			
1973	P. Kennedy	P. Chandler	Mrs E. Scott					
1974	P. Kennedy	P. King	Mrs E. Scott	Reiny Barrett	K. Barrett			
1975	P. King	G. Ranzetta	P. Ranzetta	J. Harrison	D. Hootton			
1976	Max Bailey	Joan Dwyer	P. Ranzetta	Rick Walne	D. Hootton			
1977	Max Bailey	Gil Bower	Bob Frayne	Joan Gear	M. Lyons			
1978	Thea Black	H. Smith	Bob Frayne	L. Travers	R. Van Delft			
1979	Thea Black	P. Chandler	M. Funk	G. Mealyea	R. Walne			
1980	C. Chatwin	S. Loney	Joan Gear	Walter Funk	G. Ranzetta	H. Vander Roest	K. Vander Roest	
1981	Thea Black	S. Barley	Hugh Malone	Joan Gear	M. Dawbarn	H. Vander Roest	K. Vander Roest	
1982	Thea Black	S. Barley	N. Johnstone	Wally Funk	M. Dawbarn	J. Gear	P. Villiers	
1983	Les Green	S. Barley	N. Johnstone	Wally Funk	L. Webb	J. Gear	B. Webb	
1984	S. Barley	Brian Park	N. Johnstone	Wally Funk	L. Webb	J. Gear	B. Webb	
1985	S. Barley	P. Gliddon	G. Mealyea	Wally Funk	M. Bailey	T. Holland	T. Barley	
1986	B. Duncan	C. Broderick	G. Mealyea	Len Harper	D. Garrow	J. Wickett	M. Wimbridge	
1987	B. Duncan	C. Broderick	G. Mealyea	A. Williams	D. Garrow		M. Wimbridge	T. Lavender

50 Years Walking

Acknowledgements and Honour Lists

Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1988	B. Duncan	C. Broderick	L. Eddington	A. Williams	D. Garrow	J. Wickett		T. Lavender
1989	B. Duncan	C. Broderick	C. Schofield	A. Williams	D. Garrow	J. Slee/Gear	J. Rule	
1990	K. Andrews	C. Broderick	J. Davies	N. Thomas	D. Garrow	J. Wickett		
1991	A. Moredoundt	C. Broderick	R. Erdogan	John Davies	D. Garrow	C. Phillips	L. Wilsmore	
1992	A. Moredoundt	C. Broderick	R. Erdogan	John Davies	D. Garrow	A. Hermans		
1993	L. Baldwin	C. Broderick	F. Bowyer	John Davies	D. Garrow	A. Hermans	K. Gleeson	
1994	L. Baldwin	B. Roche	F. Bowyer	John Davies	D. Garrow	B. Johnson	C. Phillips	
1995	L. Baldwin	B. Roche	F. Bowyer	John Davies	D. Garrow	B. Johnson	C. Phillips	
1996	L. Baldwin	B. Roche	B. Jackson	John Davies	K. Peters	E. Thomas	M. Toohey	
1997	L. Baldwin	P. Ellinson	B. Jackson	Magda Lawes	K. Peters	E. Thomas	M. Toohey	
1998	J. Furby	P. Ellinson	K. Glesson	Magda Lawes	B. Jackson	F. Noble	M. Toohey	
1999	G. Counsel	R. Evennett	J. Furby	Magda Lawes	B. Jackson	F. Noble	M. Toohey	
2000	G. Counsel	P. Farrington	D. Gibson	M. Murfitt	E. Muller	I. Sutton		
2001	T. Blakers	L. Chidgey	P. Farrington	Caro Knight	E. Muller	I. Sutton	D. Shattock	
2002	E. Hartmann	L. Chidgey	M. D'Angelo	Caro Knight	E. Muller	J. Singleton	C. Evennett	
2003	E. Hartmann	L. Baldwin	M. D'Angelo	Caro Knight	S. Barker	C. Evennett	M. Ross	
2004	E. Hartmann	M. Hooker	M. Jardin	Caro Knight	J. Maher	L. Stanton	A. Sutton	
2005	S. Barker	M. Hooker	J. Maher	C. Knight	B. McLaughlin	L. Stanton	A. Sutton	
2006	J. McLaughlin	E. Thomas	D. Smith	C. Knight	B. McLaughlin	L. Stanton	A. Sutton	
2007	J. McLaughlin	M. Hooker	D. Smith	T. Mahoney	B. McLaughlin	J. Scott	H. Farrington	
2008	M. Clark	M. Hooker	D. Smith	C. Knight	C. Curtis	G. Mortlock	A. Sutton	
2009	E. Thomas	M. Hooker	D. Smith	C. Knight	C. Curtis	D. Gibson	G. Ward	M. D'Angelo
2010	E. Thomas	M. Hooker	D. Smith	C. Knight	C. Curtis	W. Hampton	G. Ward	M. Clark
2011	E. Thomas	R. Clay	D. Smith	V. Carmody	C. Curtis	W. Hampton	G. Ward	

