

The Track Record

Volume 8, Issue 1
February 2008

The “Friends” are Ten Years Old

In September of this year the Friends of the Cape to Cape Track will be 10 years old! This auspicious occasion must be celebrated, and so (a little later when the weather, hopefully, is a bit more reliable*) we plan to mark the event with a weekend get-together with some walks and late afternoon / evening BBQ at Contos Campground (see Walks Calendar).

In these 10 years we have achieved a tremendous amount for a small, voluntary organi-

zation – largely due to our tireless liaison officer from CALM / DEC Neil Taylor, whose energy knows no bounds, to Tom Tuffin, our administrative officer extraordinaire, whose grant-acquisition skills are legendary, to several generations of hard-working committee members, and not least to all of you, our wonderfully supportive members.

We do hope many of you will be able to come from near and far to join us – so please mark the weekend of November

(15th or 22nd) in your calendars now!

We will also celebrate this year with our **End-to-End Walk** in April / May. It is three years since our first End-to-End, and its popularity was evident from the speed with which this year’s walk was booked – we announced the details in our last newsletter in November, and all places were filled by early December. We do have a waiting list, so if your circumstances change and you can’t come, please don’t worry – just let Jane know!

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The Annaconda Race

Neil finally managed to round up 21 volunteers at short notice to man check-points along the running stage of the Anaconda – an endurance marathon involving a swim, canoe, run and cycle over extremely rough terrain between Dunsborough and Cape Naturaliste. We were

also interested in checking the state of the Track, of which a small section was included in the run, after the pounding of (150+? X 2!) heavy feet. The day went very smoothly, and volunteers were rewarded with a pack of goodies

and lunch (good job we all like egg sandwiches, Neil!). The Track stood up very well with minimal disturbance, which was pleasing, and the race organizers donated \$50 per volunteer to the Friends. Many thanks to Anaconda, and to all our volunteers on the day – I’m sure we will be participating again next year.

Special points of interest:

- Briefly highlight your point of interest here.
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Adoptees Active (but more wanted).

Thanks to Nikki and Simon from **Explorus Adventure Company** for putting their hands up to look after the Hamelin to Cosy Corner section of the Track.

We are still looking for Adoptees for the Quinninup section and now also for Ellensbrook to Left-handers. Please talk to Jim McLachlan Ph. 9757 2808 for details.

We owe a great deal to our Adoptees who are doing an outstanding job helping to maintain the Track for the comfort and enjoyment of all walkers.

Adoptees Lunch & Workshop

A full day's activity is planned for Sunday March 8th.

From 9.30 to 12.00 there will be a tractor driving workshop for anyone interested. Neil will demonstrate some of his outstanding skills at such things as driving over, and then mulching, marker posts. Participants will also get hands-on practice at loading the tractor onto a trailer, driving, mulching and hege trimming.

Lunch will be from 12.00 to 12.45. It will be provided. We would like every one to attend the lunch so that there can be some socializing and presentations.

Following lunch there will be an open

forum. This will be a general exchange of views and strategies. Adoptees will be also asked for their views on how the scheme can be improved and Adoptees work made more effective.

Great Company, Awesome Scenery and Excellent Recreation—Walks 2008

CALENDAR OF WALKS - 2008

Please note: Walks commence 9.00 a.m. and you are asked to be there at least 10 minutes early for registration, briefing etc. Other conditions are as per usual and can be found at WWW.capetocapetrack.com.au

Sun, March 16th Deepdene Track to Cosy Corner – 7 km

Park: Cosy Corner Beach Carpark

Leader: Jane Scott 9757 6327

Straightforward track walk down to beach, then firm sand and rough track / scramble over flat rocks. Opportunity for a swim & picnic at the end.

April / May

No walks due to End-to-Ender & limited leadership resources!

Sat, June 7th

Rabbits Hill (Yallingup) to Sugarloaf Rock – 10 km

Park: Sugarloaf Rock Carpark

Leader: Neil Taylor 9755 2189h or 97525555w

This walk is a good stride out but fairly level on old 4WD tracks and a rough path along the cliff-tops. Superb cliff-top views.

Calendar of Walks - (continued from P2)

Sun, July 19th

Anchor Road / Boranup (Trig) Hill Circuit – 11 km

**Park: Junction of Anchor Road and Boranup Scenic Drive,
7 km from its Northern end.**

Leader:

A longish walk, but easy going with only moderate gradients. Bush tracks meander through forest and heath with good views up at the lookout.

