

Rottnest Island 'Wadjemup Bidi' (Trail Project)

The Rottnest Island Wadjemup Walk Trail has formally changed name to the *Wadjemup Bidi*.

Wadjemup is the Noongar name for Rottnest Island while Bidi is the Aboriginal Noongar word for track, or path.

The Wadjemup Bidi is a 45 kilometre network of trails, broken into five sections, that helps to control and manage visitor access by connecting Rottnest's beautiful natural features to its cultural history in an environmentally sustainable manner.

The symbol of an osprey – a medium-size raptor, or 'bird of prey', that inhabits most coastal areas and off-shore islands in Australia – is used to depict the trail and is located on all directional markers.

Between January 2015 and July 2016 Professor Len Collard, from Moodjar Consultancy and Professor of Indigenous Studies at the University of Western Australia in consultation with the Rottnest Island Authority (RIA) and the Whadjuk



Working Party, developed concepts and renamed the five sections of the Wadjemup Bidi using Noongar Aboriginal language.

To coincide with these new names there has been a realignment of two of the trail sections, which has created a clear delineation between the north and south of the Island, and provides contrasting experiences for the user.

An information sign has been installed in the settlement mall on Rottnest Island to promote the Wadjemup Bidi.



With four of the five trail sections now open and walkable, the RIA has produced information sheets for visitors which can be collected from the Rottnest Island visitor centre or downloaded from rotnnestisland.com/wadjemupbidi. All open sections are also available to view and rate on the Trails WA website.

The Ngank Wen Bidi is the last section of the Wadjemup Bidi remaining to be constructed. The northern part of this section will be partly funded by the Rottnest Foundation, utilising a grant from the Commonwealth Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure Program, which is managed by Tourism WA.

Rottnest Foundation is seeking another sponsor to fund the southern part of the Ngank Wen Bidi. Please contact Rosalie Small, Rottnest Foundation Grants and Sponsorship Coordinator grants@rotnnestfoundation.org.au for further information.

Photos

[1] Walking – City of York Beach – Karlinyah Bidi.
Photo by Aaron McCreath

[2] Little Stark Bay – Karlinyah Bidi.
Photo by Rottnest Island Authority

[3] New Beach Access at Armstrong Point – Karlinyah Bidi. Photo by Rottnest Island Authority

It features an interchangeable panel that depicts which one of the Aboriginal Noongar six seasons you are currently in and the best section of the Wadjemup Bidi to experience during that season. The cutout artwork that features on either side of this sign was designed by Aurora and Cassandra Abraham, two talented Noongar Artists.

The latest section of the Wadjemup Bidi to open (in October this year) was the the Karlinyah Bidi, funded by the Rottnest Foundation in partnership with BHP Billiton.