

New map for walkers

A map specially designed for Bibbulmun walkers has been produced by CALM to accompany the first section of 'new' track, and it was launched when Environment Minister Peter Foss declared the first stage open.

The map represents a departure from CALM's usual format, with track notes, background information and profiles specially included for the benefit of walkers.

The new design presented an interesting challenge for Information Management Branch staff Ray Lawrie, Mark Laming and Team Manager Roy Fieldgate.

Ray was the cartographer in charge and he said recently that while most of the data for the map was similar to that of CALM's standard 1:50,000 series,

the new Bibbulmun map required different treatment.

"This time the information was all weighted towards the track, making that the focus and the main feature. Elements of the design were borrowed from maps of the Appalachian Trail in America, while others were a personal CALM mapping touch."

A lot of legwork was necessary before the map could hit the stands, however, including Project Coordinator Jesse Brampton and Phil Poole from IMB lugging a GPS unit 20 km by foot and 45 km by motorbike along the length of track.

Warwick Boardman then had to write software that would allow the GPS information to be processed and added to the graphic data base.

"The final product came

straight off the computer and went directly to the printer. There was no manual cartography work at all," Ray said.

Initial feedback has been very positive, and signs are that the first print run of 2,500 will quickly sell out.

"Given that it was the first of its kind, I think the response to this map has been really good, but there are certainly refinements we can make. I have already got two or three pages of amendments to make to the reprint of this first one."

By the end of the "Building a Better Bibbulmun Project" there could be as many as eight maps covering different sections of the track. Ray said that the design process would be getting just about perfect around the time the last one was produced!



Cartographers Ray Lawrie and Mark Laming at the release of the new CALM map.



BIBBULMUN TRACK
Northern Terminus