

MUNDA BIDDI MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL

Work on the new Munda Biddi Mountain Bike Trail—destined to be one of the world's greatest mountain bike trails—has begun, with the first section of Stage One (from Mundaring to Dwellingup) expected to be finished by September this year.

The trail is being built in three stages over the next two-and-a-half years: Stage One, Mundaring to Collie; Stage Two, Collie to Pemberton; and Stage Three, Pemberton to Albany.

Munda Biddi means 'path through the forest' in the Aboriginal Nyoongar language, and the trail when finished will cover nearly 900 kilometres between Mundaring and Albany. It will cater for recreational as well as more athletically inclined cyclists, with families and social clubs also expected to take advantage of this novel and healthy way of experiencing



Left: Pausing to take in the scenery.

Photo – Geoff Logue/Wilderness Cycling Club

impact on the natural environment.

"The trail will pass through towns and rural communities, taking in the most beautiful sites in the south-west, and traversing national parks and conservation reserves," Therese said.

Establishing and maintaining the Bike Trail is an ongoing cooperative effort between the department, industry and the community. The partners include Alcoa Australia, the WA Lotteries Commission, The Munda Biddi Trail Foundation, the Western Australian

Mountain Bike Association, the Department of Sport and Recreation, the Great Southern

the bush and its wildlife.

The Department of Conservation and Land Management's Munda Biddi Trail Coordinator, Therese Jones, said the trail would follow an existing network of forest roads and old rail lines, in order to reduce the



Development Commission, the Department for Planning and Infrastructure, the Water and Rivers Commission, and the Water Corporation.

For further information, please telephone the Munda Biddi Trail Coordinator on 9334 0265. Alternatively, phone the Munda Biddi Trail Foundation's mobile phone number 0422 112 229, or email (biketrail.vol@calm.wa.gov.au).



Left: Topping up on fluids.

Photo – Geoff Logue/Wilderness Cycling Club

Winner of the Alex Harris Medal for excellence in science and environment reporting

LANDSCOPE



VOLUME SEVENTEEN, NUMBER 4, WINTER 2002



Native animals need tree hollows and people need wood. How are these conflicting uses managed? See page 20.

An exciting range of recreational opportunities are being offered in some national parks, creating employment for locals. See page 28.



Declining water levels threaten a remarkable community of cave-dwellers in Yanchep National Park. Turn to page 34.



The search to find out the cause of a new tree killer known as Mundulla Yellows. See page 41.



Re-discovering the long-forgotten memoirs of a Kimberly pioneer. See page 48.

FEATURES

- BENEATH THE BUSSELTON JETTY**
ANN STORRIE.....10
- FOREST HOLLOWES: WILDLIFE HOMES**
KIM WHITFORD.....20
- THE GUIDED EXPERIENCE: A NEW JOURNEY**
GIL FIELD.....28
- THREATENED WILDLIFE OF THE YANCHEP CAVES**
JOHN BLYTH, EDYTA JASINSKA, LYNDON MUTTER, VAL ENGLISH AND PAUL THOLEN.....34
- MUNDULLA YELLOWS**
DAGMAR HANOLD, MIKE STUKELY AND JOHN W RANDES....41
- UNDER A REGENT MOON**
TIM WILLING AND KEVIN KENNEALLY.....48

REGULARS

- BUSH TELEGRAPH**.....4
- ENDANGERED**
MT LINDESAY-LITTLE LINDESAY.....19
- URBAN ANTICS**
DALKEITH "POSSUMS"?.....54

Executive editor: Ron Kawalliak.

Editors: David Gough, Carolyn Thomson-Dans.

Story editor: Verna Costello.

Scientific/technical advice: Andrew Burbidge, Keith Morris, Kevin Kenneally, Paul Jones and staff of Science Division.

Design and production: Tiffany Aberin, Maria Duthie, Gooitzen van der Meer.

Illustration: Gooitzen van der Meer.

Cartography: Promaco Geodraft

Marketing: Estelle de San Miguel ☎ (08) 9334 0296 Fax: (08) 9334 0498.

Subscription enquiries: ☎ (08) 9334 0481 or (08) 9334 0437.

Colour separation by Colourbox Digital.

Printed in Western Australia by Lamb Print.

© ISSN 0815-4465. All material copyright. No part of the contents of the publication may be reproduced without the consent of the publishers

Please do not send unsolicited material to *LANDSCOPE*, but feel free to telephone the editors.

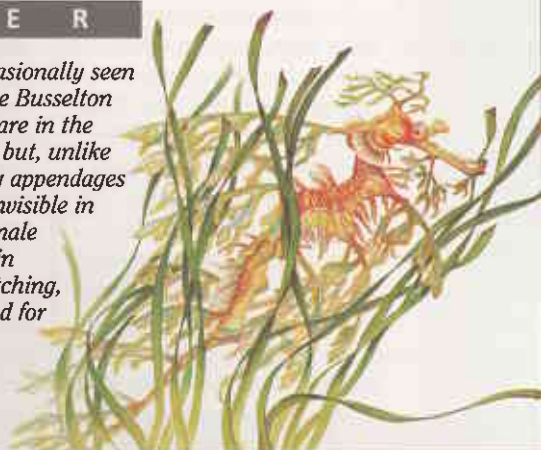
Visit NatureBase at www.naturebase.net

Published by the Department of Conservation and Land Management, Dick Perry Avenue, Kensington, Western Australia.

COVER

Leafy seadragons are occasionally seen in the seagrass around the Busselton Jetty (see page 10). They are in the same family as seahorses but, unlike seahorses, they have leafy appendages that make them almost invisible in their surroundings. The male carries the eggs in the skin beneath his tail. After hatching, the young swim off to fend for themselves.

Cover illustration by Philippa Nikulinksy



DEPARTMENT OF
**Conservation
AND LAND MANAGEMENT**
Conserving the nature of WA