



New sections of the Rottnest Island Walk Trail now open

Funded through a \$559,100 partnership between the Rottnest Foundation and BHP Billiton, two new sections of the Wadjemup Bidi (Rottnest Island Walk Trail), the Karlinyah Bidi and Wardan Nara Bidi, are now open to the public.

The project has resulted in greatly improved access to popular bays and vantage points, making these areas safer for everyone to enjoy.

The Karlinyah Bidi is approximately six kilometres long and leads visitors through the beautiful bays of the northern beaches.

The Wardan Nara Bidi winds over about 10 kilometres and allows visitors to explore the beauty of the Salmon Bay coastline before guiding them inland to the WWII guns and tunnels. It then takes in the Wadjemup Lighthouse before ending at the world class surf break at Strickland Bay.

The two new sections feature improved beach access at Narrow Neck, Catherine Bay, Little Armstrong and Armstrong Point.

In addition, there are new facilities to improve visitor experience and an appreciation of Aboriginal heritage by way of storytelling audio boxes and interpretive artwork.

Noongar artist Peter Farmer was commissioned to create the Mamong Djoortorts (Whale Tracks) sculpture located along the Wardan Nara Bidi and his Auntie Kerry-Ann Winmar tells the story of the Mamong Djoortorts that is heard through an audio sign at the site.

Barry McGuire, a Traditional Owner, relays the dreamtime story of the 'Two Brothers' that is heard through an audio sign at Ricey Beach, located along the Karlinyah Bidi.

The project also involved information about informal access and revegetation of damaged areas through the planting of 6900 seedlings by BHP Billiton employees and Rottnest volunteer groups.

A short surfing documentary has also been produced that can be accessed by QR Code at the famous surfing location Strickland Bay, along the Wardan Nara Bidi. It includes interviews

with well-known WA surfers and commentators, interweaving iconic footage and images of surfing from the 1950's to the current day.

The Wadjemup Bidi is a conservation initiative that helps to direct and formalise access through path realignment, construction of beach access structures, rehabilitation, signage and education. Four of the five sections of the 45km Wadjemup Bidi are now complete and the Rottnest Foundation is actively seeking funding to implement the fifth and final section.

Information sheets on the open sections of trail can be accessed from the Rottnest Island Visitor Centre.

For further information please visit <http://www.rottnestfoundation.org.au/>.

Photos

[1] Interpretive Sign along the Karlinyah Bidi. Photo by Rottnest Island Authority.

[2] New Beach Access - Little Armstrong Bay. Photo by Don Palmer, Courtesy of the Rottnest Foundation.

[3] Walking along the Wadjemup Bidi. Photo by Don Palmer, Courtesy of the Rottnest Foundation.