75 Years of Walking

Acknowledgements and Honour Lists

Officer List continued – Other Designations

Year	Mag Editor	Archivist	Librarian	Website Custodian	Federation Delegate	Leader Training	GPS Training
1950		G. Doepel					
1951		G. Doepel					
1952		G. Doepel					
1953		G. Doepel					
1954	Basil Jaffe	G. Doepel					
1955	Basil Jaffe	G. Doepel					
1956	Basil Jaffe	G. Doepel					
1957		G. Doepel					
1958		G. Doepel					
1959	N. Lloyd	G. Doepel					
1960	N. Lloyd	G. Doepel					
1961	L. Turner	G. Doepel					
1962	L. Turner, W. Baggs	G. Doepel					
1963	L. Turner	G. Doepel					
1964	Mrs J. Parker, W. Baggs	G. Doepel					
1965	C. Brown, W. Higgs	G. Doepel					
1966	Ivy Hiscock	G. Doepel					
1967	C. Brown, I. Hiscock	G. Doepel					
1968	I. Hiscock	G. Doepel					
1969	I. Hiscock	G. Doepel					
1970	C. Brown	G. Doepel					
1971	L. Travers	C. Brown				Bob Frayne	
1972	C. Brown	C. Brown				Bob Frayne	
1973	C. Brown	C. Brown				Bob Frayne	
1974	Basil Jaffe	C. Brown				Bob Frayne	
1975	Bob Frayne	C. Brown				Bob Frayne	
1976	Bob Frayne	C. Brown				Bob Frayne	
1977	Bob Frayne	C. Brown				Pam Ranzetta G. Ranzetta	
1978	Bob Frayne	C. Brown				Pam Ranzetta G. Ranzetta	
1979	L. Travers	C. Brown				Pam Ranzetta G. Ranzetta	
1980	L. Travers	C. Brown					
1981	L. Travers	C. Brown					
1982	L. Travers	C. Brown					
1983	G. Ranzetta	Bob Frayne					
1984	G. Ranzetta	Bob Frayne	P. Ranzetta				
1985	G. Ranzetta	Bob Frayne	P. Ranzetta				
1986	G. Ranzetta	Bob Frayne	P. Ranzetta				
1987	G. Ranzetta	G. Ranzetta	P. Ranzetta		Bob Frayne		

50 Years Walking

Year	Mag Editor	Archivist	Librarian	Website Custodian	Federation Delegate	Leader Training	GPS Training
1988	G. Ranzetta	G. Ranzetta	M. Dawbarn				
1989	C. Phillips	G. Ranzetta	M. Dawbarn				
1990	A. Moredoundt	G. Ranzetta	M. Dawbarn				
1991	A. Moredoundt	G. Ranzetta	M. Dawbarn				
1992	A. Moredoundt	G. Ranzetta	J. Davies		A. Moredoundt		
1993	M. Dawbarn	G. Ranzetta	J. Davies		A. Moredoundt		
1994	M. Dawbarn	G. Ranzetta	C. Evennett		A. Moredoundt J. Davies		
1995	M. Dawbarn	G. Ranzetta	C. Evennett		A. Moredoundt		
1996	M. Dawbarn	G. Ranzetta	A. Sutton		A. Moredoundt		
1997	M. Dawbarn	G. Ranzetta	A. Sutton		A. Moredoundt C. Pridd	B. Jackson J. Jackson	
1998	M. Dawbarn	G. Ranzetta	A. Sutton		K. Peters	B Jackson J. Jackson	
1999	M. Dawbarn	G. Ranzetta	A. Sutton		L. Baldwin P. Ellinson		
2000	M. Dawbarn	F. Noble	A. Sutton		J. Davies		
2001	Janet Jackson	F. Noble	A. Sutton	F. Noble, J. Jackson	P. Ellinson F. Noble		
2002	Janet Jackson	F. Noble	A. Sutton	F. Noble, J. Jackson	E. Thomas, J. Furby		
2003	A. Sutton	F. Noble	A. Sutton	F. Noble, J. Jackson	E. Thomas, J. Furby		
2004	M. Dawbarn	F. Noble	A. Sutton	F. Noble, J. Jackson	E. Thomas, J. Furby		
2005	M. Dawbarn	F. Noble	E. Thomas	G. Mortlock	E. Thomas, J. Furby		
2006	G. Wilson	F. Noble	A. Sutton	G. Mortlock	E. Thomas, J. Furby	W. Schlieben	
2007	J. Furby	F. Noble	A. Sutton	G. Mortlock	E. Thomas, J. Furby	W. Schlieben	
2008	J. Furby	F. Noble	A. Sutton	G. Mortlock	E. Thomas, J. Furby	W. Schlieben	
2009	J. Arthur	F. Noble	A. Sutton	G. Mortlock	E. Thomas, J. Furby	W. Schlieben, D. Smith	G. Ward, B. Fitzpatrick
2010	E. Thomas	F. Noble	W. Hampton	G. Mortlock	E. Thomas, J. Furby	W. Schlieben, D. Smith	G. Ward, B. Fitzpatrick
2011	E. Thomas	F. Noble	W. Hampton	G. Mortlock	E. Thomas, T. Mahoney	W. Schlieben, D. Smith	G. Ward, B. Fitzpatrick

75 Years Walking

