

# The Lakes Walk

Rosalie Small, Rottnest Foundation

The Lakes Walk is the second section of the larger Rottnest Island (Wadjemup) Walk Trail project to be completed. This project consists of a 50km network of trails that will facilitate public access and connection to the island's rich natural features, abundant wildlife and unique cultural heritage while minimising the pressures of tourism on the natural environment.

Bickley Bay Walk opened in December 2013 and the Lakes Walk opened in July 2014. A total of 18.6km of the 50km trail is now accessible to the public.

The Lakes Walk starts from Thomson Bay Settlement and heads west out of Digby Drive. Elevated panoramic views can be experienced from Vlamingh Lookout located only 500m from the settlement. The walk then continues past Lake Herschel and meanders through the lake systems. Visitors are taken across the southern edge of Lake Vincent via a 110m boardwalk that provides the illusion of walking on water. Following Pink Lake Road, the walk heads for Little Parakeet Bay and continues along the coastline all the way up to Bathurst Lighthouse and then ends back in the main settlement in a looped design.

The Lakes Walk can be enjoyed all year round, providing different experiences depending on the time of day and season. The boardwalk has been purposefully constructed to be walkable during high winter water levels. On a crisp winter morning the heavy dew will be reflecting the rising

sun. Overcast days with intimidating clouds will be pierced by the stunning view of the fresh white of Wadjemup Lighthouse in the distance. On balmy summer evenings visitors can sit on one of the newly installed bench seats and enjoy the spectrum of burning colours reflected across the lakes at sunset.

The Lakes Walk incorporates interpretive signs that highlight the importance of the salt lakes in the island's heritage and as a living, breathing ecosystem with highly valuable microbialite communities important to scientific research in the present day. It is a Class 3 trail, suitable for most ages and fitness levels and will take between two to four hours to walk.

This project was co-funded by a \$100,000 grant received by the Rottnest Foundation volunteer organisation, from the Department of Sport and Recreation, supported by Lotterywest.

The implementation of this project was a collaborative effort between the Rottnest Island Authority, the Rottnest Foundation and other affiliated Rottnest community groups, namely, Scouts WA, Rottnest Society, Winnit Club and Conservation Volunteer Australia which collectively



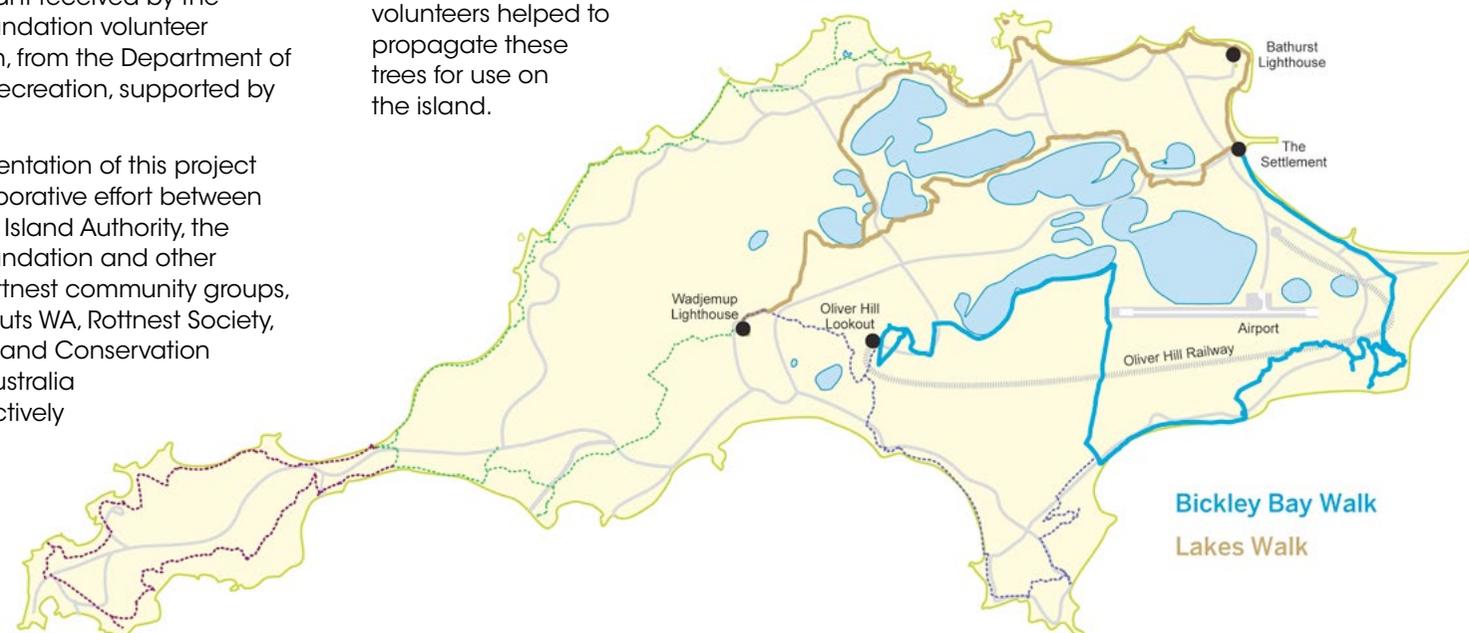
The Lakes Boardwalk at sunset. Photo by Cassyanna Thomas



Photo by Heather King

volunteered 984 hours to plant 4845 trees as part of this project. Passionate Rottnest Nursery volunteers helped to propagate these trees for use on the island.

For more information or to donate to the Wadjemup Walk Trail project, please visit [www.rottnestfoundation.org.au](http://www.rottnestfoundation.org.au)



Bickley Bay Walk  
Lakes Walk