Sun, August 17th

Quenda Circuit Walk – 5 km / AGM at Yallingup Hall

Park: Yallingup Hall

Leader: Gail Taylor 9755 2189

Short but scenic circuit on easy bush tracks above Smiths Beach. Great views! Please stay afterwards for a picnic, cuppa and our AGM at the Hall.

Sat, September 20th

Hillview Road, Augusta to Quarry Bay – 10 km

Park: Quarry Bay

Leader:

Quite a challenging walk, starting with a steep drop down to the beach – a short but soft sandy stretch of just under 1 km. Then it's up to the cliff-top track with great coastal views south to the Leeuwin Lighthouse. The finish to the walk is a beach / rock scramble round to Quarry Bay with its fascinating tall cliffs.

Sun, October 19th

Ellensbrook to Kilcarnup Road – 7 km

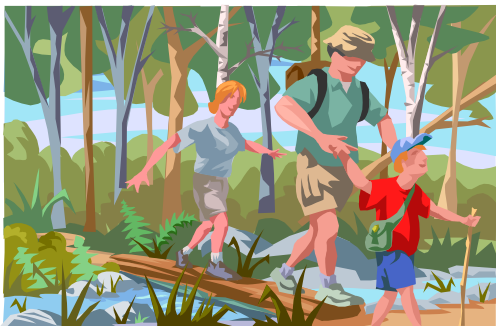
Park: Kilcarnup Road at the end of the bitumen.

Leader:

Pleasant track walking past the lovely Meekadarabee Falls and along the ridge. The wildflowers should be at their best!

Sat, November (15th or 22nd) 10th Anniversary BBQ and (optional) Campout – Contos

Details later, but we will probably organize 2 afternoon walks (one longer, one shorter) converging on Contos Campground, where we will have our own exclusive area for a BBQ and camping to celebrate the Friends' 10th Anniversary.



HOW NOT TO WALK THE CAPE

A significant birthday and a choice for family and friends...a party or something of my choosing. The idea of an idyllic walk in the warm sunshine of late October, whales on the horizon, a wilderness campsite on a deserted beach, a glass of red as a golden sun sinks behind the Indian Ocean, the smell of Bacon and Eggs on the stove after a refreshing swim in the morning, won the contest.

So, we set off on a Saturday at the end of October. The two children, 32 and 25 years old, and their partners, arrived from Perth...late (someone forgot their boots!)....the 25 year old son wore a bomber jacket from the Op Shop, tight jeans, shoes for St George's Terrace and a World War One Swedish Army backpack...and no wet weather gear. And they still wanted to go despite the forecast of a maximum 14 degrees and strong southerly winds with rain squalls and hail. The plan was to walk from Gracetown to Quinninup and camp, and walk back the next day. Fortunately, I left a car at the Moses Rock Car Park. Well, we couldn't carry all that extra water and wine.

The six of us set off at 2.30 pm from Gracetown in the rain, and a motley lot we

looked as we wound our way around those slippery rocks of North Point with the crashing surf below us. When the sun shone, it was magnificent, as the photos would tell...a tale of idyllic weather, beautiful views, a sparkling ocean, colourful glistening rocks and wildflowers, towering granite outcrops and the pounding surf on the beaches. But for the rest of the time, it was horizontal rain in squalls rushing in from the ocean. And for some reason, we were the only ones on the walk. Crossing the Willy-abrup Creek was a highlight...trying to walk across a soft sand bar with 30 kgs in the backpack sinking up to your knees, and then the waves would wash up over the sand and into your boots and you couldn't move. The creek had broken through the beach but the current was going upstream with the help of the surf! So, it was off with the boots and socks and wading across up to the thighs. And then the sight of my son's petite girlfriend drying her feet on a rock when a wave hit and covered the rock with her standing on one leg...the one with the dry sock on....and the expression on her face.

My estimate of 15 kms to Quinninup was obviously

wrong and the last hour of walking was in that meditative state, plodding along in silence only looking at the path ahead, ignoring the discomfort, and thinking " why am I doing this?" and " it must be just around the corner/over this next hill". We met a snake that was too cold to get off the track and a startled kangaroo bounding down the track towards us that had my son in law leaping off into the bushes.

We reached Moses Rock Car Park at 7.10 pm in the dark and full on rain and I made the decision to cancel the camping. Objections lasted 10 seconds. Whilst the others set off to get the other car, my son and I sat on the floor of the toilet block in the dark with a gale raging around us eating chocolate. My son's only words were "Don't drop the chocolate".

And how proud was I of the non walkers making the most of the day, uncomplaining and with humour and going past that point where the walk becomes a test of character and endurance.....one of Dad's Bloody Adventures! But, as in life, it is the journey that matters, not the destination.